**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

# Turnbull

## National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations

**Welcome**
Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1937 as a "breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife" is in eastern Washington on the edge of the Columbia River Basin in a region known as the Channeled Scablands. Refuge ecosystems of over 23,000 acres represent an ecological transition between the dry, sagebrush dotted grasslands of the Columbia Basin and the timbered Selkirk and Bitterroot Mountain Ranges that rise to the east. Over 3,000 acres of wetlands on Turnbull NWR represent some of the last quality breeding habitat available in eastern Washington for waterfowl and other wetland dependent species.

**Accessibility Information**
Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information, please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights.

Hunters with disabilities must apply to the Refuge Manager for a Special Use Permit in advance of their hunt date that would allow them to use a vehicle or e-bike (restricted to existing/maintained roadways) to access the hunt area.

**Safety**
Hunter orange is required for anyone hunting elk in an area that is open to hunting for elk during a modern firearms season. This includes archers and muzzleloaders when they hunt in areas that overlap modern firearm seasons.

**Firearms**
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).

**Hunting Regulations**
Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing are permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State of Washington regulations subject to the conditions stated below. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge headquarters, or from the refuge website.

**Vehicles**
Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on public use roads and trails as shown on the map, unless otherwise authorized. ATVs, UTVs, ORVs are prohibited. Bicycles (including electric) are allowed on maintained roads.

**Boats**
Only portable non-motorized boats are allowed for waterfowl hunting.

## Big Game Hunting

**Permit Procedures**
Refuge elk hunting is managed through the State managed Special Permit Application process. Annual seasons include Modern Firearm, Muzzleloader, Archery, Youth, Hunter with Disability, Master Hunter, and Quality Elk. Successful applicants are randomly selected for the 2 refuge elk hunt units by the Refuge Manager. Hunters are required to hunt in their assigned unit only.

**Hours**
Scouting will be allowed one day prior to each season opener. Elk hunters may enter the Refuge no earlier than two hours before shooting time to 5 hours after sunset to retrieve their elk. Refer to State big game hunting pamphlet for specific hunting times.

**Parking**
Vehicles are limited to parking areas designated for the assigned unit. A parking permit must be displayed on the dash of the elk hunter's vehicle while hunting. Motorized vehicles are permitted for the disabled hunt only. Hunters may use non-motorized carts only to help with retrieval of their elk.

**Hunting Parties**
Hunting will be conducted in accordance with all federal, state, and refuge-specific regulations.

Each hunter is allowed one non-hunting companion to accompany them on their hunt, and up to three non-hunting companions for retrieval of elk. Companions must be with the permitted hunter at all times.

**Weapons**
Modern firearms are restricted to the SW unit only. Archery and muzzleloader are allowed in the SW and the NE unit.

Hunters participating in the Master or Disabled Hunts have their choice of weapon, depending on what Unit they draw, in accordance with Refuge regulations. Method of take is in accordance to the State seasons.

## Youth Waterfowl Hunting

### Hours

Access to the youth waterfowl hunting area is allowed two hours prior to legal shooting hours to one hour after legal shooting hours. Refer to State migratory waterfowl hunting pamphlet for specific hunting times.

### Parking

Waterfowl hunters must park in spaces numbered 1 through 5 in the waterfowl hunter parking lot, corresponding with the hunting site they wish to hunt. Access to hunting sites from designated parking is by foot only. Hunters requiring disabled access should contact the refuge manager.

### Dog Use

The use of dogs is allowed when hunting waterfowl. Hunting dogs must always be under the control of the hunter or accompanying adult.

### Blinds & Hunting Sites

Hunters are limited to five fixed hunting sites. Hunting will only be allowed within 50 yards of posted hunting sites. Sites 1 through 5 are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

No permanent blinds are provided for the waterfowl hunt. The construction of permanent blinds, pit blinds and tree stands, and the cutting/removal of vegetation is not allowed. All blind materials, decoys, and other equipment, including spent casings, must be removed following each day's hunt.

### Hunting Parties

Each hunting party must consist of at least one youth hunter under 16 years of age and one adult hunter, at least 18 years old, to accompany and supervise the youth hunter. Hunting parties are limited to four hunters, with no more than two adult hunters.

