

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Crane Meadows

## National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2025–2026



### Welcome

Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1992 to protect a large, natural wetland complex. With over 2,000 acres, the refuge is an important stop for many migratory birds and is home to a variety of wildlife that use the sedge meadow, shallow lakes, tallgrass prairie and oak savanna habitats.

### Refuge Hunting Permit

All hunters must possess a refuge hunting permit. This brochure, when signed, and in your possession, serves as a permit for all refuge hunts.

### Safety

Serious injuries or accidents occurring on the refuge should be reported to 911 and also to the Federal Wildlife Officer and Complex Headquarters.

### Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

### Non-toxic Ammunition

You must possess and use only approved non-toxic shot shells while hunting small game, migratory birds and wild turkeys on the refuge.

### Vehicles

Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on public roads and parking areas as shown on the map. Vehicles may be parked in parking areas shown on the map or on the shoulder of the road in accordance with county and state regulations. Blocking gates and overnight parking are not permitted.

Horses, snowmobiles, ATVs and all other OHVs (off-highway vehicles) are prohibited.

### Boats

Boats, both motorized and non-motorized may be used to access certain refuge units.

**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/eeo/public-civil-rights>

Special hunts are available for persons with disabilities. For more information on these hunts, see website or call Complex Headquarters.

**The refuge will be closed to all public access October 11th through October 15th for the accessible deer hunt for people with disabilities.**

### Crane Meadows

#### Hunting Permit 2025—2026

When signed and carried, this serves as your permit for all refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein and must be in your possession. Expires August 31, 2026.

I have read and understand these regulations.

Hunter's Name (print)

Signature (permits are not transferable, valid only when signed)

19502 Iris Rd  
Little Falls, MN 56345

Crane Meadows is part of the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge Complex and is managed out of the Complex Headquarters in Zimmerman, MN. Visitors may contact staff at Complex Headquarters with questions.

Complex Headquarters: 763-389-3323

Crane Meadows Maintenance Office: 320-632-1575

TTY Federal Relay System: 1-800-877-8339

Email: [Cranemeadows@fws.gov](mailto:Cranemeadows@fws.gov)

Website: [fws.gov/refuge/crane-meadows](https://fws.gov/refuge/crane-meadows)

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

August 2025 (All previous versions invalid)



## **Hunting Regulations**

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State of Minnesota regulations subject to the conditions stated below. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the Maintenance Office, stocked brochure boxes on the refuge or from the refuge website.

**All species** not listed in this brochure are protected on the refuge and may not be taken or possessed.

## **Access**

The refuge is open ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. Licensed hunters may access the refuge two hours before legal shooting time until two hours after legal shooting time. You must call and/or leave a message with the Federal Wildlife Officer to remain after closing hours to retrieve or track wounded game.

The refuge will be closed to all public access October 11<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup> for the accessible deer hunt for people with disabilities.

## **Dogs**

Hunting dogs are permitted, except when hunting furbearers, provided they are under immediate control of the hunter at all times, and used only during the state hunting season, in areas open to hunting. Training and allowing pets off leash are prohibited at all other times.

## **Tree Stands**

All property brought onto the refuge must be removed at the end of each day. This includes portable tree stands, temporary blinds, boats, decoys, trash, trail cameras and hunting equipment. Blinds made of natural material must be disassembled at the end of each day.

Permanent tree stands, spikes, nails, screw-in steps, screw-in bow holders or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree are prohibited.

## **Soo Line Trail**

The Soo Line Trail can be used to access some refuge units when it is open. All hunters must comply with Soo Line Trail regulations as posted or found on the Morrison County Parks, Trails and Facilities website.

## **To Report Violations**

- Refuge Law Enforcement Officer: 612-283-8963
- Turn In a Poacher (TIP) Line: 1-800-652-9093
- Fish & Wildlife Service TIP Line: 1-844-397-8477

## **Prohibited Activities**

- The use of artificial lights or automobile headlights to locate or take wildlife.
- Distribution of or hunting over bait, including salts, minerals or attractants.
- Disposal of animal carcasses.
- Fires (including cooking fires), camping and overnight parking.
- Cutting, mowing, sawing, digging, collecting, injuring or removing vegetation.
- Target shooting or any non-hunting discharge of firearms.
- Searching for or removal of any natural or cultural items, including shed antlers, stones, plants and animals.
- Littering. All trash, including shotgun shell casings, must be packed out.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Use or possession of any illegal drug or drug paraphernalia.
- By law, recreational activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted.

