

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge
Fur Harvest
Special Conditions
2013-2014

Note, the bold areas are changes to the special conditions from last year.

Pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 50, Section 31.16, the following conditions apply to the trapping of furbearing animals on Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and are attached to and become a part of the Special Use Permit.

1. State and Federal requirements - Trapping will be done in compliance with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources trapping laws and regulations, and may be further restricted by general and special conditions of this Refuge Special Use Permit for trapping. Permittees will also comply with all other regulations and conditions affecting access to and use of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. Any rights and keys granted under this trapping permit are to be used for trapping purposes only and for access only in the trapping area as outlined in the Special Use Permit. No other rights or access is allowed.

2. Trapping permits - Any person trapping furbearing animals within Horicon National Wildlife Refuge boundaries must possess a valid Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources trapping license and a Refuge Special Use Permit. Trappers must carry such State trapping license and Special Use Permit (or permit card) while trapping. Permits are not transferrable. Any person helping or accompanying the permittee must obtain their own permit (or permit card). A trapper, which includes the helper, will only be allowed one trapping area on the Horicon Marsh and may not have a unit on both the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and the Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area.

The Trapping Special Use Permit shall not restrict Horicon National Wildlife Refuge from carrying out any wildlife management practices, such as but not limited to, prescribed burning, manipulations of water levels, or the destruction or removal of animals or plants.

The Refuge Manager may at any time, before, or during the trapping season, halt or limit trapping on the Refuge or any portion thereof. No refunds of payment will be granted. Conditions of the permit may be modified as needed. Any changes will be made by an addendum which becomes part of this permit.

3. Approved traps, trap inspections and practices - Furbearing animals authorized to be taken on the Refuge may be taken only by methods approved by the Refuge Manager under terms of this Special Use

Permit or other pertinent Service policy or regulation.

- a. All State regulations apply to the type and use of traps.
- b. No animals or parts, litter, or refuse shall be disposed of on Horicon National Wildlife Refuge.
- c. No muskrat house or feeding house shall be disturbed or molested.
- d. The possession or use within the boundaries of the Refuge of any trap or captive device that does not comply with Refuge requirements is prohibited. Any such illegal traps or devices found on the Refuge may be seized.
- e. Traps set in water or on dry land are required to be checked daily and traps set under the ice are required to be checked every 3 days. No person may attend another person's traps or trap line unless they have a special use permit that designates them as the helper for that unit.
- f. Upland trappers are restricted to the designated areas as outlined on the map. **Water sets are allowed on the upland area in water pockets, ditches, etc.** Boats for uplands trappers will be decided on a case by case basis.

4. Trapping Seasons/Species - The trapping season for the upland trappers on the Refuge will be from October 19, 2013, through March 31, 2014 (water sets begin October 26, 2013). The trapping season for the Marsh Units, including the Senior/Youth/Disabled Units, will be December 2, 2013, through March 16, 2014, or 5 days after the ice is out, whichever comes first. Any dikes within the Units can be trapped from October 26, 2013, through March 31, 2014, or 5 days after the ice is out, whichever comes first. Refuge Manager will determine "ice out" conditions, which is related to when the birds return to the Refuge. Trappers will have 5 days' notice. Trappers are restricted to 25 yards into the marsh from where the water meets the dike. Only muskrat, beaver, mink, raccoon, weasel, fox, coyote, opossum, and skunk will be trapped. Trapping for otters is also allowed with an otter tag.

5. Use of vegetation - During the trapping season, the trapper may cut small willow or aspen (popple) trees for trapping stakes. No other trees, alive or dead, may be cut or removed from the Refuge.

6. Non-target species - Every effort must be made to prevent the capture of non-target species. If an unauthorized animal is found alive and in satisfactory condition in a trap, it shall be released immediately. A high incidence of non-target species being trapped may

result in closure of the season on the Refuge, as warranted by the Refuge Manager.

Animals found dead or seriously injured shall be euthanized, tagged, and then deposited at a designated collection point by the end of the day. The tag should contain the following information: date trapped, name of trapper, and trapping unit number.

If an otter is trapped and the trapper does not have an otter tag, then the trapper needs to place a call to a Refuge Officer or State Game Warden prior to taking the animal out of the trap. Any otters killed are to be turned into Horicon Refuge Office/Visitor Center by the end of the business day or the following Monday morning.

The use of sight-exposed bait is prohibited. Sight-exposed bait means any visible animal part or facsimile thereof used to visually attract an animal to a trap or traps.

