

2015 – 2016 TRAPPING PROPOSAL

SHIAWASSEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

1. Refuge Trapping Program

Furbearer trapping on Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge is an important management tool in meeting refuge goals and objectives. Wetland habitats, dike maintenance, and migratory bird management are influenced by furbearer management.

A sealed-bid application system will be used to issue trapping permits. The primary targets of the trapping program are muskrat and raccoon, but other species can be taken pursuant to State of Michigan Trapping laws. River otter and coyote cannot be trapped legally on Shiawassee NWR.

Refuge trapping units are comprised of four units: **Unit 1)** Pool 2 including Eastwood Drainage ditch east of Pool 2 to the mouth of the Shiawassee River, Walker Tract (located at Miller and Hart Road), and Cass River Unit (located south of Dixie Highway and west of I-75 in Bridgeport along the Cass River; **Unit 2)** All the marshes north of the center line of Evon Road and east of the center of the Spaulding drain, all of the Shiawassee River marshes (unit begins as the toe of the dike where trapping units 1 and 3 share a boundary with this unit), and upland areas north of the Shiawassee River and the Woodland Trail hiking area (no trapping within 50 ft. of the Woodland hiking trail); **Unit 3)** Pool 1a, Grefe Pool, Maankiki Marsh (also known as Farm Unit 1 and Trinklein Conversion area); **Unit 4)** Pools 3 and 5 including all of the Ferguson Bayou (no trapping within 50 ft. of the Ferguson Bayou Hiking Trail) , all areas east of the center of Spaulding drain (in area where trapping units 3, 2, and 4 share a boundary) and south of the center of Evon Road, all the moist soil units (7, 6, 2E, 2W, and 1) and ditches on the west side of the Refuge.

2. Habitat Conditions

In 2015, Pool 1a was drawn down and will remain dry throughout most of the fall due to a dike relocation project along the Spaulding Drain. Grefe Pool and Pool 2 were managed at full water capacity throughout the entire 2015 growing season. The units east of Spaulding drain, south of the Shiawassee River, and north of Evon Road (i.e., North Marsh, Butch's Marsh, and Eagle Marsh) were managed at average water levels (e.g., they were at full pool through spring, no active management through most of the growing season, and pumped to full pool in September). A prescribed fire may be conducted in October for the prairie units south of North Marsh. The Maankiki Marsh area has been pumped and remained dry throughout the entire year. There is a large wetland restoration project that may begin in late 2015 which will involve building dikes and placing large water control structures. If construction begins this may impact trapping activity within the Maankiki Marsh area.

3. Trapping Season and Hours

The furbearer trapping season and hours on Shiawassee will be consistent with State of Michigan regulations, with the following exception, beaver trapping will not be permitted during March to prevent road damage unless approved by Refuge Manager.

4. Other Pertinent Items

See attached Special Trapping Regulations.

Shiawassee NWR Trapping Regulations **2014-2015 Season**

1. The trapping season on the refuge will be concurrent with the State of Michigan trapping season. Violation of any regulation (State of Michigan or Shiawassee NWR) is punishable and will result in the revocation of the trapping permit.
2. Four trapping units will be available for bid:
 - a. **Unit 1)** Pool 2 including Eastwood Drainage ditch east of Pool 2 to the mouth of the Shiawassee River, Walker Tract (located at Miller and Hart Road), and Cass River Unit (located south of Dixie Highway and west of I-75 in Bridgeport along the Cass River
 - b. **Unit 2)** All the marshes north of the center line of Evon Road and east of the center of the Spaulding drain, all of the Shiawassee River marshes (unit begins as the toe of the dike where trapping units 1 and 3 share a boundary with this unit), and upland areas north of the Shiawassee River and the Woodland Trail hiking area (no trapping is allowed within 50 ft. of the Woodland hiking trail);
 - c. **Unit 3)** Pool 1a, Grefe Pool, Maankiki Marsh (also known as Farm Unit 1 and Trinklein Conversion area).
 - d. **Unit 4)** Pools 3 and 5 including all of the Ferguson Bayou (no trapping within 50 ft. of the Ferguson Bayou hiking trail), all areas east of the center of Spaulding drain (in area where trapping units 3, 2, and 4 share a boundary) and south of the center of Evon Road, all the moist soil units (7, 6, 2E, 2W, and 1) on the west side of the Refuge.
3. No trapping is permitted within 50 ft. of the Woodland and Ferguson Bayou Hiking Trails.
4. Target species shall include all furbearer species that can legally be taken in Zone 3 (Michigan's southern trapping zone), except for river otter and coyote.

