

SPECIAL CONDITIONS – MUSKRAT 2020-2021

In accordance with State regulations, Refuge trappers must be residents of Wisconsin and have a current State trapping license in their possession while trapping. All State trapping regulations apply during the Refuge season; however, permittees must further comply with the following special conditions while trapping on Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge: All references to “permittees” include the permittee and assistants listed on the special use permit.

1. Boats may not be used for trapping prior to the second Monday of November.
2. No trapping west of River Bottoms until October 26, 2020 due to a special waterfowl hunt. (Units 1,2,3,4, 12 & 15)
3. Permittees may trap only in the Refuge unit specified on the special use permit.
4. Refuge trappers are authorized to take the following species **only**: muskrat, mink, skunk, opossum, and raccoon. All other furbearers will be released unharmed or turned over to the Refuge Manager if injuries preclude their release.
5. 330 conibear traps may not be used by muskrat trappers in muskrat/mink/raccoon units.
6. The trapping season for all muskrat units will end March 7, 2021 on the refuge. All equipment will be furnished by the trapper and must also be removed by March 7, 2021.
7. Traps may be tended only during the hours of 7:00AM to 5:00PM daily.
8. It is mandatory for all trappers to keep a record of their catch and submit this report. Information needed includes number of traps out each night and number of each species taken. Also, please turn in your completed reporting calendar at the end of the season. Call 608/539-2311 x 6, or e-mail Trempealeau@fws.gov.
9. Vehicles are restricted to on-road use. Vehicle ID card must be placed on the dashboard (this includes all helpers).
10. Airboats, snowmobiles, and all-terrain vehicles may not be used on the Refuge.
11. Raptors or waterfowl accidentally caught in traps must be turned over to the Refuge Manager as soon as possible.
12. The use of exposed meat or fish bait, or animal carcasses for making sets is prohibited.
13. No carcasses or animal parts may be disposed of on the Refuge.
14. Staking requirements on the Refuge are as follows:
 - a) Trap stake tops must be marked with a visible marking or paint of the trapper’s choosing. Neighboring units should have different colored stakes.
 - b) Willow stakes may be cut on the Refuge but they must be 1" or less in diameter. Cutting is not permitted along the auto tour road, entrance road, Black Oak Island, or any other location visible to the general public.
15. Trapping must begin on or before January 1, 2021, or the unit may be assigned to another trapper.
16. All gate keys, vehicle cards and calendars must be returned by **March 22, 2021**. Failure to return completed and accurate report calendars will result in loss of trapping privileges for the following year.
17. Failure to comply with State regulations or conditions of the special use permit may result in revocation of Refuge trapping privileges.