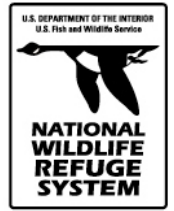


News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

**McGregor District
401 Business Highway 18 N
McGregor, IA 52157**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Youth Get Exclusive Trapping Area

Tim Yager, District Manager of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, McGregor District announced today that a new Youth Trapping Area will be established in Pool 10 between Prairie du Chien and Marquette.

The new area will be located on the Refuge just south of Highway 18 between the main channel of the Mississippi River and the east channel in Crawford County, Wisconsin. This 88 acre Youth Trapping Area is on the south side of Highway 18, directly opposite from the Refuge's Sturgeon Slough Hiking Trail and the Highway 18 wayside.

This is the second area dedicated to youth trapping on the McGregor District of the Refuge. The first was established in Iowa in Lower Pool 11 in an area known as John Deere Marsh. Both areas will be available to youth trappers during the 2009 trapping season.

Clyde Male, Assistant Refuge Manager confirmed the unique opportunity these areas present to young trappers. These areas provide youth trappers (under 18 years of age) an opportunity to learn and appreciate the art of trapping without direct competition from more experienced trappers. Both of the Youth Trapping Areas are positioned near population centers and are accessible by foot, thus a boat is not necessary to trap these areas.

Youth Trapping Areas are open exclusively to youth for the first 14 days of the respective state trapping season. After that these areas may be trapped by anyone in accordance with Refuge Trapping regulations.

Youth trappers are required to obtain a Refuge Trapping Permit (at a reduced price). They must also possess the appropriate State license if required. Youth trappers must carry all traps within the units. All animals taken must also be handled and transported by the youth trapper only. Accompanying adults (over the age of 18) may assist in the mechanical setting or arming of the trap, but may not place the actual set. The accompanying adult(s) are not required to obtain a Refuge Trapping Permit.

Yager is hopeful this unique opportunity will encourage youngsters to explore the sport of trapping. To assist youth trappers, the Refuge has a limited number of body grip traps which will be available for use by youth trappers during the 2009 season

The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is the most visited refuge in the United States. The refuge extends 261 miles along the Upper Mississippi River from Wabasha, Minnesota to Rock Island, Illinois, protecting and preserving habitat for migratory birds, fish, and a variety of other wildlife. This 240,000 acre refuge was established in 1924.