5. A minimum bid of \$200 is required per unit, payment will be made only if successful. A sealed bid including "Shiawassee NWR Trapping Bid" (last page of this packet), is due in the refuge office by 1:00 P.M., Wednesday October 14, 2015. A public opening of the bids will be held at 1:05 P.M. on the same day. Successful applicants shall make a full bid payment by 3:00 P.M., October 21, 2015. Checks shall be made payable to "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service". Trapping parties may bid on all trapping units but parties can only win one of the trapping units (i.e., 1 party cannot win and trap all units). If a trapping party is the highest bidder for multiple units that party will have the choice for which unit they want to trap, the second highest bidder for the other units will win that unit. If units are not bid upon, winning parties will then be offered the remaining units based upon the amount of their bid for those units.
6. Whether as an applicant or partner, a person's name can appear on only one bid application per year. If bid applicants wish to have a trapping partner the partner's name and other pertinent information must appear on the bid application. No trapping partners will be accepted at a later date.
7. Youth trappers (17 and under) may accompany the winning trapping party (trapper and their partner) under the following criteria to promote youth education and mentorship: the youth trapper is properly licensed under the State of Michigan hunting and trapping regulations, the youth must accompany the trapper and/or partner at all times, youth trappers will not be permitted to run a trap line independently (unless the youth trapper is the winning trappers partner).
8. Information provided on the application may not be altered once the bid has been submitted. Inaccurate, misleading, or missing information on the application shall void the application.
9. Beaver trapping will not be permitted during March to prevent road damage unless approved by Refuge Manager.
10. The permittee shall remove from the refuge all target species trapped before skinning. Carcasses shall not be left or deposited on the refuge.
11. Permittee shall report all animals taken each week using the attached daily trapping log to the Wildlife Biologist (via in-person drop off, fax, or e-mail; electronic copies of trapping log available upon request) by noon Monday or as otherwise requested.
12. All non-target species trapped and found in satisfactory condition shall be released immediately. Non-target species found injured or dead must be reported to the Shiawassee NWR staff and included in the daily trapping log.
13. Only the permittee plus partner named in the permit application are authorized admittance to the refuge. Entry upon other areas of the refuge not designated by the permit map constitutes trespassing.
14. The permittee shall know and restrict all trapping to within the assigned trapping unit boundaries.

15. Vehicle travel is allowed only on existing gravel roads. Snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles may be permitted at the discretion of the Refuge Manager. Roads will not be maintained for the convenience of the permittee. If the situation necessitates, roads or portions thereof may be closed to vehicle use by the Refuge Manager. At the Manager's discretion, alternate routes may be authorized if available and if compatible with refuge operations.
16. The permittee's vehicle and equipment are subject to complete inspection at any time while on refuge property.
17. Pets are prohibited on the refuge, including those kept in vehicles.
18. All traps and trapping equipment including flagging and stakes shall be removed by the last day of the permit trapping season.
19. The trapping permit shall not restrict Shiawassee NWR from carrying out any refuge management tasks including but not limited to water level manipulation, controlled burning, and any repair, construction, or agricultural activity.
20. Gasoline outboard engines and airboats are not permitted in the managed units (i.e., Pool 2, Pool 1a, Grefe Pool, Trinklein, North Marsh, Butch's Marsh, Eagle Marsh, etc)
21. November 15 – 18, 2014 there will be a non-ambulatory white-tailed deer hunt that will be occurring throughout the refuge. Hunters will be hunting from blinds and will be assisted by volunteers. Successful trappers will need to coordinate their trapping schedule during those days with Shiawassee NWR staff.

