

## FACT SHEET

### New General Recreation, Camping, and Watercraft Use Regulations Beginning after Memorial Day, 2008

#### Introduction

The Public Access, Use, and Recreation Regulations for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge implement several objectives and strategies in the 2006 Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). These regulations will be codified in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 32. They are presented below as they appear in the final rule published in the *Federal Register* on April 24, 2008, minus the several pages of required summary, background, and regulatory compliance information.

The CCP contains maps, tables, and other information which further illustrate the regulations. The citations refer to the part and section of 50 CFR. For example, §32.2 is Part 32, Section 2.

A copy of the full *Federal Register* notice, pertinent parts of 50 CFR, along with other fact sheets on these regulations and a link to the CCP, can be found on the refuge website at <http://www.fws.midwest/UpperMississippiRiver/>.

#### Specific Regulations

**A. Wildlife Observation, Photography, Interpretation, Environmental Education, and other General Recreational Uses.** We allow wildlife-dependent uses and other recreational uses such as, but not limited to, sightseeing, hiking, bicycling on roads or trails, picnicking, and swimming, on areas designated by the refuge manager and shown on maps available at refuge offices subject to the following conditions:

1. In areas posted and shown on maps as “No Entry – Sanctuary,” we prohibit entry as specified on signs or maps (see §32.42 of this chapter for list of areas and locations).
2. In areas posted and shown on maps as “Area Closed,” “Area Closed – No Motors,” and “No Hunting Zone” (Goose Island), we ask that you practice voluntary avoidance of these areas by any means or for any purpose from October 15 to the end of the respective State duck hunting season. In areas marked “no motors,” we prohibit the use of motors on watercraft from October 15 to the end of the respective State duck hunting season (see §32.42 of this chapter for list of areas and locations).
3. Commercial tours and filming require a permit issued by the refuge or district manager (see §27.51 of this chapter).

4. We allow the collecting of edible fruits, nuts, mushrooms, or other plant parts for personal use (no sale or barter allowed). We limit the amount you may collect to 2 gallons by volume per person, per day (see §27.51 of this chapter). We also allow the collecting of shed deer antlers for personal use.
5. We prohibit the harvest of wild rice; plant and animal specimens; and other natural objects, such as rocks, stones, or minerals. We only allow the collection of plants or their parts for ornamental use by permit issued by the refuge or district manager (see §27.51 of this chapter).
6. We prohibit the cutting, removal, or damage of any tree or vegetation on the refuge, without a permit from the refuge or district manager. We prohibit attaching nails, screws, or other hardware to any tree (see § 27.51 and §32.42 of this chapter).
7. We prohibit all vehicle use on or across refuge lands at any time except on designated routes of travel or on the ice over navigable waters accessed from boat landings. We prohibit parking beyond vehicle control barriers or on grass or other vegetation. We prohibit parking or operating vehicles in a manner that obstructs or impedes any road, trail, fire lane, boat ramp, access gate, or other facility or in a manner that creates a safety hazard or endangers any person, property, or environmental feature. We may impound any vehicle left parked in violation at the owner's expense (see §27.31(h) of this chapter).
8. We allow dogs and other domestic animals on the refuge subject to the following conditions:
  - i. We prohibit dogs disturbing or endangering wildlife or people while on the refuge.
  - ii. While on the refuge all dogs must be under the control of their owners/handlers at all times or on a leash.
  - iii. We prohibit allowing dogs to roam.
  - iv. All dogs must be on a leash when on hiking trails, or other areas so posted.
  - v. We allow working a dog in refuge waters by tossing a retrieval dummy or other object for out-and-back exercise.
  - vi. We encourage the use of dogs for hunting (see §32.42 of this chapter), but we prohibit field trials and commercial/professional dog training.
  - vii. Owners/handlers of dogs are responsible for disposal of dog droppings in refuge public use concentration areas such as trails, sandbars, and boat landings.
  - viii. We prohibit horses and all other domestic animals on the refuge unless confined in a vehicle, boat, trailer, kennel or other container (see §26.21 of this chapter).

9. We prohibit the carrying, possessing, or discharging of firearms (including dog training pistols and dummy launchers), air guns, or any other weapons on the refuge, unless you are a licensed hunter or trapper engaged in authorized activities during established seasons, in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations. We prohibit target practice on the refuge (see §§27.42 and 27.43 of this chapter).

10. We prohibit the use or possession of glass food and beverage containers on lands within the refuge.

11. We require that you keep all refuge lands clean during your period of use or occupancy. At all times you must keep all refuse, trash, and litter contained in bags or other suitable containers and not left scattered on the ground or in the water. You must remove all personal property, refuse, trash, and litter immediately upon vacating a site. We require that human solid waste and associated material be either removed and properly disposed of off-refuge or be buried on site to a depth of 6-8 inches (15-20 cm) and at least 50 feet (15 m) from water's edge (see §27.94 of this chapter).

