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**Note: If you are 30 years of age or older you are NOT required to have Hunter Safety card to hunt with a rifle or a bow in the state. This state is one of the few exceptions to the nationwide Hunter Safety Card Requirement.**

*Headlines– Nebraska's deer seasons wrapped up in mid-January and preliminary numbers show the harvest was up in the Panhandle. Through all seasons, hunters checked in 8,072 deer in the region compared to 7,815 the previous year — a 3.3 percent increase.*

*The Panhandle's overall number of harvested deer consists of 4,717 mule deer and 3,355 whitetails. Three of the four westernmost units in the state – Pine Ridge, Plains and Sandhills — reported more deer harvested this fall and winter than over the same period last year. Only the Upper Platte Unit experienced a decrease in harvested deer.*

*Micah Ellstrom of Alliance, a wildlife manager in the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's northwest district, said the increased harvest is not surprising since Commission staff have gradually been observing more deer in the region.*

*"Deer numbers are improving from levels where they have been," Ellstrom said. "It is the result of slight increases over time district-wide."*

*The populations have improved from 2012 when drought and disease took a toll.*

*The most significant increase of harvest was in the Plains Unit, which lies between the Niobrara River and U.S. Highway 26 from the Wyoming line eastward to Hyannis and Arthur. Hunters there harvested 2,106 deer for a 9.7 percent increase over 2016.*

*The Pine Ridge Unit, which consists of all land north of the Niobrara River from the Wyoming line to Gordon, reported the most deer checked in of any Panhandle Unit with 2,343, a 3.3 percent increase over the previous year.*

*Hunters in the Sandhills Unit, which encompasses the expanse between Valentine, Gordon, Arthur and Stapleton, checked in 2,052 deer for a 4.6 percent increase.*

*The Upper Platte Unit in the Panhandle's southwest corner had 1,571 deer for a 5.6 percent decrease.*

*Most of Nebraska's deer harvest occurs during the nine-day November firearm season. The state's deer hunting begins in September with the archery season and runs through the muzzleloader season in December and the late-antlerless-only period in early January.*

**THE MERRIAMS TURKEYS HAVE LANDED !!** If you are a Grand Slammer of Turkeys you know that Nebraska is the farthest east that you can go and get purebred Merriam's turkeys. Nebraska is also endowed with Rio Grande's, Easterns and Nebraska Hybrids because of how they were introduced by the NWTF and the Nebraska state biologists about 35 years ago. In some areas of Nebraska the multiple biologists could not agree that the land habitat was best for Rio's or Merriam's, so they released both and let the birds decide. About the same time Eastern Turkeys were migrating and being introduced along the Missouri river and west. Now you can see multiple variations in Nebraska called the Nebraska Hybrids came from. In addition I have personally shot pure Merriam's and pure Rio Grande's in the same river bottom at the same time just in separate flocks. The bottom line is you can get all but 2 of the Grand Slam birds and never leave Nebraska. Many try to hunt the Nebraska hunts all during the same trip and there are lots of birds. Don't miss out on the hunting dates that you want to hunt this one fills up fast. The western Nebraska canyons ranch and farm lands rank high for its Merriam's

turkey population has been kept a secret long enough. It is time for the rest of the world to get a piece of the pie. Yes, Turkey Pie. On this hunt you will be hunting 2000 acres of prime turkey habitat that the turkey population has exploded in. If you need more information on how to knock out a slam in Nebraska just contact us for places that you can kick out a Slam in a week or so depending how much love you can screech out of a turkey call.

The question that I don't have the answer for is this one I was asked by a young Nebraska turkey caller.

He started," If the Rio's are from the south, and the Merriam's are from the west and the Easters from the east, then the hybrid in Nebraska are of course from Nebraska. Do you need to have a southern drawl to call the Rio's an eastern accent to call the Easters, sound like you came from out west for the Merriam's, and just talk normal on the hybrids because the hybrids are from right here like me in Nebraska."

I thought about it and in my moment of glory I said, "I don't know, since they are all here why don't you ask them."

The young man obviously serious about the question just walked away shaking his head, which is Nebraska slang for, "I can't believe it."

In 5 centuries of turkey hunting I have never send such a large volume of Turkeys in one area at the same time as there is from this one roosting grove of trees. They fly down from multiple roosts and are taking on an alfalfa field that is about 150 yards wide and a mile long. They come down from the roost in individual flocks then walk the alfalfa field in waves like marching solders, 30 abreast clearing the spring irrigated alfalfa of all bug life and for a little lettuce in their diet they eat some of the alfalfa plant leaves. Other flocks roost in the canyons land areas and by the corn field access. The pictures don't do it justice but then again when you see them these pictures will be a down grade from what you are hunting.

