



News Release

Horicon

National Wildlife Refuge

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September 12, 2022

NEWS RELEASE

Horicon Marsh Joint Trapping Auction Scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2022

(Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area and Horicon National Wildlife Refuge)

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will hold a public trapping auction at the **Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center, N7725 Hwy 28, Horicon, WI 53032 on Wednesday, October 5, 2022. Doors will open at 5 p.m.** to allow trappers the opportunity to ask questions and review information. **The auction will begin promptly at 6 p.m.** USFWS and DNR personnel will then review trapping seasons and regulations, unit boundaries, special conditions/restrictions pertaining to each individual unit, trapping reports, as well as other information before bidding. Trapping permits will be issued to the successful bidders following the auction.

The **USFWS (Horicon National Wildlife Refuge)** will offer 11 dike/marsh units for bid at the auction. In addition to these units, one unit will be reserved for youth between the ages of 12 to 17 and one unit will be reserved (permit issued via drawing) for seniors or trappers with a disability. The drawing will be held at the auction. Trappers do not have to be present at the drawing. Seniors must be 62 years of age or older and trappers with disabilities must have a disabled hunting permit from the DNR. Upland trapping area permits will also be available.

The 2022-2023 Horicon National Wildlife Refuge trapping seasons for all units and areas will be:

Raccoon, fox, coyote, weasel, skunk, and opossum (closed to fisher and bobcat trapping): Opens on October 15, 2022 and closes on February 15, 2023. Non-residents may not trap raccoons until October 29, as per state trapping regulations. No open marsh trapping (>25 yards from the shoreline/dike toe) until December 1.

Mink and muskrat: Opens on October 29, 2022 and closes on March 22, 2023. No open marsh trapping (>25 yards from the shoreline/dike toe) until December 1.

Beaver and otter: Opens on November 5, 2022 and closes on March 22, 2023. No open marsh trapping (>25 yards from the shoreline/dike toe) until December 1.

Refuge trapping unit scouting will be allowed on Tuesday, October 4 and prior to the auction on Wednesday, October 5, daylight hours only. Interested trappers must obtain a scouting permit at the Visitor Center (W4279 Headquarters Road, Mayville, WI 53050) prior to accessing the units. Scouting permits may also be requested via phone, email, or obtained in-person at the Visitor Center between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

on Sept 29, Sept 30, Oct 1, and Oct 3. Bidding conditions, trapping rules and regulations, maps, and other information will be available along with the scouting permits. Please contact Bill Peterson, USFWS Project Leader at (920) 387-6502 and bill_peterson@fws.gov if you have any questions or need additional information.

The **DNR (Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area)** will offer 11 wetland units during the 2022-2023 trapping season. An additional unit will be reserved for youth (between the ages of 12 to 17), disabled (must possess a disabled hunting permit), and Senior Citizen (age 62+) trappers. Upland trapping permits will also be available. Please contact Eric Kilburg, DNR Property Manager at (920) 210-1641 if you would like to obtain bidding conditions, trapping rules and regulations, or any other information for Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area.

All USFWS and DNR trapping units will be sold to the highest bidder with a limit of one unit per trapper. Bidders must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the auction. Trappers who are bidding must be present at the auction and will be required to make full payment at that time. The USFWS will accept payments by check, money order, debit card, or credit card. No cash will be accepted. The DNR will only accept checks or cash. Both the USFWS and the DNR reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

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