

Elk Hunting

*Turnbull
National Wildlife Refuge*

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge
26010 South Smith Road
Cheney, WA 99004
509/235 4723

<http://www.fws.gov/turnbull>

Washington Relay Service
TTY 1 800/833 6388
Voice 1 800/833 6384
Telebraille 1 800/833 6385

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>



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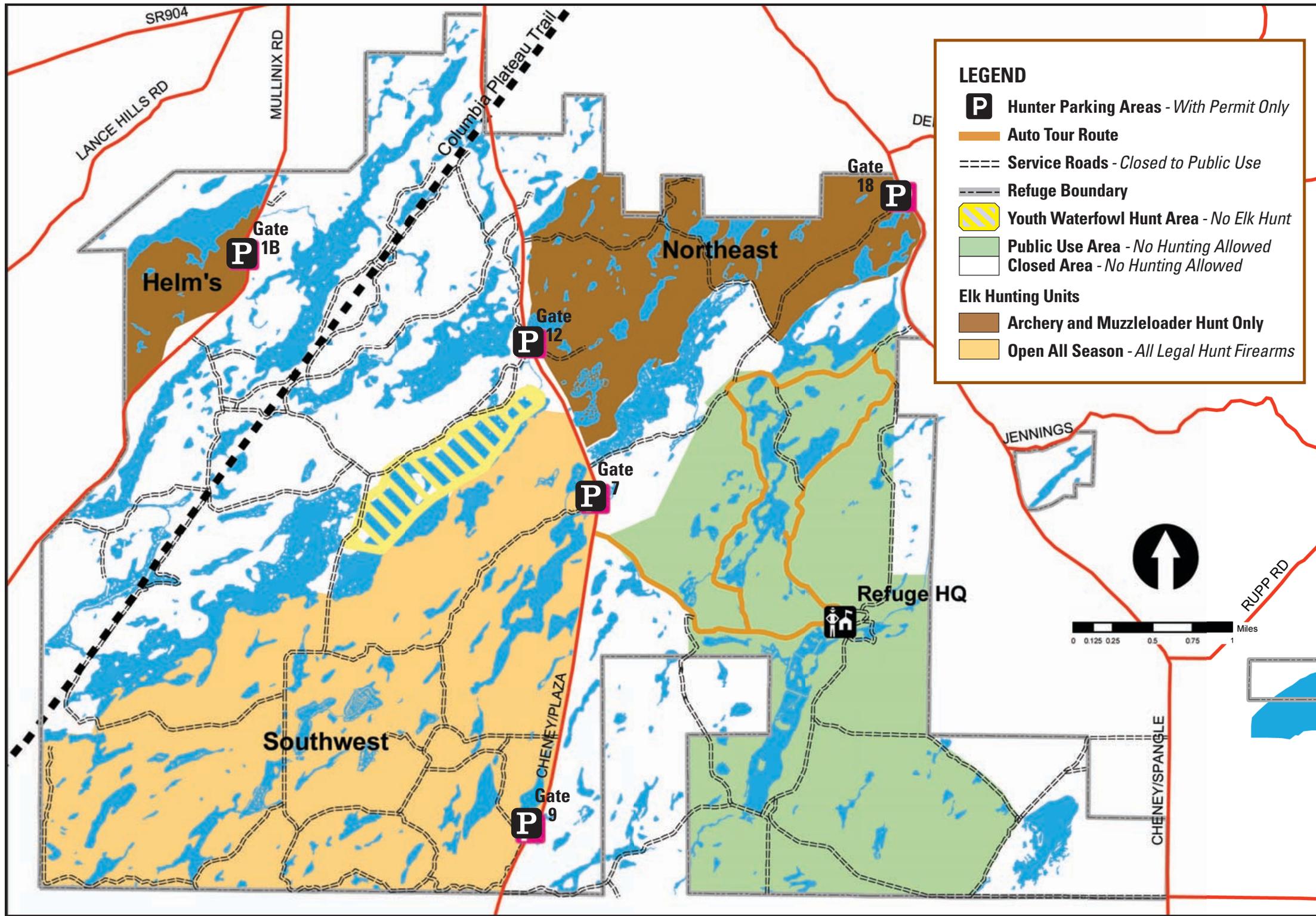


Photo courtesy of ©Stan Bousson

General Regulations

Closed Areas Visitors are allowed only in the Visitor Use area, Columbia Plateau Trail and designated sites identified in hunt permits. Visitors are required to stay on trails from March 1st through August 15 and on designated roadways throughout the year.

Litter No litter containers are provided on the Refuge. All visitors must carry out their litter.

Dogs/Pets Dogs and other pets are only allowed in the public use area and must be kept on short non-retractable leashes, not longer than 6 ft. except during the youth waterfowl seasons for the retrieval of game.

Prohibited Recreational Activities Camping, fishing, boating, horseback riding, fires, swimming, bathing, and on-ice activities are not permitted on the Refuge. ATV, ORV and snowmobile use is prohibited on all areas of the Refuge; only street legal vehicles are permitted on Smith Road and the Refuge tour route. The collection of any plant or animal or parts thereof is prohibited except licensed hunting in accordance with state and federal law.

