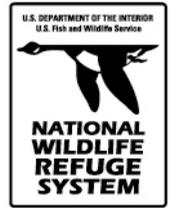


News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Savanna District
7071 Riverview Road
Thomson IL 61285

Contact: Ed Britton
815-273-2732 ext 11

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 29, 2008

BID SOLICITATION FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING RIGHTS AT LOST MOUND UNIT

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is soliciting bids for commercial fishing rights on the Lost Mound Unit (formerly Savanna Army Depot), Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, situated in Carroll and Jo Daviess Counties, Illinois. The bid solicitation period extends from September 1-15, 2008. **Sealed bids must be received by 4:00PM on September 15.** Bids can be hand-delivered or mailed to: District Manager, 7071 Riverview Road, Thomson IL 61285. The highest bidder will be awarded a Special Use Permit that will allow exclusive commercial fishing rights on the Lost Mound Unit within Pool 13.

Commercial fishing under this permit will be for two years beginning October 1, 2008 and extending until September 30, 2010. Special regulations are in effect for commercial fishing at Lost Mound that include a seasonal closure from January 15 to May 15 to protect over-wintering areas and spawning habitat for several species of sport fish, including walleye. For additional information contact the Refuge office, 815-273-2732.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas.