

**REFUGE SIGNS -  
KNOW THEIR MEANING**



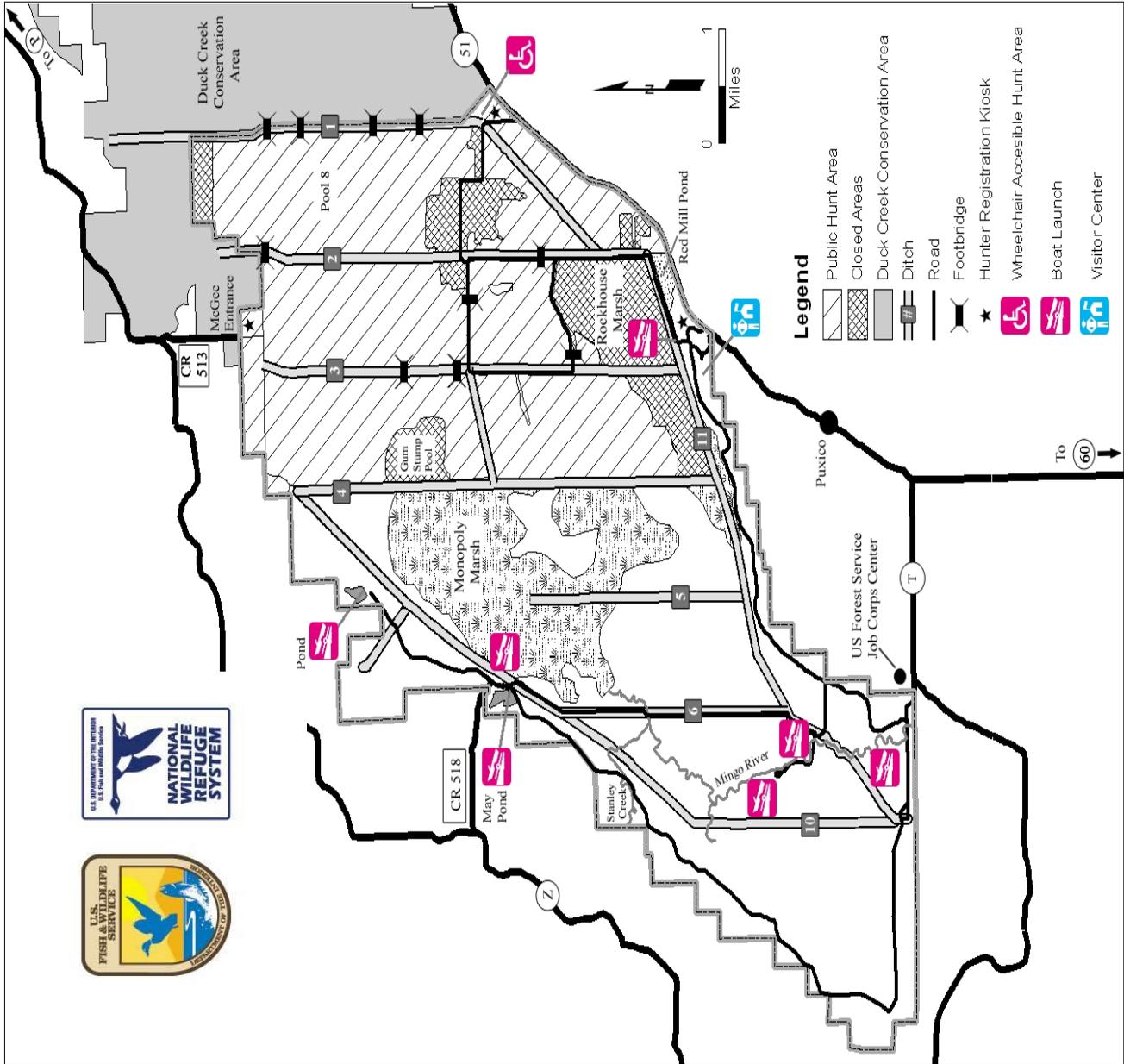
**Refuge Boundary Sign - Unauthorized Entry Prohibited**



**Sanctuary Area - Off Limits To The Public Unless Otherwise Specified**



**Vehicles Prohibited**



**Species and Limits Information**

**Game Fish Species:**

- Black Bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted/Kentucky) Daily Limit: 6; Length Limit: None: Open all year
- Catfish:
  - Channel—Daily Limit: 10
  - Blue—Daily Limit: 5
  - Flathead—Daily Limit: 5
  - Length Limit: None: Open all year.
- Crappie (Black & White) Daily Limit: 30; Length Limit: None: Open all year.
- Pickerel (Chain & Grass) Daily Limit: 6; Length Limit: None: Open all year.
- Goggle-eye (Rock Bass) & Warmouth Daily Limit: 15; Length Limit: None: Open all year.

**Non-Game Fish Species:**

- Bowfin (Grinnel) Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Carp, Suckers, Buffalo, Drum, and Gar (Except Alligator Gar which must be immediately released when caught). Daily Limit: 50 when taken by pole & line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, or jug line. Open all year.

**Note: No gigging or bow fishing is permitted on the refuge.**

Goldfish, Bighead Carp, Common Carp, Grass Carp, and Silver Carp may be possessed in any numbers and do not count in the daily or possession limit.

**Other Species:**

- Common Snapping Turtles: Daily Limit: 5; Open all year.
- Soft-shelled Turtles: Daily Limit: 5: Open: July 1 – December 31.

*Revised – 9/2013*

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
MINGO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**



**REGULATIONS**

## **General Information:**

Mingo National Wildlife Refuge consists of 21,592 acres of bottomland hardwood forest, cypress-tupelo swamp, marsh, and upland forest ecosystems. **Visitors are permitted on the refuge from ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset.**

## **Visitor Center:**

Refuge Visitor Center is currently under construction. Visitors may receive information and permits at the temporary Refuge Office located one mile north of Puxico, just west of the intersection of Bluff Road and Highway 51. The office is open weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except for Federal Holidays.

Contact the Refuge Office at (573) 222-3589 or visit the refuge website at:

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/mingo/>

or the refuge Facebook page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/MingoNWR>

## **Access:**

Entering the refuge is only allowed at the following designated entrances: Visitor Center Entrance Road, Bluff Road at Highway 51, School House Access, Mingo Job Corps, Rabbit Ridge Road (County Road 518), and McGee Gate (County Road 513).

The speed limit on all roads is 25 mph, unless otherwise posted. Only licensed drivers may operate properly registered and licensed vehicles on the refuge. Motorized vehicles must remain on designated refuge roads. All other portions of the refuge, including side roads and levee tops, are closed to vehicles at all times.

## **Fees:**

An entrance permit is required year-round for each vehicle entering the refuge. Vehicles are defined as persons on bicycles, horses, foot, or other forms of transportation. One of the following may be used as a permit: Daily Permit (\$3.00), Mingo Specific Annual Pass (\$12.00), Federal Duck Stamp (\$15.00), Interagency Annual Pass (\$80), Interagency Senior Pass (\$10.00), Interagency Annual Military Pass (free), Interagency Access Pass (free).

## **Wildlife Observation:**

The diversity of species and habitats attract year-round wildlife viewing opportunities on the refuge. Early morning and dusk are the best times to observe wildlife. The most popular seasons are spring and fall during the peak bird migrations. A great way to observe wildlife is to drive slowly along our auto tour routes.

**Bluff Road:** This 6-mile tour takes visitors along the southern portion of the refuge (Open year round).

**Redmill Drive:** This 7-mile tour takes visitors through the public hunting portion of the refuge (Open year round).

**Ozark Highlands:** This 18-mile tour takes visitors through the west side of the refuge and is open seasonally (check with refuge office).

## **Hiking Opportunities:**

**Swampwalk Nature Trail** (0.8 miles - Low Intensity): meanders through bottomland hardwood forest alongside historical Ditch 11 near Rockhouse Marsh and is wheelchair accessible.

