

**VISITOR MAP
AND
RECREATION
GUIDE**

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PAM FILE



**RED ROCK LAKES
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

WELCOME TO RED ROCK LAKES

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1935 to protect the rare trumpeter swan. Today, this 40,300-acre refuge continues to be one of the most important nesting and wintering areas in North America for these majestic birds.

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge lies in the eastern end of the Centennial Valley, near the headwaters of the Missouri River. The rugged Centennial Mountains border the refuge on the south and east and catch the heavy snows of winter, providing a constant supply of water that replenishes the refuge's 14,000 acres of lake and marsh. The flat, marshy lands of the valley floor merge into the rolling foothills of the Gravelly Range to the north. This is the habitat that provides the solitude and isolation so essential to the trumpeter swan.

Photographers, birdwatchers, anglers, hunters and other visitors will find Red Rock Lakes an unforgettable outdoor experience. Accommodations are available at two resorts near the refuge, and at other resorts along the shores of historic Henry's Lake about 25 miles east of the refuge. Hotel and motel accommodations can be found in West Yellowstone and Lima, 50 miles east and west of the refuge, respectively.

Visitors should be prepared to deal with weather extremes in this remote area. Summer temperatures are cool and snow is possible during every month. Mosquito infestations can be severe in June and July.

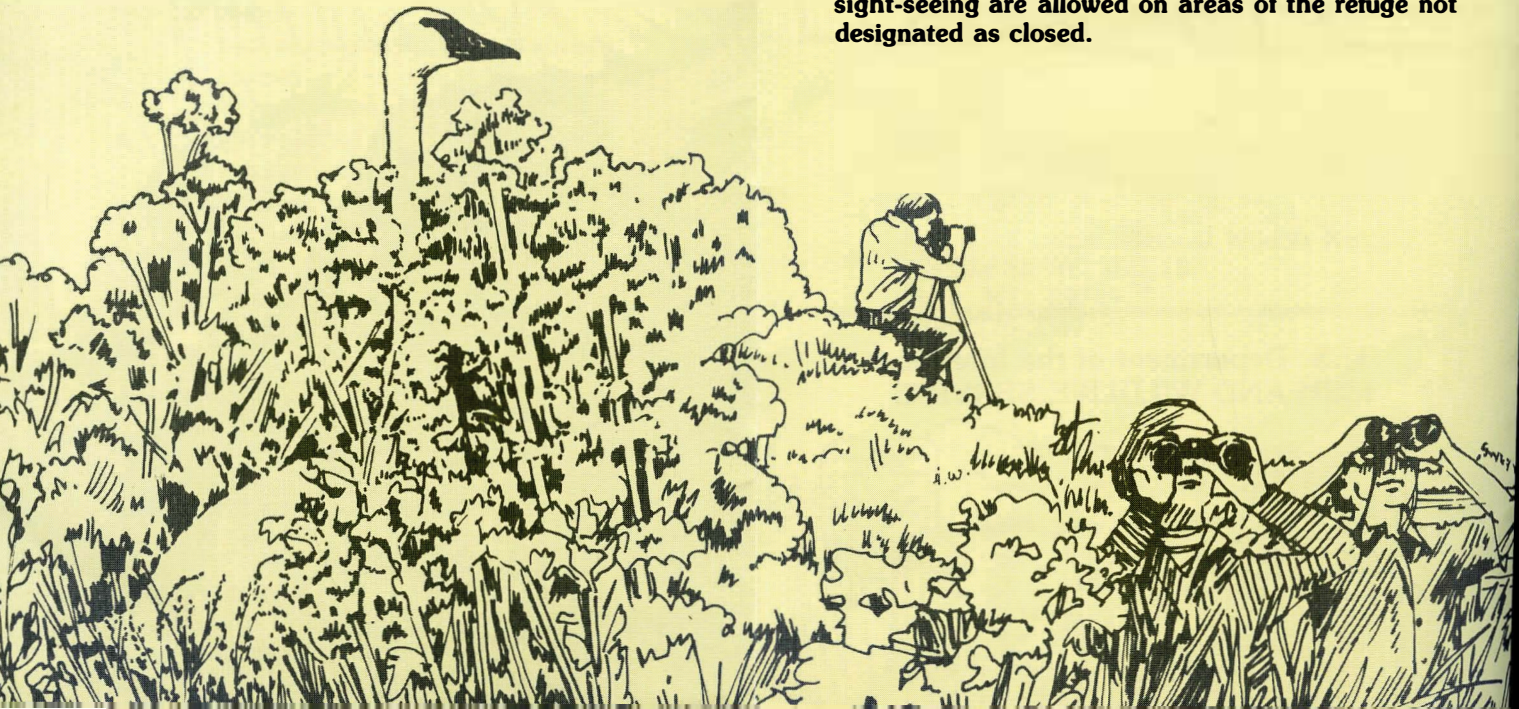
There is no gasoline available in the Centennial Valley.

