Where to Hunt

Pheasants have a statewide distribution, but certain areas of the state offer more suitable habitat and thus support higher pheasant densities. In addition, some areas have more public access options than others. The southern Panhandle and southwest part of Nebraska support good bird numbers and abundant public access – the perfect combination for your next DIY hunt.

Public Lands Hunting Opportunities

Within these regions, most public access opportunities can be found on private lands enrolled in the Open Fields and Waters (OFW) program. Nebraska’s OFW program has grown substantially in recent years and currently provides public walk-in hunting on over 381,000 acres. The Nebraska Public Access Atlas displays all state, federal, conservation partner, and private land open to public hunting access. The Atlas is available at Nebraska Game and Parks offices, from permit vendors throughout the state and online at OutdoorNebraska.org/PublicAccessAtlas.

Pheasant Hunting Opportunities

• Over 1.2 million acres of publicly accessible lands, including over 400,000 acres of prime habitat within the core pheasant range.
• Great mixed bag opportunities for bobwhite quail, greater prairie-chickens, and sharp-tailed grouse.
• Affordable permits and long seasons.

Pheasant Season Dates

Regular Season: October 29, 2022 – January 31, 2023
Youth Season: October 22 – 23, 2022

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

How to Buy a Permit

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

Contact Us

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

Southern Panhandle
• Northwest District Office in Alliance at 308-763-2940

Southwest
• Southwest District Office in North Platte at 308-535-8025

OutdoorNebraska.org
Other Activities to Enjoy During Your Stay

• Nebraska pheasant hunters can add variety to their hunting trip. Quail season dates are anticipated to be the same as pheasant again during the 2022/2023 season. Quail can be found throughout the southern portions of the state, where ample Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and OFW sites offer great opportunities. Your Nebraska small game hunting permit and habitat stamp give you a complete mixed-bag opportunity that not only includes pheasant and quail, but waterfowl and prairie grouse, too. Waterfowl hunters will also need a HIP number as well as federal/state duck stamps.

• Nebraska is the best turkey hunting destination in the country. Plan to add a fall turkey hunt to your trip. Fall turkey season coincides with pheasant season dates and permits are sold over-the-counter. Hunters may purchase up to two fall turkey permits and youth permits are only $8 for residents and nonresidents.

• Hunt deer in Nebraska with over-the-counter permits, the opportunity to hunt the rut and $8 youth permits for residents and nonresidents. Contact us at 1-800-632-5263 for more information on obtaining a deer permit for the portion of the state you plan to hunt.

• Don’t leave home without your fishing pole! Lake McConaughy is one of the best reservoirs in the state for walleyes and offers a variety of other species, such as white bass and wipers. Lake McConaughy’s sister lake, Lake Ogallala, offers excellent trout fishing. The Southwest Reservoirs at Medicine Creek, Red Willow, Swanson and Enders state recreation areas offer anglers great fall fishing opportunities for white bass, wipers, crappie and catfish. Purchase an affordable one- or three-day nonresident fishing license and enjoy a fun side trip from your hunt.

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 Nebraska state park or state recreation area (SRA). Contact our reservation call center at 402-471-1414 (Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., CT) or OutdoorNebraska.org for information on:

• Lake McConaughy SRA and Lake Ogallala SRA, near Ogallala in Keith County – iLoveLakeMac.com

• Medicine Creek Reservoir SRA – near Cambridge in Frontier 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