Browns Park
National Wildlife Refuge
Fishing and Hunting
Welcome

This goose, designed by J.N. “Ding” Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established in 1963 by Public Land Order to provide sanctuary for migratory birds, conserve endangered and threatened species, and offer wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities such as hunting and fishing. Wildlife, solitude, scenic beauty, and cultural history combine to make this Refuge a national treasure.

This 12,150-acre Refuge is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). It is one of over 560 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System – a network of lands set aside specifically for wildlife. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge System is a living heritage, preserving wildlife and habitat for people today and for generations to come.

This Refuge provides prime habitat for a variety of wildlife. More information about the Refuge’s wildlife, habitats, management, and recreational opportunities can be found in the general information leaflet available at kiosks and the headquarters.

General Refuge Regulations

Hunting and fishing is permitted in accordance with Federal and State regulations and the following special regulations. Please familiarize yourself with the regulations, and respect the privileges of other Refuge users.

This brochure is not meant to be an all-inclusive list, but it addresses some of the more common regulatory issues. Contact a Refuge Officer if you have any questions about the regulations.

Hours

The Refuge is open daily from sunrise to sunset. After sunset, public activity is limited to the campgrounds. The Refuge office and headquarters is open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.
Access

To protect wildlife from disturbance and minimize habitat damage, all motorized vehicles, off-road vehicles (ORVs), and bicycles must stay on developed roads. The speed limit on all Refuge roads is 25 mph unless posted otherwise. Driving off-road by any type of vehicle is prohibited. Watch for seasonal road closure signs March 1 - July 31.

Parking

Vehicles must park in pull-outs or within 10 feet of the road. Overnight parking is not permitted except for campers in the designated campgrounds. Overnight parking for river floaters is allowed with prior approval from the Refuge staff.

Government Property

Individuals altering or destroying government property, including boundary fences, will be prosecuted. Check with the Refuge staff for availability of horse or stock gates.

Camping

Camping is permitted in designated sites only at the campgrounds and is limited to 14 days in a 28-day period. To protect the solitude within the Refuge, the use of generators is allowed from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm only. Pack out all your trash. Campfires are allowed only in the metal fire rings provided at the campgrounds. Campfires should never be left unattended and must be completely extinguished. Developed Bureau of Land Management campgrounds are available nearby at Irish Canyon and the Taylor Flats Bridge.

Horses

Horseback riding is permitted. Use of certified weed-free hay is recommended to minimize further introduction of invasive plants. Horses are not permitted in the campgrounds overnight. If the corrals by the Swinging Bridge campground are not in use by local ranchers, horses may be kept in these corrals.
**Accessible Facilities**
An accessible waterfowl hunting blind and fishing pier are located near Hog Lake.

**Animal and Plant Life**
Collecting, possessing, or destroying any plant, or animal or part thereof (alive or dead) is prohibited (except legally taken game). This includes shed antlers.

**Fishing Regulations**

**Fishing Areas**
Fishing is permitted on the Green River and Beaver Creek in accordance with State fishing regulations. To protect breeding and migrating birds, fishing is prohibited on Straddle Bottom and Hog Lake. Colorado pikeminnow, an endangered species, must be released immediately. Use of spears, crossbows, and bows and arrows for taking or attempting to take fish is prohibited.

**Hunting Regulations**

**Species**
Some areas are closed to hunting – be familiar with regulations and boundaries. Hunting is permitted in designated areas for mule deer, elk, ducks, coots, geese, mergansers, mourning doves, and cottontails. All other species are protected from hunting or trapping. All hunting is permitted during seasons set by Federal and State regulations.

**Upland Hunting**
The Refuge spans Colorado Hunting Units 1 and 201, which are limited quota areas and may not be hunted with a general deer or elk license.

**Waterfowl Hunting**
Waterfowl hunting is permitted on Straddle Bottom and Hog Lake wetlands. A section of the Straddle Bottom wetland crosses the Utah State line and requires a Utah State hunting license. The Green River is also open to waterfowl hunting except in the closed areas. Hunters must be within 20 yards of the river bank.
Firearms, Explosives, and Other Weapons

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32). Carrying, possessing, or discharging explosives, including fireworks, is strictly prohibited. Target shooting is prohibited.

Alcohol

Use or possession of alcohol while hunting on the Refuge is prohibited.

Blinds and Stands

Portable blinds or temporary blinds constructed from dead vegetation may be used. No tree stands, cutting of live vegetation, or digging pit blinds is permitted.

Personal Equipment

All personal equipment, including decoys and portable blinds, are to be removed from the field after daily hunting activities are completed.

Dogs

The use of dogs for hunting and retrieving small game is encouraged. Dogs must be under the owner’s control at all times.

Gas Stations

Gas stations are located 60 miles away in Maybell, Colorado, and 37 miles away in Dutch John, Utah.

Accessibility Information

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 970 / 365 3613, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.
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- Refuge boundary
- 318 State highway
- 83 County road
- River’s Edge Wildlife Drive
- 4 Wheel drive only
- No hunting zone
- Refuge wetland open to waterfowl hunting
- Refuge wetland closed to waterfowl hunting
- Private land
- State Trust Land*
- State Trust Wetland

Refuge headquarters
Restrooms
Linked symbols designate accessible features
Overlook
Interpretive foot trail
Fishing pier
Boat ramp
Hunting blind
Campground

*Two sections of State Trust Land border Browns Park NWR.

Contact the State Land Board at 970 / 824 2850 for current regulations of State Trust Land.

Contact the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at 970 / 826 5000 for current regulations on BLM lands adjacent to the Refuge.
Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge
1318 Highway 318
Maybell, CO 81640
970 / 365 3613
970 / 365 3614 fax
brownspark@fws.gov
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/browns_park

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

For State relay service
TTY / Voice: 711

Colorado Division of Wildlife
Poaching Hotline
877 / 265 6648

For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

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