

National Grasslands Visitor Center Prairie Grouse Viewing Blind



Dear Birder,

Thank you for your interest in the National Grasslands Visitor Center grouse viewing blind program. You will have a wonderful opportunity to view the Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus jamesi*) and/or the Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland located south of Wall, SD. Because sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chickens share habitat on the Wall Ranger District, visitors may have the opportunity to see either species from the blinds.

The blinds are unheated plywood structures with a wood floor (4-foot wide by 8-foot long by 5-foot tall). Each blind can accommodate 4 adults with doors wide enough to fit a standard wheelchair. To facilitate your experience, please consider bringing:

- warm clothes
- blankets
- binoculars
- spotting scope
- coffee and snacks
- camera (telephoto or zoom lens)
- flashlight/head lamp (to avoid cactus patches and sprained ankles)
- chairs small enough to fit in the tight space of the blind.

Sunrise is by far the best time to view displaying grouse. Please arrive at least an hour before sunrise, please be quietly seated in the blind and please stay for at least an hour after sunrise, unless the birds leave first. If you are late to the blind, the birds may disperse for an extended period of time and are less likely to display. Although the grouse are not as active around sunset, you can attempt to watch the dance in the evening. Please be aware that the grouse may not display if it is raining, snowing, or if the wind is blowing over 15 mph.

The blind might be difficult to find in the dark, so consider locating it the day prior to your morning reservation. Be considerate to those who have arrived at the blind before you and scout the location before the sunset courtship dances begin.

Please be aware that motorized travel is confined to highways, county, township improved roads, and Forest Service Designated Roads. The latter are two-track roads whose entry points on the National Grassland are marked with brown posts displaying numbers that correspond with the attached map. During, or following heavy rains, it is advised that travelers stay on the graveled or paved roads to avoid muddy conditions. Vehicles with 4-wheel drive or equivalent are recommended.

- For information on current or forecasted weather on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland, refer to the National Weather Service NOAA website:
http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=43.9925&lon=-102.2415#.Vq_PEJj2bcs
- For information on current or recent precipitation events on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland, refer to the Western Regional Climate Center's Remote Automatic Weather Stations (RAWS) website:
<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/rawMAIN.pl?sdSPNN>
- For information regarding motorized travel on the BGNG, refer to the Motor Vehicle Use Map available at our office or on the USFS website:
https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/nfs/files/r02/nebraska/publication/BufferGapNG_WallRD_MVUM_e_si ze_atlas_2024.pdf

This is first come, first serve. Please be considerate of other visitors that you may encounter while viewing prairie grouse. We will do our best to make sure that you know where you're going and when to get there.

We hope that you find this adventure a good one to remember.

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General Directions to Sharp-tailed Grouse Viewing Blind

Geographic Coordinate System Location: Latitude: 43.940540,
Longitude: -102.289854

For additional information on the location of these blinds, please refer to the following website:
<http://www.latlong.net/Show-Latitude-Longitude.html>

Directions from Interstate 90:

- Take Exit 110 off Interstate 90 and turn south on Highway 240. (Set your odometer to 0.0 miles.)
- Drive south approximately 1.4 miles and turn west on Sage Creek Rd (Figure 1) also known as Wall/Scenic (this will be a right-hand turn).
Caution: Curves in road are sudden and winding.
- Drive 3.0 miles and turn South onto a graveled section line road (Figure 2) (this will be a left hand turn).
Please make sure to close all gates and respect private property.
Caution: Cattle are at large on private property.
Caution: The gates might be difficult to open and close, so use leather gloves to protect your hands.
- Drive 0.5 miles to Forest Service gate and National Forest System Road 7126 (FSR 7126) (Figure 3).
Caution: The gate might be difficult to open and close.
- Drive FSR 7126 approximately 1.25 miles where FSR 7126 turns east through another Forest Service gate (this will be a left-hand turn). (Figure 4)
Caution: Some drainages may collect water after significant precipitation events and will become extremely difficult to cross. See above for current or recent precipitation events.
- Go through gate and drive east 0.3 miles, and park approximately 500 feet away from the blind.
- From there, continue to walk east on FSR 7126 approximately 500 feet. There is one blind located north of FSR 7126 (Figure 6). It is facing towards the North.
- For those visitors unable to walk extensive distances, contact the Forest Service for further discussion.