Table 1. Trapping summary by unit, species, and year for Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw, Michigan.

Year	Trapping Unit 1						Trapping Unit 2					
	Muskrat	Raccoon	Beaver	Fox	Mink	Opossum	Muskrat	Raccoon	Beaver	Fox	Mink	Opossum
1990 - 1991	237	0	0	0	0	-	325	3	0	0	1	-
1991 - 1992	440	36	0	1	3	13	638	0	5	0	0	0
1992 - 1993	342	25	1	0	1	1	560	0	5	0	0	0
1993 - 1994	312	24	0	0	1	6	123	3	0	0	0	1
1994 - 1995	1153	32	7	0	0	9	376	2	4	0	0	0
1995 - 1996	133	34	0	0	1	4	175	13	0	0	0	16
1996 - 1997	351	47	1	0	0	38	148	1	4	0	3	1
1997 - 1998	396	26	12	0	2	22	1038	10	2	0	0	17
1998 - 1999	701	21	0	0	8	11	484	0	0	0	0	0
1999 - 2000	252	34	4	0	5	41	944	23	3	0	0	21
2000 - 2001	306	0	4	0	1	0	195	12	0	0	2	4
2001 - 2002	568	1	4	0	0	1	224	57	9	0	1	7
2002 - 2003	1727	25	3	0	5	10	459	34	0	0	3	12
2003 - 2004 ^a	554	18	1	0	4	26	336	0	0	0	1	0
2004 - 2005	786	39	4	0	8	5	243	94	2	0	4	20
2005 - 2006	592	26	3	0	3	10	380	24	0	0	2	2
2006 - 2007	1450	93	10	0	3	18	1659	1	4	0	2	0
2007 - 2008	324	9	0	0	1	16	716	81	4	0	2	19
2008 - 2009	718	63	5	0	2	23	547	85	1	0	0	10
2009 - 2010	451	39	1	0	2	6	455	21	0	0	1	5
2010 - 2011	878	29	0	0	1	0	212	90	0	0	2	8
2011 - 2012	83	3	0	0	0	0	361	47	1	0	3	12
2012 - 2013	516	79	0	0	0	12	423	22	0	1	9	26
2013 - 2014	558	4	0	0	0	3	667	32	0	0	0	29
2014-2015	1,718	41	0	1	4	1	650	1	0	0	1	0

