

# Bowdoin

*Wetland Management  
District*

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*Public Use Regulations*



## Protecting Wetlands and Grasslands for Wildlife



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

In 1958, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) began protecting small wetland areas and grasslands by purchasing these lands using money from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps. The Bowdoin Wetland Management District (WMD) was established in this way. The District includes nine Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs), four satellite refuges, and over 150 grassland and/or wetland easements.

WPAs preserve wetlands and grasslands critical to waterfowl and other wildlife. These lands are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Nearly 95 percent of WPAs are located in the prairie pothole areas of North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Montana.

Satellite refuges are unstaffed national wildlife refuges which have been established by Executive Order and may contain Service lands and private lands under easement within their boundaries.

The Service purchases conservation easements from private landowners to permanently protect wetlands and grasslands from uses that may be harmful to humans and wildlife. Easement landowners retain the right to control access to their land. Conservation easements ensure that these lands remain in private ownership, protecting the habitat and rural way of life for both wildlife and people.

## Visitor Information

Bowdoin WMD consists of Korsbeck, Dyr Dahl, Webb, Beaver Creek, McNeil Slough, Holm, Black Coulee, Hewitt Lake, and Pearce WPAs, and Hewitt Lake, Creedman Coulee, Lake Thibadeau, and Black Coulee National Wildlife Refuges (NWR). Note that Hewitt Lake and Black Coulee WPAs are both located adjacent to refuges with the same names. All of these sites are open to photography, wildlife observation, environmental education, and interpretation. All of these sites, except the Holm WPA, are open to hunting. Please observe the regulations in this leaflet that have been established to protect both you and the wildlife you came to enjoy.

## Accessibility

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 406 / 654 2863, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.



## **General Regulations for WPAs and Satellite Refuges**

- These lands are open to visitors from dawn to dusk.
- Public access is via foot travel only unless otherwise authorized.
- No camping or overnight parking is allowed. Fires are not permitted.
- To protect wildlife and their young, dogs must be kept on a leash from April 15 through August 15. Dogs must be under the owner's control when not on a leash.
- Please carry out your trash, and dispose of it properly.

## **Hunting and Fishing Regulations for WPAs and Satellite Refuges**

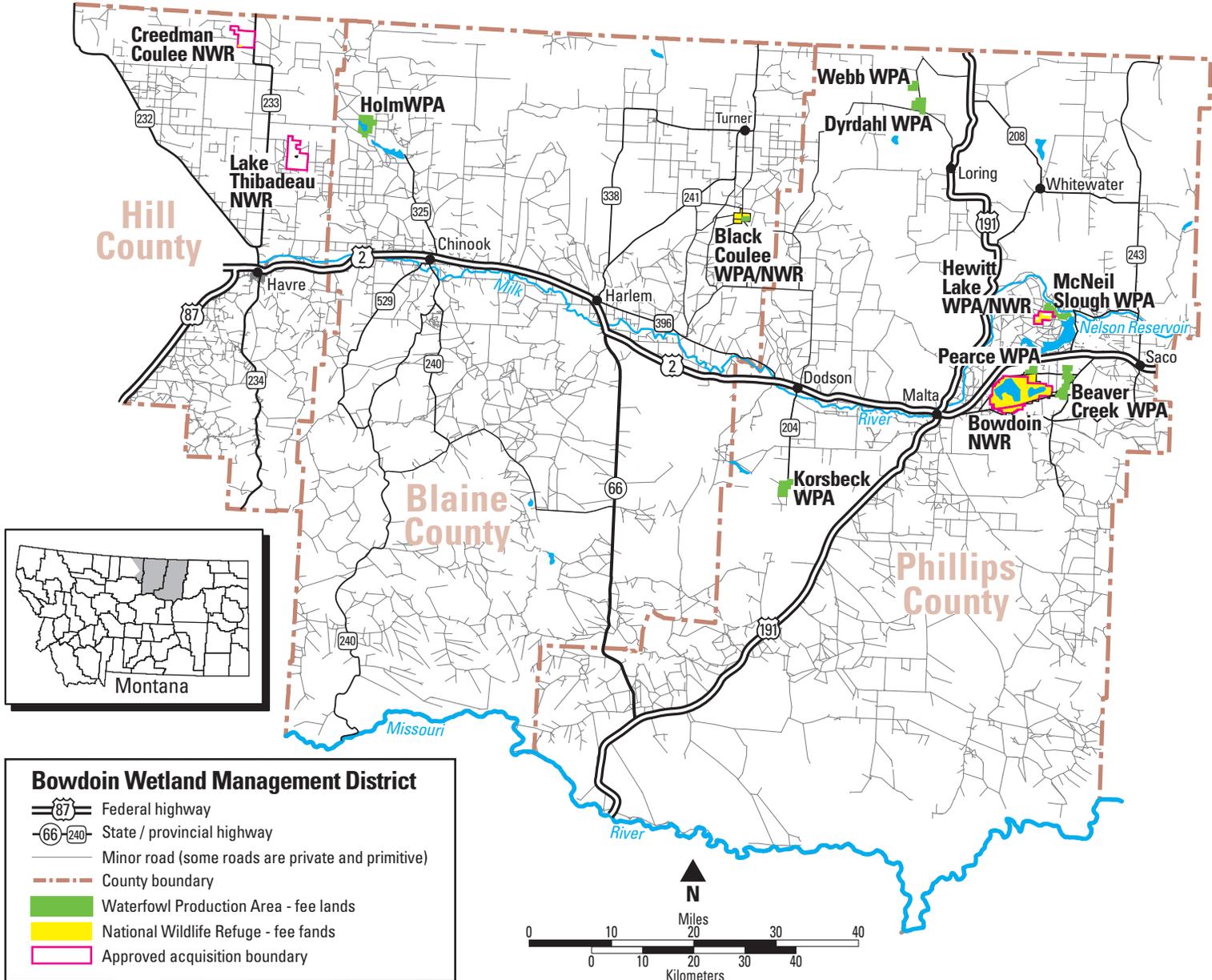
- All hunting and fishing activities are allowed in accordance with State regulations and as described in the notes below the table.
- Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).
- **Portions of the land within or surrounding the boundaries of these satellite refuges are private. Persons wishing to hunt on the private land must gain permission from the landowner.**