7. Reports - The trapper and partner shall each provide a record of all animals taken, both target and non-target species, and the number of traps used each day within their unit and submit this report via phone, fax, letter, or e-mail to the Horicon Refuge Office/Visitor Center once a week, even if no active trapping takes place.

Trappers and partners should also promptly report the presence of diseased animals or other unusual events to the Refuge Manager.

8. Penalties - Failure of a permittee or partner to comply with any of the trapping provisions or with any applicable Federal or State law or regulation may be sufficient cause for refusal of any use on the Refuge for which a permit may be required.

Failure to report catch each week is a violation of 50 CFR 31.16.

Loss of Refuge-issued key is a violation of 50 CFR 31.16.

This permit may be revoked or suspended by the issuing officer for just cause. Just cause may be a violation of or non-compliance with permit conditions, or nonuse. Permittees who wish to appeal adverse decisions should follow the appeals procedure designed in 50 Code of Federal Regulations 24.45.

9. Damages - The United States shall not be responsible for any loss or damage to property, including but not limited to, animals and equipment; for injury to the permittee, partner(s) or assistant(s); or for damages or interference caused by wildlife or employees or representatives of the Government carrying out their official responsibilities.

10. Vehicles/Boats/Other equipment - No snowmobiles are allowed. **ATVs are allowed on the marsh and dike units as long as the boats have flotations when over the ice (follow the guidelines for the Dane County ordinance as to the type of flotation.)** Refuge Manager will determine the date that ATVs are allowed. ATVs will not remain on the Refuge overnight or be used in the uplands. ATV users are not allowed to make any trails through the cattails or any other vegetation. If ATVs cause damage, go through the ice, or cause a noise problem for other users, then the use of ATVs for trapping will be re-evaluated. **Boats with electric motors are allowed.** Trappers can use more than one boat while trapping, but only one boat per marsh trapper will be allowed to stay on the Refuge overnight. Boats for uplands trappers will be decided on a case by case basis. Vehicle travel will be allowed only on roads, dikes, or mowed paths. However, trappers need to stay off of the roads, dikes, and mowed paths when conditions are such that ruts are being made and damage is being done to the road. Any Refuge road or portion of the road may be closed to vehicle travel by the Refuge Manager to prevent damage to the road. Trappers will not block any gates and will remain far enough over on the road to allow Refuge staff to pass. Vehicles will not be allowed to remain on the Refuge overnight.

11. Other restrictions - All stakes, traps, flags and other miscellaneous items must be removed from the Refuge before the end of the season. Trappers must report immediately any lost, stolen, or misplaced traps prior to the last day of the season.

The Refuge is open for general public access from December 1, 2013, to March 15, 2014, so trappers should be aware of other people using the Refuge during this time. Because the Refuge is open to the general public during this time period, trappers may have others accompany them, but are only allowed to have one helper who assists with the trapping. All other persons may not physically assist with the trapping. At all other times of the year, approval from the Refuge Manager must be obtained if the trapper will have anyone with them.

The Refuge is open during daylight hours only. Trappers are allowed access to and from their unit one hour before and one hour after daylight.

Trappers are only allowed to be in their unit during their trapping season. Early entry into the Refuge for cutting stakes or marking runs will not be allowed.

Trappers will wear blaze orange during any firearm deer season on the Refuge (November 23 - December 1, December 2 - 11, and December 12 - 15).

Any time there is an active eagle nest on the Refuge, trappers will be

required to stay a minimum of ¼ mile from the nest.

Trappers need to be aware that the Refuge is part of a whooping crane release program; therefore, it will be likely that whooping cranes will be in the area through November. Note the closed area on the map. This area is closed to all public access.

12. Senior/Youth Trapping Program Additional Regulations - Two areas of the Refuge have been set aside for this program. The Frankfurth area will be set aside for any youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who wants to trap. No random drawing will be held, but the youth must obtain a (free) Refuge permit. Adult supervisors may also accompany the youth trapper(s), but may only provide advice and guidance. They may not physically assist in trapping. Adult supervisors are allowed to bid and trap on their own unit. No pre-staking will be allowed if the area is shared with other youth trappers.

The Hiking Trails area will be set aside for any senior or trapper with a disability through a random drawing. Two trappers will be randomly drawn for trapping in this area, at no charge. The area will not be divided between the trappers. The drawing will be held at the auction. Trappers do not have to be present at the drawing. To be eligible for the drawing, seniors must be 62 years of age or older and trappers with disabilities must have a disabled hunting permit from the DNR (Note, the trapper must meet the age requirements prior to the start of their trapping season, not necessarily by the auction date.) Each trapper may have one helper who also must meet the age requirements. No pre-staking will be allowed since the area is shared by two trappers.