

Great River

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2026–2027



Divisions

- Delair Division (Pike County, IL)
- Cherry Box Division (Shelby County, MO)
- Fox Island Division (Clark County, MO)
- Long Island Division (Adams County, IL)
- Slim & Haps Island Division (Pike County, MO)

Public Use Information

- Delair Division - **NO public use allowed**, except during state-managed deer hunt.
- All Other Divisions - Where applicable, refuge lands are open for general use from ½ hour before legal sunrise to ½ hour after legal sunset. For authorized hunting activities, the refuge is open to access one hour before legal sunrise until one hour after legal sunset and in accordance with state seasons and regulations.
- Hiking allowed on refuge roads and trails, unless otherwise posted. ATVs/UTVs and Biking use (pedal or electric) not allowed on the refuge.
- Biking use (pedal or electric) allowed on refuge roads open to public vehicular traffic only.
- 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.
- Electric motors and non-motorized watercraft allowed in designated areas for hunting and accessibility.

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.
- Target shooting or any non-hunting discharge of firearms prohibited.

- When using a shotgun, hunters must only possess and use nontoxic shot.

Fishing

Delair and Cherry Box Division - Closed to ALL fishing

Fox Island Division – fishing allowed along any portion of the Fox River ONLY in accordance with state seasons and regulations.

Long Island Division and Slim & Haps Island Division – fishing allowed in accordance with state seasons and regulations.

- 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.

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

Migratory Bird Hunting

Delair Division – CLOSED to migratory bird hunting.

- Long Island Division open to waterfowl hunting only from blinds constructed on sites posted by IDNR.

- Slim and Haps Island, Fox Island and Cherry Box open in accordance with state and federal seasons and regulations.

Upland Game

Allowed for small game, furbearers, and game birds other than waterfowl in accordance with state seasons and regulations subject to the following conditions:

- Hunting of furbearers allowed ONLY from ½ hour before legal sunrise to ½ hour after legal sunset.
- When using a shotgun, hunters must only possess and use nontoxic shot

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.

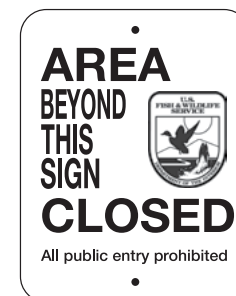
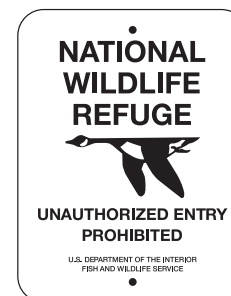
Prohibited Activities

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 which 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

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.

Signs to know



37599 County Road 206
Annada, MO 63330
573-847-2333

GreatRiver@fws.gov

V/TTY 1-880-735-2966

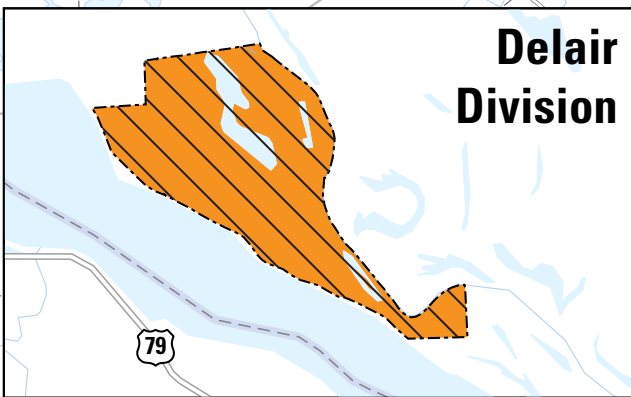
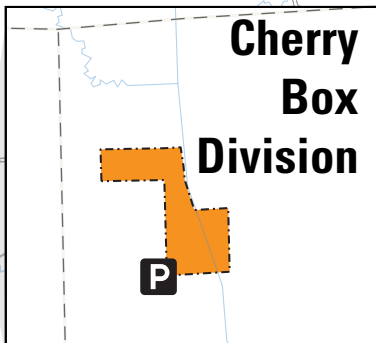
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD (9453)

August 2026



Activity	Season	Division	Special Regulations
Migratory Bird Hunting	Allowed in accordance with state season and state and federal regulation	Slim and Haps Island, Fox Island and Cherry Box Divisions	<i>See Blinds section</i>
Migratory Bird Hunting from Blinds	Allowed in accordance with state season and state and federal regulations	Long Island Division	Hunting ONLY on blinds sites posted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Upland Game	State seasons and regulations	Fox Island, Long Island, Slim & Haps Island Divisions	State regulations apply. If using a shotgun, must use and possess non toxic shot only.
Upland Game Shotgun ONLY	State seasons and regulations	Cherry Box Division	ONLY with shotgun using nontoxic shot
Furbearer Hunting	Allowed ONLY from 30 minutes before legal sunrise to 30 minutes after legal sunset during state season	Cherry Box, Fox Island, Long Island, Slim & Haps Island Divisions	Allowed ONLY from 30 minutes before legal sunrise to 30 minutes after legal sunset.
Deer Hunting	Allowed in accordance with Illinois state seasons & regulations.	Long Island Division	State regulations apply. Feral hogs may be taken only while deer hunting in Illinois. <i>See Tree Stands section</i>
Deer Archery	Allowed ONLY during the statewide archery deer season in accordance with state regulations. Closed during state firearm season.	Cherry Box Division, Fox Island Division, and Slim & Haps Island Division	NO firearms deer hunting allowed. Feral hogs may be taken while deer hunting ONLY in Illinois. <i>See Tree Stands section</i>
Turkey Hunting	State seasons and regulations	Cherry Box Division, Fox Island Division, Long Island Division and Slim & Haps Island Division	Possession and use of approved nontoxic shot shells only.
Trapping	Muskrat, beaver, and raccoon trapping permitted	Cherry Box, Fox Island, Long Island, Slim & Haps Island Divisions	Special regulations apply and requires a Refuge Special Use Permit
Fishing	Allowed in accordance with state seasons and regulations from legal sunrise to legal sunset.	Fox Island (Fox River ONLY), Long Island, Slim & Haps Island Divisions	The taking of any mussel, clam, crayfish, leach, frog, and turtle species is prohibited.





Great River National Wildlife Refuge

	Refuge Boundary		Refuge
	Open Permit ONLY		Parking
	Army Corps of Engineer Rec. Area		Boat Ramp
			Restroom
			Canton Ferry

