



*This blue goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.*

# National Elk Refuge

## 2012 Bison Hunting

### *Information and Regulations*

#### Background

Bison hunt management on the National Elk Refuge is designed to achieve optimum herd size as determined through a cooperative effort between National Elk Refuge, Grand Teton National Park, and Wyoming Game & Fish Department managers.

#### General Hunting Information

Hunting of bison on the National Elk Refuge is permitted from August 15, 2012 through January 6, 2013. Bison hunting licenses are issued by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department. Individuals who have not already applied and been selected for the 2012 season are not eligible to hunt bison this year. A Refuge-specific bison hunting permit is required and will be provided with the State license.

*Eleven hunt periods will be available to hunters:*

- Period 1: August 15 – 19
- Period 2: August 25 – September 2
- Period 3: September 8 – 21
- Period 4: September 22 – October 5
- Period 5: October 6 – 19
- Period 6: October 20 – November 2
- Period 7: November 3 – 16
- Period 8: November 17 – November 30
- Period 9: December 1 – 14
- Period 10: December 15 – 28
- Period 11: December 29 – January 6

*The following items must be in the hunter's possession while bison hunting on the Refuge:*

- Refuge bison hunting permit
- Valid State of Wyoming Bison Hunting License
- Valid Hunter Safety or Instructor Card or certificate for persons born on or after January 1, 1966
- Wyoming Conservation Stamp

The Wyoming Hunter Mentor Program is valid on the National Elk Refuge. Contact the Wyoming Game & Fish Department for further information on the program or apply at <http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/EDUCATION-1000248.aspx>

Bison hunting is allowed in both the North and South Units of the Refuge, but each unit has distinct weapons restrictions. Hunters are responsible for knowing which weapons can be used in the hunt unit they are accessing.

Hunters are responsible for knowing and observing hunt boundaries (see map). Much of the North and South Unit hunt boundaries are identified on the ground by signs and posts. The North Unit hunt area is bounded on the west by the Highway 26 / 89 fence line and on the north by the south bank of the Gros Ventre River main channel.

Persons may only discharge firearms while actively hunting with a valid Refuge permit in accordance with Refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

#### *South Unit*

- Hunters present in the South Unit must carry an appropriate limited range weapon.
- South Unit hunters are restricted to limited range weapons, including muzzleloading rifles and archery equipment as defined by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, or shotguns with slugs.
- Rifled barrels and sighting systems are recommended for hunters using a shotgun.
- All handguns must meet the Wyoming Game & Fish Department's definition of a legal firearm for the taking of bison, and must use straight-walled cartridges with a barrel length no longer than 12 inches.
- Handgun cartridges must be at least 2" in overall length such as 45-70 government or 460 SW magnum.
- Using rifles that shoot black powder cartridges is prohibited in the South Unit.

#### *North Unit*

- North Unit bison hunters may hunt with any legal weapon as defined by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department for the taking of wild bison, including rifles, handguns, black powder firearms, and archery equipment.

### Special Regulations

All State of Wyoming hunting regulations (available online at <http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/home.aspx>) are in effect and will be enforced. Hunters must review all regulations and maps prior to hunting on the Refuge. Refuge hunting permits may be revoked in the event of improper hunter conduct or violation of regulations, and future Refuge hunting privileges could be denied.

*Prohibited activities while bison hunting on the Refuge include:*

- Parking along Refuge roads
- Pursuing or following bison by vehicle, including between parking areas
- Overnight camping or parking
- Shooting from parking areas or Refuge roads
- Shooting wildlife other than bison
- Target or practice shooting
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Collection of specimens, including but not limited to antlers, skulls, and artifacts

A fluorescent orange exterior garment as defined by State regulations must be worn by anyone in a hunt area. Hunters need to ensure anyone accompanying them is compliant with this regulation.

Any person(s) accompanying a bison hunter must stay with the hunter at all times except during retrieval activities.

Certified weed free livestock feed is required on the Refuge.

### Regulations for Archery Hunting on the Refuge

- Archery hunters on the Refuge must wear a fluorescent orange exterior garment as defined by State regulations.
- Archery hunters are exempt from the hunter safety certificate requirement.
- Hunters within the archery only hunt area (*see map*) must maintain a minimum distance of 200 yards from residences.

### Refuge Access And Travel

The primary access to and from Refuge bison hunt areas is through the main Refuge entrance at the end of East Broadway Avenue in Jackson.

