



# MULE DEER TRIP PLANNER

## A Guide for Planning Your Nebraska Mule Deer Hunt

Don't leave your deer season to chance. Hunt Nebraska, where you will find:

- Over-the-counter mule deer and whitetail permits
- \$8 youth permits (resident and nonresident)
- The opportunity to hunt the rut
- Easy-to-find public access

### Where to Hunt

Archery season offers the most opportunities for nonresident mule deer hunters. Archery permits are over-the-counter, unlimited, and offer access to some of our best mule deer hunting areas (the Frenchman and Platte units). There is also less pressure on public areas during this time.

Our best firearm mule deer hunting is found in the Frenchman and Platte units; both are draw-only units with limited public access acres.

Firearm permits are available over-the-counter in some units, with the best success tending to be on private lands.

Muzzleloader permits are over-the-counter and unlimited. Harvest is good on public and private lands in the following units: Upper Platte, Plains, Pine Ridge, Sandhills, Calamus West and Loup West.

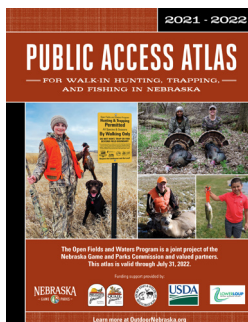
### Public Lands Hunting Opportunities

The Open Fields and Waters program is designed to enhance wildlife habitat and increase public walk-in hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities on private lands.

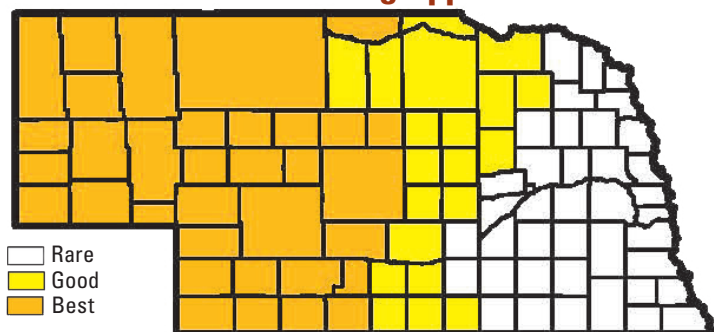
The Nebraska Public Access Atlas identifies and consolidates these access areas on public and private lands into an atlas specifically for hunters, trappers and anglers.

The Atlas is available where permits are sold and online at:

[OutdoorNebraska.org/PublicAccessAtlas](https://OutdoorNebraska.org/PublicAccessAtlas)



### Mule Deer Hunting Opportunities



### Deer Season Dates

**Archery Deer:** September 1 – December 31, 2022

**Firearm Deer:** November 12 - 20, 2022

**Muzzleloader:** December 1 - 31, 2022

**Antlerless late season:** January 1, 2023-January 15, 2023

### How to Buy a Permit

- Online: Visit [OutdoorNebraska.org](https://OutdoorNebraska.org) during the applicable periods.
- Call 1-800-632-5263 (Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. CT)

Visit [OutdoorNebraska.org](https://OutdoorNebraska.org) to learn more about deer application dates and when permits go on sale over the counter.

### Contact Us

For more information about deer hunting or things to do in the area, contact:

- Northwest District Office in Alliance at 308-763-2940
- Southwest District Office in North Platte at 308-535-8025



## Other Activities to Enjoy During Your Stay

- **Fall Turkey Hunting** - The Pine Ridge area has the state's best Merriam's turkey population and plenty of public access. Permits can be purchased over the counter. Recommended hunting areas include: Pine Ridge District of the Nebraska National Forest, Fort Robinson State Park and Gilbert-Baker, Ponderosa, Peterson, Metcalf, Bordeaux and Bighorn wildlife management areas.
- Spend some time hunting pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse and prairie-chicken during your visit. The Sandhills of north central Nebraska's Bessey Ranger District of Nebraska National Forest land provides a great mixed-bag hunting trip opportunity; a special two-day small game hunting permit is available for nonresidents.
- Bring your binoculars and enjoy the scenery and wildlife of the Pine Ridge of Nebraska. Sightings of bighorn sheep, antelope and elk are common to this area and provide excellent wildlife viewing opportunities.
- Don't leave home without your fishing pole! Purchase a one- or three-day nonresident fishing license and enjoy a fun side trip from your hunt. Here are a few highlights:
  - **North Central** - Merritt Reservoir offers anglers excellent opportunities to catch numbers of muskies as well as some fish 50-plus inches! Baitfish, crankbaits, spinnerbaits and even top-waters can score big.
  - **Pine Ridge** - Trout fishing in the Pine Ridge provides some of the best river and stream trout fishing in the state, with plenty of opportunity with the Nebraska National Forest and Fort Robinson and Chadron state parks.
  - **Southwest** - Lake McConaughy and Lake Ogallala. Lake McConaughy will be one of the best reservoirs in the state this year for walleyes and again offers a variety of other species like white bass and wipers. Lake McConaughy's sister lake, Lake Ogallala, offers excellent trout fishing.

## Where to Stay

Enjoy Nebraska's Midwestern hospitality with a stay at one of our state parks or state recreation areas (SRA). Contact our reservation call center at 402-471-1414 (Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., CT) for information on:

### Northwest Nebraska

- Fort Robinson State Park
- Chadron State Park
- Box Butte SRA

### Southwest Nebraska

- Lake McConaughy & Lake Ogallala SRA
- Medicine Creek SRA
- Red Willow SRA

### North Central Nebraska

- Calamus SRA
  - Merritt Reservoir SRA
  - Bessey District - Halsey National Forest
- Phone: 308-533-2257

For a full list of where to stay and things to do while in Nebraska, go to [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org) or [VisitNebraska.gov](http://VisitNebraska.gov).

## Go Online at [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org)

- Find interactive and mobile maps
- Buy a permit
- Find places to hunt
- Big Game and Small Game hunting guides
- Lodging accommodations and reservations
- Find season information and dates
- Read Fishing Guide

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