

National Elk Refuge

Refuge Road Wildlife Viewing Guide



The Refuge Road is a popular destination in the winter as elk, bighorn sheep, and other animals can frequently be seen close to the roadway. In order to accommodate the amount of vehicle and pedestrian use of the road, these important regulations are needed for a safer wildlife viewing experience.

Driving Safety

- Drivers must not stop in the road. Vehicles must continue moving or use a pullout to keep the roadway clear. Persons interested in extended wildlife viewing opportunities should use established pullouts.
- In addition to recreational traffic, the Refuge Road is used by large vehicles including delivery trucks, service vehicles, plows, and refuge equipment which cannot easily maneuver or brake around vehicles stopped in the roadway.

- Vehicles must not interfere with other traffic or pedestrians on the road.
- Road shoulders drop off dramatically on either side of the road. Please use caution as this drop off may be hidden by snow.
- The maximum speed on the Refuge Road is 30 mph. Travel speeds should be adjusted to accommodate for winter driving conditions that may include ice, fog, drifting snow, or limited visibility due to inclement weather.

Wildlife Observation

- Do not stand in the roadway to view or photograph wildlife. The area within 15 feet of the road shoulder may be used.
- Obey all area closure signs.
- Do not disturb wildlife.
- Bison and other wildlife are unpredictable. They may react quickly and can be dangerous.

