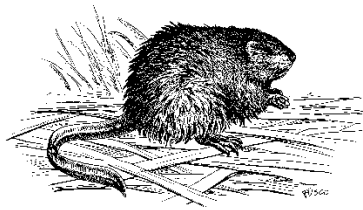


TRAPPING – 2025 - 2026 Season

Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge



The following refuge properties are open to trapping during the 2025-2026 trapping season. Trappers must have a copy of these regulations, a permit issued by the refuge, and all applicable state trapping licenses. Unless otherwise specified, trapping is open **only** for muskrats, beaver, mink, raccoon, opossum, skunk, coyote, weasel, and fox (red and gray). Species restrictions, if any, are specified below:

UNIT NAME, COUNTY, AND STATE	SPECIES PERMITTED TO TRAP
Phillis Island, Beaver County, PA	Closed to all Trapping
Georgetown Island, Beaver County, PA	All
Buffalo Creek Tract, Brooke County, WV	All
Wheeling Island, Ohio County, WV	All
Captina Island, Marshall County, WV	All
Captina Mainland, Marshall County, WV	All
Paden Island, Wetzel County, WV	All
Williamson Island, Tyler County, WV	All
Witten Towhead, Tyler County, WV	All
Crab Island, Tyler County, WV	Closed to all Trapping
Wells Island, Tyler County, WV	All
Mill Creek Island, Tyler County, WV	All
Grandview Island, Tyler County, WV	All
Grape/Bat Island, Pleasants County, WV	All
Middle Island, Pleasants County, WV	All <u>EXCEPT</u> fox and coyote
Broadback Island, Pleasants County, WV	Closed to all Trapping
Buckley Island, Wood County, WV	All
Buckley Mainland, Wood County, WV	Closed to all Trapping
Muskingum Island, Wood County, WV	All
Neal Island, Wood County, WV	All
Buffington Island, Jackson County, WV	All
Letart Island, Mason County, WV	All
Fish Creek Island, Marshall County, WV	All
Manchester Island #1, Lewis County, KY	All
Manchester Island #2, Lewis County, KY	All

The following Special Permit Conditions (Conditions) in effect on the refuge are in addition to applicable state trapping laws. To ensure a safe, humane, and sound refuge trapping program, the following additional Conditions are required to trap on refuge lands:

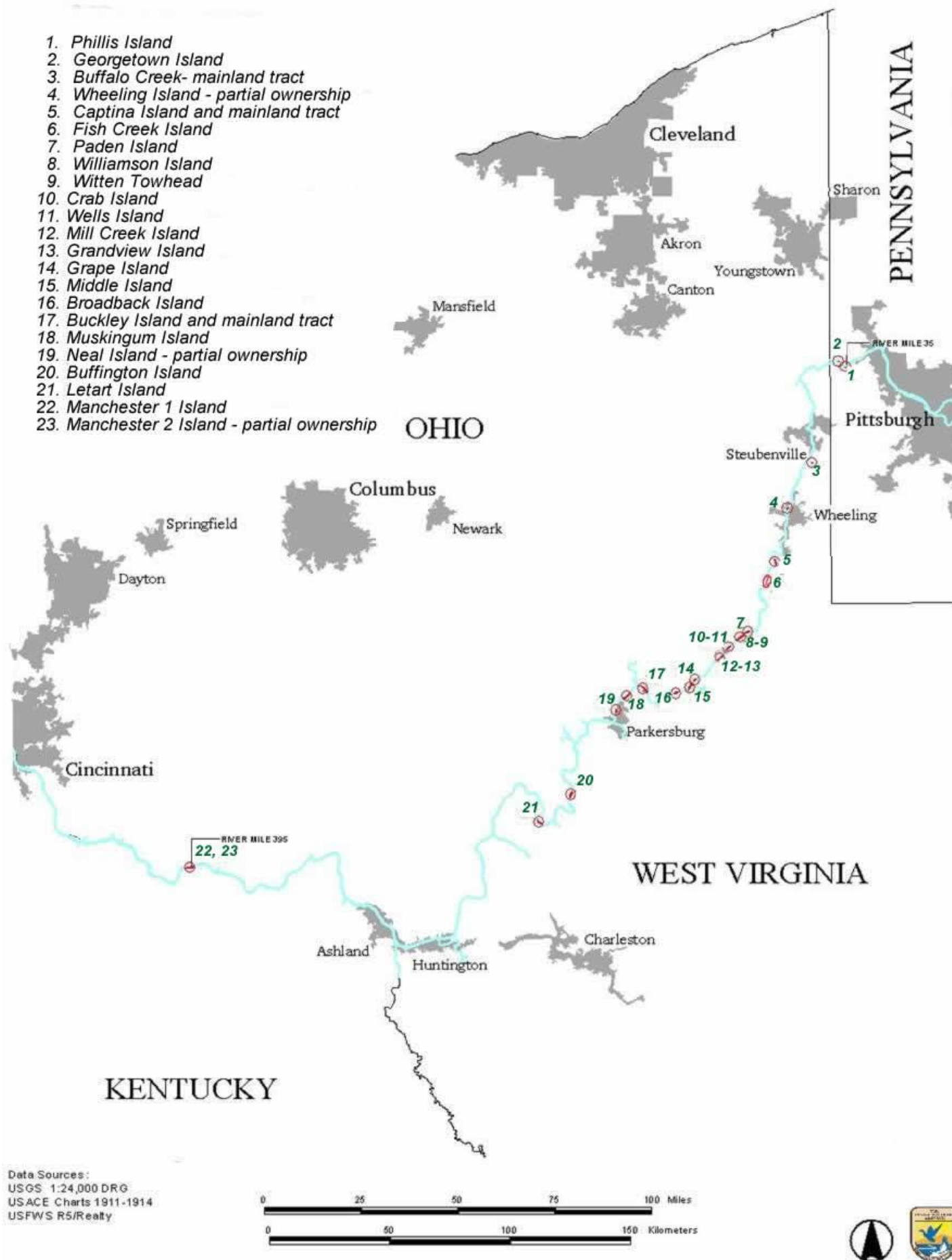
- 1) Permittees must comply with **all** Conditions of the Refuge Trapping Permit **and** all state trapping regulations of the state in which the trapping will occur.
- (2) Only muskrats, beaver, mink, raccoon, opossum, skunk, coyote, weasel, and fox (red and gray) may be trapped on the refuge. Coyote trapping season on the refuge will run concurrently with the fox trapping season of the state in which the trapping would occur.
- (3) Furbearing animals authorized to be taken on the refuge may be taken only with traps permitted under state regulations. Traps shall be set where traps or trapped furbearers are not visible from public highways, trails, overlooks, or other visitor facilities.
- (4) Trappers, when requested by Federal or state enforcement officers, must display for inspection their state trapping license, refuge trapping permit, trapping equipment, and all animals in their possession.
- (5) Permittees must visit and inspect each of the traps in their trap line daily. Traps must be checked during regular refuge public use hours: one hour before sunrise through one hour after sunset. The refuge is closed to night use. Failure to tend traps as required will be cause for immediate revocation of permit and said person's application for future permits will not be accepted for three (3) years.
- (6) Two helpers are allowed. The helpers must also be listed on the permit and have all applicable state licenses. The helpers may trap the unit without the permittee only if prior approval is granted to the permittee by the Refuge Manager.
- (7) The permittee and the helpers may carry a .22 caliber firearm according to state regulations while carrying out trapping activities. The .22 caliber firearm may not be used for hunting on the refuge and all state laws regarding the carrying of the weapon apply.
- (8) Permittees must release non-target species immediately and report the species and number to the Refuge Manager or designee within 24 hours. Permittees must turn over all non-target species killed to the state natural resource agency with jurisdiction within 24 hours.
- (9) Ingress to and egress from the refuge shall be by only routes that are currently open for travel. No motorized vehicles are allowed behind gates or off designated routes.
- (10) Permittees shall, no later than 10 days after the last day of the refuge trapping season, submit to the Refuge Manager a trapping report form on which the number of each species of animals taken and the location where the animal was taken is correctly stated. Refuge staff will provide each permittee a blank report form for this purpose.

