

Necedah

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations



Welcome

Necedah National Wildlife Refuge exists for the purpose of “a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife...” (Executive Order 8065) and “...for use as an inviolate sanctuary for migratory birds” (Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929). Specific areas of the refuge are open to hunting and fishing in accordance with applicable state regulations. Signs are posted throughout the refuge identifying hunting areas. State licensing required, no special federal hunting permit is required.

Safety

Be a sure shot. Know what your target is and what is beyond it. Foot travel is allowed across the refuge and on designated trails at different times of the year and at times overlaps with hunting seasons. Swans, whooping cranes and elk can also be seen during hunting seasons and are protected with other restricted species.

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

Licensed motor vehicles, ATVs, and UTVs are permitted only on Township roads and in designated parking areas. Vehicles must not block gates. Vehicles parked in front of gates or blocking any roads are subject to being fined and/or towed (at the owner’s expense).

Boats

The refuge allows seasonal use of canoes, kayaks, and motorized boats in specified areas.

Canoes and kayaks are allowed in Sprague and Goose Pools June 1 to September 15 and December 15 to March 15 to allow for bird migration and nesting.

Additionally open beginning the Saturday prior to the opening of the state regular gun deer season until frozen.

Canoes, kayaks and motorized boats are allowed in Suk-Cerney Flowage.

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/eeo/public-civil-rights>

Hunters with a current state disabled hunter license and applicable hunting tags and/or stamps can apply for gun-deer disabled hunting area special use permits available each September. Waterfowl hunters can call to set up a reservation for an accessible waterfowl hunting blind starting in August.

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. 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 and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State of Wisconsin regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

Access

Hunting areas are open one hour before legal shooting hours and closed one hour after, during the hunting season.

Unarmed deer hunters may enter Hunt Area 3 for scouting beginning the Saturday prior to the gun deer season.

During the spring turkey season, we allow unarmed hunters who have a valid spring turkey permit in their possession to scout the hunt area. We allow this scouting beginning on the Saturday immediately prior to the opening date listed on the State turkey hunting permit.

Fishing areas are open 30 minutes prior to sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset during refuge-specific seasons for hook and line fishing only.

Trapping

Restricted species trapping allowed by Federal special use permit ONLY.

To Report Violations

Law enforcement issues should be referred to the refuge manager by calling 608-565-2551 or emailing Nededah@fws.gov.

For ny national wildlife refuges report a wildlife violation by calling 1-844-FWS-TIPS or 1-844-397-8477.

You may also report violations to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources TIP Line at 1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367). Calls are confidential and you do not need to leave your name.

Tree Stands, blinds, and personal equipment

Necedah National Wildlife Refuge
N11385 Headquarters Road
Necedah, WI 54646
608-565-2551

Necedah@fws.gov

www.fws.gov/refuge/necedah/

Hearing impaired persons may contact Necedah through the Federal Relay Number at 1-800-877-8339.

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

August 2026



Deer Hunting and/or Upland Game Hunting:

Portable elevated devices may be used, but may not be erected prior to the opening day of deer hunting season and must be lowered to ground level at the end of each day's hunt.

Per state requirements tree stands and all ground blinds must have the Department of Natural Resources customer ID number or name and address attached in a manner that is visible and legible to a person on the ground or near the entrance of the ground blind. Ground blinds, elevated devices, platforms, and ladders may be used only if there is no damage, cutting, or removing of any vegetation. If natural, dead vegetation is used as a ground blind, it must be disassembled at the close of the deer season or the close of the day for upland game hunting.

Per State requirements ground blinds during any open deer season or special deer hunt with firearms must have a minimum of 144 square inches of solid blaze orange or fluorescent pink material is visible from all directions.

Flagging used during hunting season(s) must to be removed by the close of archery deer season.

Waterfowl Hunting and Fishing:

You must remove all boats, decoys, blinds, blind materials, stands, platforms, and other hunting/fishing equipment (see §§27.93 and 27.94 of this chapter) brought onto the refuge at the end of each day and if any dead and down vegetation is used it must be disassembled at the close of the day.

