

SMALL GAME & WATERFOWL GUIDE

INFORMATION FOR:

- Upland Game Birds
- Webless Migratory Birds
- Other Small Game
- Furbearers
- Ducks and Geese

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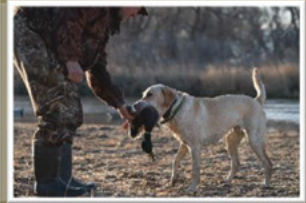


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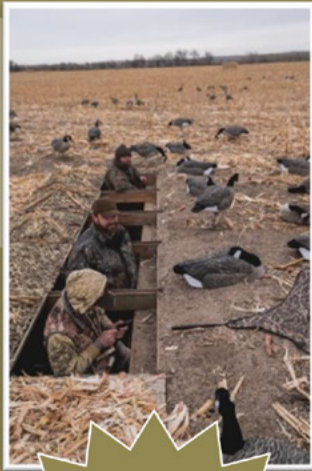


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Cover photo: *Eric Fowler/
Nebraskaland Magazine/NGPC*

NGPC Permitting Offices

Location	Address	Phone
Schramm Education Center	21502 W. Hwy. 31, Gretna, NE 68028-7264	402-332-3901
Northwest district office	299 Husker Rd., Alliance, NE 69301-0725	308-763-2940
Bassett service center	524 Panzer St., Bassett, NE 68714-0508	402-684-2921
Chadron State Park	15951 Hwy. 385, Chadron, NE 69337-7353	308-432-6167
Fort Robinson State Park	3200 Hwy. 20, Crawford, NE 69339-0392	308-665-2900
Kearney service center	1617 First Ave., Kearney, NE 68847-6057	308-865-5310
Lake McConaughy SRA	1475 Hwy. 61N, Ogallala, NE 69153-5929	308-284-8800
Niobrara State Park	89261 522 Ave., Niobrara, NE 68760-6087	402-857-3373
Northeast district office	2201 N. 13th St., Norfolk, NE 68701-2267	402-370-3374
Southwest district office	301 E. State Farm Rd., North Platte, NE 69101-0430	308-535-8025
Omaha metro office	8495 Frederick St., Omaha, NE 68124	402-595-2144
Ponca State Park	88090 Spur 26E, Ponca, NE 68770-0688	402-755-2284
Headquarters/SE district	2200 N. 33rd St., Lincoln, NE 68503-0370	402-471-0641
Wildcat Hills SRA	210615 Hwy. 71, Gering, NE 69341-0065	308-436-3777

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's Small Game and Waterfowl Guide is a summary of Nebraska's regulations, orders and statutes pertaining to hunting small game and waterfowl. It is not intended to be a complete digest of regulations, orders and statutes. A complete listing may be found at:

Regulations and Orders:

OutdoorNebraska.gov

Statutes:

Law.justia.com/codes/nebraska/2022/chapter-37/

Neb. Rev. Statute 84-901.03:

This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document.

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Permit and Stamp Fees

RESIDENT		NONRESIDENT	
ANNUAL			
Hunt (small game)	\$18	Hunt (small game)	\$109
Hunt/fish combo with Aquatic Habitat Stamp	\$52	Hunt/fish combo with Aquatic Habitat Stamp	\$177
Veteran hunt/fish/fur harvest combo (age 64-plus)	\$5*	Youth hunt	\$18
Senior hunt/fish/fur harvest combo (age 69-plus)	\$5*	2-Day Small Game Hunt	\$76
Deployed military hunt/fish/fur harvest combo	\$5*	Fur harvest	\$227
Fur harvest	\$18	Fur buyer	\$563
Fur buyer	\$115	Nebraska Habitat Stamp	\$25*
Nebraska Habitat Stamp	\$25*	Nebraska Waterfowl Stamp	\$10*
Nebraska Waterfowl Stamp	\$10*	Federal Duck Stamp	\$30
Federal Duck Stamp	\$30		
3-YEAR			
Hunt with Habitat Stamp	\$108.50	Hunt with Habitat Stamp	\$356.50
Hunt with Habitat and Waterfowl Stamps	\$123.50	Hunt with Habitat and Waterfowl Stamps	\$371.50
Hunt/fish combo with Habitat and Aquatic Habitat Stamps	\$191	Hunt/fish combo with Habitat and Aquatic Habitat Stamps	\$534
Hunt/fish combo with Habitat, Waterfowl and Aquatic Habitat Stamps	\$206	Hunt/fish combo with Habitat, Waterfowl and Aquatic Habitat Stamps	\$549
5-YEAR			
Hunt with Habitat Stamp	\$158	Hunt with Habitat Stamp	\$534
Hunt with Habitat and Waterfowl Stamps	\$181	Hunt with Habitat and Waterfowl Stamps	\$557
Hunt/fish combo with Habitat and Aquatic Habitat Stamps	\$285	Hunt/fish combo with Habitat and Aquatic Habitat Stamps	\$800
Hunt/fish combo with Habitat, Waterfowl and Aquatic Habitat Stamps	\$308	Hunt/fish combo with Habitat, Waterfowl and Aquatic Habitat Stamps	\$823
LIFETIME			
Hunt, age 0-15	\$260	Hunt, age 0-16	\$873
Hunt, age 16-45	\$355	Hunt, age 17-over	\$1,395
Hunt, age 46-over	\$260	Hunt/fish combo with Aquatic Habitat Stamp, age 0-16	\$1,660
Hunt/fish with Aquatic Habitat Stamp, age 0-15	\$859	Hunt/fish combo with Aquatic Habitat Stamp, age 17-over	\$2,391
Hunt/fish combo with Aquatic Habitat Stamp, age 16-45	\$1,008	Nebraska Habitat Stamp	\$500*
Hunt/fish combo with Aquatic Habitat Stamp, age 46-over	\$859	Nebraska Waterfowl Stamp	\$200*
Fur harvest, age 0-15	\$221	WHERE TO BUY PERMITS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OutdoorNebraska.gov • Permitting offices • Mobile device • Permit vendors <p style="text-align: center;">All include \$3 issuing fee except *</p>	
Fur harvest, age 16-45	\$302		
Fur harvest, age 46-over	\$221		
Nebraska Habitat Stamp	\$500*		
Nebraska Waterfowl Stamp	\$200*		

New for 2023

Ducks – The Zone 3 and Zone 4 duck seasons will open a week later than 2022, with Youth Hunt dates the weekend prior. Other season dates are calendar date adjustments. See page 16.

Trapping Restrictions – U.S. Forest Service properties have restrictions on snares and body-gripping traps like wildlife management areas and other public lands, including restricting the use of snares during upland game bird seasons. See page 13.

River otters – The season limit of 125 harvests is eliminated. The check-in process has been simplified; the requirement is harvested river otters must be registered and officially tagged by Game and Parks within two business days after the close of the river otter season and before the sale or transfer of the animal. Also, trappers no longer are required to confirm each day that the season is open. See pages 12-13.

Permits and Stamps

NEBRASKA HUNT (SMALL GAME) PERMIT

The following must have a Nebraska hunt (small game) permit:

- Any resident 16 years of age and older who hunts small game or waterfowl.
EXCEPTION: A farmer or rancher and immediate family who actually live on the land they own or lease may hunt squirrel, cottontail, jackrabbit (west of U.S. 81), prairie grouse (special permit required east of U.S. 81), partridge, pheasant and quail without obtaining a Nebraska hunt (small game) permit or Habitat Stamp. Hunting seasons and regulations still apply.
- Any nonresident, regardless of age, who hunts for or possesses small game or waterfowl.
- All nonresidents who hunt coyotes, prairie dogs and other nongame animals.

WATERFOWL HUNTER REQUIREMENTS

Nebraska residents 16 years of age and older and all nonresidents regardless of age who hunt waterfowl in Nebraska must have:

- A Nebraska hunt (small game) permit
- A Nebraska Waterfowl Stamp
- A Nebraska Habitat Stamp
- A Harvest Information Program number

All residents and nonresidents age 16 and older who hunt waterfowl in Nebraska also must have:

- A Federal Duck Stamp

NEBRASKA FUR HARVEST PERMIT

The following must have a Nebraska fur harvest permit:

- Any resident 16 years of age and older or any nonresident regardless of age who hunts, traps or pursues furbearers needs a Nebraska fur harvest permit.
- Nonresident fur harvest permits may be issued only to residents of states that sell similar permits to Nebraska residents. They cannot be purchased online. These permits may only be purchased at Game and Parks' Lincoln office. Call 402-471-5457.

NEBRASKA HABITAT STAMP

A Nebraska Habitat Stamp is valid statewide and required of all hunters and trappers, except:

- Residents under 16 years of age
- A farmer or rancher and immediate family who actually live on the land they own or lease who hunt squirrel, cottontail, jackrabbit (west of U.S. 81), prairie grouse (special permit required east of U.S. 81), partridge, pheasant or quail.
- Residents and nonresidents who hunt or trap coyotes, prairie dogs and other nongame animals.
- Landowner permit holders.

Antlerless deer and fall turkey permit holders who hunt in January may use the previous year's habitat stamp.

Those who hold a veteran or 69-and-older senior permit have included in their permits a habitat, waterfowl and aquatic stamp and do not need to purchase them separately.

FEDERAL DUCK STAMP

The Federal Duck Stamp can be purchased at Game and Parks permitting offices, U.S. Post Offices or at [OutdoorNebraska.gov](https://www.outdoornebraska.gov). The stamp is valid through June 30, 2023. The Electronic Duck Stamp, or E-Stamp receipt, allows customers to purchase the Federal Duck Stamp and use it immediately. The E-Stamp receipt is valid for 45 days from the date of purchase. Within that time, a physical Duck Stamp will be mailed. After 45 days, customers must carry the signed Federal Duck Stamp while hunting.

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM

Anyone planning to hunt doves, ducks, geese, snipe, rail, coot or woodcock between Sept. 1, 2023, and July 31, 2024, must register with the Harvest Information Program before hunting. All hunters age 16 and older, including residents, nonresidents, lifetime permit holders, veterans and senior permit holders, are required to register for HIP if they plan to hunt migratory game birds in Nebraska between Sept. 1, 2023, and July 31, 2024. Residents under the age of 16 are exempt from the HIP requirement only if they choose the Tier I bag limit. All hunters must register for HIP if selecting Tier II. All nonresidents, regardless of age, must register for HIP for either tier. HIP registration began Aug. 1. During the registration process, hunters will be asked if they plan to hunt ducks. If they do, they will be prompted to select a tier in the two-tier program. Hunters will be bound to that bag limit for the entire season. New this year, starting Aug. 1, hunters must register for HIP through their permit system customer profile at [GoOutdoorsNE.com](https://www.gooutdoorsne.com). Registered hunters are assigned a number they must carry with them while hunting. Learn more at [OutdoorNebraska.gov](https://www.outdoornebraska.gov). For more on residency requirements, and 64-and-over veteran and 69-and-over senior permits, visit [OutdoorNebraska.gov](https://www.outdoornebraska.gov).