**Bluff Nature Trail** (0.5 miles - Moderate/High Intensity): meanders down the bluff from the Visitor Center and joins the Swampwalk Nature Trail. This trail offers short, steep hikes in upland hardwood forest.

**Hartz Pond Trail** (0.3 miles - Low/Moderate Intensity): meanders through a hardwood forest near a small pond just south of the Visitor Center Parking Lot.

**Sweet's Cabin Trail** (1.2 miles - Moderate Intensity): offers backcountry hiking on the edge of the Mingo Wilderness Area just above Stanley Creek.

## **Wildlife Photography:**

Portable observation/photography blinds may be used in open portions of the refuge, but must be removed daily. There are designated photography blinds on the refuge. Users must reserve blinds and can only access them with a free Special Use Permit. Contact the Refuge Office for more information.

## **Fishing and Boating Opportunities:**

Fishing is permitted in designated areas of the refuge in accordance with State of Missouri impounded waters' regulations. Please refer to the current publication of the *Summary of Missouri Fishing Regulations* published annually by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

**March 1 – September 30:** All refuge waters are open to fishing and boating.

**October 1 – End of February:** The following refuge waters are closed: Monopoly Marsh, Rockhouse Marsh, moist soil units, and waterways located between Ditch 2 and 6. All other waters are open.

Canoes and boats: The possession or use of gasoline powered boat motors is prohibited on all refuge waters. Electric trolling motors are permitted outside the Wilderness Area. Boats may not be left overnight. An approved personal flotation device is required for each person in a boat.

Fishing in May Pond and Fox Pond is permitted year round, but only with the use of pole or rod-and-reel fishing. At May Pond; anglers may only take bass greater than 12 inches (30 cm) in length. At Fox Pond, there is no size limit for bass. All other fishing regulations are concurrent with State regulations.

Trotlines, throw lines, limb lines, Yo Yo's, bank lines and jug lines, are allowed from ½ hour before legal sunrise until ½ hour after legal sunset. From March 1<sup>st</sup> until September 30<sup>th</sup>, non-game fish may be taken for personal use by nets and seines. Anglers must attend trammel and gill nets at all times and plainly label all nets and lines with the owner's name, address, and phone number. Anglers must remove all fishing lines and nets at the end of each day's fishing.

Common snapping turtles and soft-shelled turtles may be taken by pole and line only

during open season. We require the immediate release of alligator snapping turtles and alligator gar. Collection or harm to mussels, crayfish and other species of aquatics is prohibited.

## **Equestrian Use:**

Equestrian use is permitted year-round on the Ozark Highlands Auto Tour and roads open to vehicular traffic. From March 1 to September 30, horseback riding is allowed on the 6 mile loop of road between Ditch 3 and 4. All other roadways, dike tops, nature trails and levees are closed to equestrian use.

## **Wild Edibles:**

From March 1 to September 30, gathering of mush-rooms, berries, and pokeweed is permitted for personal use only in the area south of Ditch 11 and east of the Mingo River. Harvesting outside this area is prohibited. No ground disturbance is permitted. Harvest limits: one gallon per day of mushrooms and berries and five gallons per day of pokeweed.

## **Hunting:**

Hunting for squirrel, turkey, deer, and waterfowl are permitted on designated portions of the refuge. For specific information, consult the refuge-specific Hunt Brochure.

## **Commercial Use**

Any commercial use of a national wildlife refuge, including hunting guides, commercial fishing and filming are prohibited except as may be authorized by a refuge Special Use Permit.

## **Prohibited Activities**

- Use or possession of a gasoline powered boat motor on all refuge waters.
- Use or possession of any boat motor in the Mingo Wilderness.
- Failure to remove boats, fishing lines and nets at the end of each fishing day.
- Camping, open fires, overnight parking, or any night fishing activities on the refuge.
- Bow fishing and gigging.
- Collection or harm to mussels, crayfish and other aquatic species.
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.