Total miles from Exit 110 to destination: approximately 6.5 miles.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

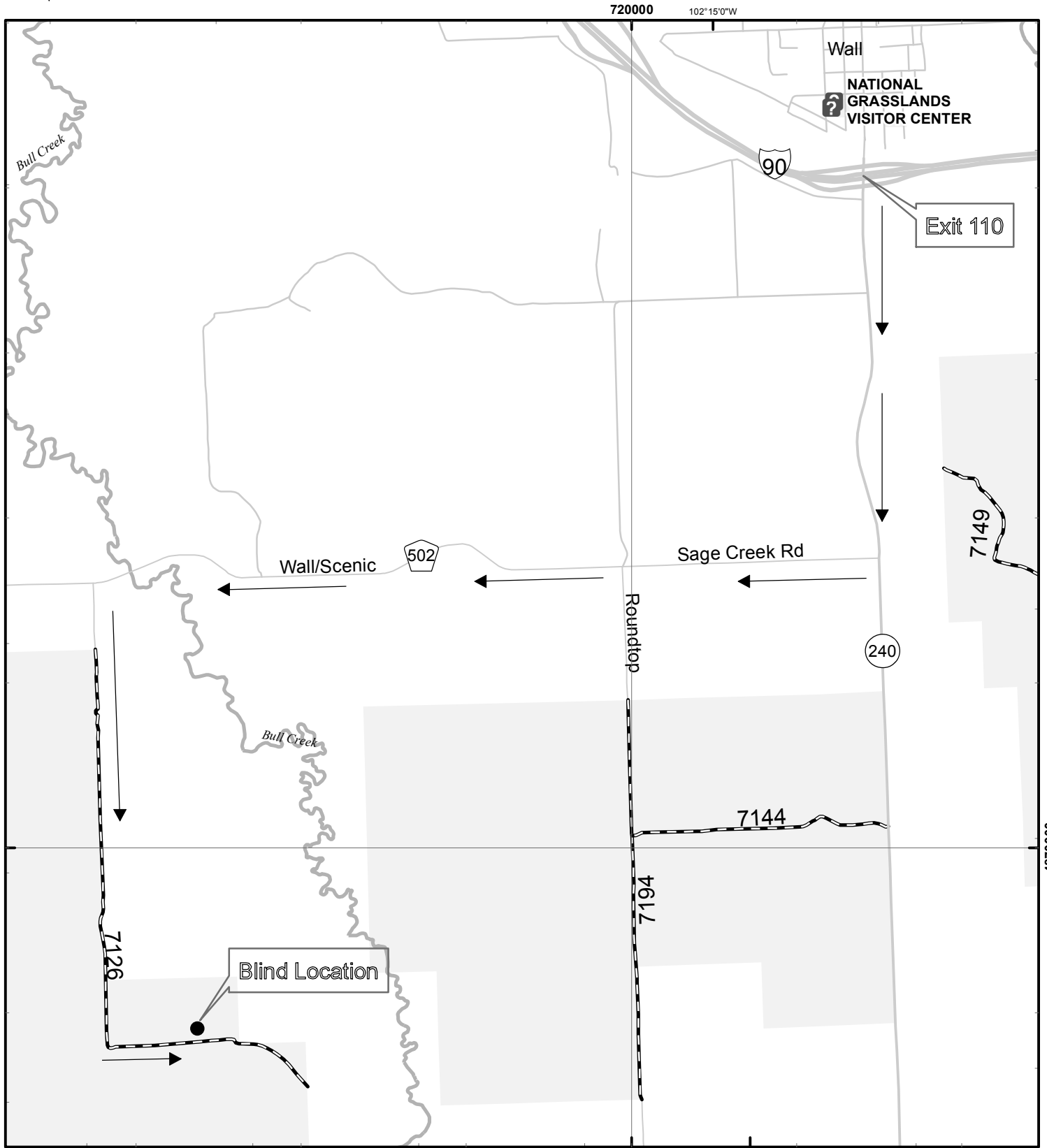


Figure 6



Grouse Blind Map

Wall Ranger District
Nebraska National
Forests and Grasslands



- Legend**
- Ranger District Office
 - National Grasslands Visitor Center
 - All Roads
 - Roads Open to All Vehicles, Yearlong
 - Interstate
 - State or US Highway
 - Other Public Roads
 - Rivers
 - National Forest System Lands



