

# Big Stone

## National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations



### Welcome

Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge was originally purchased by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and was transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on May 21, 1975. The refuge currently includes 11,586 acres in Big Stone and Lac qui Parle Counties, in Minnesota.

### Safety

Hunters must wear an article of blaze orange or pink consistent with state regulations.

### 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 are permitted only on public use roads and parking lots as shown on the map. Snowmobiles, ATVs and UTVs are prohibited.

### Boats

Non-motorized boats and boats using electric motors are permitted only in the Minnesota River channel. Boats are prohibited on all other refuge waters.

### 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 Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights>.

### 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. Hunters and anglers are required to hold all applicable state and federal licenses, endorsements, and stamps.

Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State of Minnesota regulations subject to the conditions stated in the brochure. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge headquarters, or from the refuge website.

### Access

Refuge hunting hours follow those set by the State of Minnesota hunting regulations, except where noted.

Hunters and anglers must park in designated parking areas, as identified on the map, to access the Refuge for hunting. It is illegal to retrieve game from areas closed to hunting. Access to the Refuge from private property is prohibited.

44843 County Road 19  
Odessa, MN 56276-2062

320-273-2191  
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/big-stone>  
TTY Federal Relay System: 1-800-877-8339

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

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Waterfowl taken outside the refuge boundary may be retrieved without a firearm, up to 100 yards (90m) inside areas of the refuge that are open to all other hunting. Waterfowl may not be retrieved from areas closed to hunting.

### Species

Game species include deer, ring-necked pheasant, Hungarian partridge, cottontail and jack rabbit, raccoon, striped skunk, gray and fox squirrel, red and gray fox, and wild turkey. **Fox, raccoon, and skunk can only be hunted when another small game season is open on the refuge.** Hunting hours for these species are one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset. Refuge is closed to migratory bird (ducks, swans, geese, doves, coots, crows, rails, snipe, woodcock, etc.) and coyote hunting.

### Hunting and Fishing Structures

We prohibit constructing or occupying permanent stands or blinds. We also prohibit 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. Portable hunting stands must be set up and removed each day. Ice fishing shelters and equipment must be removed at the end of each day.

### Trapping

Permitted by special use permit only. Contact Refuge Manager for details and information.

### To Report Violations

Refuge Law Enforcement Officer: 320-288-3419

Report Wildlife Crimes 1-844-FWS-TIPS (397-8477) [fws\\_tips@fws.gov](mailto:fws_tips@fws.gov)

Activity	Season Dates	Harvest	Areas	Regulation
<b>Small Game</b>	<b>Skunk:</b> 1st - last day of Feb.	State limits	1/2 hour before legal sunrise to sunset	
<b>Small Game</b>	<b>Fox and Raccoon:</b> 1st day of state season - last day of Feb.	State limits	1/2 hour before legal sunrise to sunset	Must possess and use only approved nontoxic shot. Hunting dogs must be under the immediate control of the hunter (dog use prohibited for raccoons).
<b>Wild Turkey</b>	Spring and fall wild turkey hunting in accordance with Federal and State hunting regulations	State limits		Must possess and use only approved nontoxic shot.
<b>Deer</b>	Entry into the refuge is prohibited earlier than two hours before legal shooting hours	State limits	See State regulations for map and permit requirements	State and Federal regulations apply
<b>Sport and Ice Fishing</b>	State Seasons - daylight hours only	State creel and length limits	All refuge waters except abandoned quarries	Bank fishing and wading is permitted on refuge pools and open marshes.

