



PRAIRIE GROUSE HUNTING TRIP PLANNER

Featuring the Nebraska Sandhills

Grouse hunt Nebraska, where you will find:

- Great opportunities to harvest both greater prairie-chickens and sharp-tailed grouse
- Over 500,000 acres of publicly accessible lands across the prime prairie grouse core range.
- Mixed-bag opportunities for dove, waterfowl, pheasant, and quail
- Affordable permits and long seasons

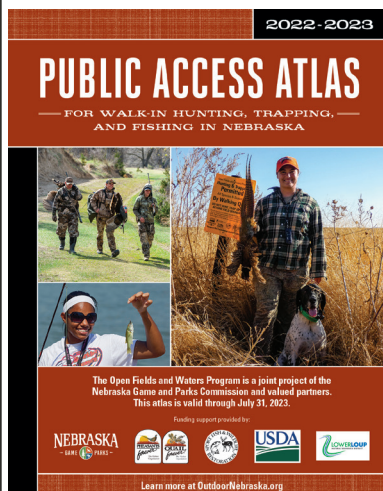
Where to Hunt

Prairie grouse can be found in many parts of Nebraska. The Sandhills are an endless expanse of native prairie habitat that represent a stronghold for populations of both greater prairie-chickens and sharp-tailed grouse. This, combined with thousands of acres of publicly accessible lands, has placed the Sandhills on bucket lists of upland hunters throughout the country.

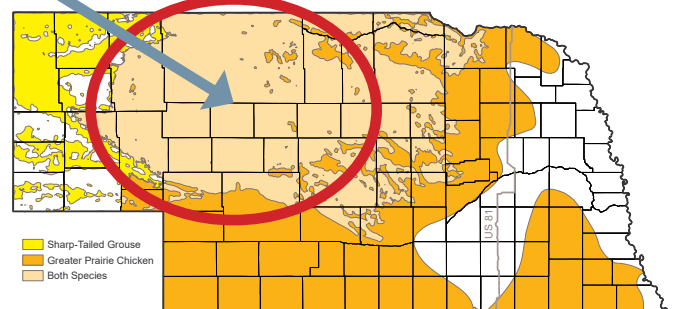
Public Lands Hunting Opportunities

Throughout the Sandhills, some of the best public hunting opportunities for prairie grouse will be found on state and federally owned lands, such as: Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest, Valentine and Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuges, Bessey Ranger District National Forest and Merritt Reservoir Wildlife Management Area.

These five parcels alone provide 330,000 acres of publicly accessible lands with excellent prairie grouse hunting. All state, federal, conservation partner, and private lands open to public hunting access are displayed in the Nebraska Public Access Atlas. The Atlas is available at NGPC offices, from permit vendors throughout the state, and online at OutdoorNebraska.org/PublicAccessAtlas.



Prairie Grouse Hunting Opportunities



Prairie Grouse Season Dates

September 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024

Permits/Stamps Required

- Nonresident Annual Hunt Permit - \$109 or Two-Day Hunt Permit - \$76
- Nonresident Youth (under age 16) Annual Hunt Permit - \$18
- Resident Annual Hunt Permit - \$18

Above prices do not include the Nebraska Habitat Stamp, which is required - \$25

A special, free East Zone permit is required to hunt grouse east of U.S. Highway 81. For more information and to get your permit, call 402-471-5410.

How to Buy a Permit

- Nebraska Game and Parks offices and statewide permit vendors
- **Online at OutdoorNebraska.org**

Contact Us

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

Eastern Sandhills

- Bassett Service Center, 402-684-2921

Western Sandhills

- Alliance District Office, 308-763-2940

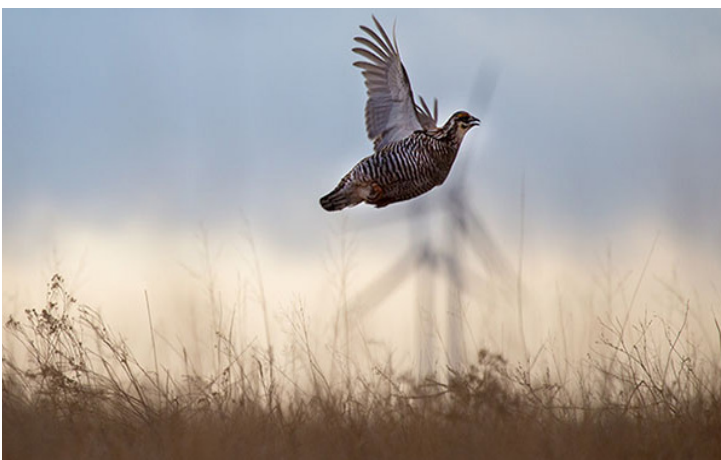
Southwest

- North Platte District Office, 308-535-8025



Other Activities to Enjoy During Your Stay

- Hunt deer in Nebraska with over-the-counter permits, the opportunity to hunt the rut and \$8 youth permits for both residents and nonresidents alike. Contact us at 1-800-632-5263 for more information on obtaining a deer permit.
- Plan to add a fall turkey hunt to your trip. Fall turkey season coincides with grouse season dates and permits are sold over-the-counter. Hunters may purchase one fall turkey permit and youth permits are only \$8 for residents and nonresidents.
- Don't leave home without your fishing pole! Fall prairie grouse hunters have the opportunity to enjoy Nebraska's best fishing season, including some of the best bodies of water throughout the Sandhills. Nonresidents may purchase a one- or three-day nonresident fishing license and enjoy a fun side trip from your hunt. Here are a few highlights:
 - **Merritt Reservoir SRA** – Top muskie fishery in Nebraska.
 - **Calamus Reservoir SRA** – One of the best walleye, white bass and trophy channel catfish fisheries in the state.
 - **Valentine National Wildlife Refuge lakes** – Extensive series of lakes with great year-round fishing for northern pike, largemouth bass and panfish.



Nebraska is an upland bird hunter's paradise – the mixed bag capital of the Great Plains – with diverse upland hunting opportunities, long seasons, great access to public lands, and high hunter satisfaction rates. Learn more about the slam at OutdoorNebraska.org/UplandSlam.

Where to Stay

Enjoy Nebraska's Midwestern hospitality with a stay at a state park or state recreation area (SRA). Contact the reservation call center at 402-471-1414 (Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., CT) or go to OutdoorNebraska.org for information on:

- Merritt Reservoir State Recreation Area – near Valentine in Cherry County
- Smith Falls State Park – near Valentine in Cherry County
- Calamus State Recreation Area – near Burwell in Garfield County

Visit fs.usda.gov/Nebraska for National Forest information.

- Bessey Ranger National Forest – near Halsey in Blaine and Thomas counties
- Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest – near Valentine in Cherry County

For a full list of communities in the area, places to stay and things to do, go to VisitNebraska.com.

Go Online at OutdoorNebraska.org

- Find maps
- Buy a permit
- Season information and dates
- Read hunting & fishing guides
- Find rules and regulations

