

FACT SHEET

Summary of Acres Open to All Hunting, Current and CCP

Current acres open to all hunting (2006):

240,220 refuge acres

- 44,544 acres in 15 closed areas and sanctuaries

- 3,555 acres in administrative no hunting zones

192,121 acres open or 80%

CCP acres open to all hunting in 2009*:

240,959 refuge acres (includes new acquisitions, 2006 to present)

- 45,011 acres in 24 closed areas and sanctuaries (includes Bertom Island, 31 acres and Wisc. River Delta which is closed only Nov. 1 to end of duck season)

- 4,228 acres in administrative no hunting zones

- 4,000 acres Pool 11 no open water hunting from boats**

187,720 acres open or 78%

*Pool 4 changes do not take effect until Fall, 2009. Currently, there are 2 closed areas totaling 6,884 acres and this will go to 3 closed areas and 1 no hunting zone totaling 3,500 acres.

**still open on shore, in vegetation, or standing without boat per Wisconsin open water hunting definition (see pages 123-124 of CCP).

Note: "This acreage and percent is designed as a benchmark to denote the importance of hunting on the Refuge due to long-standing tradition and in compliance with the intent of the Refuge Improvement Act and Service policy. Although technically correct, these numbers must be tempered by existing habitat conditions and varying state hunting laws which can make some areas being open a moot point. For example, open water areas may be "open" to hunting, but since some states preclude open water hunting of waterfowl, many areas may not provide opportunity. These opportunities are also subject to fluctuation due to increases or decreases in emergent vegetation which often defines "open water," or, construction of islands as part of habitat projects which may "open" opportunities to hunt an area. However, the overall acreage helps express the long-term intent of the Refuge to ensure abundant hunting opportunities" (CCP, page 120)