^a 1 least weasel and 1 skunk trapped in Ditches/Pool

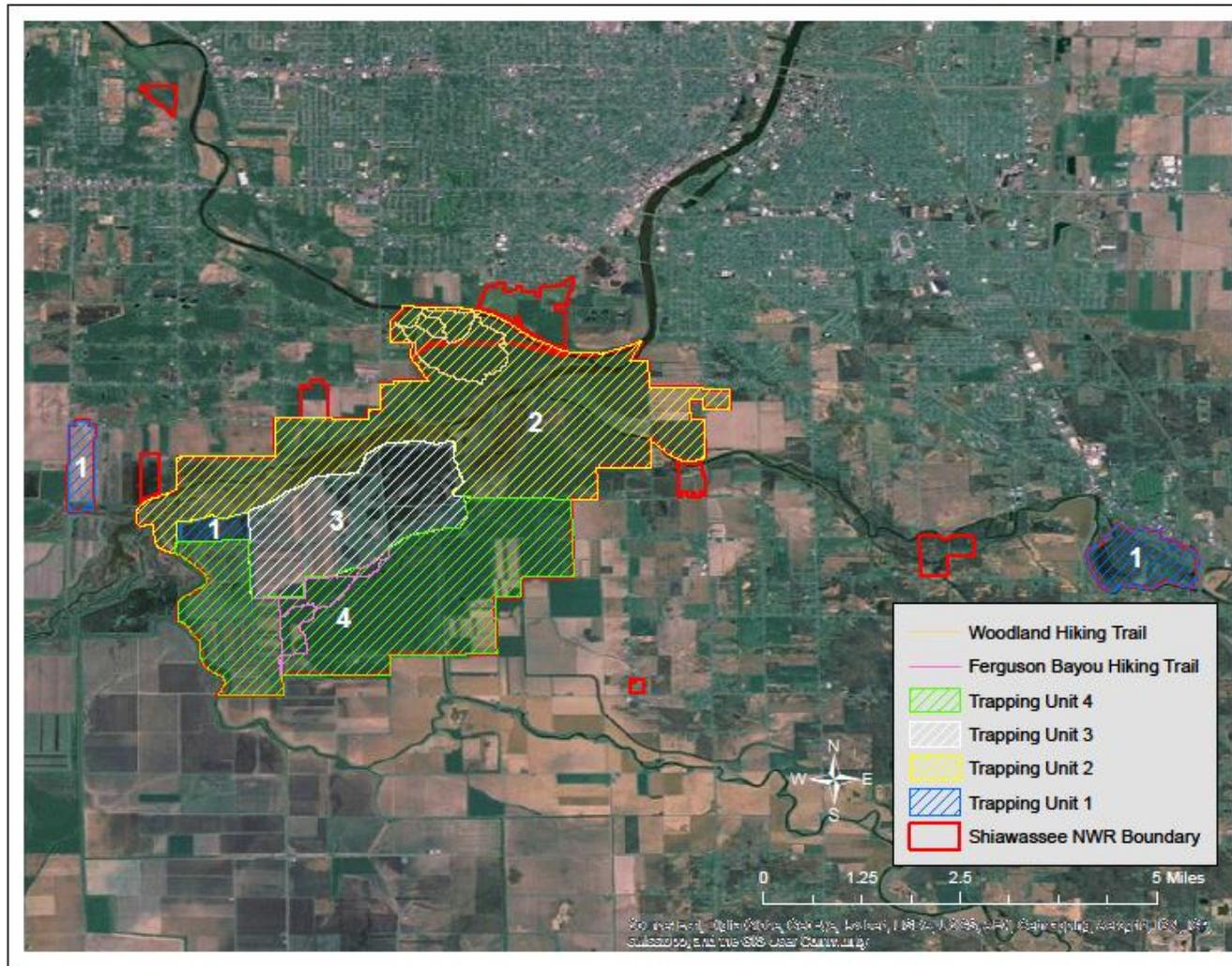


Figure 1. Trapping unit boundaries for the 2015 to 2016 furbearer trapping program at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw, MI.

