

Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge



The refuge is located in four states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois along the Mississippi River. The Refuge was established in 1924 as a refuge for fish, wildlife and plants and a breeding place for migratory birds. The refuge encompasses one of the largest blocks of floodplain habitat in the lower 48 states. Bordered by steep wooded bluffs that rise 100 to 600 feet above the river valley, the Mississippi River corridor and refuge offer scenic beauty and productive fish and wildlife habitat unmatched in the heart of America.

The refuge covers just over 240,000 acres and extends 261 river miles from north to south at the confluence of the Chippewa River in Wisconsin to near Rock Island, Illinois. The Winona district covers pools 4, 5, 5A and 6 on the Upper Mississippi River located in Wabasha, MN to La Crosse, WI) on River Miles 763.5 - 714.5.

The refuge is designated as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar) and a Globally Important Bird Area.

Federal Wildlife Officers enforce: MBTA violations, Beach violations, camping, underage drinking, glass bottles on the beach, fishing violations, hunting violations, deer hunting violations boating violations, boating under the influence. The refuge covers three states which will require the Federal Wildlife Officer to know and understand all three states hunting and fishing laws.

For more information visit:
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Upper_Mississippi_River/about