



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

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Regulations

Refuge Information

Welcome to Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), one of over 565 refuges and 38 wetland management districts in the National Wildlife Refuge System - a network of lands set aside specifically for wildlife. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge System is a living heritage, conserving wildlife and habitat for people today and for generations to come.

The Refuge is open daily from 5:00 am to 10:00 pm. The Refuge office and visitor center is open from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays, and is located 1 mile west of Kenmare, North Dakota on Ward County Road 1A.

General Regulations

For the protection of wildlife, habitat, and other visitors, please observe all regulations.

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).

Prohibited Activities

- Use of trail or game cameras
- Baiting
- Snowmobiles and all other off-road vehicles
- Off-road vehicle travel
- Use of water craft
- Use of horses
- Open fires
- Camping
- Littering
- Fishing
- Removal of natural objects and artifacts

General Hunting Information

Hunting is allowed in accordance with State and Federal regulations. It is the responsibility of the hunter to be aware of all special Refuge regulations and the boundaries of the areas open and closed to hunting before going afield.

Hunting is allowed for deer, moose, turkey, and a late season hunt for pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, and gray partridge, as described in the following sections and on the map. Hunting of all other wildlife species is prohibited on the Refuge.

Hunters must possess all applicable State hunting licenses.

Shotgun hunters must use non-toxic shot. Toxic shot may not be in the hunter's possession.

Hunting hours follow those set in the North Dakota State hunting regulations.

Deer and Moose Hunting

The Refuge is open to the deer and moose hunting seasons in accordance with State hunting regulations. This includes youth (deer), bow and gun (deer and moose), and muzzleloader (deer) hunting.

A State-issued license is required to hunt deer and moose on the Refuge.

On the opening day of each deer hunting season, hunters must wait to enter the Refuge until 12:00 pm (noon). On the opening day of each moose hunting season, hunters may enter the Refuge one-half hour before sunrise.

Hunters may drive authorized vehicles on the auto tour route while hunting.

During the deer gun season only, hunters may drive authorized vehicles on designated Refuge retrieval roads to retrieve harvested deer during the following hours: 9:30 am to 10:00 am; 1:30 pm to 2:00 pm; and for one-half hour following legal shooting time.

Refuge retrieval roads are identified with signs and are also shown on the map. While using a vehicle on these roads to retrieve a deer, hunting and dropping hunters off is NOT allowed. All other Refuge roads and trails are closed to motorized vehicles.

Hunters must carry, drag, or use a cart to transport the harvested deer or moose to their vehicle.

Permanent tree stands are not allowed on the Refuge. Portable tree stands and ground blinds may be used, but they must be removed daily. Screw-in steps, bolts, nails, wire, or other objects that penetrate the bark and injure the tree cannot be used.

Baiting is prohibited.

Turkey Hunting

Turkey hunting is allowed in accordance with State and Federal hunting regulations.

A State-issued unit license is required to hunt turkeys.

Hunters may use a shotgun, muzzleloader, or bow. Shotgun hunters must use non-toxic shot. Toxic shot may not be in the hunter's possession.

Hunters may drive authorized vehicles on the auto tour route while hunting.

Pheasant, Grouse, and Partridge Hunting

Late season hunting opens for pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, and partridge on the first Monday after the deer gun season closes and remains open to the end of the State season.



















Shotgun hunters must use non-toxic shot. Toxic shot may not be in the hunter's possession.

