North Dakota

Waterfowl Production Areas

Public Use Regulations
Welcome

Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) are part of 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.

This goose, designed by J.N. “Ding” Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Wetland Management Districts (WMDs) were formed to manage WPAs and protect and restore waterfowl habitat.

**Waterfowl Production Areas**

North Dakota has over 289,000 acres of habitat conserved as WPAs. These lands are purchased with funds from the sale of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as the “Duck Stamp.” The wetland and grassland habitats on WPAs are managed to provide important resting and breeding grounds for migratory birds, waterfowl, and other wildlife. By providing permanent habitat, these WPAs help sustain North America’s waterfowl populations.

Boundary Signs

Visitor Information

Wildlife-dependent recreational activities are allowed on WPAs. These activities include hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation.

General Regulations

Please observe the following regulations to protect natural resources and to help ensure your visit will be safe and enjoyable.

- Vehicles are allowed only on designated roads, parking areas, and on the ice for ice fishing.
- Vehicle access to ice is limited to ice that is accessible from a right-of-way or designated road.
Vehicles must be licensed in accordance with State laws and regulations.

Motorized boats are allowed for wildlife-dependent activities. Boats that must be launched from a trailer are limited to waters that are accessible from a right-of-way or designated road.

Collection of mature wild fruits, berries, seeds, above-ground portions of asparagus, mushrooms, and rhubarb for personal, daily, non-commercial use is allowed.

Commercial activities are not allowed unless authorized by a special use permit issued by the WMD manager.

Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited on WPAs:

- Overnight camping
- Fires
- Target and recreational shooting
- Riding or using horses for any purpose
- Dog training (personal or professional)
- Removing or disturbing property, including artifacts
- Removing natural objects or destroying plants, excluding the gathering of dead plant materials for on-site blind construction
- Littering, including leaving trash, spent shotgun shells, or debris
- Discarding of animal carcasses

Hunting Regulations

Unless otherwise noted, hunting is allowed in accordance with State regulations.

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).

Firearms may only be fired on the WPA in conjunction with a legal hunt for which the hunter is licensed.

Ammunition

Small game hunters using shotguns are required to use and possess only non-toxic shot.
Big Game Hunting Equipment and Removal
Portable tree stands, portable ground blinds, and game cameras may be used for big game hunting from August 20 to January 31. Equipment not removed by January 31 will be considered abandoned property and subject to removal and confiscation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Equipment left unattended must have an identification tag that includes the owner’s name, address, and telephone number; or a unique identification number issued by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. The identification tag must be readable from the ground.

The use of nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach a stand or steps to a tree is prohibited.

With the exception of the big game hunting equipment listed previously, all personal property must be removed at the end of each day.

Dogs
The use of dogs is encouraged for hunting upland game birds and waterfowl. Dogs are allowed for other activities only if the dog is confined to a vehicle, boat, fish house, or is on a leash controlled by the handler.

Baiting
The distribution of bait and hunting over bait is prohibited.

Fishing Regulations
Unless otherwise noted, fishing is allowed in accordance with State regulations.

Fish Houses
Fish houses may be used for ice fishing in accordance with State regulations. Fish houses may not be left unattended in uplands or in parking areas.

Equipment Removal
Boats, motor vehicles, fishing equipment, and other personal property (excluding fish houses) must be removed at the end of each day.

Trapping Regulations
Trapping is allowed in accordance with Federal and State regulations.
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 U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.
Wetland Management District (WMD) Offices

**Arrowwood WMD**
7780 10th St. SE
Pingree, ND 58476
701 / 285 3341

**Audubon WMD**
3275 11th St. NW
Coleharbor, ND 58531
701 / 442 5474

**Chase Lake WMD**
5924 19th St. SE
Woodworth, ND 58496
701 / 752 4218

**Crosby WMD**
10100 Highway 42 NW
Crosby, ND 58730
701 / 965 6488

**Devils Lake WMD**
221 2nd St. NW
Devils Lake, ND 58301
701 / 662 8611

**J. Clark Salyer WMD**
681 Salyer Road
Upham, ND 58789
701 / 768 2548

**Kulm WMD**
1 First St. SW
Kulm, ND 58456
701 / 647 2866

**Long Lake WMD**
12000 353rd St. SE
Moffit, ND 58560
701 / 387 4397

**Lostwood WMD**
8315 Highway 8
Kenmare, ND 58746
701 / 848 2722

**Tewaukon WMD**
9754 1½ Ave. SE
Cayuga, ND 58013
701 / 724 3598

**Valley City WMD**
11515 River Road
Valley City, ND 58072
701 / 845 3466

**Website Addresses**

- [www.fws.gov/refuge/arrowwood_wmd](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/arrowwood_wmd)
- [www.fws.gov/refuge/chase_lake_wmd](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/chase_lake_wmd)
- [www.fws.gov/refuge/valley_city_wmd](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/valley_city_wmd)
- [www.fws.gov/refuge/audubon_wmd](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/audubon_wmd)
- [www.fws.gov/refuge/devils_lake_wmd](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/devils_lake_wmd)
- [www.fws.gov/refuge/j_clark_salyer_wmd](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/j_clark_salyer_wmd)
- [www.fws.gov/refuge/kulm_wmd](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/kulm_wmd)
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- [www.fws.gov/refuge/crosby_wmd](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/crosby_wmd)
- [www.fws.gov/refuge/tewaukon_wmd](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/tewaukon_wmd)

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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