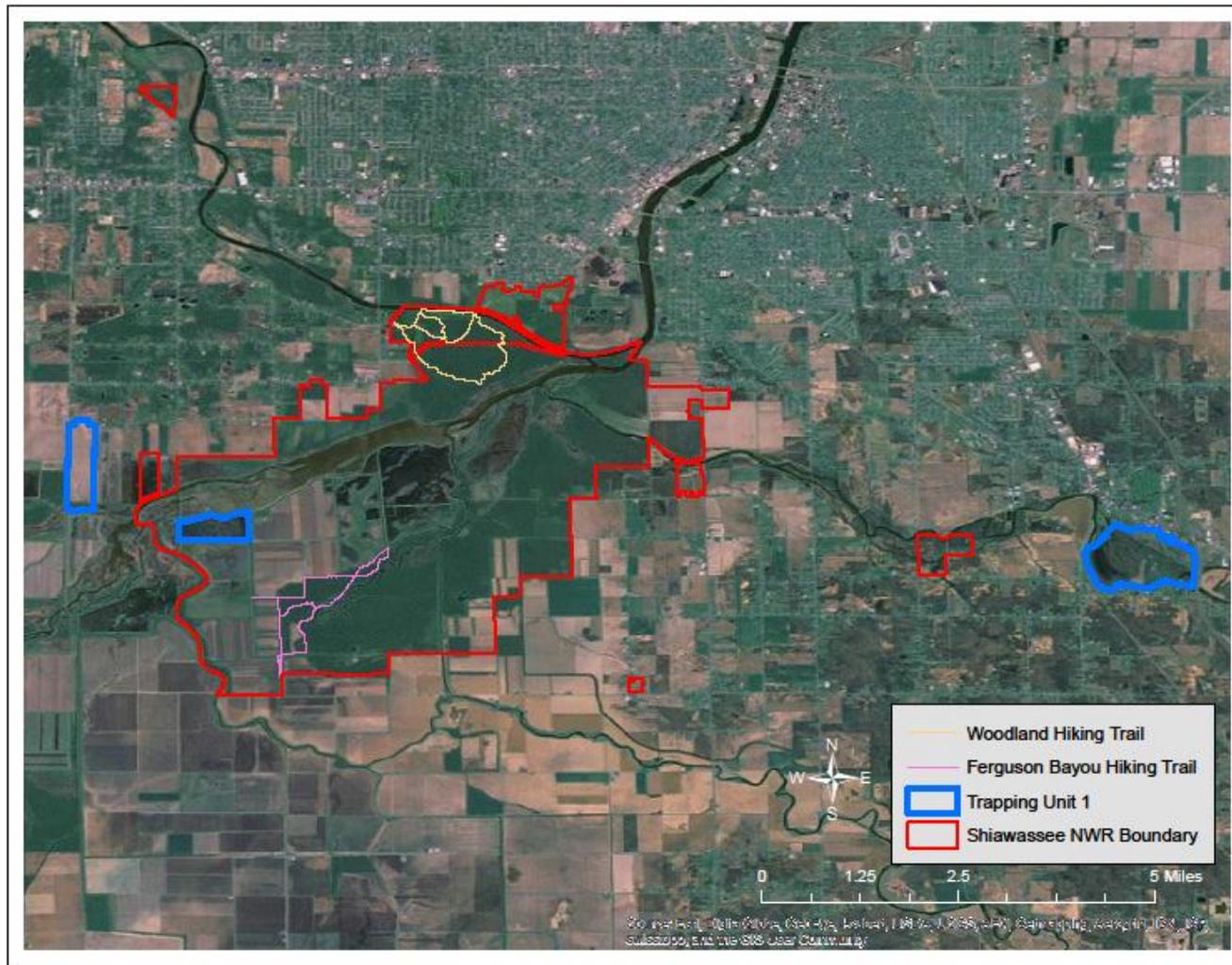


Figure 2. Trapping unit 1 boundary for the 2015 to 2016 furbearer trapping program at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw, MI.