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

The requirements to buy a Nebraska resident hunting (small game) permit:

- Reside in Nebraska continuously for at least 30 days before making application for a permit and intend to become a Nebraska resident.
- Residents in school in another state or stationed outside Nebraska as part of a military assignment that have maintained Nebraska as their state of legal residency.
- Active-duty military personnel and full-time students stationed or attending school in Nebraska for a period of at least 30 days.

NOTE: A new resident should be prepared to provide documentation of residency (driver's license, voter registration, etc.) to an officer when in possession of a permit.

OTHER TYPES OF HUNT PERMITS

Nonresident 2-day

- Valid for any two consecutive days of small game or waterfowl hunting during the calendar year.
- Applicable stamps must be purchased.

69-and-Over Senior

- All residents 69 years old and older may purchase a combination hunt/fish/fur harvest permit for \$5.
- Nebraska Aquatic, Habitat and Waterfowl stamps are included for no fee.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its programs, activities, or employment. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, facility, or service, should contact the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE 402-471-0641, the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission, Lincoln, NE 402-471-2024, TTY/TDD 800-642-6112; Director, Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 2024.

64-and-Over Veteran

- Eligible Nebraska veterans who are 64 years old or older (honorable or general discharge under honorable conditions) may purchase a combination hunt/fish/fur harvest permit for \$5.
- Eligible resident disabled veterans receive a permit for no fee (50% service connected or 100% disabled nonservice connected receiving a Veterans Administration pension).
- Nebraska Aquatic, Habitat and Waterfowl stamps are included for no fee.
- Visit OutdoorNebraska.gov/veteransandmilitarypermits for application and requirements.

Deployed Military

- A Nebraska resident who is or has been deployed out of the state with a branch of the United States military within the last 12 months shall, upon returning to the state, be entitled to receive an annual combination hunt/fish/fur harvest permit (which includes all state stamps) on a one-time basis for \$5.
- Eligible Nebraska residents, upon application, must provide Game and Parks, at its headquarters or district or Omaha offices, a copy of their official deployment orders, verifying the resident was deployed out of state within the past 12 months.

Lifetime

- Available for hunting, hunt/fish combination and fur harvest (residents only) permits.
- Lifetime Aquatic Habitat Stamp is included in the cost of all lifetime fishing and hunt/fish combo permits.

MORE ON PERMITS AND STAMPS

- Permits and stamps are valid for the calendar year as dated, and paper permits must be signed by the permit holder to be valid. Small game permits expire on Dec. 31.
- It is unlawful to lend or transfer a permit to another person or to borrow a permit from another person.

MOBILE PERMITS

Nebraska hunt (small game), fish, turkey, resident fur harvest permits, and associated stamps may be purchased, accessed or displayed on a mobile device. The image of a mobile permit may be displayed and saved on a device such as a phone or tablet. Visit OutdoorNebraska.gov for more information.

PERMIT REVOCATION

Under Nebraska law, hunting privileges may be revoked for some game law and court-determined violations. This could include certain one-time offenses by individuals or repeated violations by habitual offenders. Any person whose privilege to hunt, fish or harvest fur has been suspended or revoked in another jurisdiction within the United States or Canada also shall be prohibited from obtaining a permit for such activity in Nebraska for the duration of the suspension.

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Small Game

Upland Game Birds

Shooting Hours – 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

Open Area – statewide (except prairie grouse, see below), but no hunting on all state refuges and sanctuaries

PHEASANT

Season dates – Oct. 28, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024

Daily bag/possession limits – 3/12

Remarks – Only rooster pheasants may be harvested.

QUAIL

Season dates – Oct. 28, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024

Daily bag/possession limits – 6/24

Remarks – Quail must be shot while in flight.

PRAIRIE GROUSE (Includes greater prairie-chicken and sharp-tailed grouse)

East Zone season dates – Sept. 1, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024

Daily bag/possession limits – 3/3 in aggregate

Open area – east of U.S. Highway 81

Special grouse permits – Required, along with a hunting permit, for hunting prairie grouse east of U.S. Highway 81; also:

- Requests are accepted at the Game and Parks headquarters in Lincoln starting July 15.
- They are free of charge, limited in number to 400 and limited to one per hunter.
- They are available on a first-come basis.
- Requests are accepted by phone at 402-471-5410, email at ngpc.eastzonegrouse@nebraska.gov, over the counter or by mail.

West Zone season dates – Sept. 1, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024

Daily bag/possession limits – 3/12 in aggregate

Open area – west of U.S. Highway 81

Remarks – No special permit required.

PARTRIDGE (Includes Hungarian/gray and chukar partridges)

Season dates – Oct. 28, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024

Daily bag/possession limits – 3/12 in aggregate

HUNTER SURVEY

At the end of each season, hunters who provided email addresses at the time they purchased their permits will receive an email survey that is used to determine hunter success and total harvest. It is important when buying permits online that hunters use an updated email address. Hunters who have not provided an email address can take the survey at OutdoorNebraska.gov. View survey results at OutdoorNebraska.gov. Search “wildlife surveys.”

YOUTH PHEASANT, QUAIL AND PARTRIDGE

Season dates – Oct. 21 - 22, 2023

Youth hunter daily bag/possession limits – 2/4 rooster pheasants, 2/4 quail, 2/4 partridge

Remarks – Only youth (age 15 or younger) are allowed to hunt during the youth season. Also:

- Only rooster pheasants may be harvested.
- Quail must be shot while in flight.
- Resident youths age 15 and younger do not need a permit, but nonresident youths must have a nonresident youth hunt permit and habitat stamp.

Webless Migratory Birds

Shooting Hours – 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset (except crow)

Plugged Shotguns – It is unlawful to hunt dove, snipe, rail and woodcock with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber unless it is plugged.

Open Area – statewide, but no hunting on all state refuges and sanctuaries

DOVE (Includes mourning, white-winged and Eurasian collared-doves)

Season dates – Sept. 1 – Oct. 30, 2023

Daily bag/possession limits – 15/45 in aggregate

Remarks – During the regular dove season, harvest of Eurasian collared-doves counts toward aggregate daily bag and possession limits. Doves must be shot while in flight. HIP number required.

Banding – Report U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leg bands recovered from birds at [ReportBand.gov](https://www.fishbase.org/ReportBand.gov).

Wing study – Randomly selected hunters will be asked to save one wing from each dove during the first week of the season and mail the wings (postage free) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Data from the wings will be used to estimate annual productivity of the dove population and eventually used in helping to establish hunting regulations.

WHAT IS AGGREGATE?

- Aggregate daily bag limit is the maximum number allowed to be harvested by a person in one day during an open season when that person hunts for more than one species for which there is a combined daily bag limit.
The aggregate daily bag limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest daily bag limit specified for any one species.
- Aggregate possession limit is the maximum number of a single species or combination of species allowed to be possessed by a person.
The aggregate possession limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest possession limit specified for any one of the species.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE (Does not include mourning and white-winged doves)

Season dates – Oct. 31, 2023 – Aug. 31, 2024

Daily bag/possession limits – 15/45

Remarks – Eurasian collared-doves may be hunted year-round; during the regular dove season, harvest of Eurasian collared-doves counts toward aggregate daily bag and possession limits. Small game license and habitat stamp required. HIP number NOT required.

SNIPE

Season dates – Sept. 1 – Dec. 16, 2023

Daily bag/possession limits – 8/24

Remarks – HIP number required.

RAIL (Includes sora and Virginia rail)

Season dates – Sept. 1 – Nov. 9, 2023

Daily bag/possession limits – 10/30 in aggregate

Remarks – HIP number required.

WOODCOCK

Season dates – Oct. 7 – Nov. 20, 2023

Daily bag/possession limits – 3/9

Remarks – HIP number required.

CROW

Season dates – Oct. 14 – Dec. 14, 2023; Jan. 13 – March 14, 2024

Daily bag/possession limits – none/none

Shooting hours – 30 minutes before sunrise to 60 minutes after sunset, except during waterfowl seasons, when the hours are concurrent with waterfowl shooting hours.

Remarks – Crows may be hunted with any firearm or archery equipment; electronic calls may be used; no HIP number required.

Other Small Game

Shooting Hours – 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

Open Area – statewide (except jackrabbit, see below), but no hunting on all state refuges and sanctuaries

SQUIRREL (Includes fox and eastern gray squirrel)

Season dates – Aug. 1, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024

Daily bag/possession limits – 7/28 in aggregate

COTTONTAIL (Includes eastern and desert cottontail)

Season dates, hunt – Sept. 1, 2023 – Feb. 29, 2024

Season dates, running – Year-round; no harvest

Daily bag/possession limits – 7/28 in aggregate

JACKRABBIT (Includes black-tailed and white-tailed jackrabbit)

Season dates – Sept. 1, 2023 – Feb. 29, 2024

Daily bag/possession limits – 4/16 in aggregate

Open area – west of U.S. Highway 81

Nongame and Protected Mammals

NONGAME

Residents do not need a permit to hunt these species; but nonresidents must have a hunt (small game) permit. A Habitat Stamp is not required. Nongame may be hunted statewide, year-round, with no bag or possession limits:

Coyote

Porcupine

Prairie dog

Woodchuck

PROTECTED MAMMALS

The following are protected and may not be hunted or trapped in Nebraska:

Black-footed ferret

Moose

Spotted skunk

Gray wolf

Bear

Swift fox

Canada lynx

Southern flying squirrel

Furbearers

The following applies to all furbearers:

Daily bag/possession limits – There is no bag limit for residents, EXCEPT the bag limit for river otters is one. Nonresidents may harvest up to 1,000 furbearers, with a fee for each additional 100 furbearers taken over 1,000.

Open area – Hunting, trapping and running of applicable species is permitted statewide, EXCEPT in federal and state refuges and sanctuaries.

Trapping hours – Furbearer hunting and trapping hours are 24 hours a day (12:01 a.m. on opening day).

MUSKRAT, BEAVER

Season dates, trap only – Nov. 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

BADGER, MINK, LONG-TAILED WEASEL

Season dates, hunt and trap – Nov. 1, 2023 – Feb. 29, 2024

BOBCAT

Season dates, hunt and trap – Dec. 1, 2023 – Feb. 29, 2024

Season dates, running – March 1 – Nov. 30, 2023; no harvest

Remarks – Fur harvest permit is required during running and harvest seasons.

