

# Big Stone

*National Wildlife Refuge*

*Public Use Regulations*

*2019 - 2020*



## Refuge Information

- The Refuge Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.
- Refuge hours for all activities, except hunting, are sunrise to sunset.
- Refuge hunting hours follow those set by the Minnesota State hunting regulations, except where noted.
- Motorized vehicles (except ATVs and snowmobiles) are permitted only on paved roads, roads specifically posted as public access roads, and in parking lots. Speed limits are posted. Parking in front of gates, water access points, water control structures, or on bridges is prohibited.
- ATVs and snowmobiles are PROHIBITED on all refuge roads and lands.
- Non-motorized boats and boats using electric motors are permitted only in the Minnesota River channel. Boats are prohibited on all other refuge waters.
- Camping, overnight use, and fires are prohibited.
- Pets must be leashed at all times, except when used for hunting during a small game season.
- The destruction, defacement, disturbance, or unauthorized removal of any natural object or government property is prohibited.
- Disposing of animal carcasses, trash, refuse, rocks, wood, or other debris is prohibited.
- Cutting, mowing, sawing, digging, collecting, or removing vegetation is allowed by special use permit only. See Refuge Manager for details and information.
- Contact the refuge at 320/273 2191 for wheelchair-accessible opportunities.

Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge

44843 County Road 19

Odessa, MN 56276

1 320/273 2191

Federal Information Relay System: 1 800/877 8339

<http://www.fws.gov>



November 2019

## Fishing Regulations

- Fishing is permitted on all refuge waters except the abandoned quarries. These sites are fenced and posted with "Area Closed" signs.
- Refuge waters are open to sport fishing in accordance with State fishing regulations.
- Fishing is allowed during daylight hours only.
- All statewide length and creel limits apply to refuge waters.
- Bank fishing and wading is permitted on refuge pools and open marshes.
- Ice fishing shelters and all other personal property must be removed from the refuge after each day of fishing.
- See Refuge Information section for boating regulations.

## Hunting Regulations

- All Federal and State hunting regulations apply.
- Hunters must possess all applicable State and Federal licenses, endorsements, and stamps.
- Target shooting on the refuge is prohibited.
- Shooting from or over roads and parking areas is prohibited.
- **It is illegal to retrieve game from areas closed to hunting.**
- Distribution of feed or bait, or hunting over bait is prohibited.
- It is illegal to use or direct the rays of a spotlight, headlight, or other artificial light for the purpose of spotting, locating, or taking any wild animal within the boundaries of the refuge.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- All personal property brought onto the refuge must be removed after each day's hunt. This includes all vehicles, boats, tree stands, decoys, and trash.

**See Refuge Map on Other Side**

## Migratory Game Bird Specific Regulations

- The refuge is CLOSED to all migratory game bird hunting. Migratory game birds include the following: swans, geese, ducks, mourning dove, American coot, crow, sora, Virginia rail, Wilson's snipe, and American woodcock.
- Waterfowl taken outside the refuge boundary may be retrieved without a firearm, up to 100 yards (90m) inside areas of the refuge that are open to all other hunting. Waterfowl may not be retrieved from areas closed to hunting.

## Small Game Specific Regulations

- Portions of the refuge are open to ring-necked pheasant, Hungarian partridge, cottontail rabbit, jackrabbit, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, red and gray fox, raccoon, and striped skunk firearms hunting in accordance with Federal and State hunting regulations.
- Fox, raccoon, and skunk can only be hunted when another small game season is open on the refuge. Hunting hours for these species are one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Dogs cannot be used for raccoon hunting.
- The refuge is CLOSED to coyote hunting.
- All small game shotgun hunters are required to use and possess only approved nontoxic shot.
- Trapping is permitted by special use permit only. See Refuge Manager for details and information.
- Hunting dogs must be under the immediate control of the hunter at all times.

## Wild Turkey Specific Regulations

- Portions of the refuge are open to spring and fall wild turkey hunting in accordance with Federal and State hunting regulations.
- Turkey hunters must possess and use only approved nontoxic shot while in the field.

## Deer Specific Regulations

- Portions of the refuge are open to deer hunting in accordance with Federal and State hunting regulations. See State regulations for map and permit requirements.
- Permanent blinds and stands are not allowed on the refuge.
- The use of nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach a stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree, into which a metal object has been driven or screwed to support a hunter is prohibited.
- Portable or temporary hunting blinds or stands can only be set up the day of the hunt and must be removed at the end of each day's hunt.
- Entry into the refuge is not allowed earlier than two (2) hours before legal shooting hours.

# Big Stone

## National Wildlife Refuge