Prohibited Activities

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

- Shining/Spotlighting
- Baiting
- Open fires, grills, open heat sources
- Littering

- Wolf, coyote, bobcat and bear hunting
- Hunting at night
- Target and practice shooting
- Trail cameras and drones
- Overnight parking and camping
- Permanent blinds, stands and ladders
- Tacks, paint, reflective tape and leaving flagging
- Damaging, cutting, removing vegetation
- The use of nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach any hunting equipment
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages
- Lead and non-federally approved toxic shot
- Loaded firearms or nocked arrows on a bow, within 50 feet of the centerline of all public roads and service roads (shown on the map as a solid line and dotted lines respectively)
- Discharging from, across, down, or along service roads
- Motorized vehicles off Township Roads or blocking service roads and gates
- Dog training
- Pets must be leashed at all times other than while hunting refuge approved species
- Fishing after dark or before daylight
- Leaving boats on the refuge overnight
- Taking of any mussel (clam), crayfish, frog, leech, or turtle species by any method on the refuge (50 CFR.27.21)
- Lead free tackle is recommended for the health of loons, swans and cranes
- Unless specifically listed, boats are not allowed on refuge waters
- Harassment of wildlife or excessive damage to vegetation
- Leaving shell casings and other disposable hunting or fishing gear. Items must be retrieved and disposed of properly.

Activity	Season	Hunting Hours	Special Regulations
Archery, Crossbow Deer	Area 2 prior to regular gun season	State Shooting Hours	State regulations apply. All State approved archery equipment is allowed.
	Areas 2 and 3 during and after regular gun season		
Youth Gun Deer	Area 2 prior to regular gun season	State Shooting Hours	State regulations apply.
	Areas 2 and 3 during and after regular gun season		
Regular Gun, Muzzleloader Deer	Areas 2 and 3	State Shooting Hours	State regulations apply.
Anterless Only Seasons (if available licenses)	No refuge land is open for early anterless seasons.	State Shooting Hours	State regulations apply.
	Areas 2 and 3		
	Bonus Anterless only open after gun deer seasons.		
Migratory Birds: ducks, geese, coot, merganser, dove, moorhen/ gallinule, rail, snipe and woodcock	Area 2	State Shooting Hours	Nontoxic, lead free shot is required.
Wild Turkey	Spring Season; Areas 2 and 3	State Shooting Hours	Nontoxic, lead free shot is required.
	Fall Season; Area 2 prior to gun deer season		
	Areas 2 and 3 after end of gun deer season through February 28 or the end of the state season, whichever comes first		
Upland Game(WI Small Game): Gray and fox squirrel, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, ruffed grouse, and raccoon.	Area 2; Prior to gun deer season	State Shooting Hours	Snowshoe hare only huntable during cottontail rabbit season
	Delayed Opening; Open in Area 3 after deer gun season through February 28 or the end of the state season, whichever comes first.		
Fishing	Sprague and Goose Pools open June 1 to September 15 and December 15 to March 15	Daylight hours only	Hook and Line Fishing ONLY
	Suk-Cerney Flowage open except during waterfowl hunting seasons.		Lead free tackle recommended
	Harvey's Pond and ditches within 100 feet of culverts and bridges on public roads are open to fishing all year.		
All other wildlife species are protected. Refuge is open to hunting in accordance with applicable state regulations. State licensing required and no additional federal permits.			

Signs and Boundaries

Please respect the following signs:

- **Boundary Sign:** Where the refuge begins and ends. Please be polite to the neighbors!
- **No Vehicles Sign:** Public foot travel only when area is open for public use. Please do not block gates
- **Authorized Entry Only:** Areas set aside for nesting and raising young wildlife. Open only to foot travel July 1- August 15th for berry picking, birding, and hiking. Open to foot travel for hunting according to area 2 and 3 openings by season. Closed to the public the rest of the year for wildlife needs.
- **Parking Area:** Designated areas to park while hunting.
- **No Hunting Zone:** Safety Area 1 that includes refuge infrastructure and open hiking trails.y.