Tagging – Contact the nearest conservation officer or go to the nearest Game and Parks office to have a bobcat tagged; also:

- All bobcats harvested must be registered and tagged by Game and Parks within two business days of the close of the season.
- All bobcats harvested must be tagged before the pelt is sold.
- To prepare a carcass for tagging, create a small hole and insert a Popsicle stick, pencil or similar object between the lower eyelid and the eye, so the stick exits behind the upper lip. This will allow the bobcat to be tagged even when frozen.
- Otherwise, bring bobcats in thawed or skinned.

RACCOON, VIRGINIA OPOSSUM

Season dates, hunt only – Sept. 1 – Oct. 31, 2023

Season dates, hunt and trap – Nov. 1, 2023 – Feb. 29, 2024

Season dates, running – March 1 – Aug. 17, 2023; no harvest

Remarks – Fur harvest permit required during running and harvest seasons. Organized coonhound clubs may conduct United States Kennel Club or American Coonhound Association licensed or sanctioned field trials, when approved by written authorization from the Commission, during the two-week period between the end of the running season and the beginning of the take season.

STRIPED SKUNK

Season dates, hunt and trap – year-round

RED FOX

Season dates, hunt and trap – Nov. 1, 2023 – Feb. 29, 2024

Season dates, running – March 1 – Oct. 31, 2023; no harvest

Remarks – Fur harvest permit required during running and harvest seasons.

GRAY FOX

Season dates, hunt and trap – Nov. 1, 2023 – Feb. 29, 2024

Tagging – Contact Game and Parks or a conservation officer to have a gray fox tagged; also:

- Gray foxes harvested must be registered and tagged by Game and Parks within two business days of the close of the season.
- Gray foxes must be tagged before the pelt is sold.

RIVER OTTER

Season dates, trap only – Nov. 1, 2023 – Feb. 29, 2024

Season bag limit – 1

*** NEW FOR 2023**

*** Checking** – Any harvested river otter must be registered and officially tagged by Game and Parks within two business days after the close of the river otter season and before the sale or transfer of the animal, with the permittee furnishing the date and location of harvest before attaching the harvest seal.

*** Confirming harvest no longer required** – River otter trappers no longer are required to confirm each day that the harvest limit has not been met and the season is open.

Incidental take – Any incidental take of a river otter outside of the harvest season, or beyond daily or season bag limits, shall be unlawful unless the animal is immediately released, if viable, or the harvester reports the take within 24 hours and turns the carcass over to Game and Parks.

Trapping Information

CHECKING TRAPS

It is unlawful to trap furbearing animals unless the traps are checked and the animals removed at least once every calendar day for land sets, and at least once every two calendar days for underwater submersion sets.

LEGAL TRAPS AND SETS

- Furbearers may be trapped only with snares, metal-spring traps with smooth jaws or box traps.
- Body-gripping traps with a jaw-spread larger than 8 inches may not be used unless they are placed under water or at least 6 feet above the ground.
- During upland game bird seasons, it is unlawful to use snares on any land owned or controlled by Game and Parks, on Open Fields and Waters Program lands, on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service waterfowl production areas, on U.S. Forest Service lands or on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land at Harlan County Reservoir unless the snare is set completely underwater.
- It is unlawful to use any bait in plain sight within 30 feet of foothold traps set on dry land. Bait is defined as fish, animal flesh, fur, hide, entrails or feathers.
- Body-gripping traps with a jaw-spread larger than 5 inches may be used only when placed under water or at least 6 feet above the ground in the following areas:
 - Land owned or controlled by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
 - Open Fields and Waters Program lands
 - U.S. Forest Service
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service waterfowl production areas
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land at Harlan County Reservoir
 - County road right-of-ways
 - For restrictions on U.S. Forest Service lands, contact the Bessey Ranger District at 308-533-8115.

TRAP TAGGING

Traps include snares, steel-jawed spring traps and box traps. It is unlawful to set any trap for furbearers or coyotes, unless such trap has the following information stamped or inscribed legibly onto the trap or onto a metal tag that is securely affixed to the trap:

- the valid driver's license number of the owner or user or,
- the owner or user's Nebraska State Identification Card number applied for at Motor Vehicle Operator License Examiner's offices. Individuals 15 years of age or younger may use the driver's license or ID card number of a parent or guardian.

DISPOSAL OF FURS

- Fur harvesters may hold carcasses and raw pelts of furbearers without a time limit, as long as they have a valid fur harvest permit.
- All furs shipped by commercial carrier must have a document placed upon the package giving the name of the consignee, the number of his or her fur harvest permit, the date of expiration of the permit, which must be on or after the date of shipment, and a description of the kind and number of each kind of raw fur in the shipment.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS

Artificial lights may be used only while hunting on foot to take unprotected species, including coyotes and the following furbearers: badger, bobcat, gray fox, long-tailed weasel, mink, Virginia opossum, raccoon, red fox and striped skunk. They may not be used to take any of these species if used from or attached to a vehicle or boat.

RUNNING SEASONS

During the running seasons, bobcats, cottontail rabbits, raccoons, red foxes, and Virginia opossums may be pursued or chased with hounds, but not killed.

TRAPPING AREAS

It is legal to trap statewide, with the following exceptions and considerations:

- Permission is required to trap on private land.
- Trapping is legal, with landowner permission, in the county road right-of-way, unless restricted in individual counties or portions of individual counties.
- Allowed on state wildlife management areas, unless otherwise posted.
- Prohibited in marshes, lakes or other areas closed by federal, state or local laws or regulations.
- Prohibited on state and historical parks without special written permission.
- Allowed on state recreation areas, except within 100 yards of developed facilities, such as picnic areas, campgrounds, boat ramps and parking areas.
- Prohibited on any dry land portion of Branched Oak or Yankee Hill state wildlife management areas before Dec. 15.
- Prohibited within 100 yards of any inhabited dwelling or feedlot and within 200 yards of any passage used by livestock to pass under a highway, road or bridge without permission.



NEBRASKA

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**September 1,
2023
through
January 31,
2024**

NEBRASKA
— GAME  PARKS —



Waterfowl

Early Teal Season

Low Plains — Sept. 2 - 17, 2023

High Plains — Sept. 2 - 10, 2023

Daily Bag Limit: Six in aggregate* (Blue-, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal)

* Aggregate daily bag limit is the maximum number permitted to be taken by a person in one day during the open season when such person hunts for more than one species for which a combined daily bag limit is prescribed. The aggregate daily bag limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest daily bag limit prescribed for any one species.

Possession Bag Limit: 18

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

Helpful Teal Hunting Tips:

- Blue-winged teal have blue patches on the upper surface of their wings. Shovelers also have blue patches on their wings, but have an enlarged bill and are larger in size.
- Teal tend to fly in tight, compact flocks. Their flight is rapid and appears erratic.
- Female teal have a raspy, rapid call while males have a single note “whistle.”
- Teal will readily decoy, so use them to bring birds in closer to aid in identification. Pass shooting is not recommended.
- Teal prefer shallow waters, such as those commonly found in the Rainwater Basin area and along shallow margins of ponds, lakes and reservoirs.
- Look for areas with lots of mud flats and sparse vegetation.
- Contact the nearest Game and Parks office or visit OutdoorNebraska.gov for information regarding hunting on state recreation areas during this season.

Teal Zones



Duck and Coot Seasons

Zone 1 — Oct. 14 - Dec. 26, 2023

Zone 2 — Oct. 7 - Dec. 19, 2023 (Low Plains); Oct. 7 - Dec. 19, 2023 and Jan. 10 - 31, 2024 (High Plains)

Zone 3 — Oct. 28, 2023 - Jan. 9, 2024 and Jan. 10 - 31, 2024 (High Plains)

Zone 4 — Oct. 28, 2023 - Jan. 9, 2024

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

Duck Daily Bag/Possession Limits:

Tier I – Bag limit is six ducks (including mergansers).

- May include no more than five mallards, of which no more than two may be hens, three wood ducks, one scaup, two redheads, one pintail and two canvasbacks.
- The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Tier II – Bag limit is three ducks.

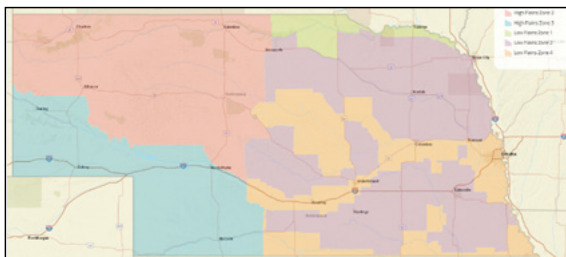
- May include three ducks, including mergansers, of any species, regardless of sex.
- The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Coot Daily Bag/Possession Limit: The daily bag for coots is 15.

The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

INTERACTIVE WATERFOWL ZONES MAP

An interactive map on the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's website allows hunters to view zone map boundaries and to zoom in to see details of the boundaries. The site contains all of the zone maps in this guide book and can be viewed on personal computers and mobile devices. To view the map, visit: OutdoorNebraska.gov/guides-maps/maps and scroll to "waterfowl zones."