### Weapons

Shotgun only.

| Hunt Type | Season Dates | Harvest | Hunt Areas | Other Regulations |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Elk Hunt** | Special permit seasons in accordance with State regulations. | 1 elk | Northeast – muzzleloader and archery only<br><br>Southwest – any weapon<br>See map below | Refuge authorization letter and parking permits are required.<br><br>Hunters not using approved nontoxic ammunition must remove or bury the visceral remains of harvested animals. |
| **Ducks, Coots and Geese** | State youth waterfowl hunt in September.<br><br>Youths, under 16 years of age, and up to two accompanying adults on Saturday and Sunday starting with the regular duck, goose, and coot hunting seasons in October, as set by the State, until November 30. | State regulations apply. | Waterfowl hunting is allowed in Upper Turnbull Slough within 50 yards of designated hunting sites.<br>See map below. | Youths under 16 need a State hunting license and migratory bird validation, but not a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp (Duck Stamp).<br><br>Hunting party must consist of at least one youth, under 16 years of age and one adult, 18 years or older. All shot used by or in possession of waterfowl hunters must be federally approved non-toxic shot. |
| **Turkey (Fall)** | Turkey hunting is allowed four days per week (Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, & Sunday) during the State fall season (typically Sept 1 - Dec 31). | State regulations apply. | Fall Turkey hunting is allowed in the Long Lake unit and Helm's unit only.<br>See map below. | All shot used by or in possesion of turkey hunters must be federally approved non-toxic shot. WA Private Lands hunting permit must be displayed on the vehicle dashboard. |

## Turkey Hunting

### Permit Procedures

We require turkey hunters reserve hunt days in advance through the WDFW Hunt By Reservation Only online system. https://privatelands.wdfw.wa.gov/private_lands/type/56/

### Access

Turkey hunters, with the exception of disabled hunters, will only be allowed access to the Long Lake Unit or the Helm's Unit by foot through the parking area gate on Mullinix Road.

### Weapons

All shot used by or in possession of turkey hunters must be federally approved non-toxic shot. Hunters must pack out used shotshells and other trash.

### Hunting Parties

A maximum of two turkey hunting parties, with a limit of up to four hunters per party, on Long Lake and a maximum one turkey hunting party on Helm's Unit are allowed to hunt during each two-day hunt period.

## Signs and Boundaries

Please respect the following signs:

- REFUGE PERMIT Hunting Parking Only
- NO HUNTING ZONE Beyond this Sign
- AREA BEYOND THIS SIGN CLOSED All public entry prohibited
- PUBLIC HUNTING AREA Refuge Hunting Access Permit Required
- NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE Unauthorized Entry Prohibited (boundary sign)
- HUNTER PARKING ONLY

## Applies to the area located behind the sign

- Refuge Boundary: The entire Refuge perimeter is posted with the Blue Goose logo, National Wildlife Refuge Unauthorized Entry Prohibited, and Area Beyond this Sign Closed. Entry permitted in accordance with refuge regulations.
- Public Hunt area: Access requires refuge or state (turkey) permit. Consult Refuge Manager for current regulations.
- Closed Area: All entry prohibited.
- No Hunting Zone: Hunting, weapons, and game retrieval prohibited. Contact Refuge Manager or Law Enforcement for consent to retrieve.

## Prohibited Activities

- Overnight parking
- Motorized vehicles
- Camping, fires, fishing, horseback riding, ATV, ORV, snowmobiles, bicycles
- The use of remotely piloted/controlled devices
- Searching for or removal of any natural items including, but not limited to, antlers, skulls, plants, historic, and archaeological features protected by Federal law
- Trapping and falconry
- Motorized boats
- Use of electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices
- Marking or flagging any tree or other Refuge feature with reflectors, paint, or other substance
- Permanent tree stands, nails, wire, screw-in steps, metal objects or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree
- Possession of loaded firearms or a bow with the arrow notched within any safety zone or Refuge Closed Area
- Possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Access to the Refuge from private property
- Littering