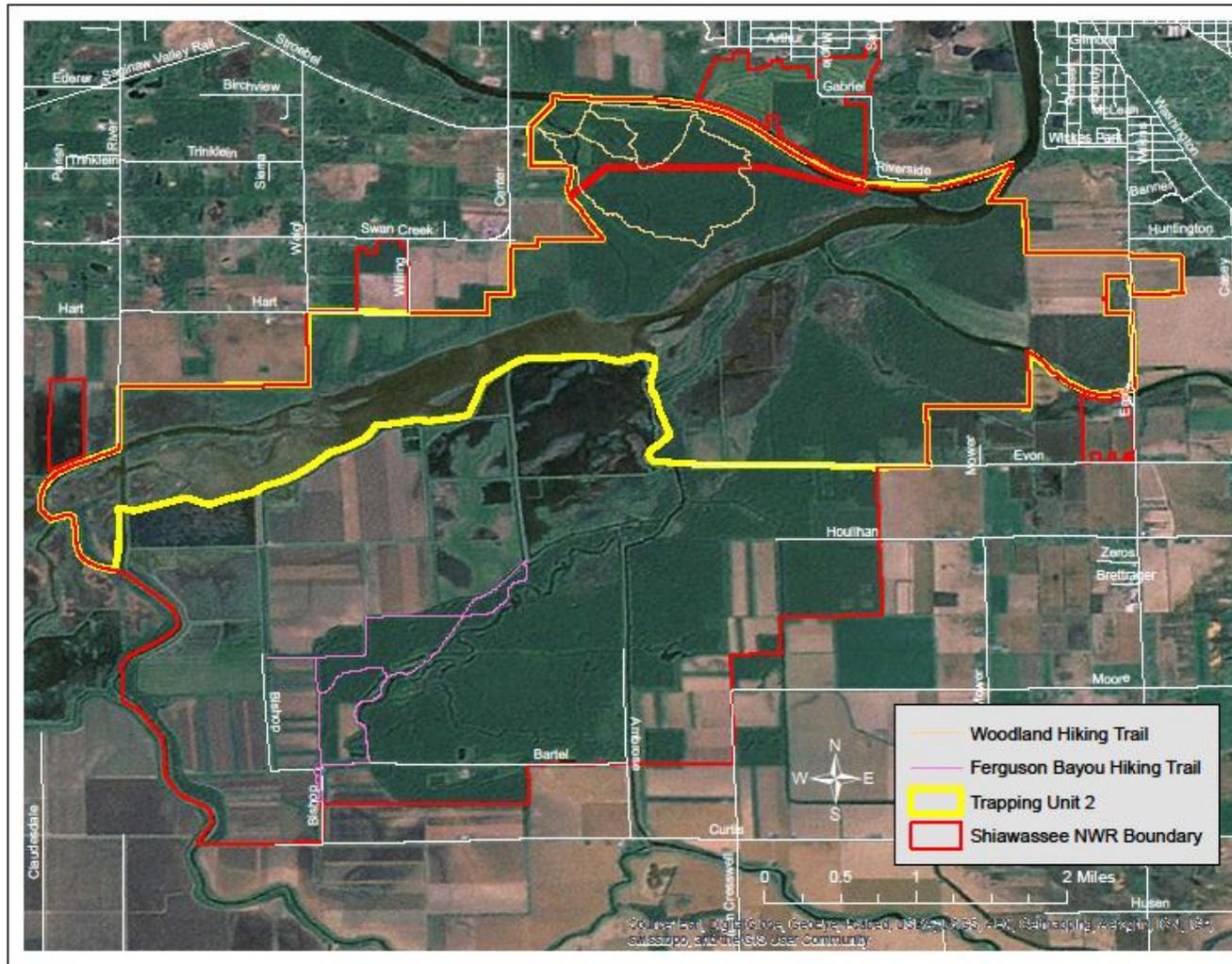


Figure 3. Trapping unit 2 boundary for the 2015 to 2016 furbearer trapping program at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw, MI.