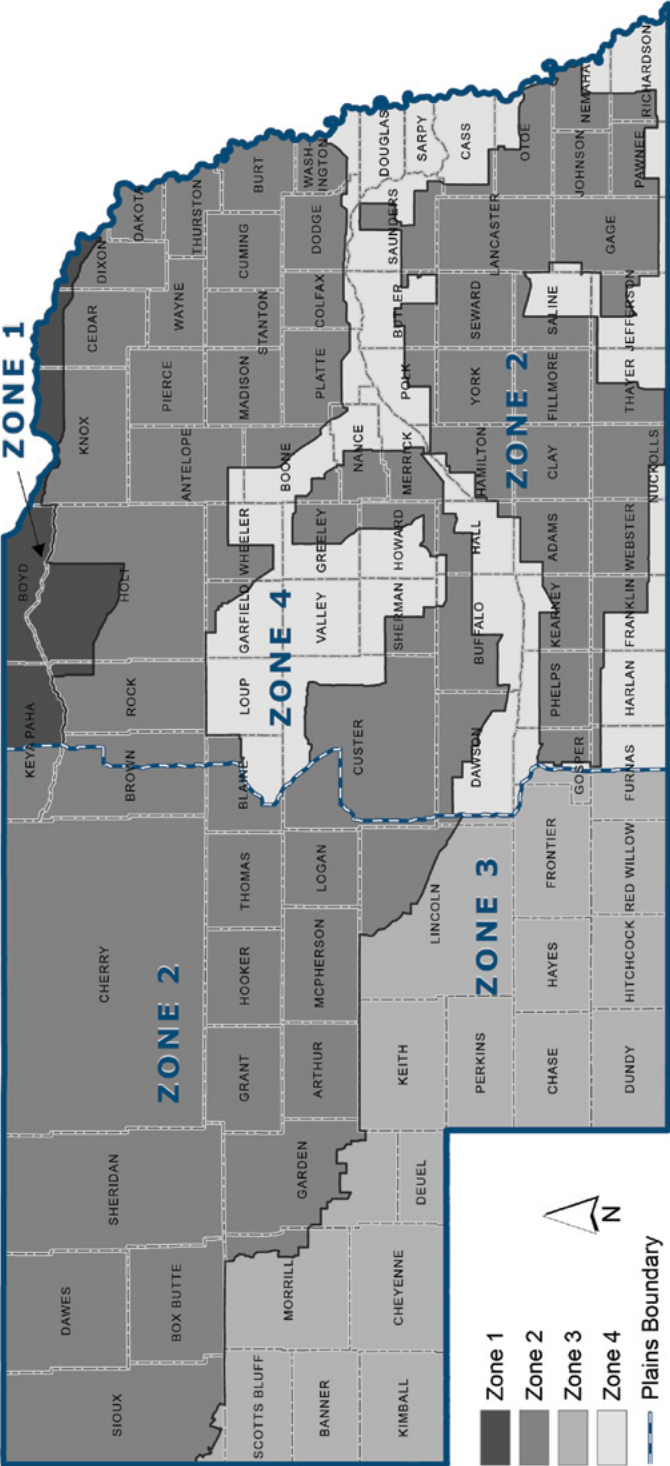


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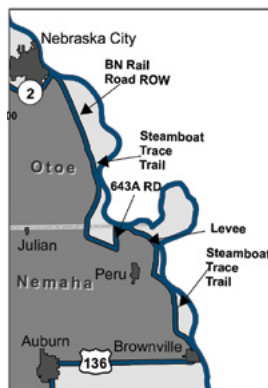
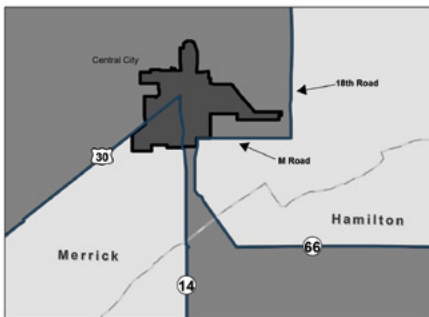
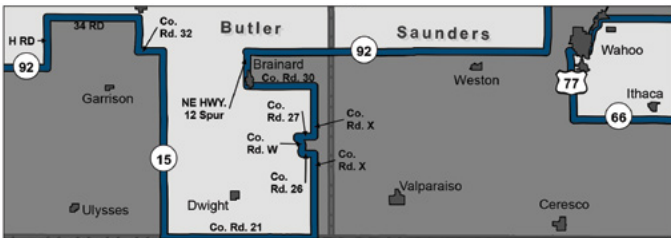
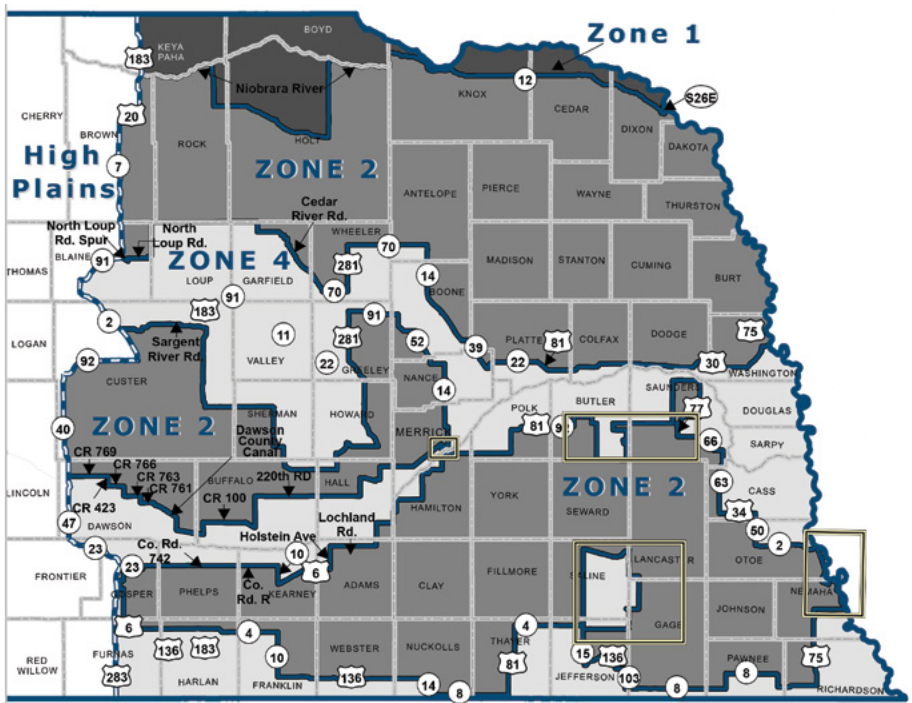
NEBRASKA
- GAME & PARKS -

Learn more

Duck Zones

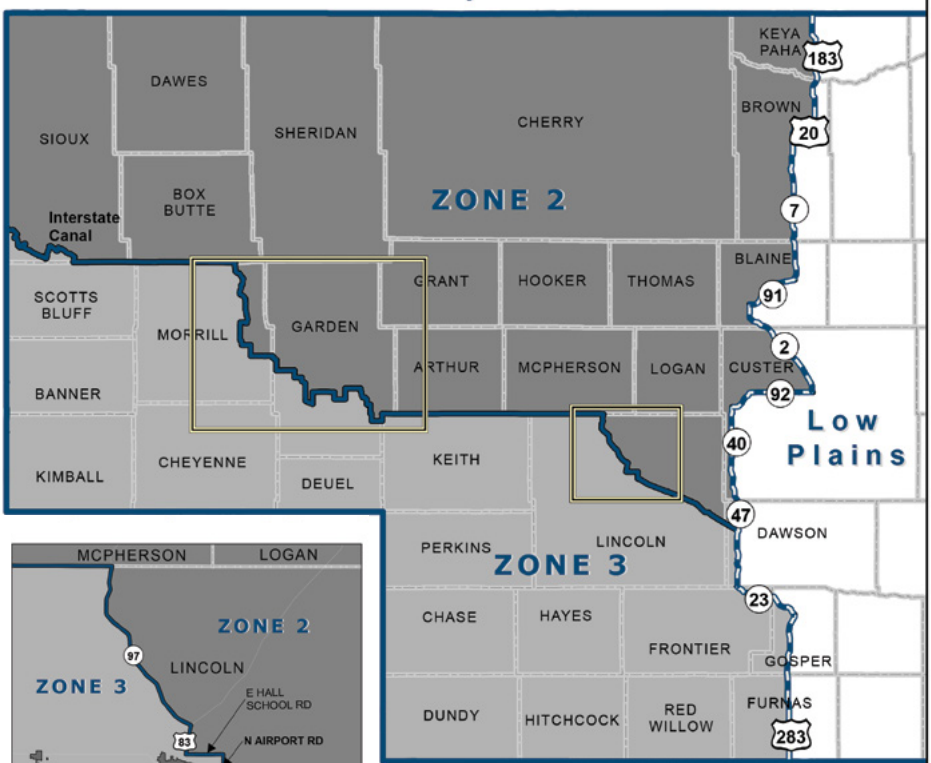


Duck Zones - Low Plains, Detailed



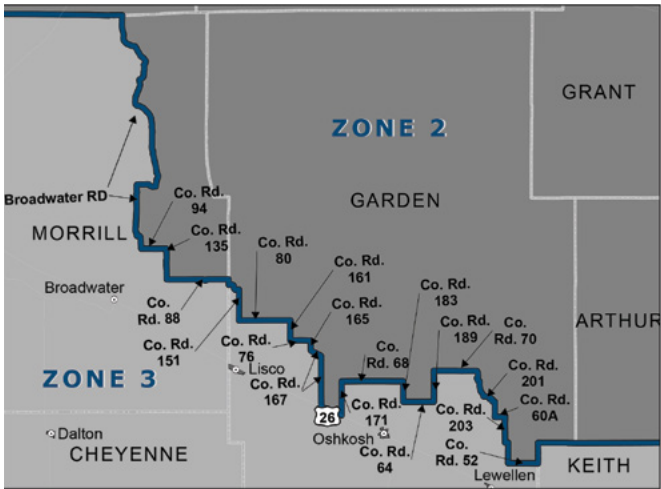
Plains Boundary

Duck Zones - High Plains, Detailed



Zone 2
 Zone 3

Plains Boundary



Dark Goose Season

(Includes Canada, Brant and all other goose species, except white-fronted and light geese)

North Central Unit — Oct. 7, 2023 - Jan. 19, 2024

Niobrara Unit — Oct. 28, 2023 - Feb. 9, 2024

Platte River Unit — Oct. 28, 2023 - Feb. 9, 2024

Daily Bag Limit: Five

Possession Limit: 15

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset



Youth Waterfowl Season

Zone 1 — Oct. 7 - 8, 2023

Zone 2 — Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2023

Zone 3 — Oct. 21 - 22, 2023

Zone 4 — Oct. 21 - 22, 2023

Bag and Possession Limits: Same as regular season

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

Youth Waterfowl Regulations:

- The season is open for ducks, mergansers, coots and geese.
- Nonresident youths must have required permits.
- Youths age 11 or younger must be accompanied by a licensed hunter age 19 or older. The accompanying adult may not hunt waterfowl.
- Youths ages 12 to 15 are required to carry a Hunter Education certification card or Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate while hunting and must be accompanied by a person at least 18 years old. The adult does not need to be a licensed hunter.

White-fronted Goose Season

Statewide Season: Oct. 7 - Dec. 17, 2023, and Jan. 25 - Feb. 9, 2024

Daily Bag Limit: Two

Possession Limit: Six

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

Light Goose Regular Season

Species: White and blue-phase snow geese and Ross's geese

Statewide Season: Oct. 7, 2023 - Jan. 3, 2024, and Jan. 25 - Feb. 9, 2024

Daily Bag Limit: 50

Possession Limit: No limit

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

Equipment Restrictions: The use of unplugged shotguns and electronic calls IS NOT ALLOWED while hunting light geese or any other waterfowl during the regular season.

Light Goose Conservation Order

Season Dates: **Rainwater Basin Zone:** Feb. 10 - April 5, 2024

East Zone: Feb. 10 - April 15, 2024

West Zone: Feb. 10 - April 5, 2024

Daily Bag and Possession Limit: No limits

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset

Equipment Restrictions: The use of unplugged shotguns and electronic calls IS ALLOWED while hunting light geese during the conservation order.

