

# Upper Souris

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

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### *Activity Guide*



**Welcome to  
Upper Souris  
National Wildlife  
Refuge**



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

**Refuge Activities  
and Facilities**

*Wildlife  
Observation and  
Photography*

*Boat Fishing*

*Bank Fishing*

Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established in 1935 as a "refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife." The Refuge is one of over 550 refuges 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.

This 32,000-acre Refuge offers a wide variety of wildlife-dependent activities from 5:00 am to 10:00 pm daily.

Refuge office and visitor center hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays. Fishing and hunting is permitted according to State and Refuge regulations. See the Refuge *Fishing and Hunting* brochure for more information.

Wildlife observation is permitted year-round in all open public use areas, on the nature trails, on the scenic drive, and in areas marked with "Foot Traffic Only" signs. Sharp-tailed grouse dancing ground photo blinds are available in the spring by reservation. Permission of the Refuge Manager is required to enter closed areas. See the *Refuge Guide to Unique Birds* and the *Along the Souris Loop Bird List* brochures for more information.

Fishing boats, canoes, and kayaks are permitted on Lake Darling from May 1 to September 30 from Highway 28 south to Lake Darling Dam. Six boat ramps are available. No swimming, water-skiing, sailing, personal watercraft use, or other recreational boating is permitted.

Bank fishing is permitted in 14 designated areas. Four sites have tables and grills, and nine sites have restrooms. Please pack your

*Ice Fishing*

*Environmental  
Education*

*Hunting*

*Prairie-Marsh  
Scenic Drive*

*Canoeing /  
Kayaking*

trash home. All fishing is subject to State and Refuge regulations.

Ice fishing is available as conditions permit. Due to changing conditions contact the Refuge Manager for current access points.

Contact the Refuge staff for more information on environmental education programs and learning sites.

Partridge, grouse, pheasant, and deer hunting is permitted in designated areas during designated State hunting seasons with the proper license. Non-toxic shot is required for upland bird hunting. Pre-season scouting is not permitted in closed areas. Waterfowl shot outside the Refuge cannot be retrieved on the Refuge.

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). Contact the Refuge Manager for more information.

The 3-mile, self-guided, interpretive scenic drive provides views of native prairie-covered hills, shrub-filled coulees, and river bottom marshes. An accessible viewing platform offers views of prairie wetlands and wildlife. The scenic drive closes at the start of the State deer gun season and reopens the following spring as road conditions allow.

Two canoe trails are available from May 1 to September 30. The Beaver Lodge Canoe Trail is 6 miles round-trip and located near the Outlet Fishing Area. Only non-motorized boats and canoes are allowed on the Beaver Lodge Canoe Trail. The Mouse River Canoe and Boat Trail is 10 miles round-trip and located west of Renville County Memorial Park.

*Nature Trails*

**Accessibility  
Information**

**Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge**

**17705 212th Avenue NW  
Foxholm, ND 58718  
701 / 468 5467  
701 / 468 5600 fax  
uppersouris@fws.gov  
<http://www.fws.gov/uppersouris>**

