

# Valentine

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

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### *Fishing and Hunting Regulations*



## **Welcome to Valentine National Wildlife Refuge**

Valentine National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established in 1935 to protect a portion of the Sandhills and their wildlife. This unique landscape was recognized in 1976 when the Sandhills prairie was designated as a National Natural Landmark.

Valentine NWR is one of over 565 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System – a network of lands set aside specifically for wildlife. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge System is a living heritage, conserving wildlife and habitat for people today and for generations to come.

In 1934, funding for acquiring refuge lands in the National Wildlife Refuge System was established by the passage of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, more commonly known as the “Duck Stamp” Act. This Act requires waterfowl hunters to purchase a migratory bird or duck stamp on an annual basis. Funds collected from duck stamp sales have been used to purchase numerous refuges, including Valentine NWR, that provide the habitats needed to sustain a variety of wildlife.

## **General Regulations**

State fishing and hunting regulations, seasons, bag limits, and license requirements apply. Additional Refuge-specific regulations are described in this brochure.

Shooting from a motor vehicle or roadway is prohibited.

## *Hours*

Anglers may enter the Refuge 1 hour before sunrise and must be off the Refuge by 1½ hours after sunset. Hunters may enter the Refuge 2 hours before sunrise and must be off the Refuge by 2 hours after sunset.

## *Personal Property*

All personal property such as blinds, boats, decoys, and fishing huts must be removed from the Refuge at the end of the day.

*Access* Motor vehicles are allowed only on public use roads and trails as shown on the map. Four-wheel drive is recommended on some public use trails (see map). Driving on ice or off-road is prohibited.

*Accommodations* Special accommodations for anglers and hunters with disabilities is by Refuge special use permit only. Please inquire at Refuge headquarters.

*Camping and Fires* Camping and fires are prohibited on the Refuge. Camping is available nearby.

*Firearms* 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).

**Fishing Regulations** Fishing is allowed on the nine lakes shown in dark blue on the map. Accessible boat docks are located at Watts, Dewey, Pelican, West Long, Duck, Clear, and Hackberry lakes. Consult State fishing guide for specific regulations on individual lakes.

*Boats* Boats propelled with oars, paddles, or electric motors may be used on Refuge lakes. The use of internal combustion motors is prohibited.

*Bait* The possession or use of live or dead minnows, except for frozen or dead smelt, is prohibited. The possession of any fish not taken from Refuge waters is prohibited.

*Turtles, Frogs, and Minnows* Turtles, frogs, and minnows may not be taken on the Refuge, with the exception of bull frogs. Bull frogs may be harvested on Refuge lakes open to fishing.

**Hunting Regulations** Hunting for deer, coyote, prairie grouse, pheasants, doves, and waterfowl is allowed on the Refuge. The Refuge is closed to hunting of all other wildlife species.

*Rifle and  
Muzzleloader -  
Deer*

The Refuge is open for rifle and muzzleloader deer hunting, except for the waterfowl hunting area and closed areas (see map).

*Archery - Deer*

The Refuge is open for archery deer hunting, except for the closed areas (see map).

*Coyote*

The Refuge is open for coyote hunting, except for the closed areas (see map). Coyote hunting is allowed September 1 through March 31.

*Prairie Grouse,  
Pheasants, and  
Doves*

The Refuge is open for hunting prairie grouse, pheasants, and doves, except in the closed areas (see map).

*Waterfowl*

Waterfowl hunting is only allowed in the designated Waterfowl Hunting Area located in the northwest part of the Refuge (see map).

*Non-toxic Shot*

Steel or other non-toxic shot is required for all bird hunting on the Refuge. Possession of lead shot in the field is prohibited.

