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

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Lost Trail

National Wildlife Refuge

Authorized Public Uses

Welcome

Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established in 1999 for migratory birds, the conservation of fish and wildlife resources, fish and wildlife-oriented recreation, and the conservation of endangered or threatened species. Lost Trail NWR is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) - a network of lands set aside specifically for wildlife. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the NWRS is a living heritage, preserving wildlife and habitat for people today and generations to come. Prior to acquisition, Lost Trail NWR lands were privately owned and managed as a cattle and horse ranch known as Lost Trail Ranch.

Lost Trail NWR is an integral part of the Columbia River ecosystem and the Pleasant Valley community. The Refuge is a place where wetlands, streams, native grasslands, and forests have been conserved, enhanced, and restored. These habitats support a variety of migratory birds, species of concern, and other associated wildlife and plants.

State Land

Four parcels of State land within the Refuge boundary are owned and managed by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). These parcels are open to public recreation according to State law. A Montana Conservation License is required to recreate on State land and can be obtained from any authorized Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks license agent.

Authorized Public Uses

In order to prioritize wildlife, national wildlife refuges are closed to all public uses except those that are specifically authorized. The only authorized uses on Lost Trail NWR are wildlife observation, photography, environmental education and interpretation, and hunting. These specific uses are all dependent upon fish and wildlife and allow us to effectively manage the lands for the protection and conservation of our nation's wildlife resources.

- ***Refuge land between North Pleasant Valley Road and South Pleasant Valley Road is closed to all public access from September 1 through December 31 (see map).***
- Motorized vehicle use is allowed on the North 1019 Road, Orr Road, Pleasant Valley Road, and the Dahl Lake Road (except during the September 1 – December 31 closure).
- E-bikes are prohibited in non-motorized areas.
- Mountain bikes (non-motorized only) must remain on Refuge roads as shown on the map.
- Horse or pack stock users are authorized, but may only use certified weed-free hay.

Parking on the Refuge

- Parking is allowed in designated parking areas only.
- Blocking or obstructing roads or gates is prohibited.

