



Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge Trapping Fact Sheet



2008 - 09 Trapping Season

Background: Management of furbearers on the Refuge has been ongoing since the fall of 1981. Furbearer trapping is a useful tool in maintaining balance between furbearer populations and safeguarding Refuge infrastructure such as dikes, roads, and water control structures.

Refuge Trapping Auction: An open bidding system is used to assign trappers to the various units. Only participants with a current State of Wisconsin trapping license are permitted to bid. Licenses will be checked prior to the start of the auction. Qualified applicants voicing the highest bid on a unit then receives exclusive rights to trap that unit for the duration of the trapping season. The Refuge is divided into 15 muskrat units and 4 beaver units. In addition, there is one senior citizen unit and two youth units included in the trapping boundary. These units are awarded by a random drawing after the auction and are free of charge. Senior citizens and youth trappers must be present to participate in the drawing for those units. Funds generated from the trapping auction are returned to the Refuge for maintenance costs to roads, trails, parking lots, boat landings, signs and other facilities.

Furbearers: Trapping is permitted for a variety of species; however, muskrat, beaver, and raccoon are the primary target species. Most trapping activity occurs in and near Refuge wetlands. All upland areas inside the Wildlife Drive are closed to trapping. Any non-target species trapped must be reported and turned over to the Refuge Manager.

Permits: Only trappers with Refuge issued permits are allowed to trap on the Refuge. Permits are issued a week after the auction and can be picked up at the Refuge office. Trappers must have their issued permits on their person at all times when trapping on the Refuge. In addition, windshield cards are also issued and must be displayed when parked along Refuge roads when involved in any trapping activity - including scouting. All the conditions of your trapping privileges are clearly defined on your permit. You are responsible for knowing the Refuge trapping regulations.

Mandatory Report Sheets: report of catch, number of traps and number of trapping nights must be reported every Monday before close of business. This is a requirement of the trapping permit. Thus, failure to do so may result in revocation of your trapping privileges and permit. All Wisconsin State trapping regulations apply.

2008-09 Refuge Trapping Dates - state seasons and regulations apply

Trapping Unit Auction - October 1, 2008 @ 7 pm - Refuge Maintenance Complex

Muskrat Season* - October 25, 2008 to February 28, 2009

Beaver Season - November 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009

Raccoon Season* - October 18, 2008 to January 31, 2009

Scouting allowed October 11-17, 2008

*No trapping west of River Bottoms until October 31, 2008

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For More Information: Write to - Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, W28488 Refuge Road, Trempealeau, WI 54661. Call 608/539-2311 or e-mail: trempealeau@fws.gov

