

News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Winona District
51 East 4th Street, Room 203
Winona, MN 55987

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REFUGE TRAPPING PERMITS AVAILABLE

Winona, MN -- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces that trap tags for the 2008-2009 Refuge trapping season on the Winona District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge will be issued beginning Wednesday, October 8, 2008.

Special Use Permits and trap tags (40 with each permit) may be obtained during the hours of 7:30 am to 4:00 pm only, Monday through Friday, at the Winona District Office, Room 203, Exchange Building, 51 East Fourth Street, Winona, MN.

Regulations require that trappers possess a Federal permit and trap tags in addition to a State license to be eligible to trap furbearers on the Refuge. Trap tags must be obtained in person and trappers must have a valid 2008-2009 state trapping license in their possession when obtaining trap tags.

Implementation of the Furbearer Management Plan, approved in 2007, will take effect this trapping season. The plan increases the permit fee and establishes a new limit on otter. The Refuge permit will be issued for a fee of \$30.00 for trappers 18 years or older and \$20 for trappers under age 18. Since 2000 the fee had been \$20.00 for all trappers.

The new plan also allows for otter trapping in States that have a season (MN, IA, and WI) but with a maximum harvest of 1 otter/Refuge permit in accordance with State seasons and licensing.

The Furbearer Management Plan is available www.fws.gov/midwest/UpperMississippiRiver/fur.html

For further information, please contact the District Office at (507) 454-7351.