Refuge Regulations

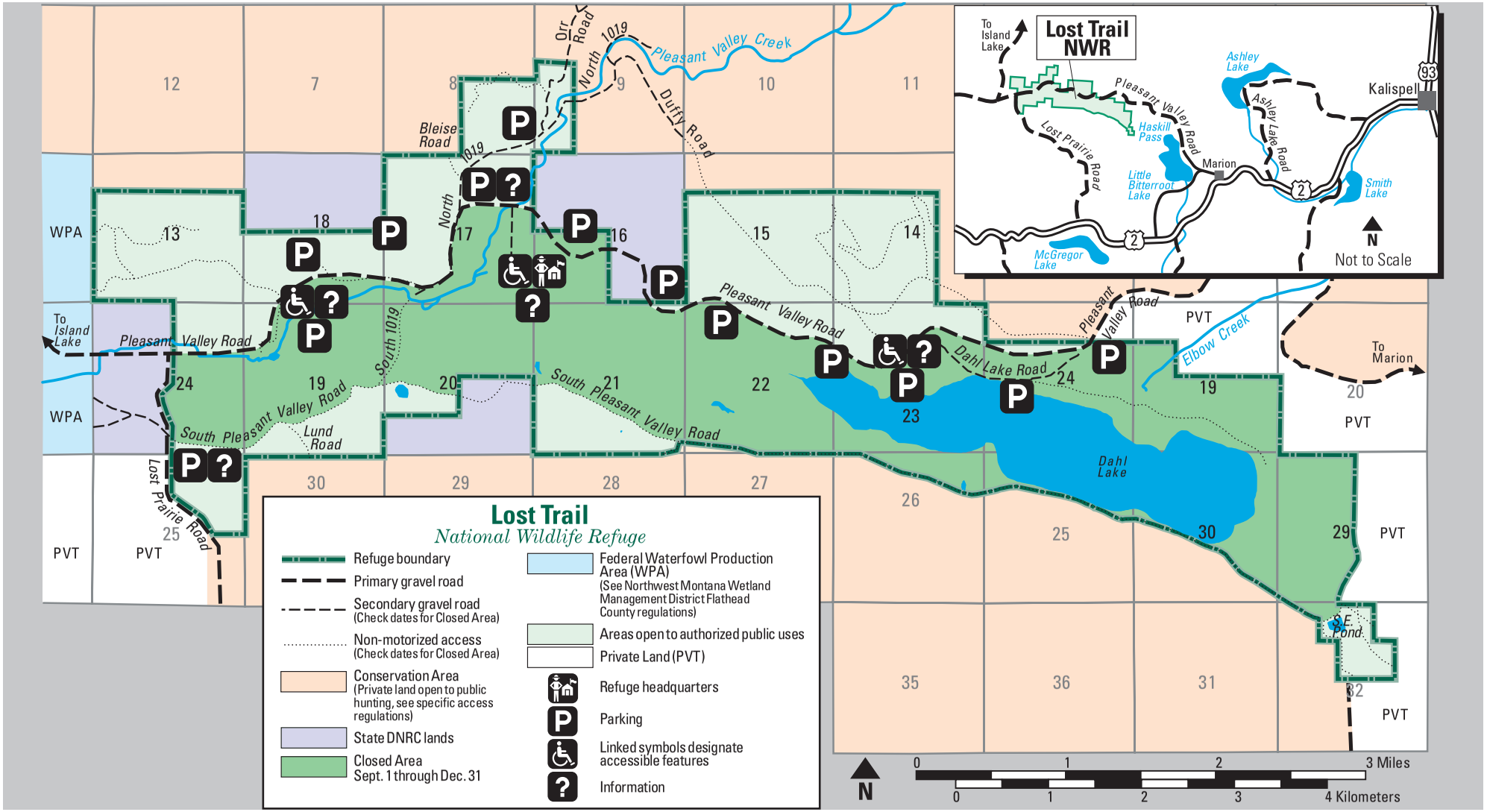
- Trapping, fishing, boating, camping, and fires are prohibited.
- Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on NWRS lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations on hunting in 50 CFR Part 32).
- Recreational shooting, including target shooting, is prohibited.
- Collecting, injuring, disturbing, destroying, or harming animals, animal parts, plants, natural items, and/or items of antiquity on public property is prohibited unless authorized by permit. This includes, but is not limited to, shed antlers, rocks, fossils, firewood, willow cuttings, historical artifacts, semi-precious minerals, etc.
- Travel off of designated roads is prohibited. See map for roads designated for public use.
- Pets must be kept on a leash and under control at all times.
- Commercial activity, including outfitting and guided tours, are prohibited.
- Possession or consumption of alcohol by persons under 21 years is prohibited.
- Drug paraphernalia, including any instrument that facilitates the consumption of a controlled substance, is prohibited.

Refuge Hunting Regulations

We allow the hunting of only elk, deer, mountain grouse, and turkeys on open areas of the refuge. ***Hunting or taking of all other wildlife is prohibited, including, but not limited to, wolves, coyotes, rabbits, small mammals including ground squirrel (commonly called gophers), waterfowl, moose, mountain lions, bears, and badgers.***

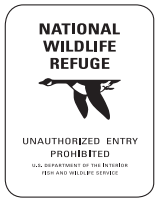
All State of Montana hunting regulations apply. In addition, the following Refuge regulations apply:

- ***Hunters must contact a federal or state game warden before entering a Closed Area to retrieve game (call 1800-TipMont).***
- When using a shotgun while hunting mountain grouse and turkey, hunters may only possess and use non-toxic shot.
- The use of dogs for hunting is prohibited.
- The use of artificial lights for the purpose of spotting, locating, or taking any animal is prohibited.
- The use of electronic calls is prohibited.
- The distribution of bait and hunting over bait is prohibited.
- Portable or temporary blinds or tree stands are allowed, but must be removed on a daily basis. The use of nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach a stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited.
- Guiding and outfitting are prohibited.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.



Refuge Signs

Refuge Boundary



Areas behind this sign are open to authorized public uses only. Regulations and further information are available at the Refuge headquarters.

Public Hunting



Areas behind this sign are open to public hunting for deer, elk, turkey, and mountain grouse only.

No Hunting



Areas behind this sign are closed to hunting.

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 free connection to the State relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from people with hearing and speech disabilities. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at (406) 885-8598, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge
6295 Pleasant Valley Road
Marion, MT 59925
(406) 885-8598
www.fws.gov/refuge/lost-trail

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Refuge Information
(406) 885-8598

Telecommunications Relay Service
TTY / Voice: 711

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