

Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge
18500 Brady Lane
Boonville, MO 65233
660/672 2800
660/672 2820 Fax
www.fws.gov/refuge/big_muddy

V/TTY Users may reach Big Muddy NFWR
through the Federal Relay System at
1 800/877 8339

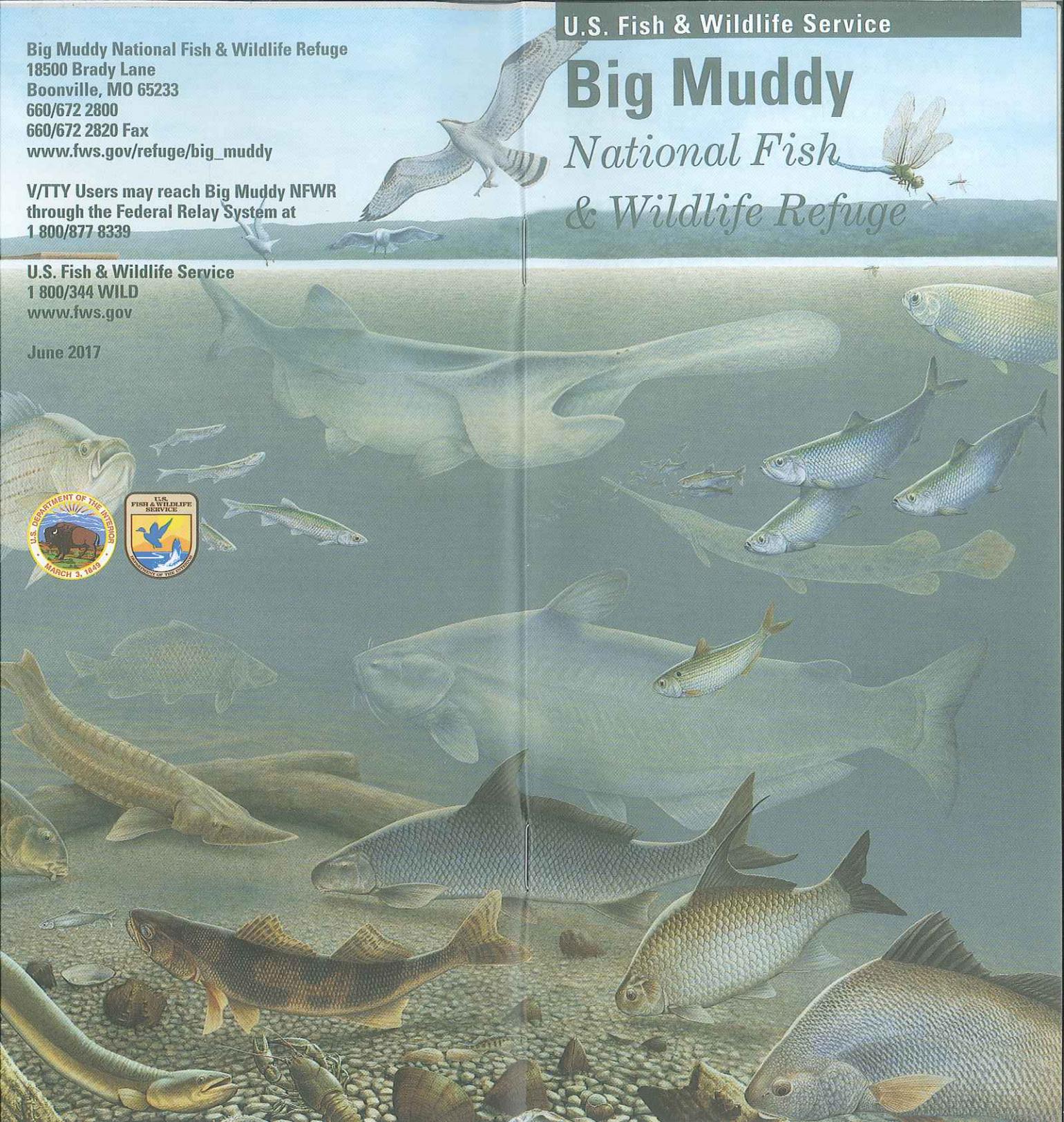
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
www.fws.gov