Zone Restrictions: White and blue-phase snow geese and Ross's geese may be taken statewide during the conservation order, but different regulations apply in each zone.

West Zone Special Regulations

It is illegal to hunt:

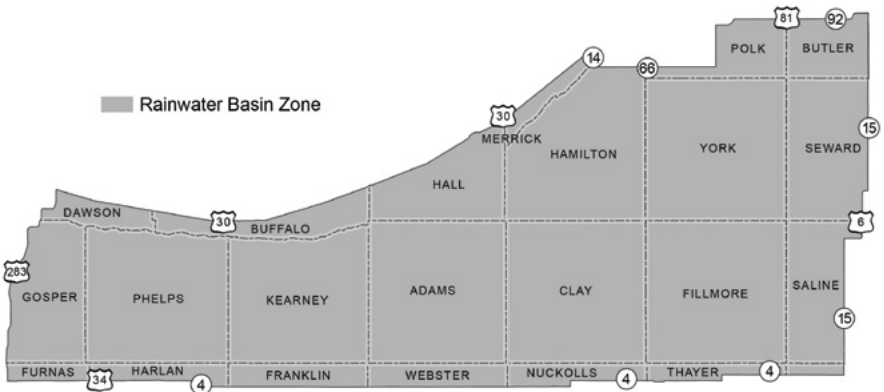
March 11 - April 5, 2024: within 3 miles of the outer channel of the Platte River between Neb. Hwy. Spur L24B (Overton) and U.S. Hwy. 281.

Rainwater Basin Zone Special Regulations

It is illegal to hunt:

- on all lands owned, controlled or managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, EXCEPT Harvard and Cottonwood Waterfowl Production Areas. Hunting is allowed seven days a week.
- on the Ducks Unlimited Verona Complex lands.
- Feb. 10 - 17, 2024: within a half-mile of the outer channel of the Platte River between Neb. Hwy. Spur 10D (Shelton) and Neb. Hwy. 14.
- Feb. 18 - March 10, 2024: within a half-mile of the outer channel of the Platte River between Neb. Hwy. Spur L24B (Overton) and Neb. Hwy. 14.
- March 11 - April 5, 2024: within 3 miles of the outer channel of the Platte River between Neb. Hwy. Spur L24B (Overton) and U.S. Hwy. 281 and within a half-mile of the outer channel of the Platte River between U.S. Hwy. 281 and Neb. Hwy. 14.

Light Goose Conservation Order Zones



PUBLIC HUNTING AREA SIGNS

Lands owned, controlled or managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which are closed during the Light Goose Conservation Order, except Harvard and Cottonwood waterfowl production areas, are designated by the sign on the right.



Lands owned, controlled or managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, which are open during the Light Goose Conservation Order, are designated by the sign on the right.



STATUS OF LIGHT GEESSE AND THE LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER

The Light Goose Conservation Order was established in 1999 with the objective to reduce snow and Ross's goose populations that were damaging subarctic and arctic breeding habitats, as well as wintering and migration areas. Using methods and regulations not allowed during regular waterfowl seasons — such as unplugged shotguns and no daily bag limits — participants began pursuing light geese in unprecedented fashion. Harvest of light geese doubled initially, but quickly leveled off. Indices of light goose populations followed the same pattern. So, where are we with light goose populations and the conservation order?

The conservation order appears to have worked for reducing and stabilizing the greater snow goose population in the Atlantic Flyway. Greater snow geese were causing large-scale damage at breeding, migration and wintering areas. With implementation of the conservation order, the harvest rate doubled and carryover effects — such as less frequency of nesting and reduced clutch sizes — resulted in a stable population. Currently, there is no evidence of habitat damage in breeding areas and limited damages in migration or wintering areas.

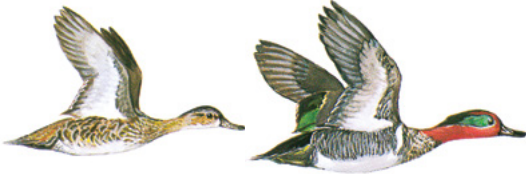
The situation for the midcontinent population of lesser snow and Ross's geese (combined, known as light geese), is more complex. A decade ago, population estimates were as high as 20 million birds with no sign that the conservation order was having the desired effect. However, recent estimates put the population below 10 million birds and declining. This recent decline is not believed to be a result of the conservation order, as harvest rates remain low and adult survival is high. Preliminary research suggests that multiple factors are contributing to low production and recruitment such as an earlier snow melt resulting in nutritional imbalances among goslings. Multiple migratory Flyway Councils and partners are funding projects to better understand the current trend.

A number of factors contribute to the higher effectiveness of the conservation order on greater snow geese than midcontinent light geese. In 1999, the population estimates of light geese were around 5-10 million birds. More recent estimates using refined statistical analysis indicate that it may have been at least double that. Thus, the effort needed to reduce the population was underestimated. Also, light geese in the midcontinent appeared to be more flexible in their use of breeding, migration, and wintering areas than greater snows, which are comparably more static. Finally, recent research indicates that a significant portion of light geese harvested in the conservation order may be the "wrong" birds. Evidence indicates that decoyed birds, which comprise more than 70 percent of geese harvested in Nebraska, are in poorer body condition than those jump- or pass-shot. Essentially, the conservation order is not removing enough fit adult females, which needs to occur if the population is to be reduced. The conservation order should continue in Nebraska until habitat and population objectives are met, whether that is through increased harvest or by the continuance of limiting environmental factors.

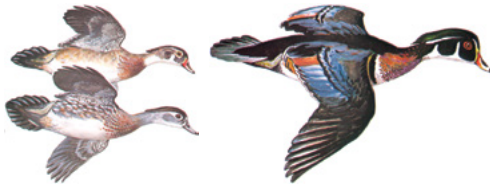
Duck Identification



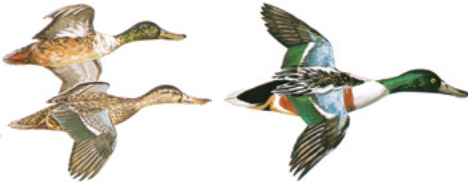
Blue-Winged Teal



Green-Winged Teal



Wood Duck



Northern Shoveler



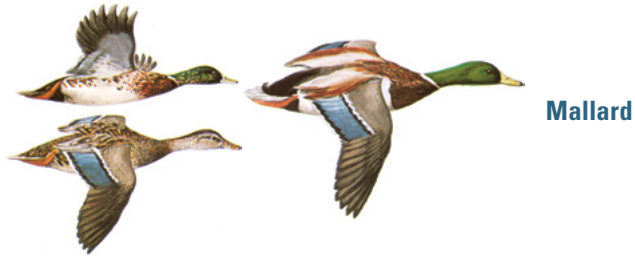
Gadwall



Northern Pintail



American Wigeon



Mallard



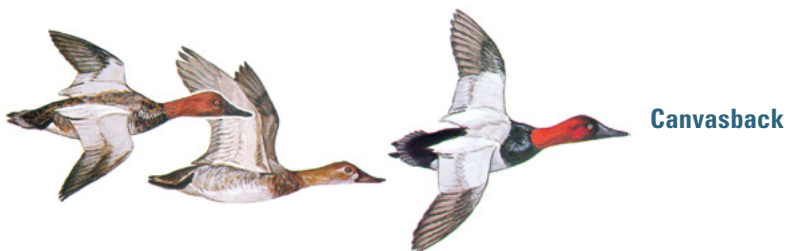
Scaup



Ring-necked Duck



Redhead



Canvasback

General Information

HUNTER ORANGE

- Wearing hunter orange is not required for upland game hunting or trapping but is strongly encouraged, especially during the November firearm deer and January late deer seasons.
- Camouflage hunter orange patterns are legal if the required minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange material displayed on a hunter's head, chest and back is met.

HUNTER EDUCATION

Firearm hunter education is required in Nebraska for all hunters ages 12 through 29 who:

- hunt any game species with a firearm or air gun. Must carry proof of successful completion while hunting.

Bowhunter education is required in Nebraska for all hunters ages 12 through 29 who:

- hunt deer, elk, antelope or mountain (bighorn) sheep with bow and arrow or crossbow. Must carry proof of successful completion while hunting.

Certification Options

For hunters ages 11-15:

- Online course followed by participation in a two-hour Hunt Safe Session – Fee paid to online vendor
- Traditional 10-hour classroom course – No cost

For hunters ages 16 and older:

- Online course with no other requirements – Fee paid to online vendor
- Traditional 10-hour classroom course – No cost

For more information or to find courses, visit [HuntSafeNebraska.org](https://www.huntsafenebraska.org). Those who have not completed a hunter education course may obtain an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate.

APPRENTICE HUNTER EDUCATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

The \$5 Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate provides the novice hunter age 12 and older an opportunity to try hunting and receive training from an experienced hunter before completing Hunter Education. A hunter using this certificate must be accompanied* at all times while hunting. This certificate may be obtained once in each person's lifetime, expires on Dec. 31 and may be renewed once for a consecutive year. It may be purchased at [OutdoorNebraska.gov](https://www.outdoornebraska.gov).

*Accompanied is defined as: in the presence of a licensed, experienced hunter age 19 or older. There may be no more than two hunters using the certificate accompanied by the experienced hunter at any time and the experienced hunter must at all times be in unaided visual and verbal communication with the child under age 12 and/or the apprentice hunter ages 12 through 29. The experienced hunter must, if age 19-29, be certified in hunter education.

FIREARM RESTRICTIONS

- During the November firearm deer season, it is unlawful to hunt wildlife other than deer with a centerfire rifle or centerfire handgun. EXCEPTION: This does not apply to a holder of a valid unfilled firearm deer permit while hunting in the unit for which the permit was issued. It also does not apply to a bona fide farmer or rancher who owns, leases, or resides upon such farm or ranch land or a member of the immediate family of such farmer or rancher while hunting on such farm or ranch land.

NOTE: It is illegal to have or carry a loaded shotgun in or on any vehicle on any highway or roadway. A shotgun is considered loaded if there is a shell or shells in the chamber, receiver or magazine.

METHODS OF TAKE

Upland Game and Migratory Game Birds:

- Shotgun – Only 10 gauge or smaller may be used for all game birds. For waterfowl and other migratory game birds, including doves, shotguns must be plugged to limit shell capacity to no more than three shells in the chamber and magazine combined. No plug is required for upland game birds. No plug or gauge restriction exists for cottontail rabbits and squirrels.
- Rifle or Pistol – Illegal for all game birds
- Archery – Legal for migratory game birds, rabbits, squirrels and upland game birds. Crossbow – Legal for rabbits, squirrels and upland game birds. NOT legal for migratory game birds.
- Trapping – Legal for furbearers, cottontails, jackrabbits and squirrels during open seasons.
- Electronic Call – Prohibited for all waterfowl hunting during the fall seasons. May be used for crows.