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General Directions to Prairie Chicken Viewing Blind

Geographic Coordinate System Location: Latitude: 43.767629,
Longitude: -101.643887

For additional information on the location of these blinds, please refer to the following website:
<http://www.latlong.net/Show-Latitude-Longitude.html>

Directions from Interstate 90:

- Take Exit 131 off Interstate 90 and turn south on Highway 240. (Set your odometer to 0.0 miles.)
- Drive south approximately .2 miles and turn east on SD Highway 248 (Figure 1) (this will be a left-hand turn).
- Drive 9.9 miles and turn South onto County Road 7, also known as Chamberlain Pass Road (Figure 2) (this will be a right-hand turn).

Caution: Road goes through private property and cattle may be present.

Caution: Road is gravel and has 90-degree curves.

- Drive 4.5 miles and turn East onto County Road CH 6, also known as White River Rd. (Figure 3).
- Drive straight along White River Rd (Figure 4 – do not turn!) approximately 2.4 miles and turn South onto FSR 7102 (this will be a right-hand turn). (Figure 5)
- Drive along FSR 7102 approximately .96 miles. Park in the designated grouse parking area. (Figure 6)
Caution: Some low spots may collect water after significant precipitation events and will become extremely difficult to pass. See above for current or recent precipitation events.
- From there, walk west across the grassland approximately 640 feet. There is one blind located on the east side of the stock dam facing west (Figure 7). The prairie grouse may be dancing anywhere in the realm of the stock dam where vegetation is low. Keep your eye out and be prepared for their arrival as the sun rises.
- For those visitors unable to walk extensive distances, contact the Forest Service for further discussion.

Total miles from Exit 131 to destination: approximately 18 miles.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

March 2026

Wall, South Dakota, USA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunrise: 6:27am Sunset: 5:36pm	2 Sunrise: 6:25am Sunset: 5:38pm	3 Sunrise: 6:23am Sunset: 5:39pm	4 Sunrise: 6:21am Sunset: 5:40pm	5 Sunrise: 6:20am Sunset: 5:41pm	6 Sunrise: 6:18am Sunset: 5:43pm	7 Sunrise: 6:16am Sunset: 5:44pm
8 Sunrise: 7:14am Sunset: 6:45pm	9 Sunrise: 7:13am Sunset: 6:47pm	10 Sunrise: 7:11am Sunset: 6:48pm	11 Sunrise: 7:09am Sunset: 6:49pm	12 Sunrise: 7:07am Sunset: 6:50pm	13 Sunrise: 7:06am Sunset: 6:52pm	14 Sunrise: 7:04am Sunset: 6:53pm
15 Sunrise: 7:02am Sunset: 6:54pm	16 Sunrise: 7:00am Sunset: 6:55pm	17 Sunrise: 6:58am Sunset: 6:57pm	18 Sunrise: 6:57am Sunset: 6:58pm	19 Sunrise: 6:55am Sunset: 6:59pm	20 Sunrise: 6:53am Sunset: 7:00pm	21 Sunrise: 6:51am Sunset: 7:02pm
22 Sunrise: 6:49am Sunset: 7:03pm	23 Sunrise: 6:47am Sunset: 7:04pm	24 Sunrise: 6:46am Sunset: 7:05pm	25 Sunrise: 6:44am Sunset: 7:06pm	26 Sunrise: 6:42am Sunset: 7:08pm	27 Sunrise: 6:40am Sunset: 7:09pm	28 Sunrise: 6:38am Sunset: 7:10pm
29 Sunrise: 6:36am Sunset: 7:11pm	30 Sunrise: 6:35am Sunset: 7:12pm	31 Sunrise: 6:33am Sunset: 7:14pm				

