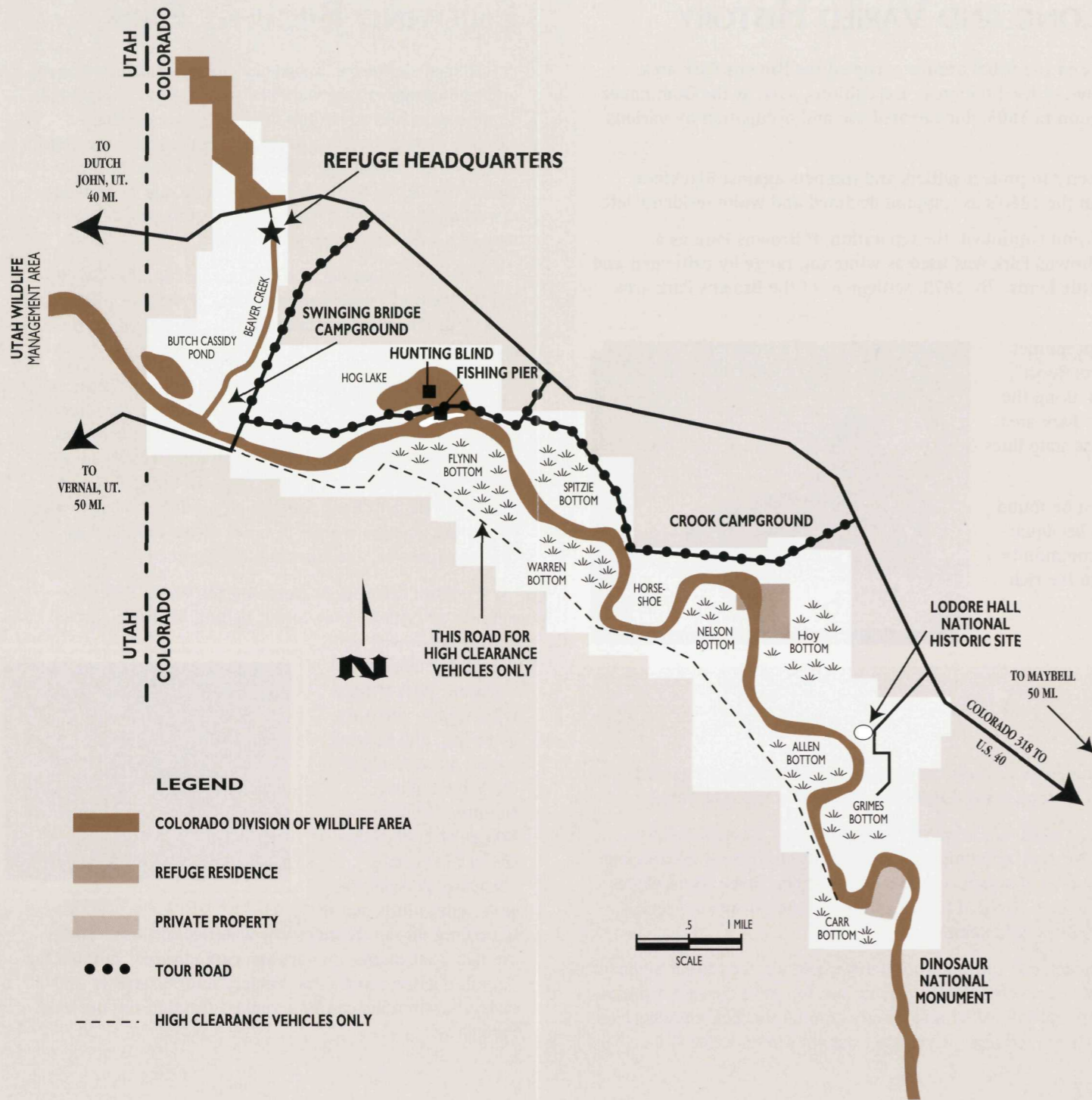


Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge

Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge



ACCESSIBILITY

The Refuge Headquarters and Visitor Center are wheelchair accessible and have wheelchair accessible rest rooms. Both Crook and Swinging Bridge Campgrounds have rest rooms that are wheelchair accessible. There are cooking grills that are wheelchair accessible at the Crook Campground but not at Swinging Bridge Campground. A fishing pier for the physically challenged is located between Spitzie and Hog Lake. A waterfowl hunting blind for physically challenged hunters is available upon request.