In the table below, “x” denotes the hunting and fishing activities that are allowed on the WPAs and satellite refuges in the Bowdoin WMD. Note the difference in allowed activities between Black Coulee and Hewitt Lake WPAs and Black Coulee and Hewitt Lake NWRs. Please see the “Notes” listed below the table for additional regulations.

	<b>Migratory Game Bird Hunting</b>	<b>Upland Game Bird Hunting</b>	<b>Big Game Hunting</b>	<b>Fox and Coyote Hunting</b>	<b>Fishing</b>
<b>All WPAs</b>	Notes 1, 2, & 3	Note 3	Notes 2, 5, & 6	Note 10	Notes 1 & 7
Korsbeck WPA	x	x	x	x	x
Dyrdahl WPA	x	x	x	x	x
Webb WPA	x	x	x	x	x
Beaver Creek WPA	x	x	x	x	x
McNeil Slough WPA	x	x	x Note 4	x	x
Holm WPA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Pearce WPA	x	x	x	x	x
Black Coulee WPA	x	x	x	x	x
Hewitt Lake WPA	x	x	x	x	x
<b>All Satellite Refuges</b>	Notes 3 & 8	Note 8	Note 8	Note 8	
Hewitt Lake NWR	x Notes 2 & 9	x Note 3	x Notes 2, 5, & 6	x Notes 10 & 11	Closed
Creedman Coulee NWR	x	x	x	x	Closed
Lake Thibadeau NWR	x	x	x	x	Closed
Black Coulee NWR	x Notes 1 & 2	x Note 3	x Notes 2, 5, & 6	x Note 10	Closed

Notes:

1. Only non-motorized boats are allowed.
2. At the end of each day, remove boats, decoys, all blinds, other personal property, and any materials brought onto the area for blind construction.
3. Hunters may only possess approved non-toxic shot.
4. Only archery, muzzleloader (as defined by State regulations), and shotgun hunting are allowed on McNeil Slough WPA.
5. Portable tree stands and free-standing elevated platforms may be left on WPAs from August 15th to December 15th. The construction or use of any permanent tree stand or ladder, and the use of nails, wire, or screw-in spikes is prohibited.
6. Portable tree stands and free-standing elevated platforms must be visibly marked with your automated licensing system (ALS) number.
7. Boats, fishing equipment, and other personal property must be removed at the end of each day.
8. Hunting is allowed on designated portions of satellite refuges.
9. Air-thrust boats and boats with greater than 25 horsepower motors are not permitted.
10. Fox and coyote hunters may use only center-fire rifles, rim-fire rifles, or shotguns with approved non-toxic shot.
11. Shooting or taking of prairie dogs is prohibited.



**Bowdoin Wetland Management District  
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bowdoin@fws.gov  
<http://www.fws.gov/bowdoin>**

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

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

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

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