



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

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Northwest Montana Waterfowl Production Areas Lake County

## Public Use Opportunities

### Welcome

Nestled in the Mission Valley of Lake County, Montana are nine waterfowl production areas (WPAs). These WPAs are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System — a network of lands managed to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

WPAs are purchased and managed primarily to restore waterfowl habitat and provide for public hunting and recreation. Ninety-eight percent of the revenue generated from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps is put back into purchasing WPAs or to purchase conservation easements. By providing permanent secure habitat, these critical areas help to sustain North America's waterfowl populations, while also benefiting many species of birds and other wildlife.

These WPAs are administered by National Bison Range staff and are part of a larger network of wetland communities in the valley that are managed by our partners in conservation, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) and the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MTFWP).

Outstanding opportunities are available for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, and environmental education. Hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing are also permitted on the WPAs. Please be mindful of regulations and comply with all posted signs.

### 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 the speech and hearing impaired. For information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 406 / 644 2211, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

### General WPA Regulations

To help protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, and ensure your safety, we ask that you please follow the regulations listed in this leaflet.

- Motorized vehicle travel is prohibited.
- All personal property, except traps in use during trapping season, must not be left unattended and must be removed by 1 hour after sunset. This includes vehicles, decoys, portable blinds, and fishing equipment.
- Pets must be on a leash and under control from April 1 to August 31. Pets must be under the owner's immediate control at all other times of the year.
- Leaving or dumping litter, including spent shotgun shells or any dead animal, is prohibited.
- Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands (including WPAs) 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).
- Target practice and clay-bird shooting is prohibited.
- Collection or disturbance of natural objects, such as, plants, animals, feathers, antlers, or rocks and minerals is not permitted without a special use permit, with the exception of the gathering of dead plant materials for on-site blind construction (call the Refuge headquarters for more information).
- Camping and overnight use is prohibited.
- Fires are prohibited.
- Fireworks are prohibited.
- Possession or consumption of alcohol by persons under 21 years is prohibited.
- Possession of a controlled substance is prohibited (50 CFR 27.82).
- Drug paraphernalia, including any instrument that facilitates the consumption of a controlled substance, is prohibited.

### Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Regulations

Hunting, fishing, and trapping is permitted in accordance with Joint State and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) Tribal Law. In addition to the general WPA regulations, the following regulations apply specifically to hunting, fishing, and trapping on the WPAs.

- For daily bag and possession limits, licensing requirements, fees, and general regulations regarding hunting, fishing, and trapping, consult the Flathead Indian Reservation *Hunting, Fishing and Recreation Regulations of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks*. Obtain a copy for more information by contacting the Tribal Fish and Game 406 / 883 2888 or Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks 406 / 752 5501.
- All hunters, trappers, and anglers must have in their immediate possession a Joint Flathead Reservation Use and Conservation Permit with a Bird Hunting/Fishing Stamp or CSKT Tribal Identification Card. Permit vendors are listed in the regulations.
- Upon request of an authorized official, hunters, trappers, and anglers must show the required State and/or Tribal license authorizing hunting, fishing, or trapping.
- It is unlawful to hunt upland game birds and any waterfowl with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells on any Lake County WPA.
- Only approved non-toxic shot may be possessed while hunting upland game birds and waterfowl on any Lake County WPA.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is strictly prohibited (see 50 CFR 32.2(j)).
- Leaving decoys unattended is prohibited.
- The use of nails, bolts, wire, and screws to attach a stand or blind to a tree is prohibited.

**National Bison Range Complex**  
 58355 Bison Range Road  
 Moiese, MT 59824  
 406 / 644 2211  
 406 / 644 2661 fax  
 bisonrange@fws.gov  
<http://www.fws.gov/bisonrange/>

**Emergency – dial 911**  
**After-hours Law Enforcement –**  
**Lake County Sheriff's Office**  
 406 / 883 7301  
**Montana Relay Service**  
 TTY: 1 800 / 253 4091  
 Voice: 1 800 / 253 4093

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
<http://www.fws.gov>  
**For Refuge Information**  
 1 800 / 344 WILD  
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