April 2026

Wall, South Dakota, USA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Sunrise: 6:31am Sunset: 7:15pm	2 Sunrise: 6:29am Sunset: 7:16pm	3 Sunrise: 6:27am Sunset: 7:17pm	4 Sunrise: 6:26am Sunset: 7:19pm
5 Sunrise: 6:24am Sunset: 7:20pm	6 Sunrise: 6:22am Sunset: 7:21pm	7 Sunrise: 6:20am Sunset: 7:22pm	8 Sunrise: 6:19am Sunset: 7:23pm	9 Sunrise: 6:17am Sunset: 7:25pm	10 Sunrise: 6:15am Sunset: 7:26pm	11 Sunrise: 6:13am Sunset: 7:27pm
12 Sunrise: 6:12am Sunset: 7:28pm	13 Sunrise: 6:10am Sunset: 7:29pm	14 Sunrise: 6:08am Sunset: 7:31pm	15 Sunrise: 6:06am Sunset: 7:32pm	16 Sunrise: 6:05am Sunset: 7:33pm	17 Sunrise: 6:03am Sunset: 7:34pm	18 Sunrise: 6:01am Sunset: 7:35pm
19 Sunrise: 6:00am Sunset: 7:37pm	20 Sunrise: 5:58am Sunset: 7:38pm	21 Sunrise: 5:56am Sunset: 7:39pm	22 Sunrise: 5:55am Sunset: 7:40pm	23 Sunrise: 5:53am Sunset: 7:42pm	24 Sunrise: 5:52am Sunset: 7:43pm	25 Sunrise: 5:50am Sunset: 7:44pm
26 Sunrise: 5:49am Sunset: 7:45pm	27 Sunrise: 5:47am Sunset: 7:46pm	28 Sunrise: 5:46am Sunset: 7:48pm	29 Sunrise: 5:44am Sunset: 7:49pm	30 Sunrise: 5:43am Sunset: 7:50pm		

May 2026

Wall, South Dakota, USA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Sunrise: 5:41am Sunset: 7:51pm	2 Sunrise: 5:40am Sunset: 7:52pm
3 Sunrise: 5:38am Sunset: 7:54pm	4 Sunrise: 5:37am Sunset: 7:55pm	5 Sunrise: 5:36am Sunset: 7:56pm	6 Sunrise: 5:34am Sunset: 7:57pm	7 Sunrise: 5:33am Sunset: 7:58pm	8 Sunrise: 5:32am Sunset: 7:59pm	9 Sunrise: 5:30am Sunset: 8:01pm
10 Sunrise: 5:29am Sunset: 8:02pm	11 Sunrise: 5:28am Sunset: 8:03pm	12 Sunrise: 5:27am Sunset: 8:04pm	13 Sunrise: 5:26am Sunset: 8:05pm	14 Sunrise: 5:24am Sunset: 8:06pm	15 Sunrise: 5:23am Sunset: 8:07pm	16 Sunrise: 5:22am Sunset: 8:08pm
17 Sunrise: 5:21am Sunset: 8:10pm	18 Sunrise: 5:20am Sunset: 8:11pm	19 Sunrise: 5:19am Sunset: 8:12pm	20 Sunrise: 5:18am Sunset: 8:13pm	21 Sunrise: 5:17am Sunset: 8:14pm	22 Sunrise: 5:16am Sunset: 8:15pm	23 Sunrise: 5:16am Sunset: 8:16pm
24 Sunrise: 5:15am Sunset: 8:17pm	25 Sunrise: 5:14am Sunset: 8:18pm	26 Sunrise: 5:13am Sunset: 8:19pm	27 Sunrise: 5:12am Sunset: 8:20pm	28 Sunrise: 5:12am Sunset: 8:21pm	29 Sunrise: 5:11am Sunset: 8:22pm	30 Sunrise: 5:10am Sunset: 8:22pm
31 Sunrise: 5:10am Sunset: 8:23pm						