The Turkey archery only season and a shotgun season in Nebraska scheduled 03/25/17 to 05/31/17 for archery and 04/31/17 to 05/31/17 for shotgun. There is 2000 acres to hunt with all types of turkey cover. You are not allowed to hunt inside the red steaks that surround the roost. If you have questions the landowner will assist you in seeing the steaks.

Ideally we have 20 toms or so to harvest each spring to leave a good number for the next years breeding. Usually up to 12 hunters for spring shotgun and 8 bow hunters. However we can flex hunters. For example, if only 4 bow hunters book then I can increase the number of shotgun hunters. [Available Slots call soon to put a deposit on your favorite dates before they are taken.](#)

For all archery turkey and deer crossbows are legal during the archery season 126 pound pull or more with a broadhead 7/16 or larger.

Season	Dates	Notes
Spring Archery	Mar 25 - May 31	
Spring Youth Archery	Mar 25 - May 31	All youth seasons: Hunters under 12 must be accompanied by a licensed hunter age 19 or older who must carry proof of a completed Hunter Education Course if under age 30
Spring Shotgun	Apr 16 - May 31	
Spring Youth Shotgun	Apr 9 - May 31	

We only allow a few select hunters to hunt this Merriam Turkey haven every year and have the same hunters each year. We finally had a few fall out due to health issues and will be back filling them with a total of 4 archers and 4 shotgun turkey hunters. This is only open to experienced turkey hunters and the hunt is semi-guided, you will need to call the turkeys for yourself. We will show you where they are, the boundaries and the turkey feeding patterns and you are on your own. We will do everything we can to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable hunting experience. If you do anything against the Nebraska Game and Parks regulation you will be asked to leave, no refund and no returning to the property.

The Hunts are 3 day hunts with 1 Tom being \$ 600 and the second Tom only \$ 200 additional. There is a 2 bird limit and lodging is not included but is available.

Nebraska Turkey Hunting Rules & Regulations & Season Dates:

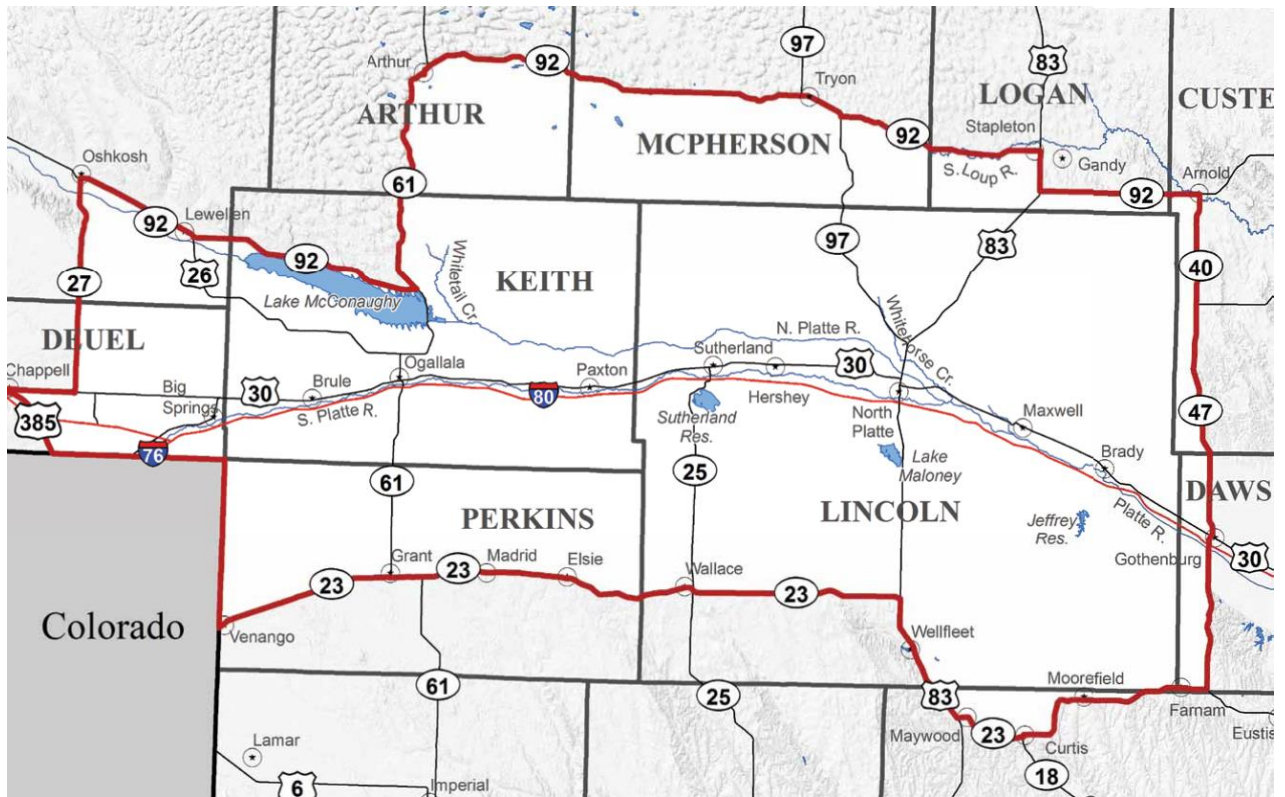
<http://digital.outdoornebraska.gov/i/615294-turkey-guide-2016>

