

Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting/Fishing Regulations



Photo Courtesy of Ron Sukentik

Migratory Bird Hunting for goose, duck, and coot is allowed in the designated areas (refer to map) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays in accordance with Idaho's season and bag limits.

Entry into the waterfowl hunting area is only allowed on waterfowl hunt days from 3:00 a.m. until 1 hour after sunset.

Waterfowl hunt blinds are available on a first come – first served basis. Hunters are allowed to free roam i.e. hunt from the dikes, in the fields and wetlands, in the designated waterfowl hunt area.

Hunters may only possess federally approved non-toxic shot and are limited to the possession/use of 25 shells per day. The use of retrieval dogs is allowed and encouraged.

All hunting firearms must be unloaded when in the posted retrieval zone for purposes of retrieving downed birds or when traveling to and from the hunting area.

ADA Accessible Waterfowl Hunt Blinds with designated parking areas are available by reservation. Please contact the Refuge office prior to your anticipated hunt day to reserve one of the blinds. Hunters must provide proof (Idaho disabled license or doctor's letter) prior to making reservations.

ADA waterfowl hunt blinds that are not reserved may be used by other waterfowl hunters but does not apply to the ADA designated parking areas.

Big Game Hunting for deer, elk, black bear, moose, and mountain lion is allowed on that portion of the Refuge which lies west of Lions Den Road in accordance with Idaho State regulations and seasons except that the use of dogs to hunt mountain lions is prohibited.

The Refuge will conduct a random drawing in early August to award ten hunters an ADA Deer Hunt Permit. Hunters must provide proof of requiring ADA accessibility prior to the drawing. All hunting for the special lottery deer hunt will be conducted from a blind located in the northwest corner of the Refuge where the Myrtle Creek and Kootenai River dikes merge. Selected hunters should have a helper if necessary, to assist with retrieving/caring for down game.

The ADA Accessible Deer Hunt Blind is available by a lottery drawing. Hunters with valid state licenses and tags who require ADA accessibility may apply to receive one of ten seven-day deer hunt permits as follows:

Archery Only; Antlered or Antlerless
Week 1.....Aug 30 – Sept 5
Week 2.....Sept 6 – Sept 12
Week 3.....Sept 13 – Sept 19
Week 4.....Sept 20 – Sept 26

Archery & Special Weapons*, Antlered or Antlerless
Week 5.....Oct 10 – Oct 16
Week 6.....Oct 17 – Oct 23
Week 7.....Oct 24 – Oct 30
Week 8.....Oct 31-Nov 6
Week 9.....Nov 7 – Nov 13
Week 10...Nov 14 – Nov 20

*muzzleloader, archery equipment, crossbow, a shotgun using slugs, or a handgun using straight-walled cartridges not originally established for rifles. Use of non-toxic, non-lead ammunition is required.

Upland Bird Hunting for forest grouse and wild turkey is allowed on that portion of the Refuge which lies west of Lions Den Road in accordance with Idaho's general seasons. Hunters may only possess non-toxic shotshells.

Sport Fishing is only allowed from the banks of Myrtle Creek. The fishing season and possession limits are in accordance with Idaho's regulations.

General Information

- Day use only, no overnight parking or camping.
- Vehicles, bicycles, and dog walking are allowed only on county roads and the Auto Tour Route.
- Pack it in; Pack it out, including spent shotgun shells.
- Be courteous to other hunters.
- Fires are prohibited.
- Use or possession of alcohol is prohibited.
- Restrooms are located at the Refuge office and at the county boat launches.

