

Middle Mississippi River

National Wildlife Refuge Public Use & Regulations

*Effective September 1, 2018
Supercedes all previously dated leaflets*

- Meissner Island Division
- Harlow Island Division
- Beaver Island Division
- Horse Island Division
- Rockwood Island Division
- Crains Island Division
- Wilkinson Island Division

- Hunting of furbearers from legal sunrise to legal sunset is allowed.
- Only approved, nontoxic shot shells may be used or possessed while in the field.

Sport Fishing

Fishing is allowed on the refuge in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions

- Meissner Island division is closed to all sport fishing.
- The taking of turtles or frogs is prohibited.
- Fishing is allowed from legal sunrise to legal sunset.
- Anglers must remove all fishing devices at the end of each day's fishing.

Trapping

Trapping may be permitted on the refuges, but all trapping requires a **Refuge Special Use Permit**. Contact refuge manager for current regulations.

About the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under the Department of the Interior, is the primary Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the Nation's fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. The Service has specific trustee responsibilities for migratory birds, endangered species, anadromous fish, and certain marine mammals, as well as for lands and waters administered as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service encourages everyone to engage in permitted recreational activities on the refuge. However, certain regulations are necessary to protect wildlife and preserve the beauty of the area. *Any public access or activity that is not specifically allowed is prohibited.*

Great River, Clarence Cannon and Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuges
37599 County Road 206
Annada, Missouri 63330
573/847-2333

Persons with hearing impairments may contact refuges through the Federal Information Relay number at: 1 800/877-8339
Law Enforcement Cell—618/694-3041

For directions and maps to refuge divisions please check our website.

www.fws.gov/refuge/middle_mississippi_river/

For information on state hunting licenses and state regulations in Missouri, please contact the Missouri Department of Conservation at 573/751-4115
TTY: 800/735-2966

For information on state hunting licenses and state regulations in Illinois, please contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at 217/782-6302
TTY: 217/782-9175



Refuge Divisions



Refuge Facts

Middle Mississippi River NWR was established May 31, 2000 as a sanctuary for migratory birds; for the conservation, maintenance, and management of wildlife resources; for the development of incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational, the protection of natural resources, and the conservation of endangered or threatened species; for the conservation of the wetlands.

The refuge has seven divisions:

- Meissner Island (78 acres) Monroe County, IL
- Harlow Island (1,224 acres) Jefferson County, MO
- Beaver Island (245 acres) Randolph County, IL
- Horse Island (2,110 acres) Randolph County, IL
- Crains Island (553 acres) Randolph County, IL
- Rockwood Island (1,224 acres) Randolph County, IL
- Wilkinson Island (2,640 acres) Jackson County, IL and Perry County, MO

Public Use

The refuge offers many opportunities for public use including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education and interpretation.

Where applicable, refuge lands are open for fishing, hunting furbearers and general use, from legal sunrise to legal sunset. For other authorized hunting activities, the refuge is open two hours before legal sunrise until one hour after legal sunset.

- Bicycling and foot traffic are permitted on refuge roads unless otherwise posted.
- ATV or UTVs are NOT allowed on the refuge.



- Pets must be on a leash, except when used for the purpose of hunting where permitted in accordance with Federal and State seasons and regulations.
- Berry and mushroom gathering is permitted for personal consumption ONLY, not for resale or other commercial use.
- Camping or fires are NOT allowed.
- Target practice or any non-hunting discharge of firearms is prohibited.
- Gas boat motors are prohibited on the Refuge. Electric motors and non-motorized watercraft are allowed in designated areas for hunting and accessibility. We prohibit deer drives, by person or animal, and participating in deer drives on all refuge divisions.

Hunting

No sign in, pass or draw is required for hunting, fishing or general public use. Refuge-specific hunting regulations are outlined below.

Big Game Hunting

Hunting of white-tailed deer and turkey is allowed on the refuge, in accordance with state regulations, subject to the following conditions.

Hunters are strongly encouraged to have deer harvested from Beaver Island, Horse Island, and Crains Island tested for CWD. Heads can be dropped off at sampling stations located at the Horse Island public parking area and the Kaskaskia River L&D Launch parking area. Information about additional CWD sampling options are available at

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/programs/CWD/Documents/CWDSamplingLocations.pdf>

- On the Rockwood Island Division, only the actual island is open to hunting big game.



- The construction or use of permanent blinds, stands, scaffolds or platforms is prohibited.
- Boats, blinds, blind materials, stands, decoys and other hunting equipment must be removed from the refuge at the end of each day. In the Harlow, Crains, and
- Meissner Island Divisions, only archery equipment may be used to harvest white-tailed deer.
- Only approved nontoxic shot shells may be used or possessed while in the field.
- Placing temporary tree stands in dead or dying trees is prohibited.
- Trees or limbs greater than 1 inch in diameter may not be trimmed.

Migratory Bird Hunting

Hunting of migratory game birds is only allowed on the Meissner, Wilkinson and Beaver Island Divisions, in accordance with State regulations and subject to the following conditions.

- The construction or use of permanent blinds, stands, scaffolds or platforms is prohibited.
- Boats, blinds, blind materials, stands, decoys and other hunting equipment must be removed from the refuge at the end of each day.
- Portable blinds are permitted on a daily basis without permit, pass or draw.

Upland Game Hunting

Hunting of upland game (squirrels, rabbits and bobwhite quail only) is permitted on the refuge in accordance with State regulations and subject to the following conditions.

- On the Rockwood Island Division, only the actual island is open to hunting upland game.