Permits can be purchased here: <https://ngpc-permits.ne.gov/NGPC-PS/faces/public/welcome>

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**Platte Management Unit**





**MANAGEMENT UNIT DESCRIPTION:** Those parts of Arthur, Custer, Dawson, Deuel, Frontier, Garden, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson and Perkins counties south of Nebraska Highway 92, west of Nebraska highways 40 and 47, north of Nebraska Highway 23, and east of a line starting at the junction of Nebraska highways 27 and 92, then south on Nebraska Highway 27 to U.S. Highway 30, then west on U.S. Highway 30 to U.S. Highway 385, then south on U.S. Highway 385 to the Nebraska-Colorado state line. Those

**NOTES:**

- Mule deer are not allowed on Platte Whitetail permits
- Lincoln County Refuge: sections 21, 26, 27, 28, 34, 35, 36 T14N, R30W in Lincoln County within 110 yards of the banks of the North Platte River are open to deer hunting. Landowner permission is required.
- No person shall have more than one Platte Unit permit that allows the take of a mule deer buck.
- Platte permits that allows mule deer are valid Sept. 15 - Dec. 31 with weapons legal for the season being hunted.
- Garden County Refuge: those portions of Garden County within 110 yards of the banks of the North Platte River are closed to deer hunting, except: 1) that portion within Clear Creek Refuge on the west side of Lake McConaughy is open to ~rearm hunting for antlerless deer Oct. 1 - 10; 2) entire refuge is open to archery deer hunting Sept. 15 - Oct. 31. Landowner permission is required.



The Deer hunting, we have 4 Mule Deer taken every year as part of our management program. The habitat is made up on terraces of hayfields and sand hills, with cedars and pines with heavy underbrush for protection and thermos cover for the deer. The hay fields are alfalfa and natural hay scattered around the habitat with some adjacent to corn fields accessible some of the time but not necessary to get a good buck since we keep the hunting pressure so light. We have a point restriction to keep our bucks at the high quality that they are currently obtaining. We have been blessed with Mule Deer bucks averaging from 140-180 most of the time. Weather is not usually required to being them out because the deer season is during the peak of the rut in mid-November. There are 5 prime honey hole places to hunt providing plenty of success for all that are hunting. The rifle hunters get first priority during the rifle season, but if they tag out early and are done the archers may come in early if they like.

This is a 5-day hunt for either season archery or firearm. Shoot any Muley or white-tailed buck. You also get a free whitetail doe license with your Muley buck license. The area is 95% mule deer and 5% whitetail.

### **The Hunting Seasons in Nebraska MDCZ**

Archery: Sept. 1, – Dec. 31, \*

November firearm: Nov. 11, - Nov. 19, For deer this is in the southern end of the Platte Unit which is one of the 4 units that make up the **Mule Deer Conservation and protection Zone (MDCZ)** which has its own restrictive set of rules for mule. These Units are made up of the Frenchman, Platte, Republican and the buffalo units all contiguous and in the south east corner of the state. Note be cautious of the change in the laws between the MDCZ units and the rest of the state.

For all archery turkey and deer crossbows are legal during the archery season 126 pound pull or more with a broadhead 7/16 or larger.

It is a little bit confusing but here goes, there is no archery hunting before the Rifle deer season on 11/11/17.

Then a bow can be used for the 11/11/17 through 12/31/18. There is no muzzleloader season on this property because it can only be for whitetail does and the numbers thankfully are low enough that it is a very difficult hunt. Yes they can be hunting with a bow during the rifle season as per the Nebraska Game and Parks but it is highly recommended that it is with at least 1 blaze orange garment to alert the rifle shooters on the property with you.

Feel free to shoot any whitetail do they are great eating spending their days and nights on fresh alfalfa. We are and the state is highly protective of the Mule Deer Does. Do not shoot a mule deer doe. We are supporting this area to continue to have a 100% mule deer population and don't want the whitetail deer to come into it. Most places where whitetail have been allowed to move into the area the mule deer soon disappear because of the fact:

Whitetails Deer are at least twice as prolific as Mule deer



Whitetail can carry a snail worm in its nose and it gets deposited in the animal's water source when the whitetail deer drinks. The whitetail deer sinuses are smaller than a mule deer sinuses. Because of that when the snail worm inadvertently gets into the mule deer's sinuses from the nose it can pass through the sinuses and crawl up into the Mule Deer's brain and killing it. November a mule Deer will have a harem of does, a whitetail buck will run the larger mule deer buck away from the does and the whitetail will breed all of the mule deer's does. The doe fawn will look like a mule deer doe but she carries the antler gene for the breeding. If it is a buck fawn it will be sterile like a mule and although he will build a harem once he has them he doesn't know what to do with them. They either don't get bred or a whitetail but steals them from the important buck.