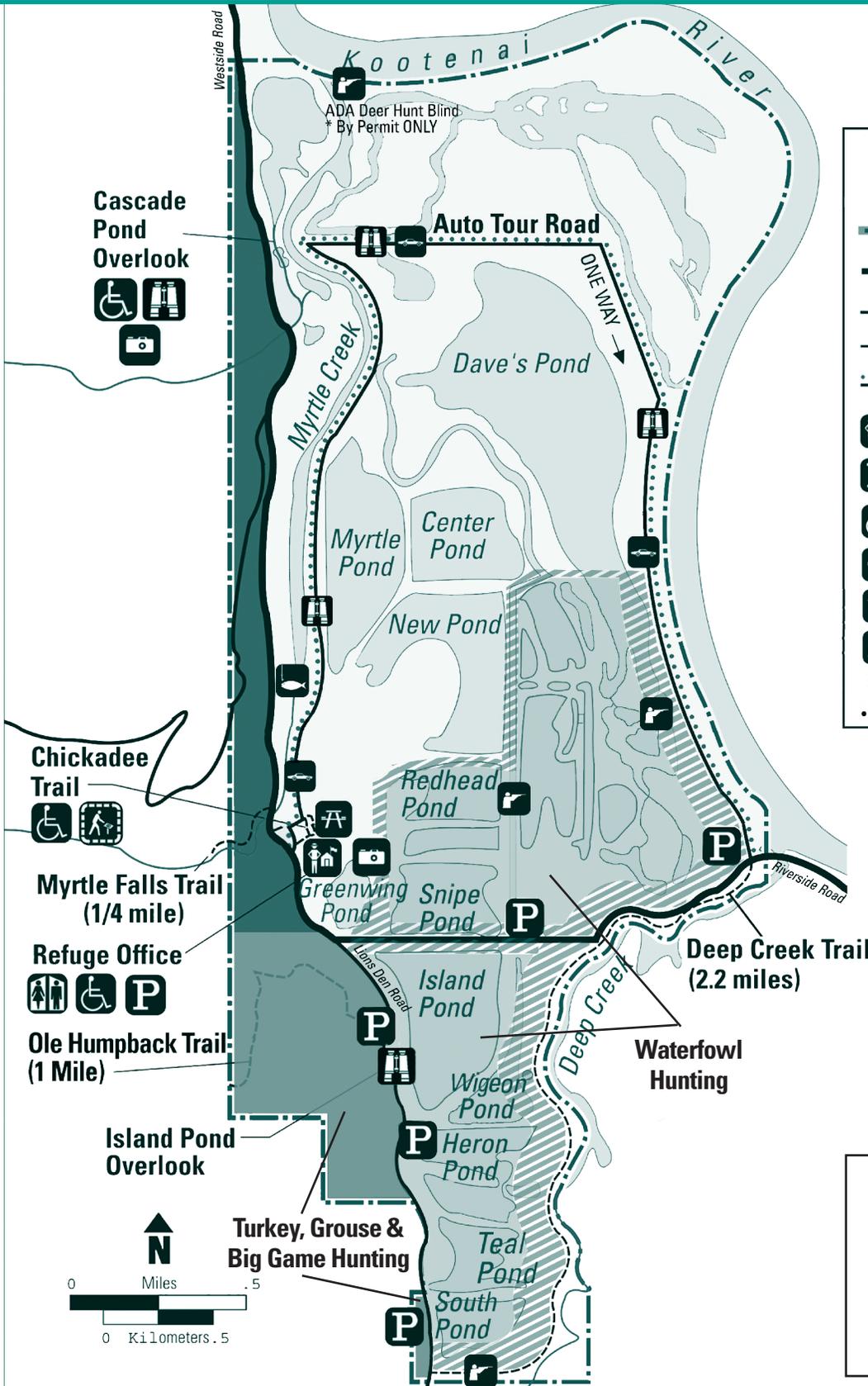
Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge



Refuge Map

Visitor Activities

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| Refuge Boundary | Auto Tour |
| Paved Road | Wildlife Observation |
| Unpaved Road | Restrooms |
| Foot Trail | Interpretive Trail |
| Auto Tour Road | Photo Blind |
| Refuge Office | Uplands |
| Parking | Wetlands |
| Wheelchair Accessible | Forest |
| Picnic Area | Waterfowl Hunting |
| Bank Fishing Only | Turkey, Grouse & Big Game Hunting |
| ADA Accessible Hunting Blinds | Retrieval Zone |
| Waterfowl Hunt Blinds | |
- The refuge is open during daylight hours only.



Contact Information
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 (208) 267-3888
www.fws.gov/refuge/kootenai