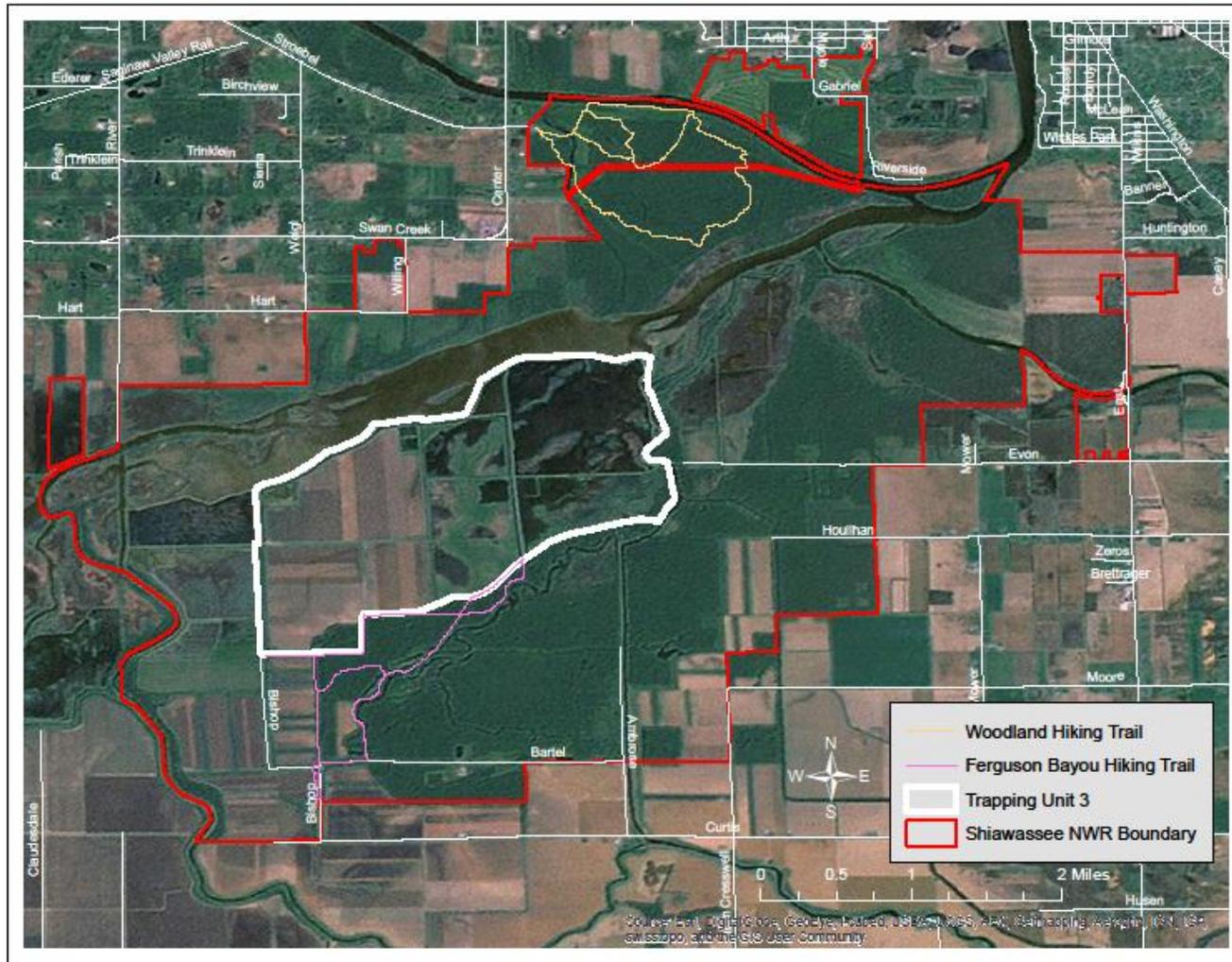


Figure 4. Trapping unit 3 boundary for the 2015 to 2016 furbearer trapping program at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw, MI.