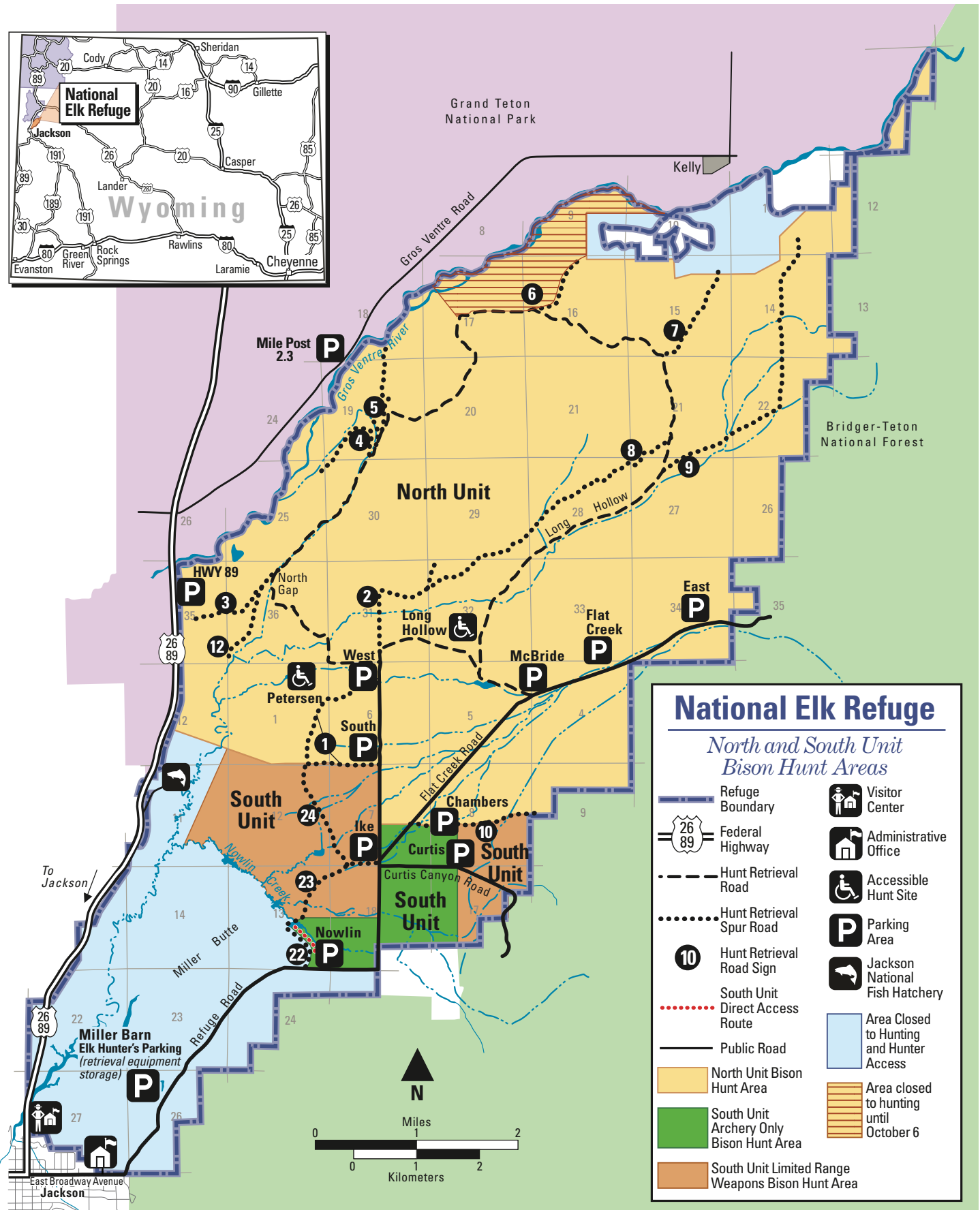
- Vehicles must be parked in one of the designated bison hunt parking areas.
- One bison hunt parking area and access point is available on North Highway 89. An off-Refuge parking and access point is located at Milepost 2.3 on the Gros Ventre Road. These additional areas are for use by permitted bison hunters only and cannot be used by hunters pursuing or retrieving elk. Bison hunters using these two additional parking areas cannot pursue elk from these accesses.
- Bison hunters using the North Highway 89 or Milepost 2.3 Gros Ventre Road parking areas must clearly display a parking permit (provided with the Refuge permit) on the dashboard of their vehicle.
- Hunters may not exit vehicles or be dropped off on roads between hunter parking areas.
- Motorized vehicle travel in a hunt area is prohibited, except as noted in the section entitled "Retrieval of Harvested Animals."
- Horses and bicycles are permitted in a hunt area, but bicycles must remain on designated retrieval roads.
- ATVs must be registered, insured, and operated by a licensed driver. ATVs may only be driven on Refuge roads to one of the hunter parking areas and are not allowed on Refuge retrieval roads.
- Prior to the start date of the hunt, hunters may only access Refuge areas open to the general public. Hunters are only allowed into hunt areas on the dates listed on their valid permit.
- During periods of very high or extreme fire danger, a water source or fire extinguisher combined with a shovel is recommended for each vehicle.
- Bear spray is recommended for all persons participating in the Refuge hunt program.