- (11) Permittees may cut small trees or brush on the Refuge for trap stakes, to prevent entanglement, and for trap site preparation. Cutting and pruning should be kept to a minimum and should not damage small trees specifically planted for reforestation. Cutting is prohibited along public roads and trails or near visitor facilities.
- (12) All legal furbearers trapped must be dead before being removed from the refuge—no live trapping.
- (13) Unless otherwise stated by the Refuge Manager, the refuge trapping season will begin and end with the state season.
- (14) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can assume no responsibility in case of theft of equipment or animals.
- (15) Failure by permittees or helpers to comply with any of the above provisions or the violation of any refuge regulations, or state laws or regulations applicable to trapping on the refuge, shall render him or her subject to prosecution under said laws and regulations and shall be cause for the revocation of this permit and for refusal of a trapping permit for the next three (3) years.
- (16) This permit may be terminated at any time by agreement between the issuing officer and the permittee; it may be revoked by the issuing officer for any violation of refuge or state laws or regulations applicable to trapping on the refuge or any conditions of the trapping permit; this permit may be revoked by the issuing officer for non-use.

Please direct all questions and correspondence to:

Refuge Manager
Ohio River Islands NWR
3982 Waverly Road
Williamstown, WV 26187
304-375-2923 Refuge headquarters
304-834-0449 Law Enforcement Officer

Figure 1. Map of Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge.



OHIO RIVER ISLANDS NWR TRAPPING
REPORT FORM 2025-2026 TRAPPING SEASON

Present data in this report **ONLY** for trapping conducted on refuge lands for the 2025-26 trapping season. Submission of this refuge report does not relieve you of your responsibility to submit any required reports to the state.

Name & Address: _____

Permit #: _____

Please fill in the number of days trapped the average number of traps you had set each day, the total number caught, general refuge areas trapped, and the general time period during which you trapped on the refuge. These data **only** apply to your trapping on the refuge.

Species	# days trapped	Avg. # traps set per day	Total # harvested	Refuge Units Trapped	Dates Trapped
Beaver					
Muskrat					
Mink					
Raccoon					
Opossum					
Skunk					
Coyote					
Weasel					
Red fox					
Gray fox					

Did you experience any non-target (non-furbearer) captures? If so, please list by species, number, and type of trap and set in which the capture(s) occurred.

Your knowledge, field experience, and observations on the refuge are important to us! Based on your **refuge trapping experiences** during this season, please provide any comments on the general areas you trapped, unusual wildlife sightings, your perception of abundance or scarcity of furbearers, evidence of predation, habitat conditions, weather or factors related to trapping effort or success, or any other information that may be useful for our understanding of refuge conditions and the status of wildlife, fish, or habitat on the refuge:

Please provide any suggestions for improving the refuge furbearer management program below:

Please return to:

Ohio River Islands NWR
3982 Waverly Road
Williamstown, WV 26187

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. OMB has approved this information collection and assigned control number 1018-0140 which expires May 31, 2022.