Crane Meadows
Hunting Permit 2026—2027

When signed and carried, this serves as your permit for all refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein and must be in your possession. Expires August 31, 2027.

I have read and understand these regulations.

Hunter's Name (print)

Signature (permits are not transferable, valid only when signed)

19502 Iris Rd
Little Falls, MN 56345

Crane Meadows is part of the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge Complex and is managed out of the Complex Headquarters in Zimmerman, MN. Visitors may contact staff at Complex Headquarters with questions.

Complex Headquarters: 763-389-3323

Crane Meadows Maintenance Office: 320-632-1575

TTY Federal Relay System: 1-800-877-8339
Email: Cranemeadows@fws.gov
Website: fws.gov/refuge/crane-meadows

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

August 2026 *(All previous versions invalid)*

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Crane Meadows

National Wildlife Refuge
Hunting Regulations 2026–2027



Welcome
Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1992 to protect a large, natural wetland complex. With over 2,000 acres, the refuge is an important stop for many migratory birds and is home to a variety of wildlife that use the sedge meadow, shallow lakes, tallgrass prairie and oak savanna habitats.

Refuge Hunting Permit
All hunters must possess a refuge hunting permit. This brochure, when signed, and in your possession, serves as a permit for all refuge hunts.

Safety
Serious injuries or accidents occurring on the refuge should be reported to 911 and also to the Federal Wildlife Officer and Complex Headquarters.

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).

Non-toxic Ammunition
You must possess and use only approved non-toxic shot shells while hunting small game, migratory birds and wild turkeys on the refuge.

Vehicles
Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on public roads and parking areas as shown on the map. Vehicles may be parked in parking areas shown on the map or on the shoulder of the road in accordance with county and state regulations. Blocking gates and overnight parking are not permitted.

Horses, snowmobiles, ATVs and all other OHVs (off-highway vehicles) are prohibited.

Boats
Boats, both motorized and non-motorized may be used to access certain refuge units.

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 Righs, https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights

Special hunts are available for persons with disabilities. For more information on these hunts, see website or call Complex Headquarters.

Hunting Regulations
Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is 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 will be in accordance with applicable State of Minnesota regulations subject to the conditions stated below. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the Maintenance Office, stocked brochure boxes on the refuge or from the refuge website.

All species not listed in this brochure are protected on the refuge and may not be taken or possessed.

Access
The refuge is open ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. Licensed hunters may access the refuge two hours before legal shooting time until two hours after legal shooting time. You must call and/or leave a message with the Federal Wildlife Officer to remain after closing hours to retrieve or track wounded game.

The refuge will be closed to all public access October 10th through October 14th for the accessible deer hunt for people with disabilities.

Dogs
Hunting dogs are permitted, except when hunting furbearers, provided they are under immediate control of the hunter at all times, and used only during the state hunting season, in areas open to hunting. Training and allowing pets off leash are prohibited at all other times.

Tree Stands
All property brought onto the refuge must be removed at the end of each day. This includes portable tree stands, temporary blinds, boats, decoys, trash, trail cameras and hunting equipment. Blinds made of natural material must be disassembled at the end of each day.

Permanent tree stands, spikes, nails, screw-in steps, screw-in bow holders or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree are prohibited.

Soo Line Trail
The Soo Line Trail can be used to access some refuge units when it is open. All hunters must comply with Soo Line Trail regulations as posted or found on the Morrison County Parks, Trails and Facilities website.

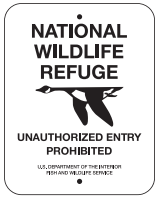
To Report Violations
- Refuge Law Enforcement Officer: 612-283-8963
- Turn In a Poacher (TIP) Line: 1-800-652-9093
- Fish & Wildlife Service TIP Line: 1-844-397-8477

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

- 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	Huntable Species	Seasons/Hours
Small Game	Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked pheasant, Cottontail and Jack Rabbits, Snowshoe hare, Squirrels (gray, fox and red)	Open in accordance with state regulations
Migratory Birds	Ducks, Geese, merganser, American coot, Common moorhen, American Woodcock, Sora, Virigina Rail, Mourning Dove, Common Snipe, Crow	Open in accordance with state regulations
Turkey (Permit Area 508)	Wild Turkey	Open in accordance with state regulations
Furbearer Hunting	Red and gray fox, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Long and short-tailed weasels, Bobcat, Coyote, Striped Skunk	Open in accordance with state seasons. Shooting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset, except 9 am to sunset opening day
Furbearer Trapping	Closed	Closed
Big Game (Permit Area 221)	White-tailed deer (Archery, November firearm, Muzzleloader)	Open in accordance with state regulations
Bear	Closed	Closed
Accessible Deer Hunt for People with Disabilities	White-tailed deer	Application-based hunt. Typically the Tuesday and Wednesday following Columbus Day. Refuge is closed to all other public access.
State regulations apply for bag limts.		

