



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Columbia Mine Preserve - Sycamore Land Trust

## Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge and Management Area Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2023–2024

### Welcome

Columbia Mine Preserve consists of 1,043 acres. This area was acquired in 2012 by the Sycamore Land Trust. Because the Columbia Mine Preserve is privately owned, this area is subject to different public access and use regulations. Public use is managed through a cooperative agreement with Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge and Management Area. The 48 acres of Refuge owned land North of CR 475 S is managed under the same regulations as the Columbia Mine Preserve.

The Columbia Mine Unit is open from one-half hour before legal sunrise to one-half hour after legal sunset.

**Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge and Management Area**  
510 ½ W. Morton St., PO Box 217  
Oakland City, IN 47660

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/patoka\\_river](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/patoka_river)

[patokariver@fws.gov](mailto:patokariver@fws.gov)

812-749-3199

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

July 2023



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

### Hunting Regulations

Columbia Mine Preserve is closed to hunting all game animals except for:

1. White-tailed deer during the first week (7 days) of the State-defined seasons for:

- Archery
- Firearms
- Muzzleloader

2. Wild turkey only during the State-defined spring season. Fall season wild turkey hunting is prohibited.

Only portable tree stands may be used. These stands can be on the Columbia Mine Preserve during the special season and for a 2-day grace period before and after each special season. Name, address and phone number must be legible and marked on each stand no higher than 6-feet off the ground. Hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited.

### Fishing Regulations

- Wear hunter orange hat or vest during listed hunting season dates.
- All lakes are open to fishing on the Columbia Mine Preserve with access only on foot.
- Several lakes are very deep with steep slippery slopes near the shorelines. Always use caution before deciding to wade while fishing.
- Boats 14-feet long or less are permitted. No gasoline-powered boats or airboats are permitted.
- Boats must be clean and free of any plant or animal material or water.
- Fishing is permitted from legal sunrise to legal sunset.
- Fishing is only permitted with rod and reel or pole and line.

- Minimum size limit for largemouth bass is 14 inches on Columbia Mine Preserve and Snakey Point Marsh.
- Minnows, crayfish, mussels (clams), leeches and all reptiles and amphibians are protected and may not be killed, collected or in possession when on the property.

### Please take notice:

- All general refuge public use regulations apply when on the Columbia Mine Preserve. Enforcement of use regulations will be carried out by both Federal and State Conservation Officers.
- Report all injuries and accidents to Refuge Headquarters, 510 ½ W Morton St., Oakland City, Indiana or phone (812) 749-3199.
- Sycamore Land Trust may be reached at (812) 336-5382, [info@sycamorelandtrust.org](mailto:info@sycamorelandtrust.org), or [www.sycamorelandtrust.org](http://www.sycamorelandtrust.org)

### 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.)

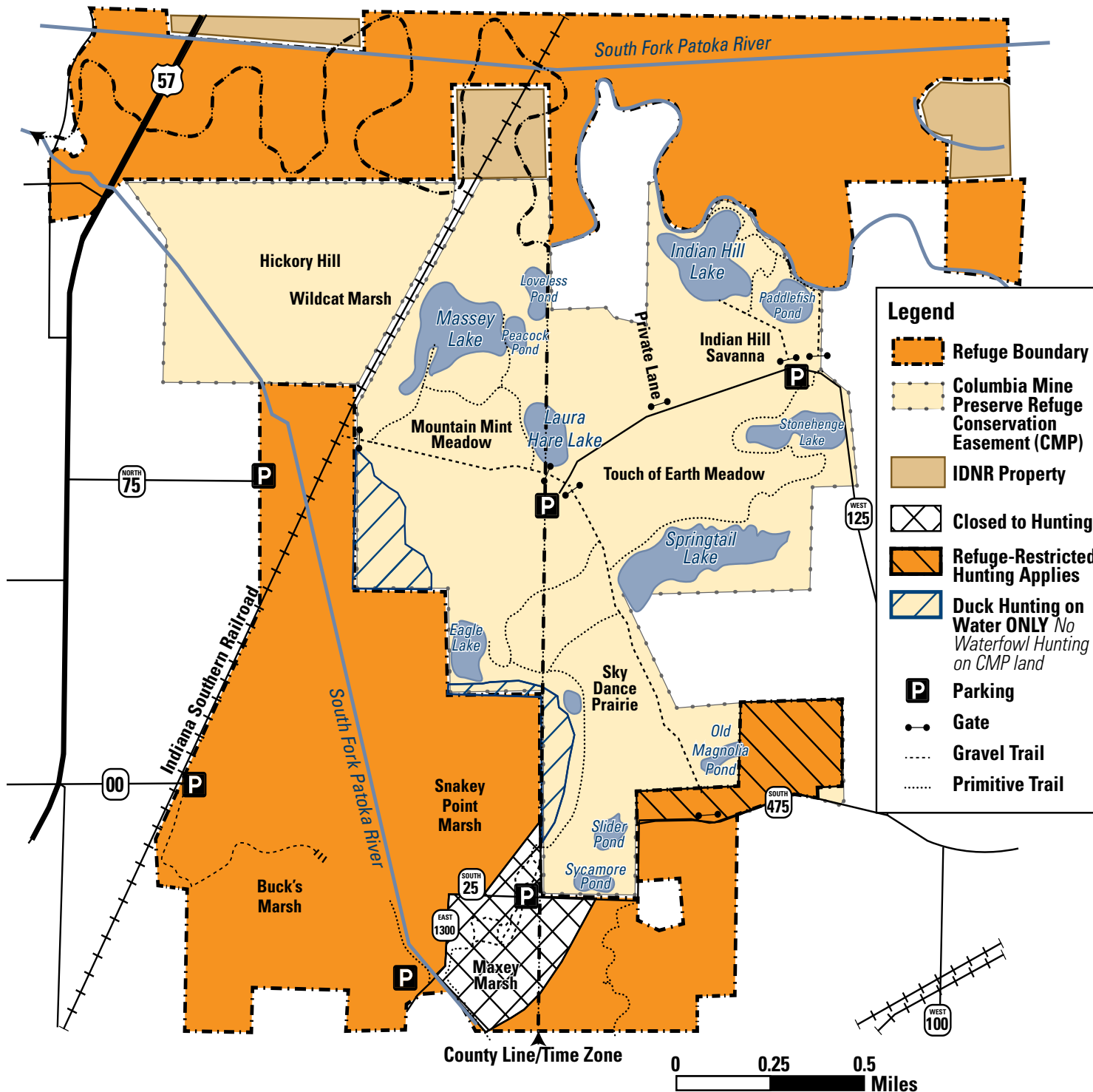
### Accessibility Information

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>.



### Safety Notice!

All visitors in the field on Columbia Mine Preserve must wear fluorescent orange hat or vest in areas open to hunting during hunting season.



### Prohibited Activities

- By law, recreational activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted.
- Possession of alcoholic beverages
- Camping, fires, overnight parking and littering/dumping.
- Target practice or random shooting.
- Swimming.
- Use of fireworks, trail cameras and drones.
- Dogs running loose or not on leash.
- Searching for or removal of any natural items such as antlers, animal skulls, plants, historic, and archaeological features, are protected by Federal law.
- Trapping furbearers or other animals.
- Use of off-road vehicles, horses, mules, llamas, and bicycles other than on maintained county road right-of-ways.
- Marking or flagging any tree or other Refuge feature with reflectors, paint, or other substance.
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.
- Use of airboats and gasoline-powered boat motors.
- Access to the Refuge from private property without permission.

\*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.