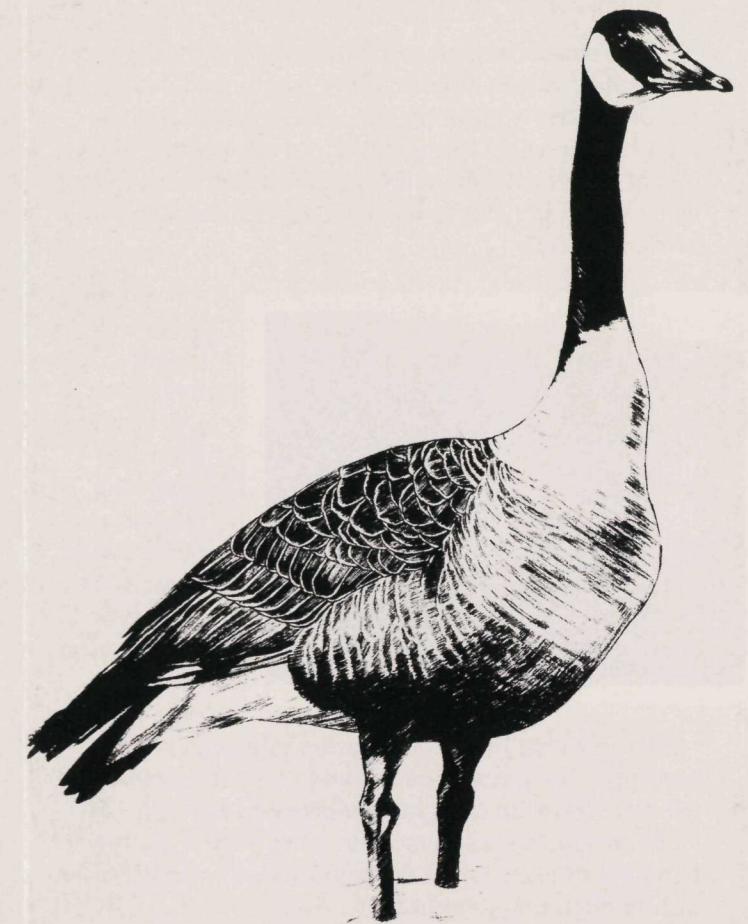
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeks to afford persons with disabilities full accessibility or reasonable accommodation. Contact Refuge Headquarters for information or to address accessibility problems. For the hearing impaired, use your State Relay System for the Deaf.

Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge
 1318 Highway 318
 Maybell, Colorado 81640
 (970) 365-3613

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Department of the Interior



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Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge

THE REFUGE

Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge lies on the Green River in the far northwestern corner of Colorado between Dinosaur National Monument and the Utah-Colorado state line. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this 13,455 acre Refuge serves as a nesting and resting area for migratory waterfowl. During the winter months, management emphasis shifts toward providing habitat for wintering elk and deer.

Wet meadows, preferred by nesting waterfowl, were originally created and maintained by annual flooding of the Green River. Since the mid 1960's, Flaming Gorge Dam has prevented this flooding. To compensate for this loss of waterfowl habitat, Refuge personnel pump river water, flooding fields to maintain approximately 6,000 acres of habitat.

Nearby mountain ranges intercept precipitation from approaching weather fronts before they reach Browns Park. Thus, Browns Park is a semi-arid

region receiving less than 10 inches of precipitation annually. The green meadows and wetlands found along the river create an oasis in an otherwise semi-arid environment. Ducks, geese, and other water birds travel hundreds of miles to use the meadows and marshes made lush through irrigation from the river.



FROM OUTLAWS TO WILDLIFE—A LONG AND VARIED HISTORY

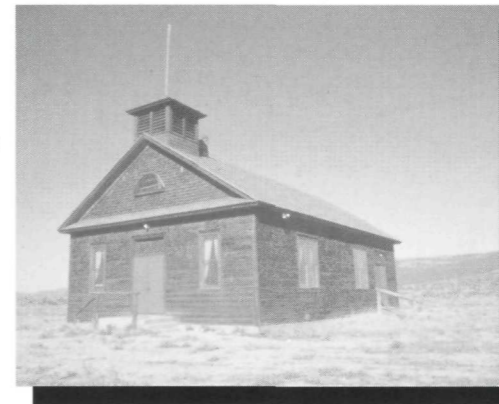
At the time of Euro-American contact, Comanche, Shoshoni, and Ute tribal groups occupied the Browns Park area. Blackfeet, Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Navaho tribes also visited or used the area. Expeditions, such as the Dominguez and Escalante expedition in 1776 and the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1805, documented use and occupation by various tribes in the Browns Park area.

