

# News Release

## *National Wildlife Refuge System*



### Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Headquarters  
51 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 101  
Winona, MN 55987

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 17, 2015

Contact: Tim Yager, 507 494 6219

#### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service releases final guidelines for managing Commercial Waterfowl Hunting Guide Services on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Application period open until July 17, 2015**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has released the final Prospectus (Prospectus) and Invitation for Applications to Conduct Commercial Waterfowl Hunting Guide Services on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (Refuge). The Prospectus, as revised in this final version, will govern the commercial waterfowl hunt guiding program on the Refuge.

The final Prospectus is available on our website at [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/upper\\_mississippi\\_river/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/upper_mississippi_river/) or by request from the Refuge Headquarters in Winona, MN or any of the four Refuge District Offices in Winona, MN; La Crosse, WI; McGregor, IA (Prairie du Chien, WI) or Savanna, IL. Copies may be requested by calling 507-452-4232, by e-mailing [timothy\\_yager@fws.gov](mailto:timothy_yager@fws.gov), or by visiting the Refuge Headquarters at 51 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Winona, MN.

After accepting comments by mail, email, and through a series of four public meetings the draft Prospectus was revised and is accepted as regulation for the upcoming waterfowl season. Written comments that were received through this public process were summarized and responses posted in a summary document that also outlines changes that were made from the draft. That document is also available for review on our website [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/upper\\_mississippi\\_river/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/upper_mississippi_river/). Prospective guides have until July 17, 2015 to submit their applications for the 2015-2016 hunting season. Application forms and requirements are contained within the final prospectus.

(More)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 560 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance Program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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