Appendix I: Current Hunting Regulations
Refuge Signs - Look for these signs on the refuge

**Boundary Signs**
These signs mark the refuge boundary.

The area posted by these signs is closed to all migratory bird hunting. Other hunting and trapping is only allowed beginning the day after the close of the state duck hunting season, until season closure or March 15, whichever occurs first, except spring turkey hunting is allowed during state seasons. During waterfowl hunting season firearms must be unloaded while traveling through an Area Closed.

The area posted by these signs is closed to all hunting. Trapping is only allowed beginning the day after the close of the state duck hunting season, until season closure or March 15, whichever occurs first. Firearms must be unloaded and in a case while in a No Hunting Zone.

**Interior Refuge Signs**
These reminder signs are posted on some lands located inside the refuge boundary. (They do not mark the actual boundary line)

**Area Closed**
These reminder signs are posted on some lands located inside the Area Closed boundary. (They do not mark the actual boundary line)

**Waterfowl Band Reporting**
Hunters can report waterfowl bands by mail to 12100 Beech Forest Road, Waterfowl Bands, Laurel, MD 20708-4087 or by calling 1-800-827-2283 (BAND) or on the internet at www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/homepage/reewbond.htm

**Turn in Poachers**
Iowa 1-800-532-2020
Illinois 1-877-236-7529
Minnesota 1-800-652-9093
Wisconsin 1-800-847-9967
Voluntary Avoidance Area
The public is asked to refrain from boating through the portion of Lake Onalaska marked as a “Voluntary Avoidance Area” to allow waterfowl to rest and feed without being disturbed. This Avoidance Area is in effect from mid-October to mid-November.

Spring Lake Unit in Illinois - Waterfowl Sanctuary
In addition to being closed to all migratory bird hunting, the area is closed to all entry from October 1 to the end of the Illinois duck season each year. Other hunting, trapping and fishing are allowed beginning the day after the close of the Illinois duck hunting season until season closure or March 15, whichever occurs first. Visitors are allowed to use the parking lot, trail to the observation deck, and the observation deck during the Illinois duck hunting season.

Area Closed
Locations posted as Area Closed are closed to all hunting until the day after the close of the duck hunting season.

Hunt Methods
Shining to locate game is prohibited on the refuge. You may use lights and dogs to hunt raccoons, and other specifically authorized small mammals, in accordance with state regulations. You may only use lights on the refuge at the point of kill. All other uses of lights for hunting on the refuge are prohibited. The use or possession of any drug on any arrow for bow hunting is prohibited on the refuge. The distribution of bait and the hunting over bait is prohibited.

Tree Stands
The construction or use of permanent platforms or ladders is prohibited. All stands must be removed from the refuge at the end of each day of hunting. No stand should damage a tree. Spikes, nails or screws may not be used for ladders or to attach a stand to a tree.

Bag Limit
Migratory Game Bird Hunting
Only one bag limit of migratory game birds may be taken by a hunter in one day, even if the hunter hunts in two different states.

Blinds
This regulations applies to Pools 4 through 11 only. The construction of permanent hunting blinds using manmade materials is prohibited. At the end of each day’s hunt, you must remove all manmade blind materials you brought onto the refuge.

Decoys
Any blinds containing manmade materials left on the refuge are subject to immediate removal and disposal. Manmade materials include, but are not limited to: wooden pallets, lumber, railroad ties, fence posts (wooden or metal), wire, nails, staples, netting or tarps. You are allowed to leave only seasonal blinds, made entirely of natural vegetation, and biodegradable twines, on the refuge. All such blinds are considered public property and open to use by any person on a first-come basis. You are allowed to gather only willow, grasses, marsh vegetation, and dead wood on the ground from the refuge for blind-building materials. Cutting or removing any other refuge trees or vegetation is prohibited.

Game Retrieval
Converting hunting blinds from rocks placed for shoreline protection is prohibited.

Retrieving dead or wounded game birds from an Area Closed or a No Hunting Zone is allowed provided the hunter does not take a gun into the area and does not attempt to chase birds from the area. Controlled hunting and retrieving dogs may be used while engaged in authorized hunting activities during hunting season.
Hunting Information
Hunting has a deep history and tradition on the refuge with most hunting opportunities on islands and in flood plain forest, accessible mainly by boat. Over the years, hunters and hunting groups, have been very active in contributing to the refuge through voluntary support and conservation efforts.