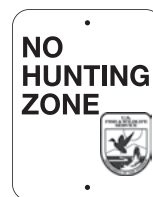
Activity	Hunttable Species	Seasons/Hours
<b>Small Game</b>	Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked pheasant, Cottontail and Jack Rabbits, Snowshoe hare, Squirrels (gray, fox and red)	Open in accordance with state regulations
<b>Migratory Birds</b>	Ducks, Geese, merganser, American coot, Common moorhen, American Woodcock, Sora, Virginia Rail, Mourning Dove, Common Snipe, Crow	Open in accordance with state regulations
<b>Turkey (Permit Area 508)</b>	Wild Turkey	Open in accordance with state regulations
<b>Furbearer Hunting</b>	Red and gray fox, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Long and short-tailed weasels, Bobcat, Coyote, Striped Skunk	Open in accordance with state seasons. Shooting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset, except 9 am to sunset opening day
<b>Furbearer Trapping</b>	Closed	Closed
<b>Big Game (Permit Area 221)</b>	White-tailed deer (Archery, November firearm, Muzzleloader)	Open in accordance with state regulations
<b>Bear</b>	Closed	Closed
<b>Accessible Deer Hunt for People with Disabilities</b>	White-tailed deer	The refuge will be closed to all public access October (hunt dates vary annually) for the accessible deer hunt for people with disabilities.
<b>State regulations apply for bag limits.</b>		

## Signs to Know



### *Refuge Boundary*

This sign delineates the refuge boundary



### *No Hunting Zone*

This area is closed to ALL hunting



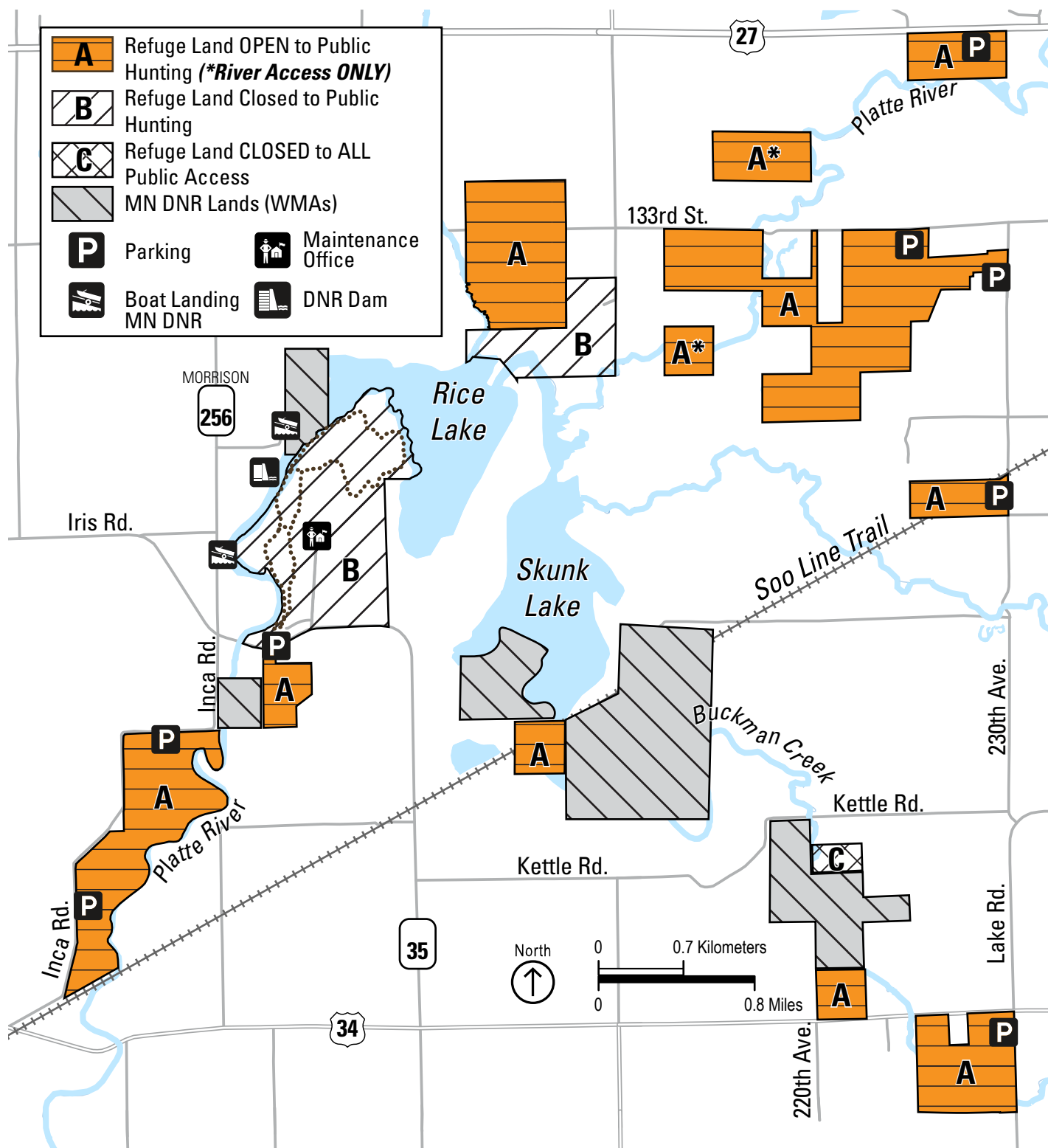
### *Public Hunting Area*

This area is open to public hunting, according to the regulations in this brochure



### *Area Closed*

This area is closed to ALL entry all year



The USFWS makes no warrant for the use of this map and cannot be held liable for actions or decisions based on map content. Boundaries posted in the field supersede all boundaries shown on map.