

Final Compatibility Determination for Hunting and Fishing on North Dakota Limited-Interest National Wildlife Refuges

Use: Hunting and fishing on North Dakota Limited-Interest National Wildlife Refuges

Refuge Names: Forty-one limited-interest national wildlife refuges (easement refuges) including: Appert Lake, Ardoch, Bone Hill, Brumba, Buffalo Lake, Camp Lake, Canfield Lake, Cottonwood Lake, Dakota Lake, Half Way Lake, Hiddenwood, Hobart Lake, Hutchinson Lake, Johnson Lake, Lake George, Lake Otis, Lake Patricia, Lambs Lake, Little Goose, Lords Lake, Lost Lake, Maple River, Pleasant Lake, Pretty Rock, Rabb Lake, Rock Lake, Rose Lake, School Section Lake, Sheyenne Lake, Sibley Lake, Silver Lake, Snyder Lake, Springwater, Stoney Slough, Storm Lake, Sunburst Lake, Tomahawk, Wild Rice Lake, Willow Lake, Wintering River, and Wood Lake.

Counties: Barnes, Benson, Bottineau, Burleigh, Dickey, Eddy, Emmons, Grand Forks, Grant, Griggs, Kidder, Lamoure, McHenry, McLean, Morton, Nelson, Pierce, Ramsey, Rolette, Sargent, Sheridan, Stutsman, Towner, and Walsh Counties, North Dakota

Establishing and Acquisition Authority(ies):

- Appert Lake – 1939 Executive Order (EO) 8110
- Ardoch – 1939 EO 8147
- Bone Hill – 1939 EO 8162
- Brumba – 1939 EO 8148
- Buffalo Lake – 1939 EO 8113
- Camp Lake – 1939 EO 8114
- Canfield Lake – 1939 EO 8115
- Cottonwood Lake – 1939 EO 8149
- Dakota Lake – 1939 EO 8117
- Half Way Lake – 1939 EO 8120
- Hiddenwood – 1939 EO 8150
- Hobart Lake – 1939 EO 8151
- Hutchinson Lake – 1939 EO 8121
- Johnson Lake – 1939 EO 8120
- Lake George – 1939 EO 8153
- Lake Otis – 1971 Migratory Bird Conservation Act
- Lake Patricia – 1939 EO 8156
- Lambs Lake – 1939 EO 8159
- Little Goose – 1939 EO 8125
- Lords Lake – 1939 EO 8127
- Lost Lake – 1939 EO 8128
- Maple River – 1939 EO 8162
- Pleasant Lake – 1939 EO 8164
- Pretty Rock – 1941 EO 8659
- Rabb Lake – 1948 Act of August 14, 1946 (precursor to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act)
- Rock Lake – 1939 EO 8165
- Rose Lake – 1948 Act of August 14, 1946 (precursor to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act)
- School Section Lake – 1948 Act of August 14, 1946 (precursor to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act)
- Sheyenne Lake – 1948 Act of August 14, 1946 (precursor to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act)
- Sibley Lake – 1939 EO 8167
- Silver Lake – 1948 Act of August 14, 1946 (precursor to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act)
- Snyder Lake – 1941 EO 8660
- Springwater – 1941 EO 8661
- Stoney Slough – 1941 EO 8663
- Storm Lake – 1934 EO 6910
- Sunburst Lake – 1941 EO 8664
- Tomahawk – 1941 EO 8665

- Wild Rice Lake - Designated as a National Wildlife Refuge by F.R. Doc. 48-11040 12-20-48
- Willow Lake – 1948 Act of August 14, 1946 (precursor to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act)
- Wintering River – 1941 EO 8667
- Wood Lake – 1948 Act of August 14, 1946 (precursor to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act)

Refuge Purpose(s):

- “. . . as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife . . .”
- “. . . for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds.” 16 United States (U.S.) Code Section 715d (Migratory Bird Conservation Act)
- “. . . shall be administered by him [Secretary of Interior] directly or in accordance with cooperative agreements...and in accordance with such rules and regulations for the conservation, maintenance, and management of wildlife, resources thereof, and its habitat thereon.”

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission:

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the U.S. for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

Description of Use:

What is the use? Is the use a wildlife-dependent public use?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to open 41 easement refuges to hunting of resident game species and 38 easement refuges to fishing. For specific details, see the 2020 North Dakota Limited-interest National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) Hunting and Fishing Plan and the 2020 Environmental Assessment (EA) for Hunting and Fishing on North Dakota Limited-interest NWRs (www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/huntfish.php#).

This is a wildlife-dependent public use.

Where will the use be conducted?

On privately owned and fee-title lands within the acquisition boundaries of the subject easement refuges.

When will the use be conducted?

During the respective North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGFD) regulated hunting and fishing seasons for resident game and fish.

How will the use be conducted?

Hunting and fishing will be conducted according to NDGFD rules and regulations for resident game species and fish as well as specific refuge rules and regulations as published in 50 Code of Federal Regulations and refuge hunting and fishing brochures. Boating will be closed on all easement refuges during the regular North Dakota waterfowl season except on Buffalo Lake, Camp Lake, Cottonwood Lake, Hiddenwood, Rose Lake, School Section Lake, and Sheyenne Lake NWRs.

Why is this use being proposed?

To provide the public with a high quality recreational experience on additional refuge lands in North Dakota and to increase opportunities for hunters and anglers.

Availability of Resources:

Resources involved in the administration and management of the use: Limited to updating signage and providing the public with information in regard to the hunts, rules, regulations, and law enforcement during the respective hunting and fishing seasons.

Special equipment, facilities, or improvements necessary to support the use: Minor. Updated refuge-specific hunting brochures and signage.

Maintenance costs: Minor and insignificant. Estimated to be \$40,000 to implment and then 5 percent of current refuge law enforcement program staff time for overseeing and implementing the hunt and fish program.

Monitoring costs: None.

Offsetting revenues: None.

Anticipated Impacts of the Use:

Short-Term Impacts:

See 2020 Final Environmental Assessment for Hunting and Fishing on North Dakota Limited-Interest NWRs (www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/huntfish.php#).

Long-Term Impacts:

See 2020 Final Environmental Assessment for Hunting and Fishing on North Dakota Limited-Interest NWRs (www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/huntfish.php#).

Cumulative Impacts:

See 2020 Final Environmental Assessment for Hunting and Fishing on North Dakota Limited-Interest NWRs (www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/huntfish.php#).

Public Review and Comment:

See 2020 Final Environmental Assessment for Hunting and Fishing on North Dakota Limited-Interest NWRs (www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/huntfish.php#).

Determination (check one below):

Use is not compatible.

Use is compatible with the below stipulations.

Stipulations Necessary to Ensure Compatibility:

- Publish and enforce updated easement refuge hunting and fishing regulations.
- Enforce NDGFD hunting and fishing.

Justification:

See 2020 Final Environmental Assessment for Hunting and Fishing on North Dakota Limited-Interest NWRs (www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/huntfish.php#).

If the proposed use is an economic use of refuge natural resources, how will it contribute to the purposes of the refuge or the mission of the Refuge System?

N/A

Signatures:

Frank Durbian, Project Leader

Date

Review:

Barbara Boyle, Refuge Supervisor

Date

Approval:

Maureen Gallagher, Refuge Chief
Region 6

Date

Mandatory 10- or 15-Year Re-Evaluation Date: 2035