Portions of the refuge are open to hunting and trapping in accordance with federal, state and local regulations. All regulations should be checked before hunting with the most restrictive regulation applying. Local ordinances may restrict hunting near populated areas. Contact one of the refuge offices for information regarding special regulations that apply in your area of interest. Hunters must be aware that individuals involved in other types of recreational activities may also be using the refuge and may be aware of the hunting season.

Alcohol
Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Campfires
Campfires are allowed using only dead wood on the ground, or materials brought onto the refuge such as charcoal or firewood. Burying live fires or hot coals is prohibited.

Camping
During waterfowl hunting seasons, camping is prohibited within areas posted Area Closed, No Hunting Zone, or on any sites not clearly visible from the main commercial navigation channel.

Closed Areas
The posted areas are designated on Refuge Pool Maps which can be obtained at any of the District Offices.

Firearms
Carrying, possessing, or discharging firearms or any other weapons on the refuge is prohibited, except by licensed hunters or trappers engaged in authorized activities during established seasons, in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. Target practice is prohibited.

License/Permits
Hunters must possess a valid hunting license or firearms safety permit for the state in which they are hunting. There is no entrance fee and hunting areas can not be reserved.

Non-toxic shot
Shotgun hunters may only use or possess approved non-toxic shot while in the field, with the exception of turkey hunting.

Protected Wildlife
Only those species listed in the state hunting regulations with established open hunting seasons may be taken on the refuge. All other wildlife and plants on the refuge are protected at all times.

State Boundary
The main channel of the Mississippi River is not the state boundary line in all areas. For verification of the state boundary line, contact the Refuge Office, Department of Natural Resources, or refer to Pool Maps.

Vegetation
Cutting, removing or damaging any tree or other vegetation, standing or down, live or dead, is prohibited, without a written permit, except that willow may be used for trap stakes, commercial fishing gear, and hunting blinds. Dead wood on the ground may be cut and used for campfires.

Vehicle
All off-road vehicles are prohibited, including snowmobiles and wheeled or tracked all-terrain vehicles, on or across refuge lands at anytime, except on designated routes of travel, or on the ice over navigable waters accessed from boat landings.

Weather
Be alert to changing weather conditions. Shallow open water areas and the main river channel can become extremely dangerous in windy weather and visibility can be reduced to near zero in snow and fog. Carry extra warm clothes and emergency supplies when heading out in a boat.

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Spring Lake Unit in Illinois - Waterfowl Sanctuary
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Deer and Small Game Hunting
Locations posted as Area Closed are closed to all hunting until the day after the close of the duck hunting season.

Hunt Methods
Shining to locate game is prohibited on the refuge. You may use lights and dogs to hunt raccoons, and other specifically authorized small mammals, in accordance with state regulations. You may only use lights on the refuge at the point of kill. All other uses of lights for hunting on the refuge are prohibited. The use or possession of any drug on any arrow for bow hunting is prohibited on the refuge. The distribution of bait and the hunting over bait is prohibited.

Tree Stands
The construction or use of permanent platforms or ladders is prohibited. All stands must be removed from the refuge at the end of each day of hunting. No stand should damage a tree. Spikes, nails or screws may not be used for ladders or to attach a stand to a tree.

Bag Limit
Migratory Game Bird Hunting
Only one bag limit of migratory game birds may be taken by a hunter in one day, time, even if the hunter hunts in two different states.

Blinds
This regulation applies to Pools 4 through 11 only. The construction of permanent hunting blinds using manmade materials is prohibited. At the end of each day's hunt, you must remove all manmade blind materials you brought onto the refuge. Any blinds containing manmade materials left on the refuge are subject to immediate removal and disposal. Manmade materials include, but are not limited to: wooden pallets, lumber, railroad ties, fence posts (wooden or metal), wire, nails, staples, netting or tarps. You are allowed to leave only seasonal blinds, made entirely of natural vegetation, and biodegradable twines, on the refuge. All such blinds are considered public property and open to use by any person on a first-come basis. You are allowed to gather only willow, grasses, marsh vegetation, and dead wood on the ground from the refuge for blind-building materials. Cutting or removing any other refuge trees or vegetation is prohibited. Constructing hunting blinds from rocks placed for shoreline protection is prohibited.

Decoys
On Pools 4 through 11, you may not place or leave decoys on the refuge during the time from 1/2 hour after the close of legal shooting hours, until 1 hour before the start of legal shooting hours.

Game Retrieval
Retrieving dead or wounded game birds from an Area Closed or a No Hunting Zone is allowed provided the hunter does not take a gun into the area and does not attempt to chase birds from the area. Controlled hunting and retrieving dogs may be used while engaged in authorized hunting activities during hunting season.