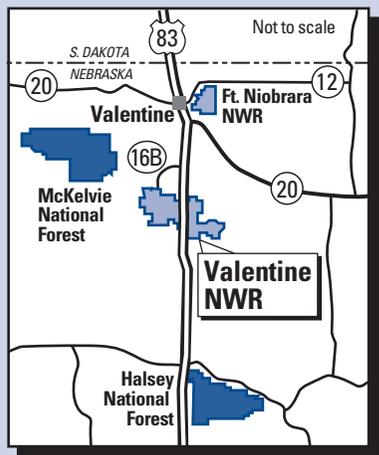
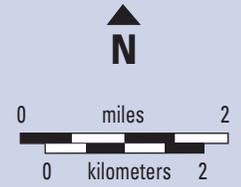
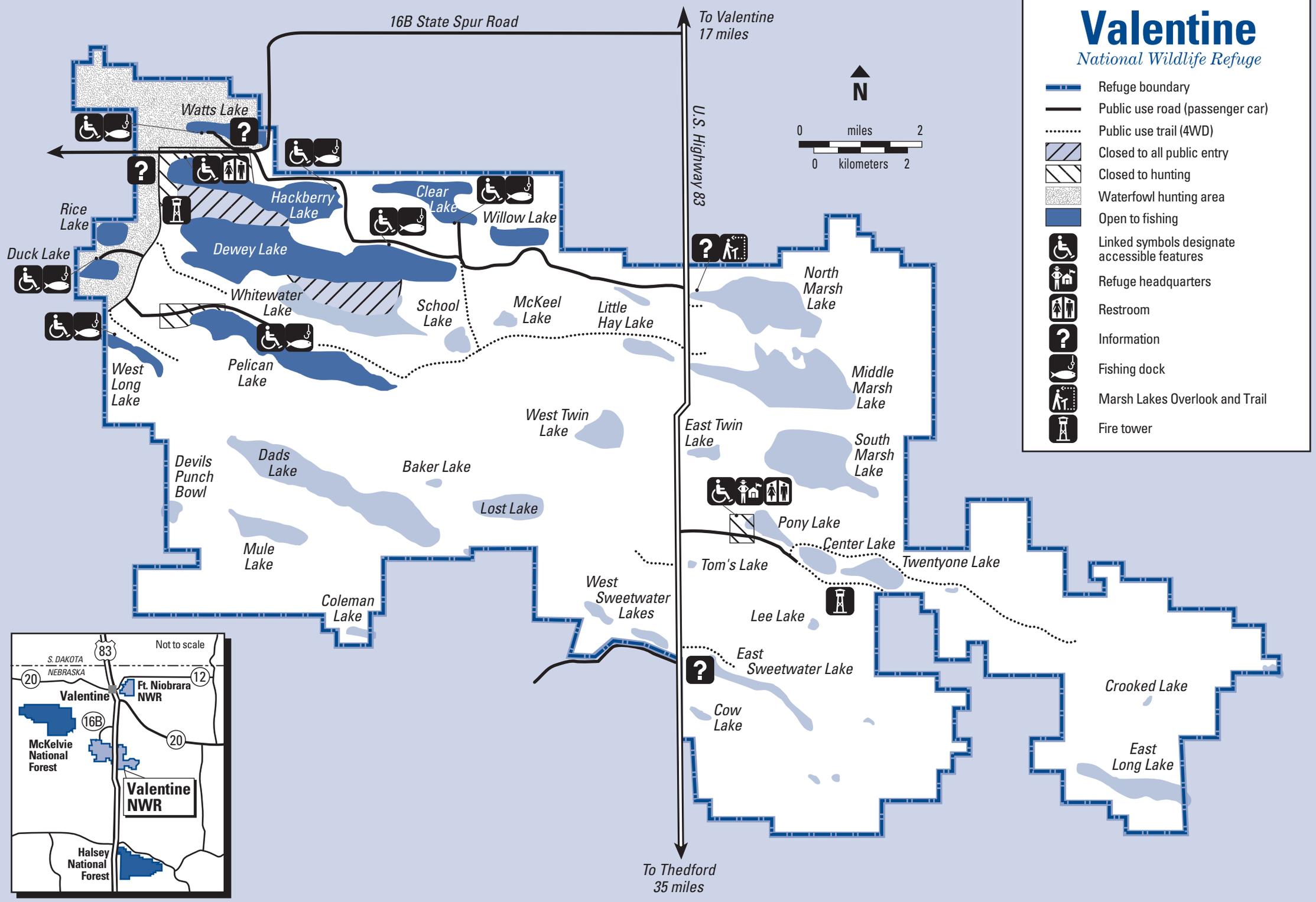
**Accessibility  
Information**

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 people with hearing and speech disabilities. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 402 / 376 1889, or the U.S. Department of the Interior; Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

# Valentine

National Wildlife Refuge

- Refuge boundary
- Public use road (passenger car)
- Public use trail (4WD)
- Closed to all public entry
- Closed to hunting
- Waterfowl hunting area
- Open to fishing
- Linked symbols designate accessible features
- Refuge headquarters
- Restroom
- Information
- Fishing dock
- Marsh Lakes Overlook and Trail
- Fire tower



**Valentine National Wildlife Refuge**  
**39679 Pony Lake Road**  
**Valentine, NE 69201**  
**402 / 376 1889 or 402 / 376 3789**  
**402 / 376 3217 fax**  
**fortniobrara@fws.gov**  
**<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/valentine>**

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

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

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

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