June 2017

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Big Muddy

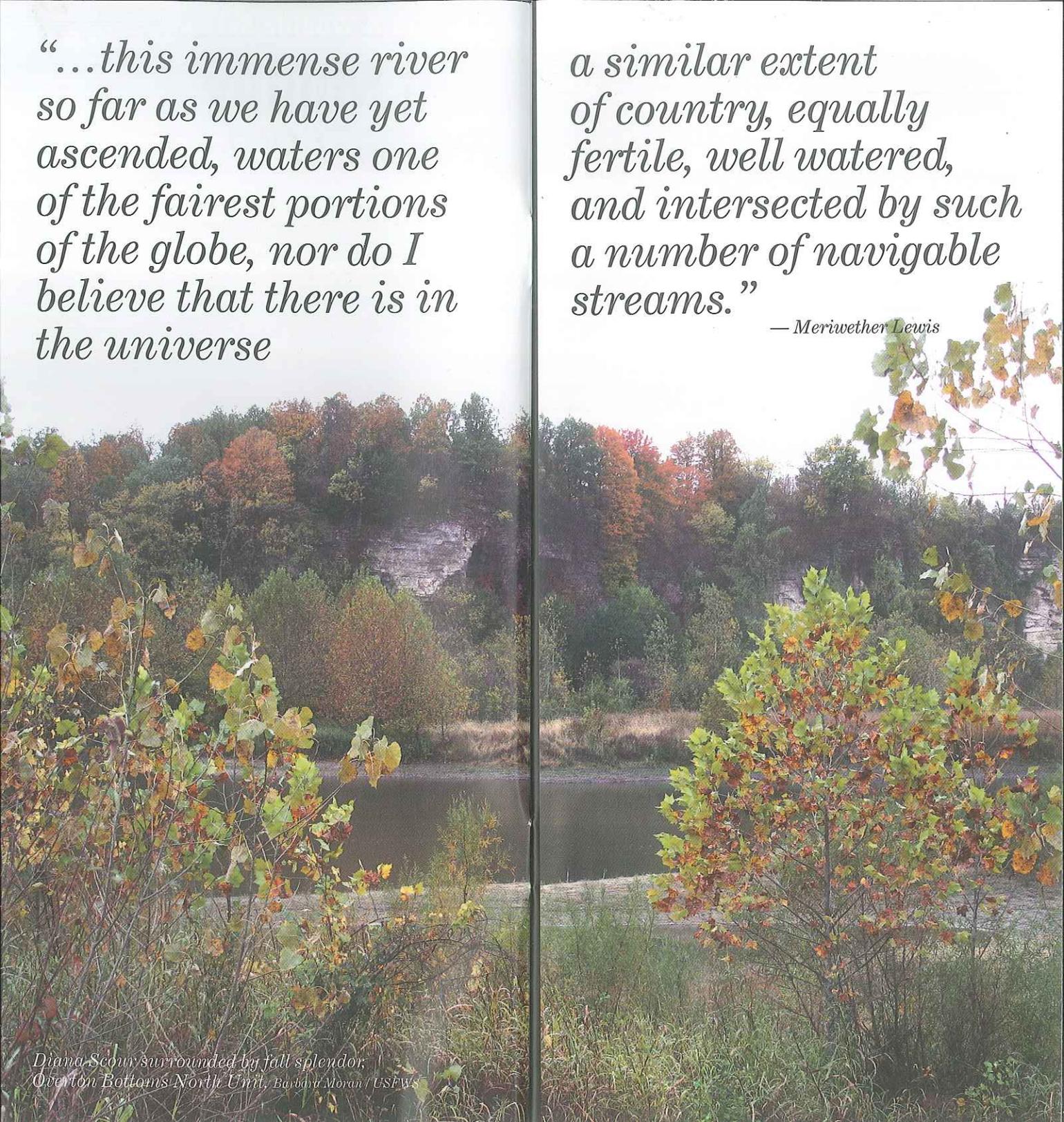
*National Fish
& Wildlife Refuge*



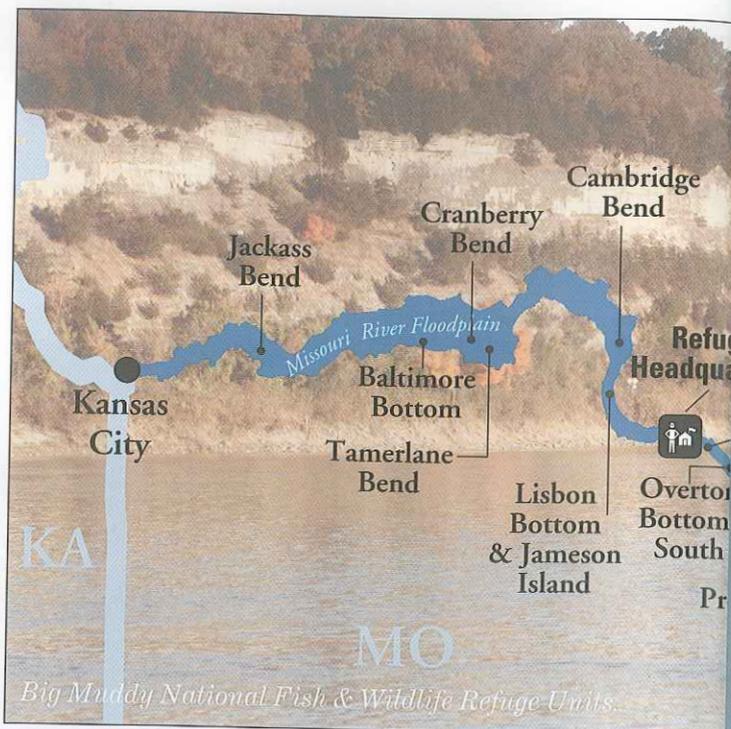
*“...this immense river
so far as we have yet
ascended, waters one
of the fairest portions
of the globe, nor do I
believe that there is in
the universe*

*a similar extent
of country, equally
fertile, well watered,
and intersected by such
a number of navigable
streams.”*

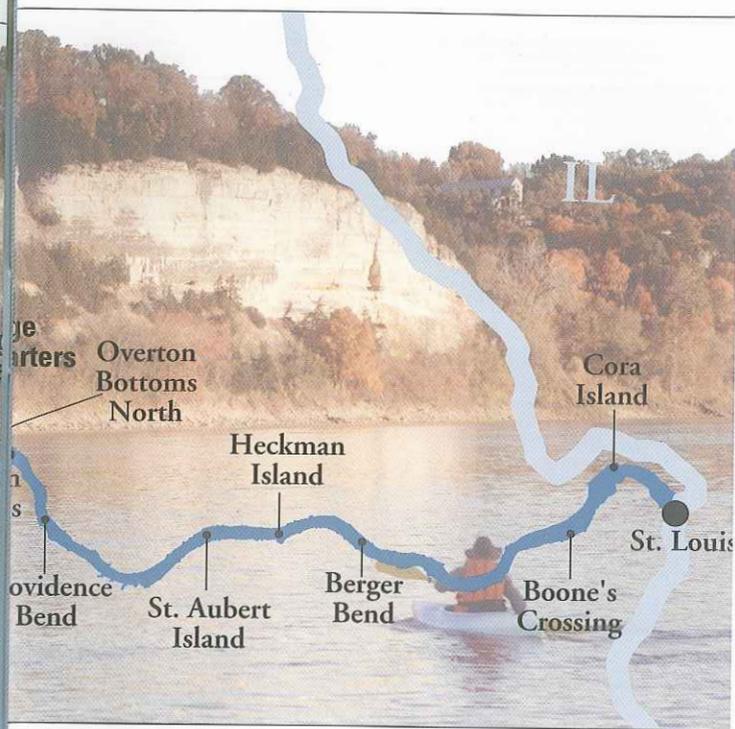
— Meriwether Lewis



*Diana Scout surrounded by fall splendor,
Overton Bottoms North Unit, Barbara Moran / USFWS*



Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge Units.



This blue goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

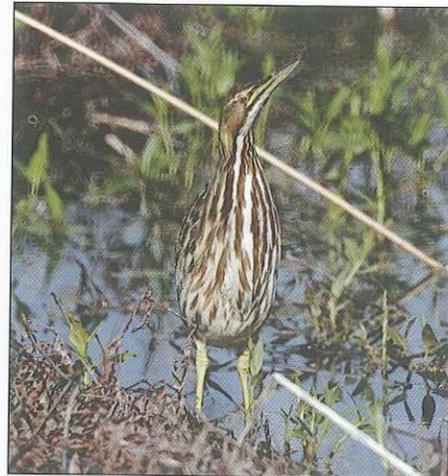
Welcome!

The Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge was established in September 1994 as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The network of approximately 565 refuges is a living heritage, conserving wildlife and habitat for generations to come.