**For State relay service  
TTY / Voice: 711**

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

**For Refuge Information  
1 800 / 344 WILD**

**April 2013**

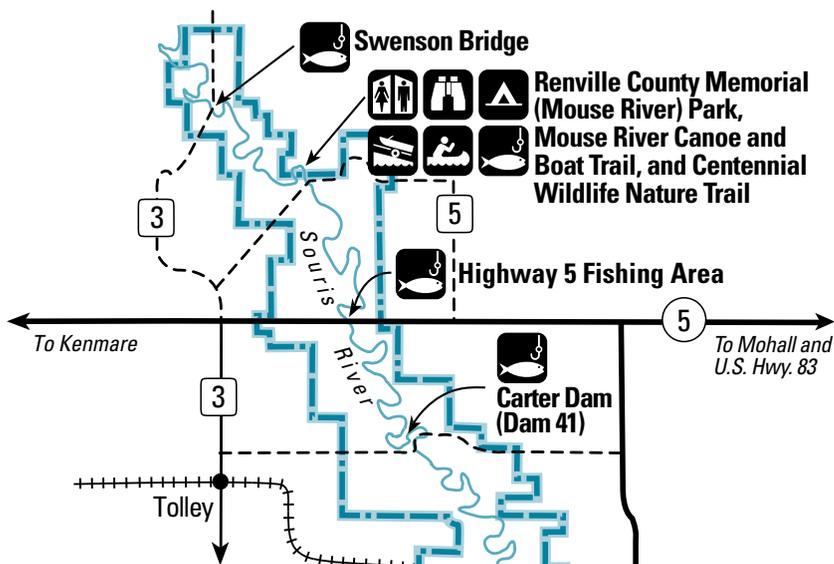
Motorboats are allowed on the Mouse River Canoe Trail. Fishing is allowed on both trails.

Four nature trails, with distances from ¼ to 1½-miles, are open to walking and are located southwest of the Refuge office and visitor center. A 2½-mile trail is located adjacent to the northwest corner of Renville County Memorial Park.

Accessible interpretive displays, information kiosk, and restrooms are located at the Refuge office and visitor center.

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 more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 701 / 468 5467, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.



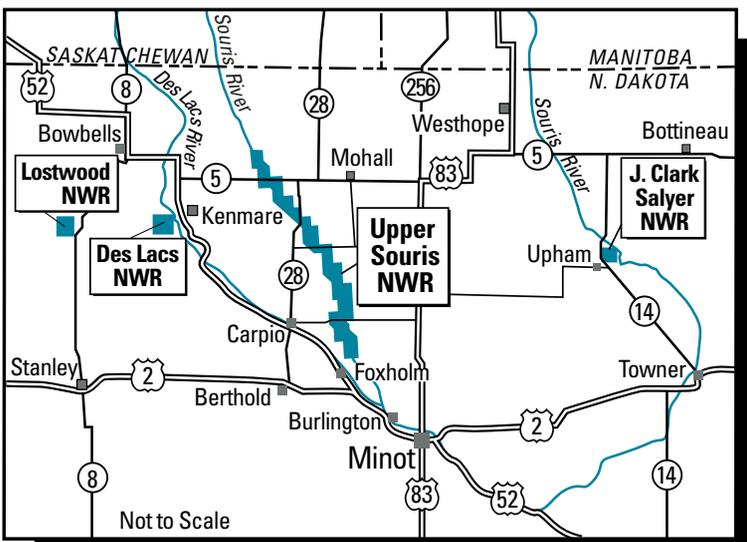
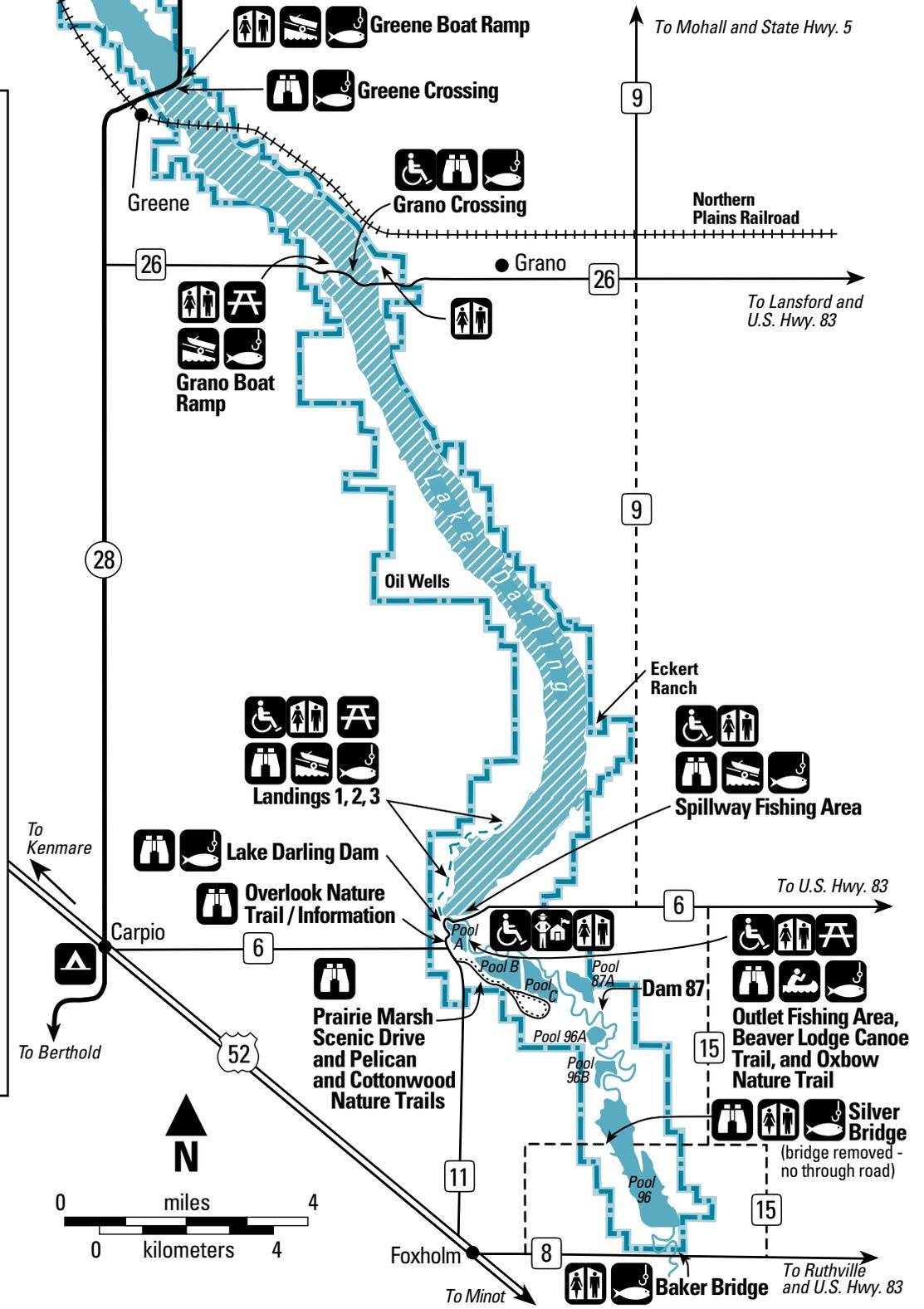


