

Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Regulations



Hunting Regulations Table

Hunting is in accordance with State regulations. In addition, Refuge-specific regulations must be followed and are listed in the table below.

Activity	Additional Refuge Regulations
Big Game (deer, elk, moose, pronghorn antelope)	Except for the area closed to hunting (see map), hunting is allowed on the entire Refuge. Hunting is in accordance with State bow, gun, muzzleloader, and youth seasons. Deer hunters may not enter the Refuge before 12:00 pm (noon) on the first day of the respective season. Portable tree stands and ground blinds may be used, but they must be removed daily.
Upland Game Birds (grouse, partridge, and pheasant)	Hunting Unit 1 (see map) is open to hunting in accordance with the State seasons, including the youth pheasant season. Hunting Unit 2 (see map) is open to hunting in accordance with the State seasons with the exception of being closed from the first day of the State duck season to the last day of the State deer gun season. Hunting Unit 3 (see map) is open the day following the close of the regular deer gun season through the end of the State season. Non-lead shot is required for all shotgun hunting. The use of dogs in accordance with State regulations is encouraged but they must be under the handler's control at all times.
Turkey	Except for the area closed to hunting (see map), hunting is allowed on the entire Refuge. Hunting is in accordance with the State spring and fall seasons.
Coyote, fox, raccoon, skunk, rabbit, and squirrel	Except for the area closed to hunting (see map), hunting is allowed on the entire Refuge. Hunting season begins the day following the close of the regular deer gun season through the end of the State season for each species or March 31, whichever is earlier. Hunt hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset. Non-lead shot is required for all shotgun hunting. Use of dogs is prohibited. Use of traps and cable devices is prohibited.

The Blue Goose is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.



Welcome

Welcome to Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), one of over 570 refuges and 38 wetland management districts in the National Wildlife Refuge System – a network of lands set aside specifically for wildlife. Upper Souris NWR lies in the beautiful Souris River Valley of northwestern North Dakota and is made up of 32,000 acres along 35 miles of the Souris River corridor. The Refuge is an important unit in a series of national wildlife refuges in the waterfowl migration corridor known as the Central Flyway, and provides excellent habitat for hunting opportunities.

General Information

Portions of the Refuge are open to hunting deer, elk, moose, pronghorn, coyote, fox, rabbit, raccoon, skunk, squirrel, Hungarian partridge, ring-necked pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, and turkey in accordance with State and Refuge-specific regulations. Hunting waterfowl or any other species not previously listed is prohibited. It is the hunter's responsibility to be aware of all special Refuge regulations and the boundaries of the areas open or closed to hunting before hunting on the Refuge.

For the protection of wildlife, habitat, and other visitors, please familiarize yourself with all information and regulations in this brochure.

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.)

Access and Vehicle Use

Vehicle travel is restricted to public roads and recreation area parking lots. Only walk-in access is allowed while hunting. Parked vehicles should not block gates. Use of

bicycles, e-bikes, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, and other off-road vehicles is prohibited.

Pre-season scouting is allowed only in open public use areas and in areas marked "foot traffic only". Hunters must carry, drag, or use a cart to transport harvested big game to their vehicle.

General Hunting Regulations

Hunting is allowed in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, State regulations, and the Refuge-specific regulations in this brochure.

Hours and Location

Hunting hours follow those set in the State hunting regulations unless otherwise noted in the table.

The Refuge is open daily from 5:00 am to 10:00 pm.

The Refuge headquarters and visitor center is east of Lake Darling Dam. To reach the Refuge headquarters, drive northwest of Minot, North Dakota on Highway 52 to 1 mile northwest of Foxholm, then 7 miles north on County Road 11. Refuge headquarters can also be reached by traveling 18 miles north of Minot on Highway 83 and 12 miles west on County Road 6.

Prohibited Activities

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

- Use of electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices.
- Using artificial light, night vision, thermal vision, or infrared light to locate or hunt game is prohibited.
- Marking or flagging any tree, brush, or other Refuge feature with reflectors, paint, or other substance.
- Baiting or use of scent wicks/lures.
- Permanent tree stands, nails, screw-in steps, screw-in camera mounts, or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree.

- Leaving hunting stands or blinds overnight.
- Drones (UAVs) taking off, landing and/or flying on or over refuge lands.
- Use or possession of lead shot for all shotgun hunting except for turkey hunting.
- Use of hunting dogs outside of upland game bird season.
- Commercial guiding and outfitting.
- Target and recreational shooting.
- Searching for or removal of any natural items such as antlers, skulls, plants, and/or historic and archaeological features protected by Federal law.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Use of watercraft while hunting.
- Use of horses or other pack animals.
- Camping and open fires.
- Littering.

Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge
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Foxholm, ND 58718

701-468-5467

uppersouris@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/refuge/upper-souris

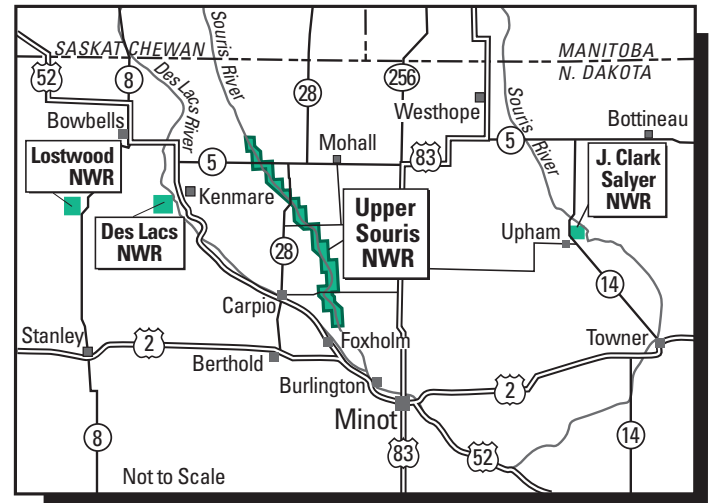
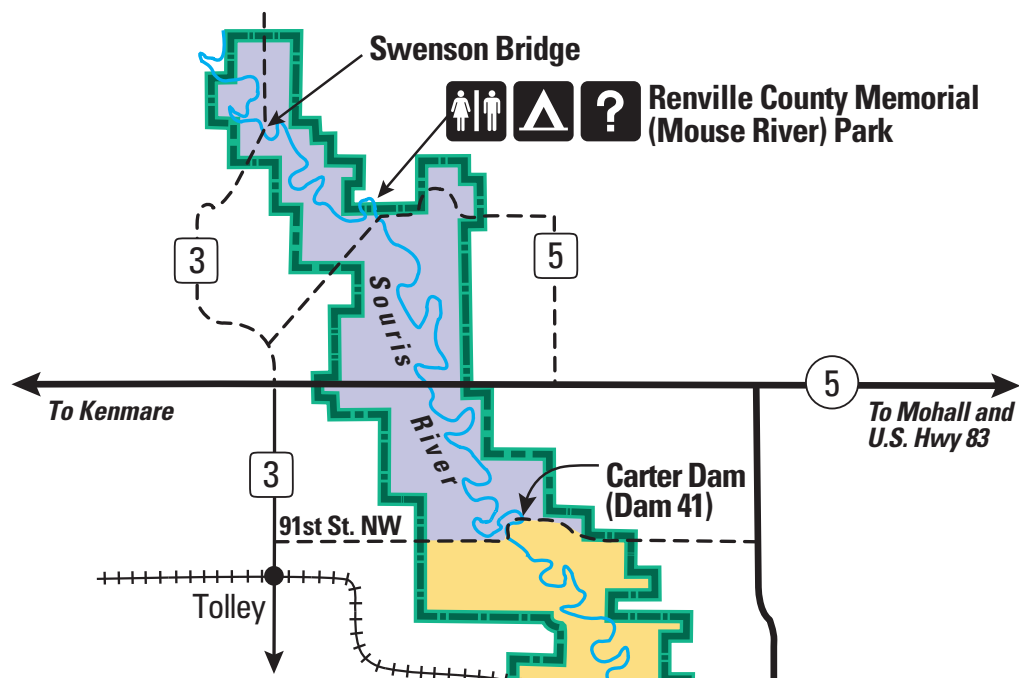
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov