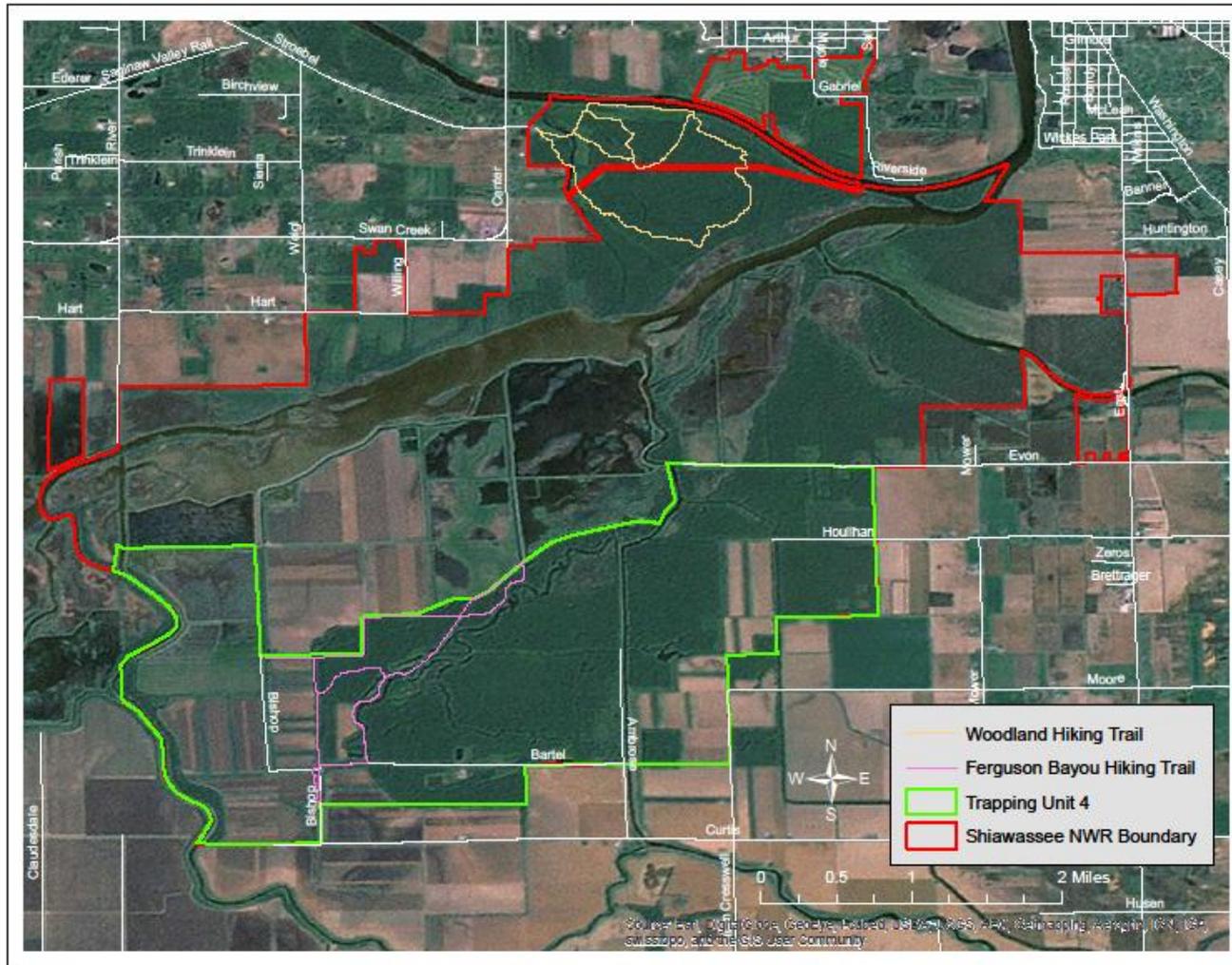


Figure 5. Trapping Unit 4 boundary for the 2015 to 2016 furbearer trapping program at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw, MI.



Shiawassee NWR Trapping Bid

All bids must be sealed in an envelope and be returned to Shiawassee NWR Office (6975 Mower Road, Saginaw, MI 48601) by 1:00 p.m. Wednesday October 14, 2015.

Name:

Partner Name:

Address:

Partner Address:

Phone Number:

Partner Phone Number:

Trapping Unit 1 Bid ^{a,b}:

Trapping Unit 2 Bid ^{a,b}:

Trapping Unit 3 Bid ^{a,b}:

Trapping Unit 4 Bid ^{a,b}:

^a Minimum \$200 bid/unit

^b Trapping parties may bid on all trapping units but parties can only win one of the trapping units (i.e., 1 party cannot win and trap all units). If a trapping party is the highest bidder for multiple units that party will have the choice for which unit they want to trap, the second highest bidder for the other units will win that unit. If units are not bid upon, winning parties will then be offered the remaining units based upon the amount of their bid for those units.