Hunters are no-less forgiving. If the licenses were not noted mule deer only or whitetail only the hunter will usually shoot the mule deer because it is an easier hunt on the average and has antlers are usually larger.

Rifle and Archery are both 5 day hunts. Even though the archery license is an either sex license the Mule deer DOES MUST NOT be shot. The whitetail buck and doe are ok to shoot and are listed below in the pricing.

This is the Platte Unit and can be applied for early with a 95% drawing success.

You will be hunting less than 5 miles from the Frenchman Unit which takes 3 points to draw.

You will receive a Mule deer Buck Tag and a Free Whitetail Doe Tag.

#### **Cost for 4,000-acre ranch hunt for 1 group of 3 Hunters**

##### **Opening Weekend of rifle Season, Archery 10/15-12/31**

One Buck mule deer or whitetail Buck \$2900 reduced down to only for \$1,995

Antlerless whitetail for \$ 1500 reduced down to only \$995.

Buck + Antlerless whitetail for \$3500 reduced down to only \$2,395

4 **Rifle** Mule Deer or Whitetail Buck Hunt **AVAILABLE**

4 **Archery** Mule Deer or Whitetail Bucks Hunt **AVAILABLE**

#### **Cost for Bug ranch hunt for 1 group of 3 Hunters**

One Buck mule deer or whitetail Buck \$2900 reduced down to only for \$1,895

##### **5 Days Monday-Friday between 11/12-16 approximately**

Antlerless whitetail for \$ 1500 reduced down to only \$995.

Buck + Antlerless whitetail for \$3500 reduced down to only \$2,395

3-4 **Rifle** Mule Deer or Whitetail Buck Hunt **AVAILABLE**

3-4 **Archery** Mule Deer or Whitetail Bucks Hunt **AVAILABLE**

Nebraska Deer Hunting Regulations & Season Dates: <http://outdoornebraska.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Deer-regs-with-checks-2016-1.pdf>

Permits can be purchased here:

<https://ngpc-permits.ne.gov/NGPC-PS/faces/public/welcome>

## FAQ

Q: What does semi-guided mean?

A: We will give you all the information you need to have a successful hunt including a detailed a tour of the land pointing out popular game trails and movement patterns of the animals. We will NOT be with you while you hunt. Enjoy the time to yourself.

Q: I shot my deer or turkey, then what?

A: There are local taxidermy and butcher shops that can mount and process the meat. The hunter is responsible for costs associated with taxidermy or butcher services. You can also choose to de-breast the turkeys yourself. The hunter can also keep just the antlers, spurs, beard, or tail feathers without need for taxidermist.

Q: I am an in state resident and wish to drive, what are the directions?

A: North Platte, Nebraska is a good general drive to location.

Q: I am an out of state resident and wish to fly, am there an airport nearby?

A: North Platte Regional Airport is the nearest air field. It is located approximately 30 miles from where you will be hunting. If you want to be picked up at the airport and taken back to the airport the landowner will do that for \$ 60 each way. There are rental cars at the airport as well.

Q: Lodging is available upon request, but not included?

A: Hunters are responsible for the cost of lodging. There are hotels in North Platte or cabins available locally. Their cabins are equipped with all the latest accommodations located approximately 1 mile from the hunting sites. The cabins are "Dry" but with a microwave, although the showers and bath are in a separate structure outside of the 2 cabins.

Q: How do I make a reservation?

A: We require a 50% non-refundable deposit. This allows us to coordinate the lodging if need be and ensure your hunt is reserved.

Q: Is there a deer cleaning and skinning area/facility where we can get out of the weather, cold during hot days, warm during cold days, dry during snowy or rainy days?

A: Yes there is a metal Quonset/barn that has places to hang the deer, skin and break down the meat. Remember leave evidence of sex on the buck for traveling until it gets to a processor. You can clean the deer in the field try to place the gut pile out of the way, off of the mowing field area. The bones and such in the Quonset just store outside and the landowner will dispose of them for you.

Q: Is there some place I can donate the meat?

A: Yes Nebraska has one of the most active programs for meat donation. The Nebraska Game and Parks office is only about 30 minutes away from where you will be hunting and usually they have houses that you can take it to even with the skin on.



Q: Is there lodging available locally.

A: Yes 1 location 1 mile away and Platte Nebraska is 20 Miles away.

<http://www.outdoornebraska.org/>

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