

Middle Mississippi

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2025–2026



Divisions

- Beaver Island (Randolph County, IL)
- Crains Island (Randolph County, IL) and (Perry County, MO)
- Harlow Island (Jefferson County, MO)
- Horse Island (Randolph County, IL)
- Meissner Island (Monroe County, IL)
- Rockwood Island (Randolph County, IL)
- Wilkinson Island (Jackson County, IL) and (Perry County, MO)

Hours of Public Use

Where applicable, refuge lands are open for fishing and general use from ½ hour before legal sunrise to ½ hour after legal sunset. For authorized hunting activities, the refuge is open to access two hours before legal sunrise until one hour after legal sunset and in accordance with state seasons and regulations.

Public Use Information

- Hiking allowed on refuge roads and trails, unless otherwise posted. Biking use (pedal or electric) allowed only on refuge roads. ATVs/UTVs not allowed on the refuge.
- Dogs must be on a leash except for hunting purposes (where hunting allowed).
- Berry and mushroom gathering allowed for personal consumption only, not for resale or other commercial use.
- Collecting shed deer antlers not allowed.
- Beaver, Horse, or Crains Islands recommend testing for CWD. CWD information is available at: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov>

Firearms

- Allowed only during authorized hunting activities. Must be unloaded & either dismantled or cased when transporting on refuge roads or waters, unless in compliance with state concealed/carry regulations.
- When using a shotgun, hunters must only possess and use nontoxic shot.
- Target shooting or any non-hunting discharge of firearms prohibited.

Fishing

Allowed according to state seasons and regulations subject to the following conditions:

- Must remove all fishing devices at the end of the day's fishing activity.
- Fishing is allowed from legal sunrise to legal sunset.
- The taking of any mussel, clam, crayfish, leach, frog, and turtle species is prohibited.

Refuge Visitor Contact Station
37599 County Road 206
Annada, MO 63330

573-847-2333

V/TTY 800-526-0844

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD

August 2025



Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/public-civil-rights>.

Tree Stands

Construction or use of permanent blinds, stands, scaffolds or platforms is prohibited.

- Portable tree stands and blinds are allowed from September 1st through January 31st. The hunter's state generated hunter ID number must be permanently attached in a visible location on the stand or blind. Limit one stand or blind per hunter.
- Placing tree stands in dead trees is prohibited.
- Trees or limbs greater than 1" in diameter may not be trimmed.
- Deer drives are prohibited.

