



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Welcome

Lake Mason National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is one of four satellite National Wildlife Refuges in central Montana managed by Charles M. Russell NWR Complex. The other three satellite NWRs are Hailstone, War Horse, and Grass Lake NWRs. These lands are all part of the National Wildlife Refuge System - a network of public lands administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) set aside specifically for wildlife.

Satellite NWRs are unstaffed and have been established by Executive Order and may contain Service lands and private lands under easement within their boundaries.

About this Refuge

Lake Mason NWR consists of three separate tracts of land: Lake Mason Unit, Willow Creek Unit, and North Unit.

Lake Mason Unit, the Refuge's namesake, is the southernmost unit of the Refuge. This unit contains a 1,220-acre wetland - Lake Mason, which hosts spectacular numbers of waterfowl and wading birds. During periods of dryness, exposed mudflats on the lake provide increased opportunities for shorebirds to feed. Mixed-grass prairie and shrublands make up most of the uplands around the lake.

Willow Creek Unit is primarily intact native short-grass prairie with sagebrush occurring along the southern boundary. This undisturbed short and sporadic mixed-grass prairie also contains abundant woody shrubs. Pronghorn and mule deer are present in this unit, as well as occasional elk. Western meadowlarks, along with other birds of conservation concern such as the long-billed curlew, chestnut-colored longspur, and thick-billed longspur may also be found here. Their songs in spring and summer add to the intrinsic value of this Refuge unit.

North Unit is a large southern facing drainage basin containing many varieties of native plants and grasses providing excellent habitat for small mammals, birds, and other wildlife. Mule deer, pronghorn and elk reside in the area. The sweeping grasslands interspersed with sagebrush in some areas of the North Unit are of particular importance to grassland nesting birds such as meadowlarks, bobolinks, Sprague's pipits, greater sage-grouse, and Baird's sparrows.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Charles M. Russell

National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Lake Mason National Wildlife Refuge; Lake, Willow Creek, and North Units

Access

- Please park in designated parking areas or along access road.
- Access into the Lake Mason Unit is by foot or non-motorized boat only. Road ends at waterline. Boats must be hand-carried to the lake.
- Access into Willow Creek and North Units is by foot only.
- Lake Mason Unit - The north half of the Lake Mason Unit is closed to all public entry and is set aside as refugia for all wildlife. The south half of this unit is open to hunting, wildlife observation, and wildlife photography.

Hours

Hunting hours follow State regulations.

Authorized Public Uses

With the exception of the north half of the Lake Mason Unit, which is designated as refugia for wildlife and thus closed to all public entry, all units of this NWR are open to hunting, wildlife observation and wildlife photography.

General Regulations

- Stock (horses, mules, donkeys) use is permitted in the North Unit only. Certified weed free hay is required.

Hunting Regulations

- Hunting for waterfowl, upland game birds, pronghorn, deer, and elk in compliance with all applicable State hunting regulations is permitted on this Refuge.
- Steel or other non-toxic shot must be used to harvest waterfowl and upland game birds. Possession of lead shot in the field is prohibited.
- Decoys may not be placed or set earlier than three hours before legal shooting time on the day of the hunt and must be removed no later than three hours after legal shooting time.
- Portable blinds, tree stands, and other personal property must be removed each day.
- Non-motorized boats are allowed on Lake Mason for hunting, but they must be hand-carried to the lake.

Prohibited Activities

- Shooting prairie dogs.
- Predator hunting.
- Offroad and shoreline mechanized travel.



- The use of trail or game cameras.
- Trapping.
- Baiting.
- The use of artificial lights to attract, search for, or spot wildlife.
- Drone use.
- Geocaching.
- Camping, to include vehicle or tent, and fires.
- Bird dog training using game birds, wild and/or captive-reared.
- Collecting or removal of any wildlife, parts thereof, nests, natural and cultural items.
- Target shooting - archery or firearm.
- Fireworks and/or their possession.

