

Driftless Area

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations



Welcome

The refuge encompasses 1,238 acres of the Driftless Area in Iowa - a small portion of the entire Driftless Area. Driftless Area is also known as the karst region and boasts topography of steep slopes and cliffs carved by the boundary of the ancient glacial advance. Here the glacial deposits found in most of the surrounding area are not present.

The refuge was established for the protection of federally endangered species. These regulations are necessary to protect fragile algific talus slope habitats and federally threatened and endangered species while providing compatible wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities.

Safety

Hunters must wear an article of blaze orange or pink consistent with state regulations.

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.)

Vehicles

Motorized vehicle access is limited to designated parking areas. Off-road vehicle use, including ATVs and UTVs, is prohibited.

Boats

Non-motorized watercraft are permitted.

Hunting Regulations

Hunting and fishing are 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 is closed March 16 through October 31 to protect threatened and endangered species and reduce impacts to algific slopes.
- Shooting hours are in accordance with Iowa Department of Natural Resources regulations.
- The refuge may have additional hunting regulations beyond the state regulations. See enclosed information or refuge website for refuge-specific regulations.
- Hunters must use non-toxic shot for small game, turkey and migratory bird hunting.
- During the small game and migratory bird seasons, hunting dogs must be under the immediate control of the hunter.
- Motorized Watercraft use is prohibited.
- We prohibit all types of motorized vehicles on frozen water bodies.

Office is located at:

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge
McGregor District

481 Luster Heights RD
Harpers Ferry, IA 52146

608-326-0515

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

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD (9453)

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- The use of people, dogs, or other animals to intentionally drive, chase, or rally wildlife is prohibited.
- Certain areas are posted closed to entry, please see maps. Entry into or retrieval of game from areas posted as Closed Areas is prohibited.
- Construction of permanent blinds or stands is prohibited. All stands must be removed at the end of each day's hunt.

Access

Access to the refuge is open from 1.5 hours before sunrise until 1.5 hours after sunset unless otherwise posted or stated in hunting regulations.

Access to Open units is limited to existing parking areas or legal parking following local and state regulations

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, Civil Rights Office, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights>

To Report Violations

- Turn In a Poacher (TIP) Line: 1-800-652-9093
- Fish & Wildlife Service TIP Line: 1-844-397-8477

Prohibited Activities

By law, recreational activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted.

- Trapping
- 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.

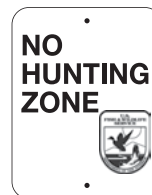
Activity	Huntatable Species	Unit	Seasons/Hours
Upland Game	Ruffed grouse, Partridge, Pigeon, Quail (other than northern bobwhite) Ring-necked pheasant, Rabbits (cottontail and jack), Squirrels (red/pine, gray, and fox), Woodchuck/ Groundhog	Howard Creek, Pine Creek, Fern Ridge, Finch and Cow Branch Units	Nontoxic shot is required Open in accordance with state regulations and shooting hours between November 1 through March 15
Migratory Birds	Crow, Ducks, Geese, American coot, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Rail (sora and Virginia) , Mourning dove	Howard Creek, Pine Creek, Fern Ridge, Finch and Cow Branch Units	Open in accordance with state regulations and shooting hours between November 1 through March 15
Furbearer Hunting	Beaver, Badger, Fox (red and gray), Raccoon, Mink, Muskrat, Opossum, Otter, Weasels (long and short-tailed), Bobcat, Coyote, Striped Skunk	Howard Creek, Pine Creek, Fern Ridge, Finch and Cow Branch Units	Open in accordance with state regulations and shooting hours between November 1 through March 15
Furbearer Trapping	Closed		Closed
Big Game	White-tailed deer (firearm, archery, muzzleloader), Turkey	Howard Creek, Pine Creek, Fern Ridge, Finch and Cow Branch Units	Open in accordance with state regulations and shooting hours between November 1 through March 15. Non-toxic shot is required for turkey hunting.
Fishing	State species	Fern Ridge and Pine Creek Units	Open in accordance with state regulations and seasons
State regulations apply for bag limits.			