**Prohibited Activities**

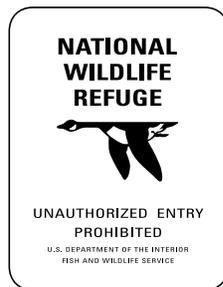
- Remaining on the Refuge between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am
- Littering, open fires, and unleashed pets
- Fireworks
- Use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-highway vehicles (OHVs), utility terrain vehicles (UTVs), snowmobiles, amphibious vehicles, personal watercraft (PWCs), or similar vehicles on the Refuge
- Off-road vehicle travel
- Geocaching or similar activity
- Swimming, water-skiing, sailing, jet boating or jet skiing (personal watercraft), and other recreational boating other than for fishing and canoeing
- Wildlife baiting, guiding operations, or dog training
- Camping
- Collecting animals and vegetation
- Searching for and/or disturbing or collecting prehistoric or historic artifacts

**Upper Souris**  
*National Wildlife Refuge*

- Refuge boundary
- Federal highway
- State highway
- County road
- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Scenic drive
- Railroad
- Open to boat fishing and canoeing May 1 – September 30
- Refuge office and visitor center
- Restroom
- Linked symbols designate accessible features
- Wildlife observation area
- Table
- Bank fishing
- Boat launch - boat fishing
- Canoe trail
- Camping



**Refuge Signs and Their Meaning**



These signs mark the Refuge boundary. Contact the Refuge manager for specific regulations.



These signs mark areas open to public fishing.



These signs mark areas closed to all public access to protect wildlife and habitat.