



Welcome to Pahrnagat

Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge is one of a number of migratory waterfowl refuges in the Pacific Flyway. It was established in 1964 and contains approximately 5,380 acres, near the town of Alamo in the Pahrnagat Valley, Lincoln County, southern Nevada. Desert surrounds the valley, making the water supply critically important. The refuge is an important stopping point for waterfowl as they migrate through the desert from distant refuges and other areas.

The refuge has two water impoundments. When full, Upper Pahrnagat Lake is approximately 2 miles long and .5 mile wide. Lower Pahrnagat Lake is about 1.5 miles long and .5 mile wide. The water levels in both lakes fluctuate seasonally, depending upon the rate of evaporation and the amount used for irrigating crops in the valley.

Wildlife Attracted to Refuges' Many Habitats

Numerous ditches and marshy areas attract water birds. The diversity of the area, ranging from dry desert to cultivated fields and marsh and open water, offers many habitats to birds. They are especially numerous during the fall and spring migrations. Some waterfowl spend the summer, and some spend the winter if the water areas do not freeze over. There is a rookery in large cottonwood trees at the north end of the refuge. It is used by great blue herons and double-crested cormorants.

The shore of Upper Pahrnagat Lake is bordered by cottonwood trees that in spring are alive with warblers, finches, sparrows, and orioles. The open fields attract meadowlarks, blackbirds, and killdeer. Along the edges of the meadows and fields are Gambel's quail, roadrunners, and a variety of sparrows.

The desert vegetation, which seems to be continually encroaching on the wetter areas, offers ideal habitat for many species of birds that are both resident and migrant.

Signs Protect Vistors & Resources

Millions of people visit National Wildlife Refuges every year. Millions! The impact of humanity descending upon refuges, if not regulated in part, can degrade these wildlands. Signs grant or restrict certain activities to provide optimum freedom for visitors while also protecting refuge elements from undue human abuse. Please respect the following signs:



This sign delineates the refuge boundary. You may enter the area only on designated access routes.



This area is closed to ALL entry. No hunting, fishing or sightseeing is permitted. No roads or trails are open to the public.



Used alone or beneath a refuge boundary sign. The area behind this sign may be hunted as permitted by refuge regulations.

For More Information

Inquire at Refuge office or write:
 Refuge Manager
 Pahrnagat NWR
 P.O. Box 510
 Alamo, Nevada 89001
 Phone: (702) 725-3417

or

Refuge Manager
 Desert NWR
 1500 N. Decatur Blvd.
 Las Vegas, Nevada 89108
 Phone: (702) 646-3401

Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge is one of a system of refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is dedicated to the preservation and conservation of wildlife. The financial base for this system was established in 1934 through the passage of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act. This Act requires waterfowl hunters to purchase an annual migratory bird or "duck stamp." Funds collected from duck stamp sales have been used to purchase numerous refuges that provide habitats necessary to sustain a variety of wildlife for both hunters and non-hunters to enjoy.

