



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Upper Mississippi River *National Wildlife and Fish Refuge*

Refuge Facts

- Established: 1924
- Acres: 244,507
- Refuge includes 261 miles of Mississippi River Valley from Wabasha, MN to Rock Island, IL and is divided into four Districts:
 - Winona, MN
(Pools 4-6)
 - La Crosse, WI
(Pools 7-8)
 - McGregor, IA
(Pools 9-11)
 - Savanna, IL
(Pools 12-14)
- The refuge includes land in 19 counties across the four states

Financial Impact

- Thirty-six person permanent staff
- 3.7 million annual visitors
- FY16 budget: \$5.5 million
- Recreational visitors to the Refuge generated \$226 million in economic effects in FY2011* on a budget of \$4.9 million
 - This is about a \$46 return for every \$1 in budget expenditure
- The refuge supported 1,394 jobs during FY2011
- Receives about \$2 million/year in Land and Water Conservation Funds for land acquisition

*Banking on Nature, USFWS, 2013.

Geopolitical Setting

- Established in 1924 by Act of Congress as a refuge and breeding place for:

migratory birds; other wild birds, game animals, furbearers; fish and other aquatic life; and, the conservation of wildflowers and aquatic plants

- Represented in Congress by eight senators and six representatives
- Major navigation corridor through the refuge including 11 locks and dams
- Seventy adjacent communities
- National Scenic Byways running along both sides its entire length
- Designated as a Wetland of International Importance and a Globally Important Bird Area

Biological Values

- 48,000 acres of marsh
- 51,000 acres of floodplain forest
- 5,700 acres of grassland
- 50% of the world's canvasback ducks stage on the refuge
- More than 300 nesting bald eagle pairs
- 5,000 great blue heron and egret nests in 15 colonies
- 42 species of native mussels
- 119 species of fish
- 306 species of birds



Winona District Facts

- Includes 50 miles and 43,000 acres of land/water from the Chippewa River (above Wabasha, MN) to Trempealeau, WI
- Supported by *Friends of the Refuge Headwaters* a 501 (c) 3 organization
- Coordinates with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the most active dredging section of Mississippi River
- Active land acquisition program from willing sellers
- Thriving habitat program on private lands in eight Southeast MN counties providing \$45,000 in Federal funds matched with \$150,000 in partnership dollars

Contacting the Refuge

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