**B. Watercraft Use.** We allow the use of watercraft of all types and means of propulsion on all navigable waters of the refuge in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions:

1. In areas posted and shown on maps as "Electric Motor Area," we prohibit motorized vehicles and watercraft year-round except watercraft powered by electric motors or nonmotorized means. We do not prohibit the possession of other watercraft motors in these areas, only their use. These areas are named and located as follows:

- i. Island 42, Pool 5, Minnesota, 459 acres.
- ii. Snyder Lake, Pool 5A, Minnesota, 182 acres.
- iii. Mertes Slough, Pool 6, Wisconsin, 222 acres.
- iv. Browns Marsh, Pool 7, Wisconsin, 827 acres.
- v. Hoosier Lake, Pool 10, Wisconsin, 162 acres.

2. In areas posted and shown on maps as "Slow No Wake Area," we require watercraft to travel at slow, no-wake speed from March 16 through October 31. We apply the applicable State definition of slow, no-wake operation in these areas. We also prohibit the operation of airboats or hovercraft in these areas from March 16 through October 31. These areas are named and located as follows:

- i. Nelson-Trevino, Pool 4, Wisconsin, 2,626 acres (takes effect March 16, 2009)
- ii. Denzers Slough, Pool 5A, Minnesota, 83 acres.
- iii. Black River Bottoms, Pool 7, Wisconsin, 815 acres.
- iv. Blue/Target Lake, Pool 8, Minnesota, 1,834 acres.
- v. Root River, Pool 8, Minnesota, 695 acres.
- vi. Reno Bottoms, Pool 9, Minnesota, 2,536 acres.

- vii. Nine Mile Island, Pool 12, Iowa, 454 acres.
- viii. Princeton, Pool 14, Iowa, 327 acres.

3. In water access and travel routes posted and shown on maps as “Slow No Wake Zone,” we require watercraft to travel at slow, no-wake speed at all times unless otherwise posted. We apply the respective State definition of slow, no-wake operation in these areas.
4. In portions of Spring Lake and Crooked Slough-Lost Mound, Pool 13, Illinois, posted as “Slow, 5 mph When Boats Present” and marked on maps as “Speed/Distance Regulation,” we require watercraft operators to reduce the speed of their watercraft to less than 5 mph (8 kph) when within 100 feet (30 m) of another watercraft that is anchored or underway at 5 mph (8 kph) or less.
5. We prohibit the mooring, beaching, or storing of watercraft on the refuge without being used at least once every 24 hours. We define “being used” as a watercraft moved at least 100 feet (30 m) on the water with operator on board. We prohibit the mooring of watercraft within 200 feet (60 m) of refuge boat landings or ramps. We may impound any watercraft moored in violation at the owner’s expense (see §27.32 of this chapter).
6. Conditions A1, A2, and A11 apply.

**C. Camping.** We allow camping on all lands and waters of the refuge as designated by the refuge manager and shown on maps available at refuge offices subject to the following conditions:

1. We define camping as erecting a tent or shelter of natural or synthetic material, preparing a sleeping bag or other bedding material for use, parking of a motor vehicle or mooring or anchoring of a vessel, for the apparent purpose of overnight occupancy, or, occupying or leaving personal property, including boats or other craft, at a site anytime between the hours of 11 p.m. and 3 a.m.
2. We prohibit camping at any one site for a period longer than 14 days during any 30-consecutive-day period. After 14 days, you must move all persons, property, equipment, and boats to a new site located at least 0.5 mile (0.8 km) from the previous site.
3. We prohibit camping within 200 feet (60 meters) of any refuge boat landing, access area, parking lot, structure, road, trail, or other recreation or management facility.
4. We prohibit camping during waterfowl hunting seasons within areas posted “No Entry – Sanctuary,” “Area Closed,” “Area Closed – No Motors,” and “No Hunting Zone” or on any sites not clearly visible from the main commercial navigation channel of the Mississippi River (see §32.42 of this chapter).

5. You must occupy campsites daily. We prohibit the leaving of tents, camping equipment, or other property unattended at any site for over 24 hours, and we may impound any equipment left in violation at the owner's expense. We define occupy and attended as being present at a site for a minimum of 2 hours daily.
6. You must remove any tables, fireplaces, or other facilities erected upon vacating a camping or day-use site.
7. We allow campfires in conjunction with camping and day-use activities subject to the following conditions (see §27.95 and §32.42 of this chapter):
  - i. You may only use dead wood on the ground, or materials brought into the refuge such as charcoal or firewood. You must remove any unused firewood brought into the refuge upon departure due to the threat of invasive insects.
  - ii. We prohibit building, attending, and maintaining a campfire without sufficient clearance from flammable materials so as to prevent its escape.
  - iii. We prohibit building a fire at any developed facility including, but not limited to, boat landings, access areas, parking lots, roads, trails or any other recreation or management facility or structure.
  - iv. We prohibit burying live fires or hot coals when vacating a campfire site.
  - v. We prohibit burning or attempting to burn any nonflammable materials or any materials that may produce toxic fumes or leave hazardous waste. These materials include, but are not limited to, metal cans, plastic containers, glass, fiberglass, treated wood products, wood containing nails or staples, wire, floatation materials, or other refuse.
8. Conditions A4 through A11 apply.

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