

News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

La Crosse District
555 Lester Avenue
Onalaska, WI 54650

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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September 23, 2009

“Upper Miss Refuge” Trapping Permits Available Beginning October 14

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that Refuge trapping permits and trap tags for the 2009-2010 furbearer trapping season on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge will be issued from the La Crosse District Office beginning Wednesday, October 14, 2009.

Trapping permits and trap tags (40 with each permit) may be obtained during the hours of 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, at the La Crosse District Office, located at 555 Lester Avenue in Onalaska, Wisc.

Regulations require that trappers possess a Refuge 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 2009-2010 state trapping license in their possession when obtaining trap tags.

Refuge trapping permits are issued for a fee of \$30.00 for trappers 18 years or older and \$20 for trappers under age 18.

Additional information can be found in the Refuge’s Furbearer Management Plan available on the web at the following address: www.fws.gov/midwest/UpperMississippiRiver/fur.html

For more information, contact the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge at the La Crosse District Office. The telephone number is (608) 783-8405.

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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, Minn. to Rock Island, Ill., protecting and preserving habitat for migratory birds, fish, and a variety of other wildlife. This 240,000 acre refuge was established in 1924.

In addition to being the most visited refuge in the country, the "Upper Miss" Refuge has the added complexity of a major navigation system, including 11 locks and dams, within its boundary. It is also a world-class fish and wildlife area which harbors 306 species of birds; 119 species of fish; more than 200 active bald eagle nests; thousands of heron and egret nests; spectacular concentrations of canvasback ducks, tundra swans, and white pelicans; and several threatened or endangered species.