## Chronic Wasting Disease

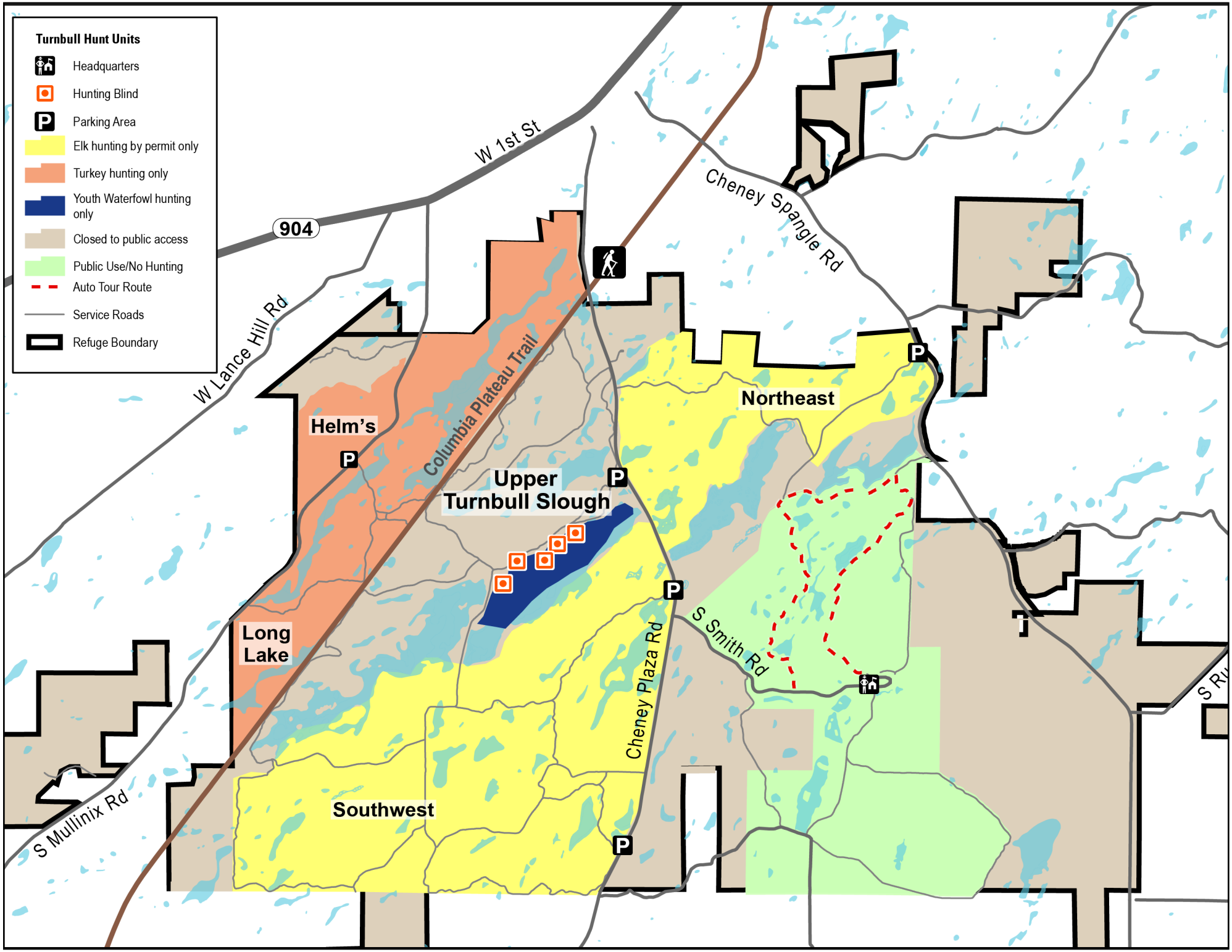
**Effective March 2025, new rules designed to limit the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Eastern Washington are now in effect. This includes mandatory testing and reporting. For a complete list of rules, please refer to the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife website.**

**Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge**
**26010 S. Smith Road, Cheney, WA 99004**
**509-235-4723**
**www.fws.gov/refuge/Turnbull**
**Turnbull@fws.gov**
**For State relay service TTY/ Voice: 711**

**http://www.fws.gov/**
**1-800-344-WILD**

**August 2024**

This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.


Turnbull Hunt Units
Headquarters
Hunting Blind
Parking Area
Elk hunting by permit only
Turkey hunting only
Youth Waterfowl hunting only
Closed to public access
Public Use/No Hunting
Auto Tour Route
Service Roads
Refuge Boundary
W 1st St
904
Cheney Spangle Rd
W Lance Hill Rd
Columbia Plateau Trail
Helm's
Upper Turnbull Slough
Northeast
Long Lake
Southwest
Cheney Plaza Rd
S Smith Rd
S Mullinix Rd
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