

# News Release

## *National Wildlife Refuge System*



### Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Savanna District  
7071 Riverview Road  
Thomson IL 61285

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#### SPRING LAKE TRAPPING PROGRAM OPENS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will continue the special trapping program for furbearer management within the 3,600 acre Spring Lake Unit in Savanna IL. Prior to 2007, this unit was closed to trapping (and all entry) from October 1 to the end of the duck hunting season to provide a sanctuary for waterfowl. However, muskrat and beaver populations in Spring Lake were causing damage to Refuge structures. In 2007, a new management program was implemented to allow increased access within Spring Lake for the harvest of muskrat and beaver.

This special furbearer management program allows exclusive trapping rights within Spring Lake under restrictive conditions during the duck hunting season. Exclusive trapping rights will be awarded to the highest bidder with a \$300 minimum bid required. Bids will be accepted from September 15 to October 15 at the Savanna District Office located at 7071 Riverview Road, Thomson IL 61285. Bids will be opened on October 16 and full payment must be received by October 23.

Other details of this special furbearer management program include: access into the trapping unit is only allowed from 11am-2pm daily to reduce disturbance to waterfowl; 3 helpers can accompany the trapper; vehicular access is allowed on designated levees; no Refuge trap tags are needed and an unlimited number of traps are allowed; exclusive trapping rights will end on the last day of the regular duck hunting season (December 15) and all traps must be removed, and; trapping is in accordance with the Illinois furbearer season.

For additional information on this special furbearer management program at the Spring Lake Unit, contact the Refuge office at the above address or telephone 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 550 national wildlife refuges.

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