Like pearls on a string, the refuge lands are gems in the almost million-acre lower Missouri River floodplain. Refuge units occur in the floodplain between Kansas City and St. Louis.

Taming a Wilderness Route

For thousands of years, the Missouri River has been a travel route for wildlife and humanity. The rich riverine habitat made it the market place for their survival. The river often reveals its past through exposed artifacts left behind by its former users.



White-tail Deer, American Bittern. D. Hardesty

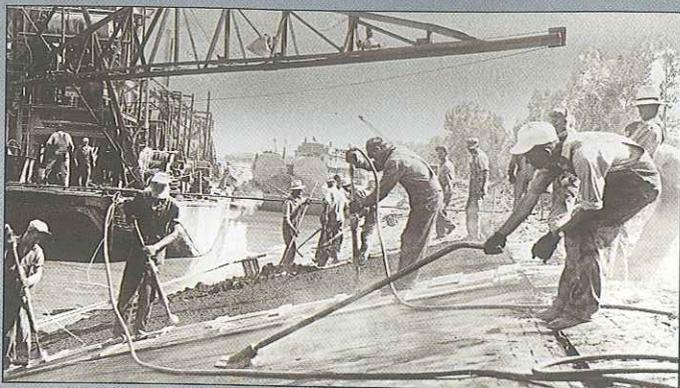




Fur traders descending the Missouri. George Caleb Bingham,
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Morris K. Jesup Fund, 1933 (33.61)
© The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Things began to change on the river soon after the Lewis and Clark expedition (1804-1806). The first steamship arrived on the river a

decade later, burning wood from the virgin floodplain forests. Wildlife became scarce due to habitat loss and market hunting.



*Workers paving the banks of the Missouri, 1939.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

Over the next century more than 300 steamships sank in the Missouri River. Its murky, swift water hid snags and shallow shoals ready to rip through a ship's hull. Efforts to control the river began full scale at the turn of the 20th century.

Congress enacted the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project to control the river by building pile dikes to direct flow and prevent bank erosion.

By the 1950's, the Missouri River had been channelized from Sioux City, Iowa, to St. Louis, Missouri. Channelization reduced fish and wildlife habitat by separating the river from its floodplain.

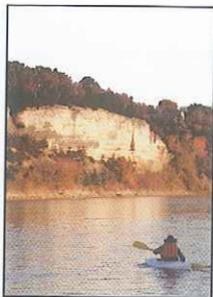


Snags on the Missouri River

Karl Bodmer, Photo courtesy of the Edward E. Ayer Collection, The Newberry Library, Chicago



Camping



Kayaking.
S. Hillebrand / USFWS

Camping and unauthorized overnight use on the refuge is prohibited. Sandbars of the Missouri River are managed by the state and camping is usually allowed.

Harvest of berries, mushrooms, and nuts for personal use only is allowed.

Disturbing, injuring, and damaging any plant or animal, except fish and game taken in season, is prohibited.

Collecting of other objects, including shed antlers, is prohibited.

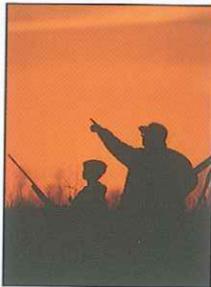
Horseback riding is prohibited. Pets must be leashed except when under control of hunter during appropriate hunting season.

Artifacts and historical items are protected; collecting them is prohibited.

Directions, Office Hours

The refuge headquarters is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm except on major holidays.

Headquarters located 8 miles east of Boonville, Missouri. Take Interstate 70 to exit 111. (Highway 179 and 98 exit). Follow directional signs to Highway 98. At the junction of 179 and 98, turn left on 98. Travel ½ mile and turn right on Brady Lane. At almost 1 mile continue straight ahead to the headquarters when Brady Lane takes a sharp right.



Scanning the Skies. USFWS

Wildlife Comes First!



American Kestrel.
D. Hardesty

Refuge Rules & Regulations

Although wildlife comes first on national wildlife refuges, many recreational opportunities are available. Refuge rules are posted at information boards located at the main parking area of each unit. Specific regulations for that unit are also posted. Refuge-wide regulations always apply. The refuge is open 24 hours a day for permitted activities.

Fact Sheets

Fact sheets for individual units show more details about opportunities and regulations on the refuge. Unit fact sheets are available at unit information boards and from refuge headquarters.

Enjoy Your Visit!

Hunting is permitted in accordance with State of Missouri seasons. Hunting is subject to all applicable state and federal laws. Fact sheets, online maps, and information boards provide hunting regulations for specific units.

