

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Comparison of Current and New (2008) General Recreation Regulations

Subject	Current Refuge Regulation	New Refuge Regulation Effective May 27, 2008
Collecting edible fruits, nuts, mushrooms, plant parts	No regulation, but generally allowed, sometime by special use permit.	Collecting of edible fruits, nuts, mushrooms, or other plant parts for personal use allowed without permit (no sale or barter). Limit of 2 gallons by volume per person, per day.
Wild rice harvest	Prohibited	Prohibited
Other natural objects, antlers	Prohibited except by special use permit.	Permit needed for collection of plants or their parts for ornamental use. Shed antler collection allowed.
Cutting, removing or damaging vegetation	Prohibited without a permit except willows for trap stakes, blinds, and commercial fishing gear.	Same, but regulation clarified to prohibit attaching nails, screws, or other hardware to trees.
Vehicle access/use	Off road vehicles prohibited except on ice over navigable waters accessed from boat landings.	Same, language clarified.
Dogs	Encouraged when hunting; must be under control or on a leash at other times and leashed on trail, access areas. Out-and-back retrieval training/exercising allowed.	Same
Firearms	Carrying, possession, or discharging prohibited except by licensed hunters/trappers during established seasons. Firearm definition includes training pistols and training dummy launchers. Target practice not allowed.	Same
Glass food and beverage containers	No restriction.	Prohibited on beaches and other lands within refuge, OK in boats or vehicles.
Sanitation, litter	All sites must be kept clean during period of use and occupancy, and no litter or refuse scattered on ground. Litter must be disposed off-refuge immediately upon vacating site.	Same, except new provision requires that human solid waste and associated material be either removed and disposed off-refuge or buried on site to depth of 6-8 inches at least 50 feet from water.

Please note: This is a brief summary of current and new regulations for comparison purposes. Please consult full regulations and maps available at refuge offices or on the refuge website at: www.fws.gov/midwest/UpperMississippiRiver/ 4/08

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Electric Motor Areas	Currently one (1) area (Mertes Slough, Pool 6)	Four (4) new areas, 1,630 acres. Motorized vehicles and watercraft prohibited except watercraft powered by electric motors or nonmotorized means. The possession of other motors not prohibited, only their use. Areas remain open to hunting, fishing, and other uses.
Slow, No-Wake Areas	None	Eight (8) new areas, 9,370 acres. Nelson-Trevino area takes effect in 2009, rest in 2008. Watercraft required to travel at slow, no-wake speed from March 16 through October 31. Applicable state definition of slow, no-wake operation applies. No airboats or hovercraft allowed March 16 through October 31. Areas remain open to hunting, fishing, and other uses.
Slow, No Wake Zones	Two in place for safety or shoreline protection; not specifically in refuge regulations.	Zone designation added to refuge regulations. Several new areas proposed for safety or shoreline protection; working through local/state authorities to establish. Speed and distance regulation established for Spring Lake and Crooked Slough-Lost Mound in Pool 13.
Boat Mooring	Boats may be left unattended for 72 hours; mooring within 200 feet of boat landings or restricted areas prohibited.	Boats must be used every 24 hours and being used defined as moving boat at least 100 feet on water with operator on board. Other mooring restrictions remain the same.
Camping	Allowed refuge-wide except during waterfowl hunting season in Closed Areas, Sanctuaries and No hunting Zones, and must be within sight of main channel during waterfowl season. Camping defined, limit of 14-day stay on any site, restricted at landings/public use sites, must occupy daily (minimum of 2 hours), and must remove equipment.	Same except no camping at boat ramps and other public use facilities clarified. No camping within 200 feet of any boat landing, access, parking lot, structure, road, trail, or other recreation or management facility.
Campfires	Allowed in conjunction with camping, day-use activities, and ice fishing. May use dead wood on ground, charcoal or bring firewood, but such unused firewood must be removed on departure. Other rules on burying fires, fire safety and location, and burning hazardous material or trash included.	Same

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