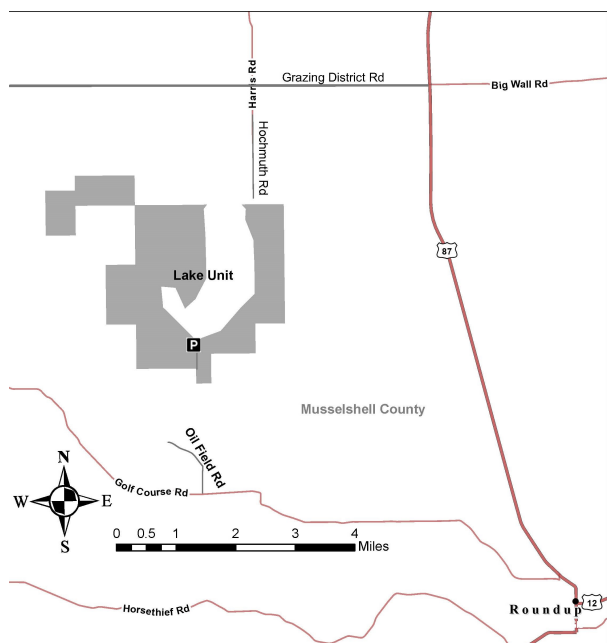
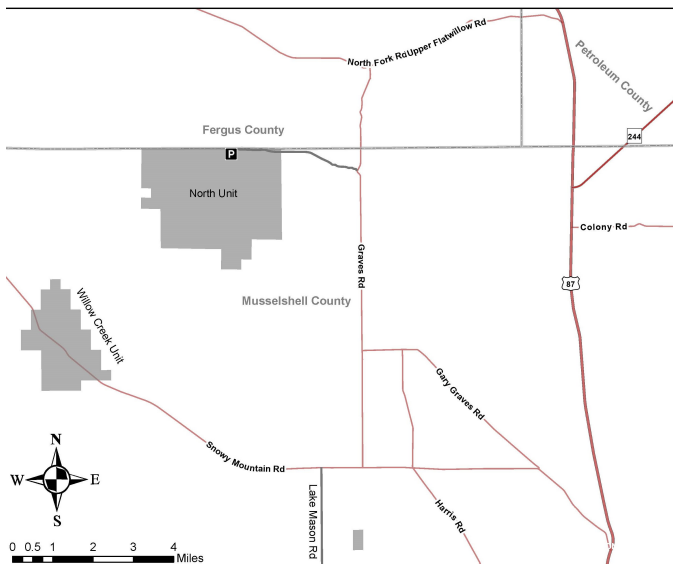
Firearms

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).

Firearms may only be fired in conjunction with a legal hunt for which the hunter is licensed.

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. Dial 711 for a connection to the State relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from the speech and hearing impaired. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 406-538-8706, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.



Directions

The Lake Unit is located northwest of Roundup, Montana. At the north end of Roundup, turn south from Highway 87 onto 4th Street West. Proceed 1 block before turning west onto the Golf Course Road. Continue for 6.5 miles, then turn north onto Oilfield Road for 1 mile, then proceed 1 mile on a dirt two-track to the Refuge boundary.

The Willow Creek Unit is located northwest of Roundup, Montana. Proceed 11 miles north of Roundup on Highway 87. Turn west on Snowy Mountain Road (also Forest Service access to the Little Snowy Mountains), and drive 13.8 miles to the Refuge boundary.

The North Unit is located northwest of Roundup. Turn west off highway 87 on the Snowy Mountain Road 11 miles north of Roundup. Proceed west 7 miles, and turn north on the Graves Road. Go 7.5 miles north on the Graves Road, then turn west on the unnamed prairie trail. Drive 2.5 miles west on the unnamed prairie trail to enter the Refuge.

Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge Complex
333 Airport Road
Lewistown, MT 59457

406-538-8706
cmr@fws.gov

Refuge Website: fws.gov/refuge/lake_mason

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov

For Refuge Information
1-800-344-WILD

For State relay service
TTY/ Voice: 711

March 2025

NWR Violation Reporting Hotline:
1-844-FWS-TIPS (397-8477)

State hunting and fishing violations: 1-800-TIP-MONT (847-6668)