Signs to Know



Refuge Boundary

This sign delineates the refuge boundary



No Hunting Zone

This area is closed to ALL hunting



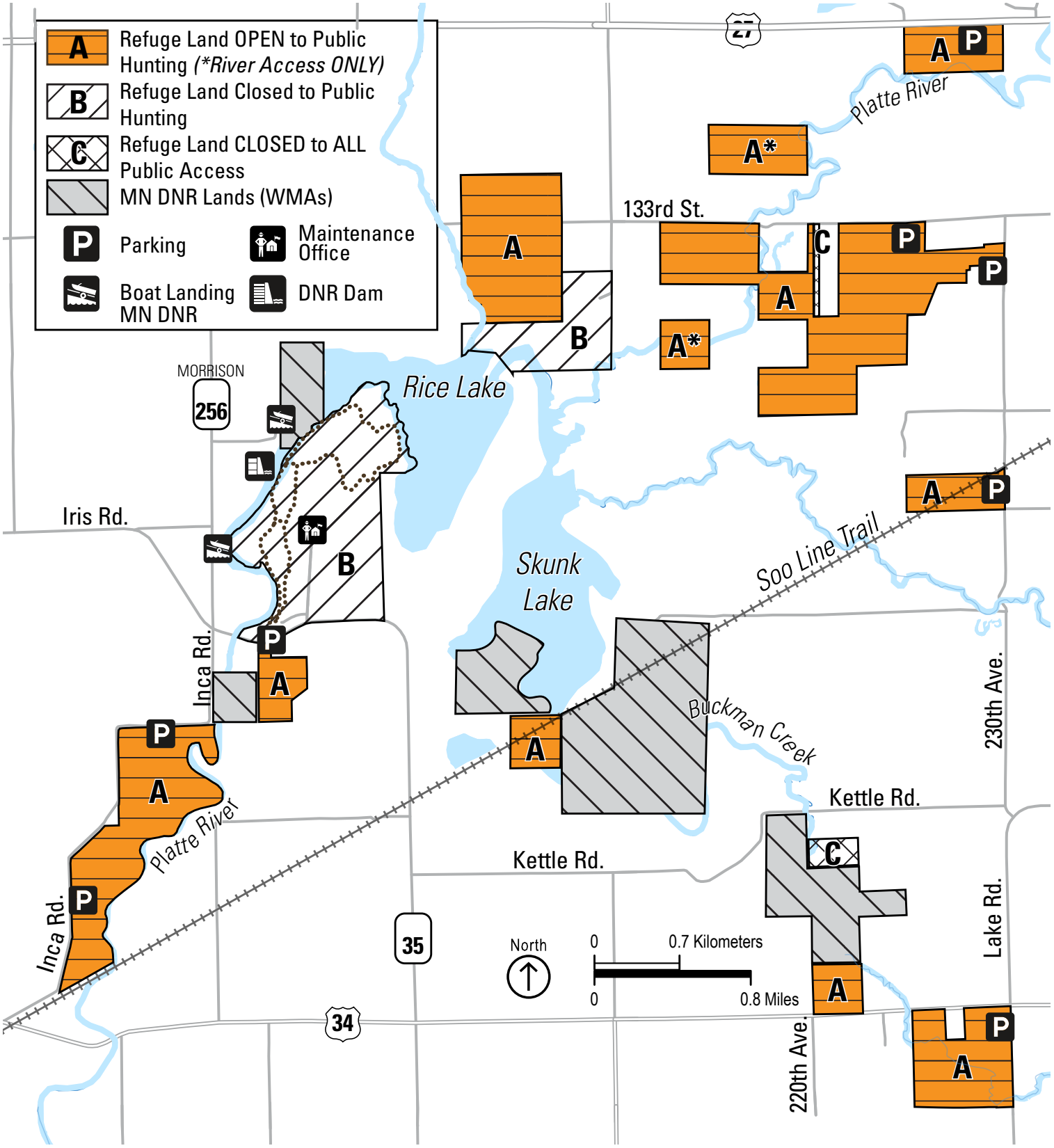
Public Hunting Area

This area is open to public hunting, according to the regulations in this brochure



Area Closed

This area is closed to ALL entry all year



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.

This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.