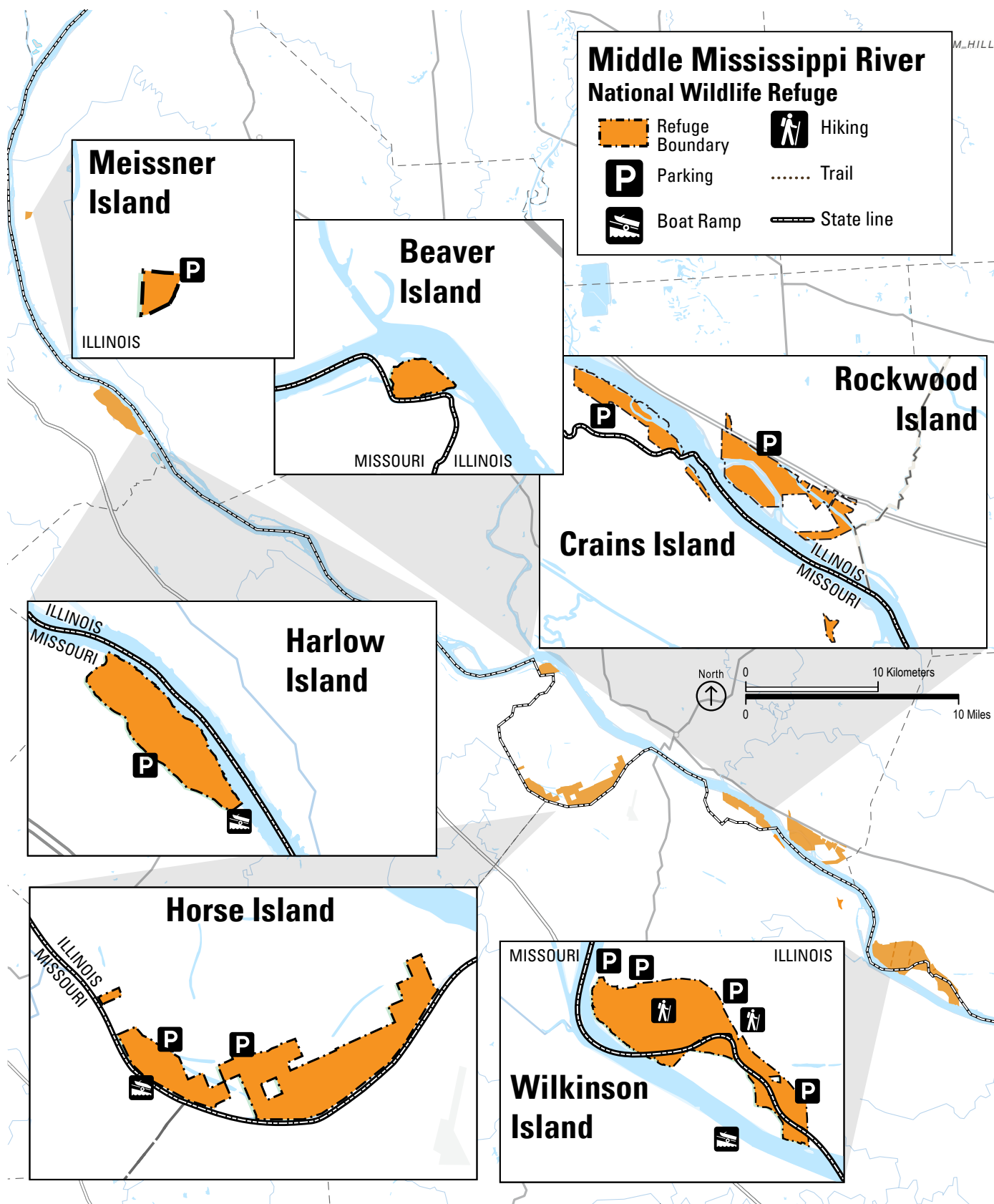
Blinds

- Construction or use of permanent blinds, stands, scaffolds, or platforms prohibited.
- Boats, blinds, blind materials, decoys, and other hunting equipment must be removed from the refuge at the end of each day.

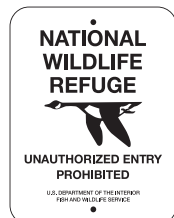
Prohibited Activities

- By law, recreational activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted.
- Possession of alcoholic beverages
- Camping and Fires
- Searching for or removal of any natural items such as antlers, plants, historic, and archaeological features, are protected by Federal law.
- Gas boat motors prohibited on refuges.
- Marking or flagging any tree or other Refuge feature with reflectors, paint, or other substance.
- Permanent tree stands, nails, screw-in steps, or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree.
- Construction or use of permanent blinds, stands, scaffolds, or platforms prohibited.
- Target shooting or any non-hunting discharge of firearms prohibited.
- Hunting is prohibited within 200 yards of any public use facility

Activity	Season Dates	Harvest	Hunt Areas	Regulation
Migratory Bird Hunting	Open in accordance with state seasons and regulations. Boats, blinds, blind materials, decoys, & other hunting equipment must be removed from the refuge at the end of each day.	State bag limit	Meissner, Wilkinson, and Beaver Island Divisions	In accordance with state regulation (<i>see Blinds section</i>)
Upland Game	Open in accordance with state seasons and regulations. Hunting of furbearers allowed ONLY from 30 minutes before legal sunrise to 30 minutes after legal sunset	State bag limit	All divisions	When using a shotgun, hunters must only possess and use nontoxic shot.
Deer Hunting	Open in accordance with state seasons and regulations.	State bag limit	All divisions	(<i>see Tree Stands section</i>)
Turkey Hunting	Open in accordance with state seasons and regulations	State bag limit	All divisions	Possession and use of approved nontoxic shot shells only.
Trapping	Open in accordance with state seasons and regulations	Muskrat, beaver, and raccoon trapping permitted on all refuge lands.	All divisions	Special regulations apply and requires a Refuge Special Use Permit.



Signs to know



This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.