A temporary safety zone exists in the area around Grand Teton National Park's Gros Ventre Campground. This area is closed to hunting and hunter entry until October 6.

### Retrieval Of Harvested Animals

*The following information will assist successful hunters in retrieval of bison from a hunt area:*

- Hunters are encouraged to make prior arrangements for retrieving and field dressing carcasses in order to expedite the process, thus reducing spoilage of meat. This is critical during periods of warm weather.
- Commercial retrieval services are available for a fee. Current businesses authorized to operate on the Refuge are posted on the bulletin board at the Refuge Administrative Office on East Broadway Avenue.
- Vehicles used for retrieval are restricted to designated retrieval roads.
- Bison should be dragged to the nearest retrieval road location (*see map*). Hunters must return by the most direct route to the parking lot. Driving off designated roads is prohibited.
- Bison hunters may retrieve animals any time during the day. Note that elk hunters utilizing the same or adjoining Refuge hunt areas cannot retrieve elk until after 2:00 pm. Consideration should be given to elk hunters utilizing the same or adjoining Refuge hunt areas prior to 2:00 pm.
- Designated retrieval roads will only be open to vehicle traffic to retrieve bison until dark.
- No game retrieval will be permitted through Grand Teton National Park.
- Successful hunters may not transport other hunters into a hunt area. Only the successful hunter and helper(s) may be in the vehicle.
- The Refuge has wheeled carts and sleds available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Miller Barn in order to assist hunters.
- Refuge roads and parking areas may be temporarily closed due to inclement weather or management considerations.



### Hunters with Disabilities

The National Elk Refuge encourages hunters with disabilities to participate in the bison hunt program and seeks to afford them reasonable accommodation for the activity.

Hunters who have both a Wyoming Game & Fish Disabled Hunter Permit and a National Elk Refuge permit are eligible to reserve a designated accessible hunt site. Reservations must be made at the Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center at 532 North Cache Street in Jackson. A hunter with a Disabled Hunter Permit who wants to use an accessible site, but does not have a reservation, must stop at the Visitor Center. There, the hunter will receive a reservation confirmation and instructions entitled “2012 Hunting Procedures for Persons with Physical Disabilities.” The disabled hunter companion permit is not valid on the Refuge.

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. Dial 711 for a free connection to the State relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from the speech and hearing impaired. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 307 / 733 9212, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

### Brucellosis Surveillance

Hunters must collect biological samples from harvested animals. Instructions are provided by State wildlife managers. For further information, contact the Wyoming Game & Fish Department.

Hunters should take personal safety precautions to reduce the risk of infection with brucellosis by wearing rubber / latex gloves while field dressing bison.

### Contact Information

**Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center**  
532 North Cache Street  
Jackson, WY 83001  
307 / 734 9378  
307 / 733 9729

**National Elk Refuge Headquarters**  
PO Box 510  
675 E. Broadway Avenue  
Jackson, WY 83001  
307 / 733 9212  
307 / 733 9729 fax  
<http://www.fws.gov/nationalelkreftuge>

**Wyoming Game & Fish Department**  
420 North Cache Street  
Jackson, WY 83001  
307 / 733 2321

**Teton Interagency Dispatch**  
307 / 739 3301

In an emergency, dial 911.

**For State relay service**  
TTY / Voice: 711

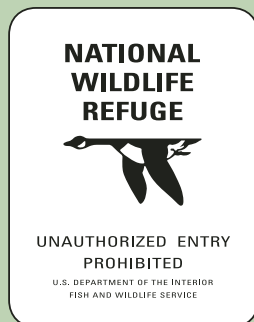
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
<http://www.fws.gov>

**For Refuge Information**  
1 800 / 344 WILD

May 2012



## Refuge Signs Know Their Meaning



*Refuge boundary sign  
entry by permission only.*



*Area off limits to the public  
unless otherwise specified.*



*Area open to hunting  
at specific times.*