

DeSoto

National Wildlife Refuge

Regulations

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge
 1434 316th Lane
 Missouri Valley, IA 51555

Phone: 712/388-4800
 People with hearing disabilities may contact the refuge via the Federal Information Relay System at 1 800/877-8339.

Website:
www.fws.gov/refuge/desoto



Visitor Center

The DeSoto Visitor Center is open daily from 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., except most federal holidays and weather-related emergencies. Please call ahead to confirm holiday and severe weather hours.

Directions

From I-29: Exit onto Highway 30 heading west 5 miles to the refuge.

From Missouri Valley, IA or Blair, NE: Follow Highway 30 west from Missouri Valley 5 miles or from Blair on Highway 30 east 4 miles to the refuge entrance.



Boundaries posted in the field supercede all boundaries shown on map.

Refuge Hours

The refuge is open ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset.

Entrance Fee



Daily entrance fees are \$3.00 per vehicle. Fees are collected at the visitor center or self-service fee stations at entrances. The refuge is a federal fee area and a valid entry permit is required to enter the refuge or travel on roads in the refuge.

Other valid entrance passes (available for purchase at the visitor center) include the:

- DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge annual pass (\$15.00)
- Federal Duck Stamp (\$25.00)
- America the Beautiful Annual, Senior, Access, or Volunteer Pass.

Nebraska State Park Permit NOT Accepted

Vehicles

The charge for commercial vans and buses is \$20 or \$30 if 21 or more people are aboard.

Vehicles are allowed on public roads and designated parking areas only.

Fishing

DeSoto Lake and other inland refuge waters located in open areas (unless otherwise posted).

Open April 15—October 14

Ice Fishing on DeSoto Lake and other inland refuge waters located in open areas.

January 2—end of February (when conditions permit)

Missouri River. Open daily.

Daily bag, possession, and minimum length limits for the Missouri River channel is in accordance with applicable regulations of Iowa and Nebraska. See State regulation guides for details. All other refuge regulations apply on all refuge lands along the banks of the Missouri River.

Special Fish Regulations

State and federal regulations apply. An Iowa or Nebraska license is required. Some special regulations may be posted, in addition to the following regulations:

- Leaving fish or any part thereof on the banks, in the water, or on the ice is prohibited.
- Digging or seining for bait is prohibited.
- Trotlines, bank lines, set lines, and float lines are prohibited.
- No more than two lines and two hooks per lines may be used, including ice fishing.
- Archery and spearfishing are permitted for roughfish only.
- Motor or wind-driven conveyances are not permitted on the lake during the ice fishing season.
- Portable ice fishing shelters are permitted, but must be removed daily.

The daily bag limit and minimum length limit for all fish species in DeSoto Lake and other open inland refuge waters are the most restrictive limit of either Iowa or Nebraska. Some species may be more restrictive by federal law. These regulations include, but are not limited to, the following species.

| Species | Daily Bag | Minimum Length |
|---|--|--------------------|
| Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass (Combined) | 3 <i>Only one fish 21 inches or longer</i> | 15 inches |
| Walleye/Sauger/Saugeye (Combined) | 4 <i>Only one fish 22 inches or longer</i> | 15 inches |
| Northern Pike | 3 | 24 inches |
| Panfish (Crappie/Bluegill Sunfish Combined) | 15 | None |
| White Bass | 15 <i>Only one fish 16 inches or longer</i> | None |
| Channel Catfish | 5 | None |
| Flathead Catfish | 5 <i>Only one fish 30 inches or longer</i> | None |
| Blue Catfish | 1 | None |
| Shovelnose Sturgeon | 10 | None |
| Pallid or Lake Sturgeon | None | Can't be Possessed |
| Paddlefish | (Protected Species) | Possessed |
| Turtles and Frogs | | |

Boating & Paddling

Boating and paddling operation is permitted in accordance with state regulations, and the following special regulations:

- Boating is limited to no-wake speeds, not to exceed 5 miles per hour.
- Airboats, houseboats and boats containing toilets that flush directly into the water are prohibited.
- DeSoto Lake closed October 15-April 14

Picnicking

There are a number of picnic sites on the refuge. Please don't litter.

Hunting

Limited hunting opportunities are allowed on the refuge by special hunting permit only. Contact the refuge manager for current regulations.

Mushroom Gathering

Mushroom gathering for personal consumption only is permitted in open areas of the refuge from April 15 through October 14. See map for open areas.

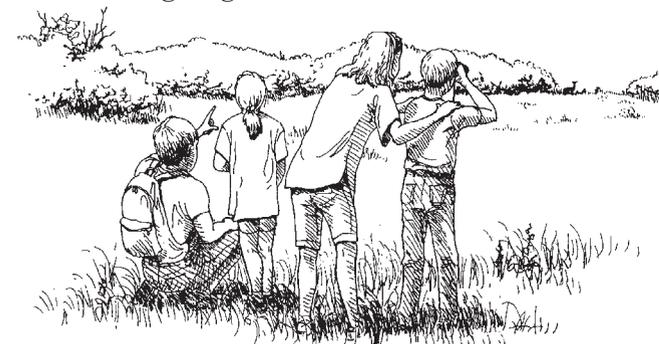
Refuge Signs

What these signs mean:



Refuge boundary sign. Public use permitted in accordance with refuge regulations.

No entry allowed



Prohibited Activities

Fires

■ Open fires are prohibited; grills are restricted to picnic areas at South Gate, Cottonwood and Lakeview Drive.

Camping

■ Camping is not permitted on the refuge.

Lights

■ The use of artificial lights to take or locate wildlife is prohibited.

Disorderly Conduct

■ Disorderly conduct or disturbance of the peace is prohibited. No intoxicated person shall enter or remain upon the refuge.

Firearms

■ Unauthorized use of firearms, fire works, airguns and all other weapons are prohibited.

Pets

■ Dogs are permitted only under physical restrictive control of a leash at all times. Leashes may not exceed 6 feet in length.

Horses

■ Horseback riding is prohibited on the refuge.

Swimming

■ Swimming is not allowed on the refuge.

Trespassing

■ Trespassing into closed areas is prohibited.

Collecting

■ Collecting or destruction of plant and animal life is prohibited. Digging or seining for bait is prohibited. Collecting shed deer antlers is prohibited. Searching for or removing artifacts or objects of antiquity is prohibited.

■ Plants and animals collected or taken elsewhere shall not be introduced, liberated or placed on any part of the refuge.

ATVs

■ Use of motorized All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs, snowmobiles, etc.) is prohibited at all times.

Illegal Substances

■ Use or possession of alcohol by minors is prohibited. Use or possession of any illegal drug or drug paraphernalia is prohibited.

Drones

■ Operating a drone on the refuge is prohibited.