Elk Hunting Regulations

Hunting Season Hours Elk hunting is allowed by Refuge permit only during special seasons. Season dates will change annually in accordance with the Washington State seasons. Refuge seasons will vary from seasons outside the Refuge by at least one day for scouting purposes. Elk hunters may enter the Refuge no earlier than two hours before shooting time to 5 hours after sunset to retrieve their elk. Refer to State big Game hunting pamphlet for specific hunting times.

Licenses, Permits and Fees Required

All elk hunters must have in their possession a valid State big game hunting license and any required tags and permits, as well as a Refuge access and parking permit. Special Permits for Refuge hunts are drawn by Washington State during the spring. A limited number of Turnbull special permits will be issued for each weapon type. Refuge access permits are for designated hunt units within the Refuge. Refuge hunting access permits are nontransferable. Hunter access fees are waived for youths under 16 years of age.

Areas Open to Public Hunting

Know the Refuge's Signage Boundaries of non-hunting areas are delineated with a custom "No Hunting Beyond this Sign." The entire Refuge perimeter is posted with the blue goose National Wildlife Refuge Unauthorized Entry Prohibited (boundary sign) and "Area Beyond This Sign Closed" signs.



Hunting Areas - (Shown on Map)

Hunting is allowed only in the Southwest (SW), Northeast (NE) and Helms units (see map color key). The disabled hunt is restricted to the SW unit or in areas designated annually by the Refuge Manager. Hunt units are closed to all other public uses.

Parking Hunters' vehicles will be limited to parking areas designated for their unit and will not block gates or roads. Parking lots are posted with a "Hunter Parking Only" sign. A parking permit must be displayed on the dash of the vehicle while hunting. No overnight parking is allowed.

Weapons State permits are for specific hunt methods or weapons. Turnbull Special permits are available for archery, muzzleloader and modern firearm elk seasons. Hunting units and seasons have specific weapon restrictions. Only those weapons identified for that particular hunting season are allowed. All modern firearms are restricted to the SW unit. Archery and muzzleloader are allowed in the SW, Helms and the NE unit. Hunters participating in the Master, or Disabled Hunts have their choice of weapon in accordance with Refuge regulations.

Firearms Air guns and all handguns are prohibited for hunting on the Refuge. Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. It is prohibited to shoot or discharge any firearm from, across, or along a public highway, designated route of travel, road, road shoulder, road embankment or designated parking area. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with Refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific Refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Prohibited Hunting Activities

Possession of loaded firearms or a bow with the arrow notched within any safety zone or Refuge Closed Area is prohibited. Shooting into any safety zone or Closed Area is prohibited. No ATVs are allowed on the Refuge. No trapping or falconry is allowed. The use of nails, wire, screws or bolts to secure a stand to a tree or hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited. No dogs are allowed while hunting or retrieving elk. It is unlawful to use or possess alcoholic beverages or drugs while hunting. Individuals under any influence of alcohol or drugs are prohibited within the Refuge.

Special Regulations

Each person will comply with the applicable provisions of State and Federal laws as well as hunting regulations of the State of Washington. Elk hunters are not allowed to drive motorized vehicles into the Refuge. All hunting will be conducted on foot, except for disabled hunters who are selected to hunt the Special Refuge Disable Hunt Season. These hunters are allowed vehicle access on unit roads and must follow State disabled hunter regulations. Hunters using non-toxic ammunition need not remove the gut pile from the Refuge, all others must remove the gut pile. Hunter orange is required during the modern firearm season.

Game Retrieval Each hunter is allowed one unarmed named helper for retrieval of elk. The helper must be with the permitted hunter at all times during retrieval and his/her name included on the Refuge access permit. Hunters must be accompanied by a Refuge employee or State or Federal Game Warden to retrieve a wounded elk from a Closed Area. Hunters can use non-motorized carts to help with retrieval of their elk.

Elk Species - Sex

The elk hunt is predominantly for antlerless elk. All other State seasons are closed on the Refuge, except for Youth Waterfowl.

Hunting Recommendations

Be a sportsman/sportswoman and respect the rights of other hunters afield.

For Your Safety Know Your Limitations Hunters should familiarize themselves with the appropriate Code of Federal Regulations (posted in 50 CFR) and with regulations as listed in the State Big Game Regulations.

Report all Injuries and Accidents The Refuge covers a variety of habitats including rough uneven terrain, deep waters, dense stands of vegetation, ditches, etc. Hunting difficulty varies by area and hunters should examine their own abilities and limitations before using the Refuge. Disabled individuals should hunt with a partner and consult the Refuge Manager for suggestions for hunting the area safely.

For More Information Contact:
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Support Hunting Laws

Our wildlife is a valuable resource. Laws and regulations are intended to protect them, while allowing for some consumptive use. Hunters are encouraged to report any violations they may encounter to a State or Federal employee.