The best times to visit the refuge are May through September. Headquarters can be reached by turning off Interstate Highway 15 at Monida, Montana, and driving 28 miles east over a dirt road; or by traveling west from Montana Highways 87 or 20, past Henry's Lake, over 30 miles of dirt road, usually not open until mid-May. The road from Monida on the west side of the valley opens about mid-April, but can be difficult for passenger cars until mid-May. All the dirt roads are often closed again in November. Summer rains can make these routes all but impassable, so local inquiry regarding road conditions is advisable at any time of the year.

PUBLIC USE REGULATIONS

GENERAL

- Trumpeter swans are extremely sensitive to human disturbance. Please do not approach nesting swans closer than 400 yards. Your cooperation is extremely important. If their privacy is infringed upon they may abandon their nest and cygnets.
- Wildlife observation, hiking, photography, and sight-seeing are allowed on areas of the refuge not designated as closed.



- A Special Use Permit, which can be obtained at refuge headquarters, is required for all professional photography on the refuge.

- Dogs must be kept leashed, except during waterfowl hunting.

TRAVEL

- All motor vehicles are restricted to maintained refuge and county roads, and parking areas. This includes all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, and snow machines.

- The Red Rock Pass, North Side and Elk Lake roads are open to all forms of travel throughout the year.

- The Lower Lake Road is only open to travel from May 15 to December 1 each year.

- The Culver Road is only open to travel from July 15 to October 1 each year.

- That portion of the refuge east of the Elk Lake Road and north of Red Rock Creek is closed to all public use from October 1 to July 15 each year.

CAMPING

- For your enjoyment, camping is permitted at the Upper Lake and River Marsh campgrounds. Tables, grates, water, and toilets are available at the Upper Lake Campground. There are no facilities at the River Marsh Campground.

- Fires are permitted only in grates at the campgrounds.

- Camping is not permitted outside established campgrounds.

- Please pack out your trash.

HUNTING

- Gun and bow hunting are allowed in designated areas of the refuge for the following species: waterfowl, elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer, pronghorn, and moose.

- Hunting shall be in accordance with all state and federal regulations.

- Only properly licensed hunters are allowed to carry firearms on refuge hunting areas.

- The possession or use of lead shot shells in the waterfowl hunting area is prohibited.

- Temporary blinds for waterfowl hunting may be constructed, but such blinds shall be made of onsite materials and shall be available to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis.

FISHING

- State regulations apply to refuge fishing waters. Culver and MacDonald ponds are managed under special regulations.

- Only artificial lures and flies are allowed on Culver and MacDonald ponds. No bait fishing.

- Lead sinkers are prohibited on all refuge fishing waters.

- Tubes and other floating devices are prohibited on refuge ponds unless specifically posted as open at parking areas.

Fishing area: *Odell Creek, Grayling Creek, East Shambo Creek, Red Rock Creek, Elk Springs Creek west of the Elk Lake Road.*

Season dates: 3rd Saturday in May through November.

Fishing area: *Widgeon Pond, Culver Pond, MacDonald Pond, Picnic Creek, Elk Springs Creek east of Elk Lake Road.*

Season dates: July 15-October 1.

- All other waters on the refuge are closed to fishing.

BOATING

- The use of motor boats is prohibited on the refuge, with the exception of the waterfowl hunting area during season.

- An approved floatation device for each occupant is required to be aboard all boats on refuge waters.

- Boaters are urged to use caution on refuge waters as sudden storms and cold temperatures can make boating hazardous.

- Boating is allowed on the following areas:

Area open: *Red Rock Creek from the east refuge boundary downstream; west to and including the Upper Red Rock Lake.*

Season dates: July 15 to freeze-up.

Area open: *Swan Lake, and the River Marsh from the outlet of the Upper Red Rock Lake downstream west to and including the Lower Red Rock Lake.*

Season dates: September 1 to freeze-up.

Area open: Waterfowl hunting area.

Season dates: Opening of waterfowl season to freeze-up

Motors of 10 h.p. or less may be used on the waterfowl hunting area during the waterfowl season. No air-thrust boats are allowed.

0 1/4 1/2 2 MILES

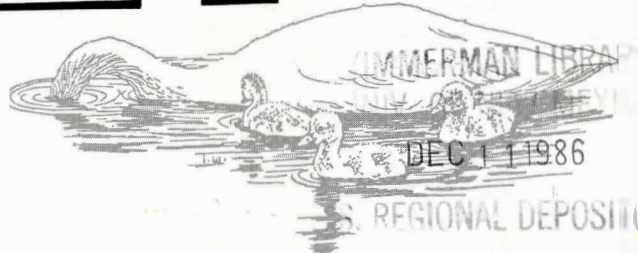


TO I-15 AND MONIDA 24 MILES

TO RED ROCK PASS AND TO W. YELLOWSTONE 33 MILES

-  BOUNDARY
-  WATER
-  FAIR WEATHER ROAD, CAUTION ADVISED
-  CLOSED OCT. 1 - JULY 15
-  HEADQUARTERS
-  CAMPGROUND
-  INFORMATION
-  INTERPRETIVE SITE
-  BIG GAME HUNTING
-  WATERFOWL & BIG GAME HUNTING
-  FISHING
-  CANOEING, JULY 15 TO FREEZEUP
-  CANOEING, SEPT. 1 TO FREEZEUP

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
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U.S. Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



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