NONTOXIC SHOT

Nontoxic shot is required for all shotgun hunting on waterfowl production areas, national wildlife refuges, some state wildlife management areas, as posted, and other lands as listed in the Public Access Atlas. It is unlawful to use or possess shotgun shells loaded with or containing shot other than nontoxic shot while hunting, taking or attempting to take waterfowl.

Legal Nontoxic Shot

Bismuth-tin	Tungsten-matrix
Iron (steel)	Tungsten-polymer
Iron-tungsten	Tungsten-tin-iron
Iron-tungsten-nickel	Tungsten-tin-bismuth
Tungsten-bronze	Tungsten-tin-iron-nickel
Tungsten-iron-copper-nickel	Tungsten-iron-polymer

WATERFOWL BLINDS

All blinds must be removed daily from Nebraska Game and Parks Commission state recreation areas and wildlife management areas, except that seasonal blinds may be built on the WMA portions of Calamus, Elwood, Enders (the nonrefuge portion), Lake McConaughy, Medicine Creek, Merritt, Red Willow, Sherman and Swanson. Such blinds must be removed at the end of the waterfowl season. Use of these blinds is on a first-come, first-served basis.

LEG BANDS

Report U.S. Geological Survey leg bands recovered from migratory game birds at ReportBand.gov.

DEPREDACTION

Any farmer or rancher owning or operating a farm or ranch may destroy or have destroyed any badger, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, long-tailed weasel, mink, opossum, raccoon, red fox or skunk preying on livestock or poultry or causing other agricultural depredation on land owned or controlled by him or her without a permit issued by the Commission. No hunt or fur harvest permit is required. Furbearers harvested for depredation control may be sold or possessed only by individuals with a fur harvest permit and if the take occurred during the harvest season.



Learn more or donate online today at **OutdoorNebraska.gov**.



TRANSPORTING AND POSSESSING GAME

- Pheasants and prairie grouse must have head or one leg attached for identification purposes while in the field or returning home. All migratory game birds, except doves, must have one fully feathered wing or head plumage attached when in transport.
- If en route, no tags are required if licensee accompanies the game.
- It is unlawful to give, put or leave any game birds or game animals at any place or in the custody of another person unless the game is tagged with the following hunter information:
 - name
 - address
 - phone number
 - date of birth
 - species of birds or animals and total number of each
 - date taken
 - signature of donor and name of recipient, if transferred by gift
- It is unlawful to possess more than a possession limit of game birds or game animals taken on a hunt permit.
- It is unlawful to possess any live furbearers.
- It is unlawful to possess more than one daily bag limit of migratory game birds while in the field or when returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, etc.
- If shipped by commercial carrier, game birds and game animals must be tagged with official tags. These tags are available from Game and Parks offices and conservation officers.

DOG TRAINING

- Dog training is the use of dogs in a noncompetitive process intended to enhance the dogs' hunting skills.
- For each dog involved in a training session, defined as sunrise to sunset, no more than two hen pheasants and five quail may be harvested. Partridge and mallards are unlimited. Only pen-raised birds may be released for dog training purposes.
- It is permitted on private land if landowner permission is obtained and dog training rules are followed.
- It is unlawful for anyone to exercise, run, train, or hunt with dogs on state wildlife management areas from May 1 through July 31 of each year, except on areas designated and specifically posted with "Authorized Dog Training Area" signs.
- Training or exercising dogs on areas designated and posted as a "Dog Trial Area" is prohibited; such areas are restricted for field trial use only.
- All game birds released for training purposes must be obtained from a captive wildlife permit holder or licensed nonresident breeder, and must be banded by the trainer or seller with official bands authorized by Game and Parks. Any person who purchases game birds from a captive wildlife permit holder or licensed nonresident breeder shall have in his or her possession a sales tag/receipt from the permit holder listing the date, species and number of birds purchased.
- Game birds obtained for dog training may be kept in captivity without a captive wildlife permit for a period not to exceed 14 days following date of purchase or receipt.

GAME VIOLATIONS

The Nebraska Legislature has passed statutes that increased the fines and penalties for a variety of game and fish violations. The new fines range from \$25 to \$15,000, depending on the severity of the violation and the species involved. The liquidated damages (assessed in addition to court costs) are set by the legislature as replacement costs for wildlife taken illegally. The damages apply to each animal taken illegally and apply to wanton waste. For a complete overview of the specific fines and penalties, visit OutdoorNebraska.gov. Call Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers toll-free at 800-742-7627 to report a game violation.

WHEN IT IS UNLAWFUL TO SHOOT

It is illegal to shoot:

- from any public highway, road or bridge, including the traveled surface and the right-of-way, whether on foot or from a vehicle, or attempt to shoot any bird, fish or other animal from an aircraft.

WHEN IT IS UNLAWFUL TO HARVEST

It is illegal to harvest:

- game birds by use or aid of live decoys;
- a legal limit of any species and return to take more of the same species in the same day;
- game birds or game animals or falconry except during the legal shooting or falconry hours;
- furbearers other than with snares, metal spring traps with smooth jaws or box traps except that raccoon, red fox, gray fox, bobcat, badger, long-tailed weasel, striped skunk, mink and Virginia opossum may be taken by firearm or archery equipment,
- or hunt any wild animal or bird from or with a snowmobile;
- migratory game birds from a sink box, from any motorboat unless motor is shut off and boat stopped, from a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, from an aircraft, or from a sailboat unless the sail is furled and the boat is stopped;
- migratory game birds by driving or chasing them with any motorized conveyance to put them in range of hunters;
- any game bird, including migratory birds, with a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.

WHEN IT IS UNLAWFUL TO HUNT

It is illegal to hunt:

- when trespassing on private land (hunters must get permission);
- as a party hunt; every hunter must shoot his or her own game;
- with a rifle within 200 yards of an inhabited dwelling or feedlot and to hunt with all other equipment within 100 yards, unless permission has been granted by the owner or tenant;
- game birds without making a reasonable effort to retrieve dead or crippled birds and including them in the daily bag; crippled birds must be killed immediately;
- or harvest any game birds by baiting or attracting them to the place where hunted by distribution of grain or other feeds. Federal regulations consider an area baited for 10 days after bait is removed;
- drive or disturb game birds or game animals with or from any aircraft or boat propelled by power or sail;
- harvest any game bird from a vehicle.

OTHER UNLAWFUL ACTS

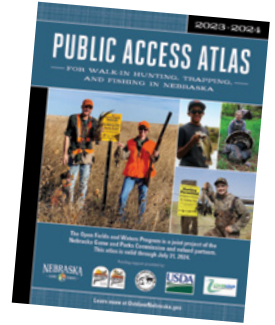
It is unlawful to:

- waste game;
- spotlight from a vehicle or vessel while in possession of a firearm or archery equipment;
- dig, cut or destroy natural or planted vegetation on state-owned or controlled areas;
- cause game birds or game animals to depart from a game reserve or game sanctuary;
- use electrically amplified imitations of bird calls, including records, tapes, compact discs, and digital audio files, to take game birds;
- sell or trade the meat of any game bird or game animal;
- communicate the location of any game animal or game bird by radio or other electronic device to or from any aircraft, vessel, vehicle, snowmobile, or other conveyance one day before or during the open season;
- carry a firearm, archery equipment or other projectile device on a snowmobile, except when unloaded and in a case.

Where to Hunt

PUBLIC ACCESS ATLAS

The Nebraska Public Access Atlas is published each summer and provides hunters, trappers and anglers a guide to more than 1.2 million acres of publicly accessible lands. It is available in hard-copy form as well as digital and interactive versions (which can be viewed at OutdoorNebraska.gov). The atlas displays private lands available to public access, as well as other state, federal and conservation partner lands. Visit OutdoorNebraska.gov and search "brochure requests" to request a free atlas or other materials be mailed to you, or pick up a copy wherever hunting and fishing permits are sold across Nebraska.



PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE LANDS

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Properties:

State Wildlife Management Areas

- These areas are state-owned or managed.
- Hunting and trapping is allowed in season, unless otherwise posted or restricted by special area regulations.
- Portable tree stands shall not be installed, used or left in place from Feb. 1 through Aug. 15 on WMAs.
- It is unlawful to build or use permanent or semi-permanent tree stands that attach to any tree with nails, screws, bolts or wire.
- Camping is allowed, unless otherwise posted.
- Fires are allowed only in fireplaces, grills or fire rings, where provided by Game and Parks.
- Use of propane or gas stoves and charcoal grills is allowed.
- Motorized vehicles are restricted to roadways, parking areas or trails designated for such use.
- Target shooting is allowed unless otherwise prohibited.

State Recreation Areas

- Portions of some SRA lands are open to hunting from the Tuesday following Labor Day through the end of the spring turkey hunting season.
- Hunting and trapping on SRAs is prohibited within 100 yards of any public-use facility or activity area, including picnic areas, campgrounds, private cabins, concession areas, boat ramps and parking lots.
- A park entry permit is required for each vehicle.

State Parks and State Historical Parks

- Some SP and SHP lands allow limited hunting opportunities.
- Special regulations apply and hunting access permits often required.
- Trapping is authorized by special permit and only when depredation is occurring.
- A park entry permit is required for each vehicle.

Other Publicly Accessible Lands:

Waterfowl Production Areas

- These federal lands are purchased with Federal Duck stamp revenue.
- They are open to public recreation, but camping is prohibited. Nontoxic shot is required and other special regulations may apply; visit FWS.gov/Refuge/Rainwater_Basin_wmd.

U.S. Forest Service

- These are federally managed lands; special regulations may apply.
- Most national forests and grasslands managed by the U.S. Forest Service are open to hunting, unless otherwise posted.
- The U.S. Forest Service restricts motorized travel on the Nebraska National Forest and Grassland to designated roads or trails. Routes are designated “open” or “closed” for motorized travel. Cross-country or off-road uses of motorized vehicles are prohibited, unless routes or areas are designated open. Motor vehicle use for big game retrieval and dispersed camping is allowed within 300 feet of most roads and trails that are designated open. Areas in Nebraska include Bessey Ranger District near Halsey, McKelvie National Forest near Valentine, Pine Ridge Ranger District near Chadron, and Oglala National Grasslands near Crawford. Refer to the Motor Vehicle Use Maps issued by the U.S. Forest Service. They may be obtained at all Forest Service District offices, by request at U.S. Forest Service, 125 N. Main St., Chadron, NE 69337, 308-432-0300 or by visiting FS.USDA.gov/Nebraska.