Refuge Information
1-800-344-WILD

September 2026





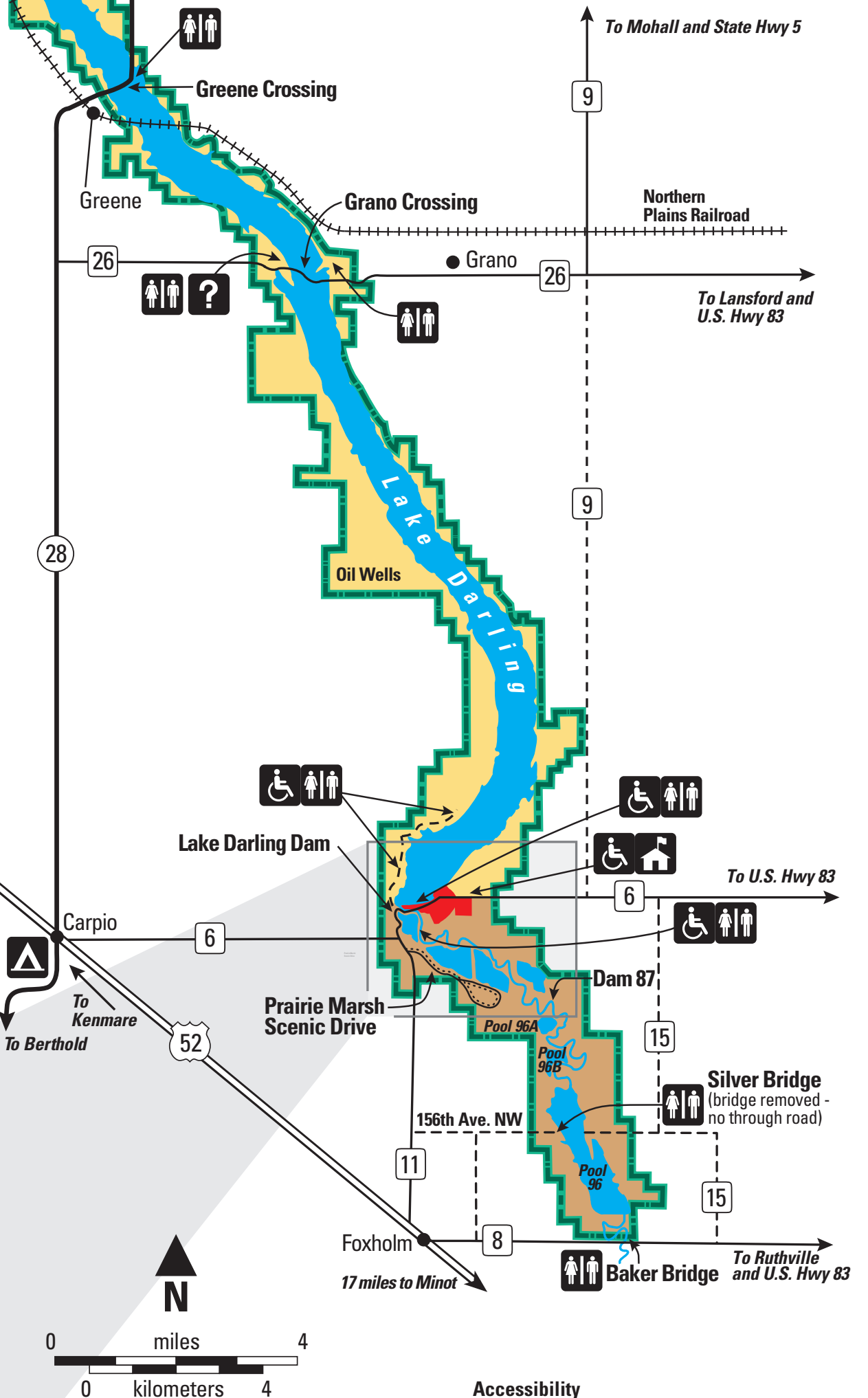
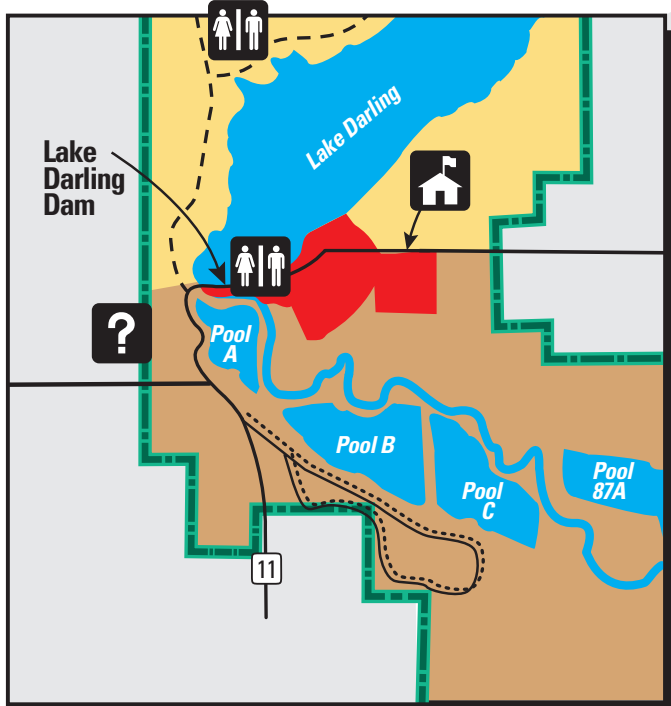
Upper Souris

National Wildlife Refuge

- Refuge boundary
- Federal highway (52)
- State highway (28)
- County road (3)
- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Scenic drive
- Railroad
- Headquarters
- Restroom
- Linked symbols designate accessible features
- Information kiosk
- Camping (off-Refuge only)

Upland Game Bird Units

- Hunting Unit 1 – Area open to hunting during State seasons for grouse, partridge, and pheasant
- Hunting Unit 2 – Area open to hunting during Refuge split season for grouse, partridge, and pheasant
- Hunting Unit 3 – Area open to hunting the day following the close of the regular deer gun season through the end of the State season for grouse, partridge, and pheasant
- Areas open to hunting big game, coyote, fox, raccoon, skunk, rabbit, squirrel, and turkey
- Area closed to all hunting



Accessibility

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, www.doi.gov/accessibility.