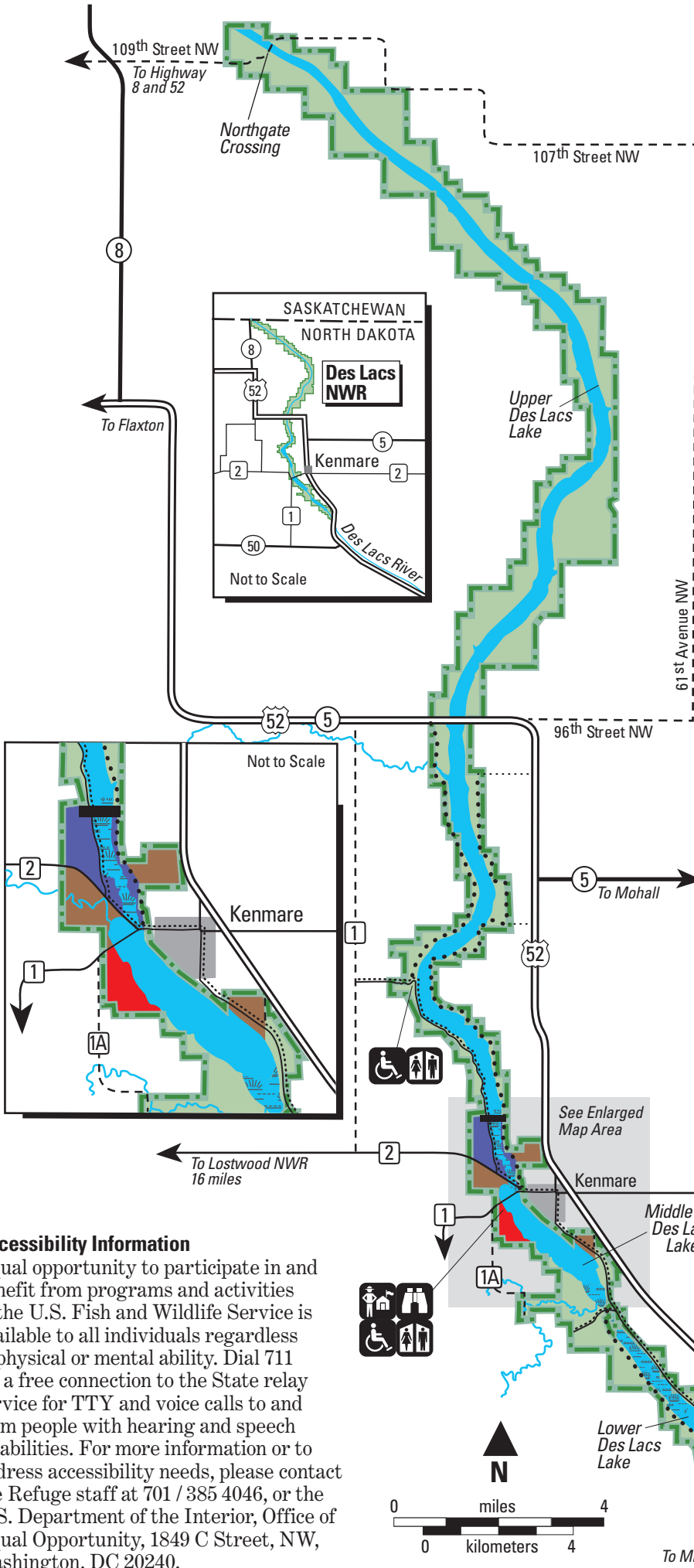
Hunters may drive authorized vehicles on the auto tour route while hunting.

The use of dogs is encouraged, but they must be under control at all times.

Des Lacs

National Wildlife Refuge

-  Refuge boundary
-  Federal highway
-  State highway
-  County road
-  Gravel road
-  Auto tour route - Hunters may drive this road while hunting
-  Refuge retrieval road - Open for retrieval of deer during specified times
-  Section line trail
-  Dike
-  Marsh
-  Open to all hunting
-  Open only to bow hunting for deer and moose
-  Open to bow hunting for deer and moose. Open for turkey, pheasant, grouse, and partridge.
-  Closed to all hunting
-  Refuge headquarters and visitor center
-  Restroom
-  Linked symbols designate accessible features
-  Wildlife observation



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 701 / 385 4046, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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 42000 520th St. NW, Kenmare, ND 58746
 701 / 385 4046
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 deslacs@fws.gov
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For State relay service TTY / Voice 711

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

For Refuge Information 1 800 / 344 WILD

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