National Wildlife Refuges and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- These are federally managed lands. Check with these agencies for special regulations that may apply.
- For more information on National Wildlife Refuge lands (managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), view refuge hunting and fishing brochures or contact a refuge directly.

Natural Resources District

- These lands are owned by local government entities; special regulations apply.
- Some NRD-owned lands are managed by the NRDs and some are managed by the Commission as WMAs.
- Contact the nearest NRD office for more information about these lands.

Conservation Partners

- These lands are owned or managed by conservation partners such as Platte River Basin Environments, Pheasants and Quail Forever, and Ducks Unlimited. Check with those organizations for special regulations.

Open Fields and Waters Program

- These are private lands open to walk-in hunting, trapping and/or fishing. Game and Parks’ OFW program provides financial incentives to private landowners willing to allow access. In 2022-2023, the program provided public access opportunities on 372,027 land acres, 42 ponds and lakes, and 41.9 stream miles across Nebraska. Visit OutdoorNebraska.gov for more information.

Other Public Access Programs

- The Platte River Recreation Access Program provides limited, walk-in public access on select lands through an online reservation system. Visit PlatteAccess.org.
- The Passing Along the Heritage Program provides youth and their mentors access on select lands through an online reservation system. Only youth under the age of 18 may hunt. Visit OutdoorNebraska.gov and search for “PATH.”

PRIVATE LANDS

Most hunting and trapping in Nebraska is done on private land, where trespassing is prohibited by law. Hunters and trappers must get permission before hunting or trapping on private land that is not part of a public access program, whether it is posted or not.

CLOSED LANDS

You may not hunt in, unless otherwise posted, state wayside areas, hatcheries, reserves, state refuges or any roadway or highway, including the right-of-way.

STATE REFUGES

These areas, established by statute, are closed to hunting, except as noted. These are private lands where landowner permission to hunt is required:

- Garden County Refuge – Those portions of Garden County within 110 yards of the banks of the North Platte River are open to archery deer hunting from Sept. 1 - Oct. 31 with landowner permission, except; 1) that portion within the Clear Creek Refuge portion of the Clear Creek Wildlife Management Area west of the Garden County line is open to deer hunting during all established deer seasons from Sept. 1 through the Sunday before Thanksgiving.
- Lincoln County Refuge – Sections 21, 26, 27, 28, 34, 35, 36 T14N, R30W in Lincoln County within 110 yards of the banks of the North Platte River are open to deer hunting.
- Boyd-Holt County Refuge – Those portions of Boyd and Holt counties lying west of State Highway No. 11 that occur within 110 yards of the banks of the Niobrara River and its channels are open to all deer hunting.
- Dodge-Saunders County Refuge – Those portions of Dodge and Saunders counties west of the Nebraska Highway 92 bridge at Venice within 110 yards of the banks of the Platte River are open to all deer hunting.

RED PAINT MARKS INDICATE CLOSED TO HUNTING

The landowner or tenant who is the principal operator of a farm or ranch may post such property to allow for hunting, by written permission only, by placing identifying red paint marks on trees or posts in the following manner:

- The marks shall be vertical lines of at least 8 inches in length and 3 inches in width on trees or on any post that is not metal. If metal posts are used, the marks shall completely surround the post and extend down at least 8 inches from the top of the metal post. The bottom edge of the identifying red paint marks shall be not less than 3 feet and not more than 5 feet off the ground;
- The marks shall be readily visible to any person approaching the property; and
- The marks shall be placed at each field entrance and shall not be more than 100 yards apart.

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Nontoxic Shot Lethality Table

Proven Nontoxic Shot Loads for Waterfowl, Doves and Upland Game Birds (Load velocity: 1,225 to 1,700 FPS)	Observed Hunters' Typical Shooting Range During Activity (Yards)	Most Effective Nontoxic Shot Sizes	Minimal Load Weight (Ounces)	Minimal Pellet Hits Needed on Lethal Areas for Clean Kills	Minimum Pattern Count Needed at Any Distance for Clean Kills (pellets in 30-in circle)	Most Effective Chokes at Distance (in yards)
Activity						
Large Geese at Long Range (Giant, Western, Atlantic and Interior Canadas)	50-65	Steel BBB to T	1-1/4	1-2	50-55	Improved Modified
	50-70	HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/2			Improved Modified, Full
Large Geese Over Decoys	35-50	Steel BB to BBB	1-1/4	1-2	50-55	Improved Cylinder, Modified
		HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/2			
Medium/Small Geese at Long Range (Snow, White-fronted, Lesser Canadas)	50-65	Steel BB to BBB	1-1/4	1-2	60-65	Improved Modified
		HEVI-Shot 2	1-1/2			Improved Modified, Full
Medium/Small Geese Over Decoys	35-50	Steel 2 to BB	1-1/8	1-2	60-65	Light Modified, Modified
		HEVI-Shot 4 to 2	1-1/4			Improved Cylinder, Modified
Large Ducks at Long Range (Mallard, Black, Pintail, Goldeneye, Gadwall)	45-65	Steel 2 to 1	1-1/8	1-2	85-90	Improved Modified, Full
		HEVI-Shot 4	1-1/4			
Large Ducks Over Decoys	20-45	Steel 6 to 2	3/4 - 1	1-2	85-90	Improved Cylinder (20-35), Modified (35-45)
		HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1-1/8			
Medium Ducks Over Decoys (Wigeon, Scaup, Shoveler)	20-45	Steel 6 to 3	1	1-2	115-120	Improved Cylinder (20-35), Modified (35-45)
		HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1-1/8			
Small Ducks Over Decoys (Teal, Ruddy, Bufflehead)	20-45	Steel 6 to 4	1	1-2	135-145	Modified (20-35), Full (35-45)
		HEVI-Shot 6	1-1/8			
Ring-necked Pheasants	20-50	Steel 3 to 2	1	2-3	90-95	Improved Cylinder (20-30), Modified (30-50)
		HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1-1/8			
Turkeys (Head and neck shots)	20-40	Steel 4	1-1/4	3-4	210-230	Full or Extra Full
Mourning Doves	20-45	Steel 8 to 7	5/8-3/4	1-2	200-210	Improved Cylinder 8s/ Light Modified 7s (20-30), Modified (more than 30)
		HEVI-Shot 7 1/2	3/4			Improved Cylinder (20-30), Light Modified (30-45)
Northern Bobwhite Quail	20-30	Steel 7	5/8-3/4	1-2	200-210	Improved Cylinder, Light Modified
Swatter Loads for Wounded Birds	20-30	Steel 7 to 6	1	1	175	Improved Modified, Full

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⁷ Furbearers — Trap	R	•								•							•	F	•				
	N	•	F	•						•	F	•						•	F	•			
Crow	R	•								•								•		H			
	N	•	H							•		H						•		H			
Coyote, Prairie Dog, Porcupine, Woodchuck	R	•								•								•					
	N	•	H							•	H							•	H				
Unprotected	A	•								•								•					
Protected	A																						
NO OPEN SEASON — MAY NOT HUNT																							

Residency

R - Resident of Nebraska, N - Nonresident, A - All

Permits

H - Hunt (small game), T - Turkey, D - Deer, E - Elk, A - Antelope, S - Mountain (Bighorn) Sheep, F - Fur Harvest, M - Mountain Lion

Species

Jupland Game Birds/Other Small Game — Pheasant, Quail, Prairie Grouse, Partridge, Squirrel, Cottontail, Jackrabbit
 Webless Migratory Birds — Dove, Snipe, Rail, Woodcock
 7 Furbearers — Trap only: Muskrat, Beaver and River Otter, Hunt or trap: Bobcat, Mink, Raccoon, Badger, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Virginia Opossum, Long-tailed Weasel, Striped Skunk
 Unprotected — Common Pigeon, European Starling, English Sparrow, Norway Rat, House Mouse
 Protected — Bear, Gray Wolf, Spotted Skunk, Canada Lynx, Black-footed Ferret, Moose, Swift Fox, Southern Flying Squirrel, and all migratory songbirds not specifically allowed by a small game or waterfowl permit.

Exceptions

- Residents age 69 and over and qualifying veterans age 64 and older may obtain a reduced-fee hunt permit, which includes Nebraska habitat and waterfowl stamps.
- A farmer or rancher and immediate family who actually live on the land they own or lease may hunt squirrel, cottontail, jackrabbit (west of U.S. 81), prairie grouse (special permit required east of U.S. 81), partridge, pheasant and quail without obtaining a Nebraska hunt (small game) permit or Habitat Stamp. Hunting seasons and regulations still apply.
- Lifetime permits do not allow for the hunting of deer, antelope, elk, mountain lion, mountain (bighorn) sheep or turkey, and do not include stamps.

Hunter Education

- Hunters ages 12 through 29 must have on their person proof of successful completion of firearm Hunter Education while hunting with a firearm or air gun.
- Hunters ages 12 through 29 must have on their person proof of successful completion of Bowhunter Education while hunting deer, antelope, elk, or mountain (bighorn) sheep with bow and arrow or crossbow.
- Hunters ages 12 through 29 who have not completed firearm and/or bowhunter Hunter Education may obtain an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate.

Accompaniment

- Firearm hunters ages 11 or younger must be accompanied by a licensed person age 19 or older.
- Any deer, elk, antelope, or bighorn sheep hunters ages 15 or younger must be accompanied by a licensed person age 19 and older.
- Hunters holding an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate must be accompanied by a licensed person age 19 or older.

Definitions

Accompanied - In the presence of a licensed hunter age 19 or older. The accompanying hunter may not accompany more than two hunters at a time using the Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate. The accompanying adult hunter must at all times be in unaided visual and verbal communication with the novice hunter.

Licensed - Has a valid Nebraska hunting permit.

Disclaimer

This is only intended to be a guide. Consult statutes and regulations.