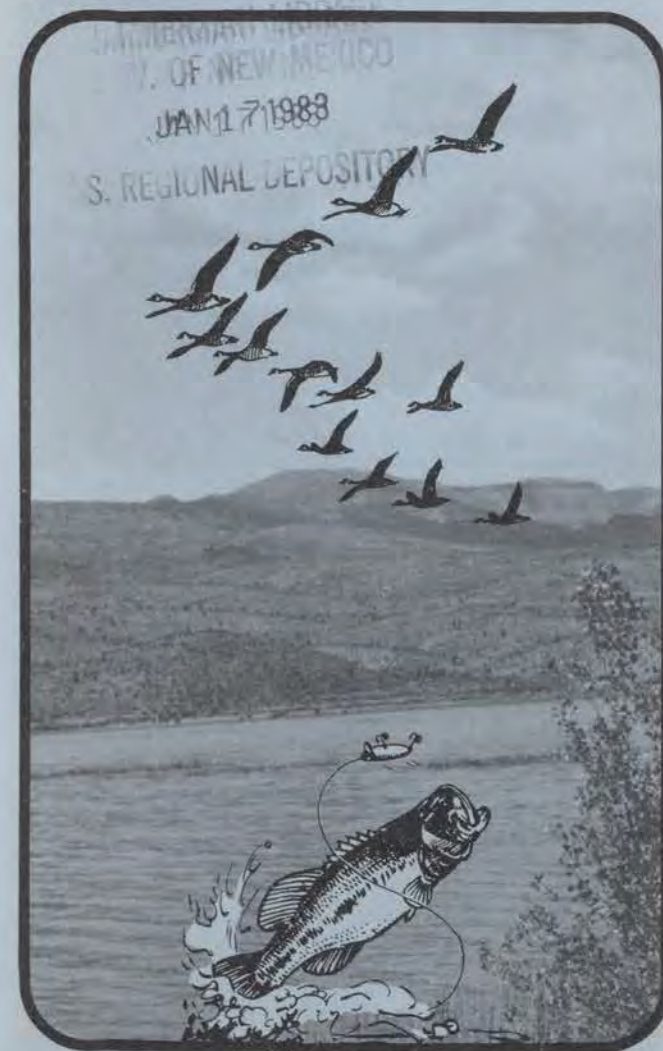


DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Hunting & Fishing

Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge Nevada



Enjoying the Refuge

Pahrnagat invites you to enjoy its sport hunting and fishing opportunities. The following refuge regulations help protect resources and visitors. Please respect them.

Hunting - Sport hunting is permitted on about 2,000 acres of the refuge. Migratory game birds, upland game birds and rabbits may be hunted within the Refuge Public Hunting Area in accordance with current State and Federal regulations. (Note: Jack-rabbits may be taken **ONLY** during open season for cottontails.)

Special Refuge Regulations are in effect for dove hunting from opening day through the following Monday. Dove hunting during this period is by **REFUGE PERMIT ONLY**. Contact Refuge Manager for more information.

All other wildlife is protected.

Firearms - Only shotguns capable of holding three shells or less are permitted on the refuge during migratory bird hunting season. Uncased firearms are **PROHIBITED** outside the **PUBLIC HUNTING AREA**. Rifles, handguns, pellet guns, bow and arrows and sling shots are **PROHIBITED**.

Dogs - Dogs reduce crippling losses. The use of retrievers and upland game bird dogs are encouraged in the refuge hunting area during the designated season. Dogs must be leashed at all other times and when outside the hunt area.

Fishing - Sport fishing shall be in accordance with current State and Federal regulations. The Upper Pahrnagat Lake and North Marsh are open to fishing year round. The Lower Pahrnagat Lake and Middle Ponds are open to fishing from *July 1st* thru *Sept. 30th*.

Florida Largemouth Bass, Black Bullheads and Carp are common fishes found in refuge waters. Bass are most numerous in the Middle Ponds, and Black Bullheads in Upper Lake. Carp are found in most waters.

Bullfrogs may be taken with hands, hook and line, or gig **ONLY**.

Boats - Boats **WITHOUT** motors are permitted on Upper Pahrnagat Lake from May 15 thru September 30. The North Marsh is **CLOSED** to boating. Boats **WITHOUT** motors are permitted on the Lower Pahrnagat Lake and Middle Ponds from July 1 thru waterfowl hunting season **ONLY**.

NO boat ramp facilities are available. Boats must be carried to and from the open water areas. Cartop boats and canoes are most suitable and popular for use on the refuge.

Camping - Camping, picnicking and overnight parking are permitted *only* in sites along the east shoreline of Upper Pahrnagat Lake. Campfires and cookfires must be confined to fire rings or grills.

Vehicles - Vehicles are **NOT** permitted off roads or on roads closed to vehicle traffic. Sportsmen are encouraged to utilize parking facilities designated (on the map) by the symbol **P**.

Littering - Please help us put litter in its place. Use the trash receptacle at Upper Pahrnagat Lake or take it with you when you leave the refuge.

Artifacts - Searching for or removing objects of antiquity, defacing rock art and disturbing sites are **PROHIBITED**.

Swimming - is **PROHIBITED** in all waters on the refuge.

Fireworks - are **PROHIBITED**.

Helpful Hunting Hints

- The use of dogs and chest waders is not mandatory, but highly encouraged to retrieve downed birds that otherwise might not be found.
- Decoys and calls should be used to bring birds into ideal shooting range. When setting out decoys, place the outer decoy at 40 yards from the blind. This will help you judge when to shoot and result in fewer cripples and more birds in your bag.
- Be a sportsman and respect the rights of other hunters afield. When entering or leaving the field, try to avoid flaring birds which are working another hunter's set-up.

The refuge covers a variety of habitats including rough uneven terrain, deep waters, dense stands of vegetation, stubble fields and ditches, etc. Hunting difficulty varies by area and hunters should examine their own abilities and limitations before using the refuge. Handicapped persons should hunt with a partner and consult the refuge manager for suggestions for hunting the area safely.