Signs to Know



Refuge Boundary

This sign delineates the refuge boundary



No Hunting

No hunting in these areas



Hunting Area

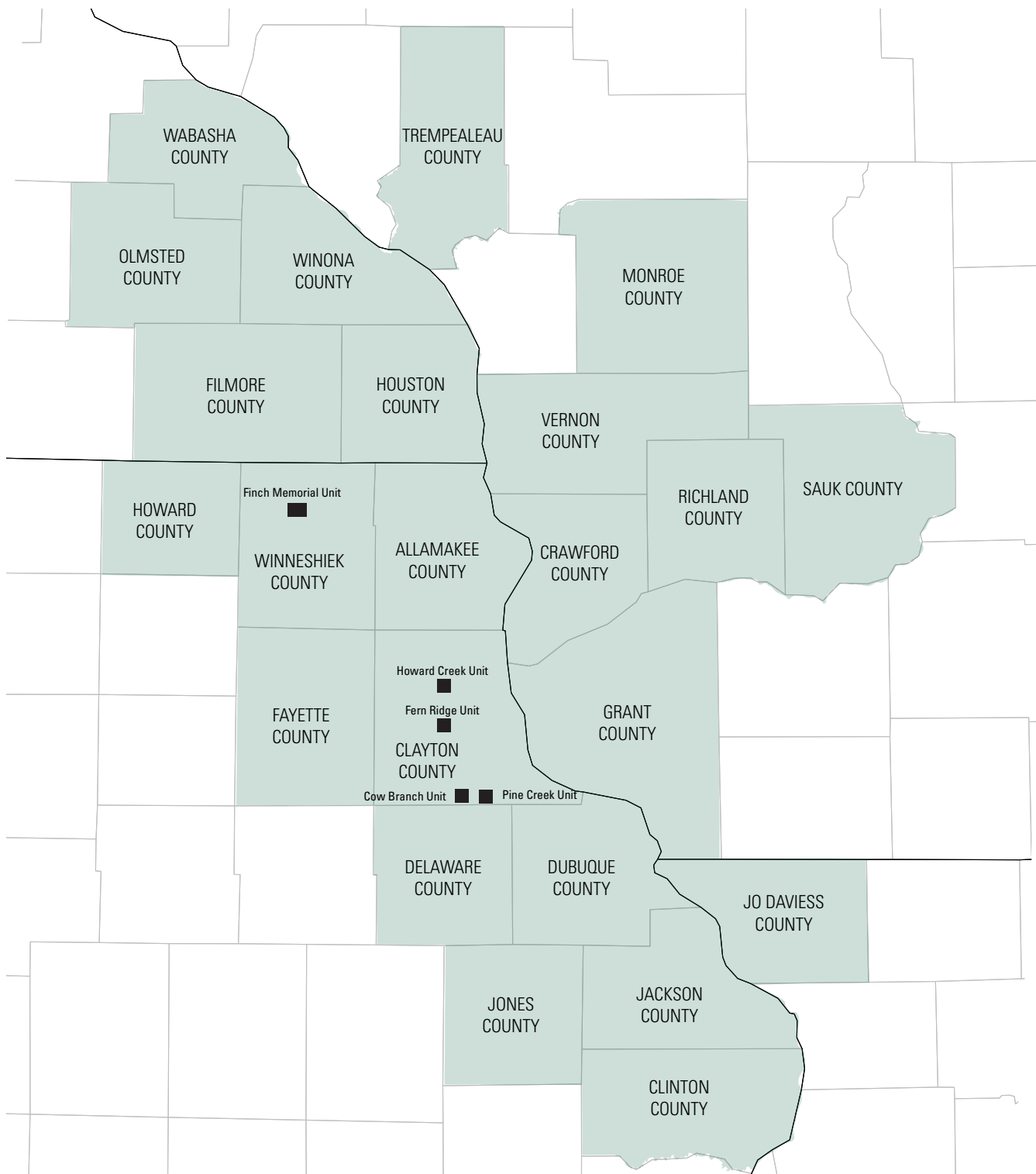
This area is OPEN to hunting.



Area Closed

All areas beyond this sign are closed to the public.





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.