Nebraska Hunter Requirements

Under Age 10

Age 10-11

Age 12-15

Age 16 and Up

	Residency	May Legally Take	Permit Type	Habitat Stamp	Neb. Waterfowl Stamp	Federal Duck Stamp	HIP Number	Hunter Education	⁴ Accompaniment	May Legally Take	Permit Type	Habitat Stamp	Neb. Waterfowl Stamp	Federal Duck Stamp	HIP Number	Hunter Education	⁴⁵ Accompaniment	May Legally Take	Permit Type	Habitat Stamp	Neb. Waterfowl Stamp	Federal Duck Stamp	HIP Number	¹²³ Hunter Education	⁵⁶ Accompaniment	May Legally Take	Permit Type	Habitat Stamp	Neb. Waterfowl Stamp	Federal Duck Stamp	HIP Number	¹²³ Hunter Education	⁶ Accompaniment (age 16-29)	
Deer	R									D	D							D	D							D	D							
Antelope	R										A	A						A	A							A	A							
Elk	R										E	E						E	E							E	E							
LANDOWNER ONLY																																		
Mountain Sheep (Bighorn)	R										S	S						S	S							S	S							
Turkey	R		T								T	T						T	T							T	T							
Mountain Lion	R																	M	M							M	M							
Waterfowl	R																																	
Webless Migratory Birds	R										H	H						H	H							H	H							
Upland Game Birds/ Other Small Game	R																																	
⁷ Furbearers — Hunt	R																																	

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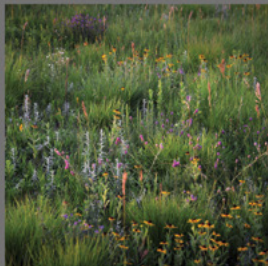
PRESCRIBED BURNING

In an effort to educate people who share a common goal: the safe and effective use of prescribed fire. Informative workshops, prescribed burn associations, and planning assistance provide tools for success.

EQUIPMENT

Habitat tools like no-till grass drills and prescribed burn equipment are available through local chapters across the state. No-till drills are funded in partnership with local Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever chapters, The Nebraska Environmental Trust, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

In addition, statewide habitat programs and costshare assistance through your local chapter might be available. For more information and access to these options, visit our website at:



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Conservation Officers

Scan the QR code for the most up-to-date list of officers.



ADMINISTRATION

Lincoln	
Craig Stover	402-471-5531
Administrator	
Duane Arp	402-471-5531
Assistant Administrator	
Travis Shepler	402-471-5531
Assistant Administrator	
Jeff Clauson	402-471-5531
Assistant Administrator	

(Listing includes counties covered)

NORTHWEST

Dan Kling	308-430-0572
Lieutenant	

East Sub-District

Hunter Lee	308-280-4320
Keith	
Jerod Hahn	308-520-5539
Deuel, Garden, Grant	
Brandon Wallace	308-280-4488
Keith	
Jaden Porter	308-289-2274
Keith, Garden	
Tyler Stueck	308-289-6260
Keith	
Travis Schultz	308-279-1292
Morrill, Cheyenne	

West Sub-District

Sean McKeenan	308-672-1824
Kimball, Banner, Scotts Bluff	Sergeant
Hunter Pearson	308-360-1817
Sheridan, Dawes, Grant	
Josh Widhelm	308-279-9133
Scotts Bluff	
Justin Gress	308-629-9335
Box Butte, Sheridan, Grant	
Jacob Stoinski	308-615-9017
Sioux, Dawes	

NORTHEAST

Dale Davis	402-760-0712
Lieutenant	

North Sub-District

Jeff Jones	402-762-5022
Knox, Cedar	Sergeant
John Bauer	402-314-9257
Holt, Boyd	
Tyler Adelman	402-314-4783
Rock, Brown, Keya Paha	
Jonathan Andreasen	402-340-3981
Madison, Pierce, Stanton	
Mitch Johnson	402-613-8612
Knox, Antelope, Pierce	

South Sub-District

Cory Krause	402-380-6410
Cuming, Wayne, Stanton	Sergeant

Kyler Prochaska	402-830-8278
Platte, Colfax	
Matt Costello	402-317-4014
Dodge, Colfax	
Kelbi Abke	402-237-2537
Washington, Burt	
Mark McDonald	402-805-2353
Dodge	
Nicholas Fix	402-508-0261
Dixon, Dakota, Thurston	

CENTRAL

Mike Thome	308-293-8746
Lieutenant	

North Sub-District

Doug Pollard	308-730-7050
Loup, Garfield, Valley	Sergeant
Matt Brandt	308-202-0819
Sherman, Howard	
Daryl Teter	308-440-1863
Howard, Greeley, Merrick	
Klint Gill	402-613-5800
Nance, Wheeler, Boone	

South Sub-District

Matt Taylor	402-200-9597
Thayer, Fillmore, Nuckolls	Sergeant
Tim Williams	308-380-7331
Hall, Hamilton, York	
Eric Javins	402-902-2017
Adams, Clay, Webster	
Pat George	308-920-2762
Harlan, Franklin, Phelps	

Ethan Teter	308-440-3847
Buffalo, Kearney	

SOUTHWEST

Brian Piernicky	308-330-8780
Lieutenant	

North Sub-District

Ray Dierking	308-870-0322
Custer, Thomas, Blaine	
Frank Miller	402-389-0444
Cherry, Hooker	
Greg Hesse	308-546-7464
Hooker, Thomas, southern Cherry	
Alex Hasenauer	308-660-4671
Lincoln, Perkins	

Brandon O'Neal	308-530-3157
Lincoln, McPherson, Logan	

South Sub-District

Bryce Streger	308-537-0404
Dawson, Gosper, Custer	
Kelsey Glodowski	308-763-8226
Dundy, Hitchcock	
Taylor Dixon	308-217-2108
Dawson, Gosper	
Sophia Gobber	308-222-0368
Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock	

SOUTHEAST

Stacey Lewton	402-890-7140
Lieutenant	

East Sub-District

Heath Packett	402-210-0888
Cass	Sergeant
Russell Mort	402-209-1506
Otoe, Johnson	
Rich Berggren	402-619-1355
Douglas	
Brian Arp	531-530-9011
Douglas, Sarpy	
Mike Luben	402-443-6392
Saunders, Butler	
Bryan Adams	402-429-1924
Nemaha, Pawnee, Richardson	

West Sub-District

Dina Barta	402-890-6463
Lancaster	
Luis Nuñez	531-333-6093
Lancaster	
Mark Sullivan	402-741-0636
Lancaster, Seward, Butler	
Trevor Stahlecker	402-314-9641
Lancaster, Saline	
Curt Prohaska	402-470-1298
Lancaster	
Matt Seitz	402-806-0915
Gage, Jefferson	

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- on a new online report form at Outdoornebraska.gov/wildlifecrimestoppers/
- scan the QR code to the right



Sunrise/Sunset Schedule for Kearney

	Sept. 2023		Oct. 2023		Nov. 2023		Dec. 2023		Jan. 2024		Feb. 2024	
Day	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
1	7:03	8:10	7:32	7:20	8:06	6:34	7:40	5:10	8:00	5:19	7:47	5:52
2	7:04	8:09	7:33	7:19	8:07	6:33	7:41	5:10	8:00	5:19	7:46	5:54
3	7:05	8:07	7:34	7:17	8:08	6:32	7:42	5:09	8:00	5:20	7:45	5:55
4	7:06	8:06	7:35	7:15	8:09	6:30	7:43	5:09	8:00	5:21	7:44	5:56
5	7:07	8:04	7:36	7:14	7:11	5:29	7:44	5:09	8:01	5:22	7:43	5:57
6	7:08	8:02	7:37	7:12	7:12	5:28	7:45	5:09	8:00	5:23	7:42	5:59
7	7:09	8:01	7:38	7:10	7:13	5:27	7:46	5:09	8:00	5:24	7:41	6:00
8	7:10	7:59	7:39	7:09	7:14	5:26	7:47	5:09	8:00	5:25	7:40	6:01
9	7:11	7:57	7:40	7:07	7:15	5:25	7:48	5:09	8:00	5:26	7:39	6:02
10	7:11	7:56	7:41	7:06	7:16	5:24	7:49	5:09	8:00	5:27	7:38	6:03
11	7:12	7:54	7:43	7:04	7:18	5:23	7:50	5:09	8:00	5:28	7:36	6:05
12	7:13	7:52	7:44	7:02	7:19	5:22	7:50	5:09	8:00	5:29	7:35	6:06
13	7:14	7:51	7:45	7:01	7:20	5:21	7:51	5:09	7:59	5:30	7:34	6:07
14	7:15	7:49	7:46	6:59	7:21	5:20	7:52	5:09	7:59	5:31	7:33	6:08
15	7:16	7:47	7:47	6:58	7:22	5:19	7:53	5:10	7:59	5:32	7:31	6:10
16	7:17	7:46	7:48	6:56	7:23	5:18	7:53	5:10	7:58	5:33	7:30	6:11
17	7:18	7:44	7:49	6:55	7:25	5:18	7:54	5:10	7:58	5:34	7:29	6:12
18	7:19	7:42	7:50	6:53	7:26	5:17	7:55	5:10	7:57	5:36	7:27	6:13
19	7:20	7:41	7:51	6:52	7:27	5:16	7:55	5:11	7:57	5:37	7:26	6:14
20	7:21	7:39	7:52	6:50	7:28	5:15	7:56	5:11	7:56	5:38	7:25	6:16
21	7:22	7:37	7:53	6:49	7:29	5:15	7:56	5:12	7:56	5:39	7:23	6:17
22	7:23	7:35	7:54	6:47	7:30	5:14	7:57	5:12	7:55	5:40	7:22	6:18
23	7:24	7:34	7:56	6:46	7:32	5:13	7:57	5:13	7:54	5:41	7:21	6:19
24	7:25	7:32	7:57	6:45	7:33	5:13	7:58	5:13	7:54	5:43	7:19	6:20
25	7:26	7:30	7:58	6:43	7:34	5:12	7:58	5:14	7:53	5:44	7:18	6:21
26	7:27	7:29	7:59	6:42	7:35	5:12	7:59	5:14	7:52	5:45	7:16	6:23
27	7:28	7:27	8:00	6:40	7:36	5:11	7:59	5:15	7:51	5:46	7:15	6:24
28	7:29	7:25	8:01	6:39	7:37	5:11	7:59	5:16	7:51	5:47	7:13	6:25
29	7:30	7:24	8:02	6:38	7:38	5:11	8:00	5:16	7:50	5:49	7:12	6:26
30	7:31	7:22	8:04	6:37	7:39	5:10	8:00	5:17	7:49	5:50		
31			8:05	6:35			8:00	5:18	7:48	5:51		

SunriseSunset.com

This schedule applies to any point in Nebraska that is due north or due south of Kearney. For each 9 miles west of Kearney, add 1 minute. For each 9 miles east of Kearney, subtract 1 minute. It is a hunter's responsibility to be aware of legal shooting hours for game they are hunting.

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023.

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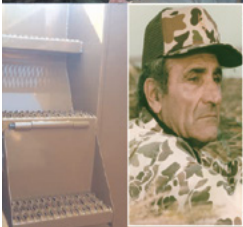
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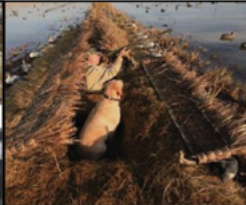
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