In 1837, Fort Davy Crockett was built on present Refuge property to protect settlers and trappers against Blackfoot Indians and to serve as a trading post. The Fort was abandoned in the 1840's as trapping declined and white residents left.

As gold was discovered in California and the westward expansion continued, the reputation of Browns Park as a favorite wintering area for cattle began to grow. By the 1860's, Browns Park was used as wintering range by cattlemen and as a safe haven for outlaws and rustlers who preyed on nearby cattle herds. By 1873, settlement of the Browns Park area began.

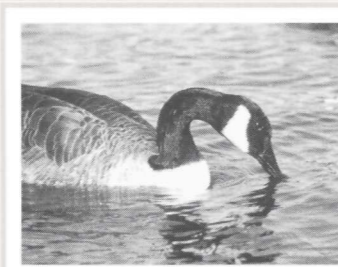
The Browns Park ethic allowed for most "outlaw deeds" except murder. Browns Park, along with Hole-in-the-Wall, Wyoming and "Robbers Roost", Utah, became a major hideout for horse thieves and cattle rustlers along the Outlaw Trail. In fact, Butch Cassidy was often seen in the Browns Park area. Law officers were often frustrated as their quarry could easily cross state lines from Browns Park and be out of their jurisdiction.

Today, evidence of the early settlers and Native Americans can be found throughout the Refuge. Three historical sites (the Two Bar Ranch headquarters, Fort Davy Crockett, and Lodore Hall, which still serves as a community center) and several old abandoned cabins and homesteads attest to the rich history of the area.



A WILDLIFE OASIS

Mallards, redheads, teal, canvasbacks, other ducks, and Canada geese nest on the Refuge. About 300 goslings and 2,500 ducklings hatch annually. The waterfowl population swells by thousands during the spring and fall migrations.



Approximately 200 species of birds can be found on the Refuge. Several areas provide excellent opportunities for bird watching in habitats ranging from semi-arid sage brush to lush wetlands and cottonwood stands adjacent to the Green River. Bald eagles frequent the Refuge during the winter. Golden eagles and peregrine falcons are seen soaring over the Refuge during spring and summer.

The Refuge is also home to deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, and an occasional bighorn sheep especially during moderate or severe winters. Moose are found in the wet, riparian areas during the spring, summer, and fall. Deer and elk are commonly seen anywhere on the Refuge during moderate to severe winters. River otter use the Green River and Refuge wetlands year round.

ENJOYING BROWNS PARK

Hikers, sightseers, horseback riders, wildlife watchers, and photographers are welcome year round. A graveled, 11 mile auto tour route complete with interpretive exhibits provides opportunities to view and study wildlife and wildlife habitat. Notice that Refuge marshes are closed to visitors between March 1 and July 31 to reduce disturbance to nesting waterfowl. Visitors are asked to remain on the road during this period.

Primitive camping facilities can be found at Swinging Bridge and Crook Campgrounds. Primitive toilets are provided. There is no drinking water, firewood, or trash removal.

Beware, this is remote country with great distances between services and conveniences. Maybell, Colorado and Dutch John, Utah are the closest communities and provide only minimal services. Both are 50 miles away. Motel accommodations can be made in Craig, Colorado; Vernal, Utah; and Rock Springs, Wyoming. The Browns Park store, located within 10 miles of the Refuge, has limited groceries, gasoline, and RV services.

Fishing, floating, or canoeing the Green River are popular activities. Year-round fishing for trout and catfish is allowed on the Refuge subject to Colorado state fishing regulations. Floating, canoeing, and boating is also allowed along the Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge stretch of the Green River. It's always wise to check water conditions before launching due to frequent low water conditions. There are two boat ramps, one at each campground, suitable for handling canoes and rafts. Vehicle shuttle services or canoe/boat rentals can be arranged through the Browns Park store.