Firearms are permitted during open hunting seasons by licensed hunters. Target shooting is prohibited.

Trapping is prohibited on all areas of the refuge.

Fishing is allowed year round and is subject to all applicable state and federal laws.

The refuge offers many opportunities for wildlife observation and photography.

All vehicles are restricted to designated roads and parking areas. Vehicle speed limit shall not exceed 25 mph except as otherwise legally posted.

Hunting



Firearms



Trapping

Fishing



Wildlife Observation and Photography

Vehicles



You Can Help!

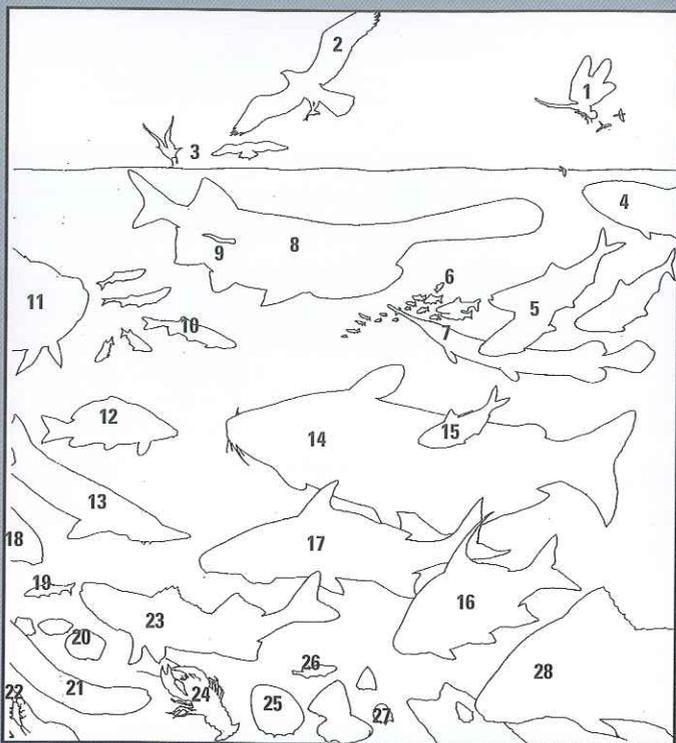
Volunteers perform a wide variety of jobs, and the refuge tries to match each volunteer's skills and interests with work that is needed. If you are interested in volunteering for the refuge, please contact the refuge, or check out jobs on the web at: www.volunteer.gov.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird on Trumpet Creeper
Doug Hardesty

About the Cover Art

The cover artwork was produced by the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources with support from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Program.



River Residents

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Green Darner Dragonfly | 15 Threadfin Shad |
| 2 Osprey | 16 Highfin Carpsucker |
| 3 Ring-billed Gull | 17 Blue Sucker |
| 4 Mooneye | 18 Smallmouth Buffalo |
| 5 Skipjack Herring | 19 Silver Chub |
| 6 River Shiner | 20 Mapleleaf Mussel |
| 7 Longnose Gar | 21 American Eel |
| 8 Paddlefish | 22 Stonefly Nymph |
| 9 Silver Lamprey | 23 Sauger |
| 10 Emerald Shiner | 24 Crayfish |
| 11 White Bass | 25 Butterfly Mussel |
| 12 Carp | 26 River Darter |
| 13 Shovelnose Sturgeon | 27 Pointed Campeloma Snail |
| 14 Blue Catfish | 28 Freshwater Drum |



Canada Goose. Doug Hardesty



Patches of bottomland forest and wet prairie contribute valuable habitat for nesting and migrating songbirds. Interesting migrants include cerulean warbler, tree swallow, indigo bunting, and dickcissel.

Seasonal floodplain wetlands provide valuable habitat for a variety of amphibians such as spring peepers, green frogs, and narrow mouth salamanders.

New river side channels and chutes provide slower flowing water used by many native fish, such as blue chub, sauger, paddlefish, and the endangered pallid sturgeon.

Photos from
top left: Pearl
Crescent
Butterfly on
Daisy Fleabane,
Spotted
Salamander,
Three Toed Box
Turtle, Wild
Turkey,
Wood Duck,
Great Blue
Heron,
Northern
Cardinal,
White-tailed Deer
All Doug Hardesty
Bald Eagle
Steve
Hillebrand / USFWS

