

## Welcome



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

Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands managed to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitat for the continuing benefit of the American people.

WPAs are lands purchased by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with funds generated from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps.

Wetland Management Districts (WMDs) were formed to manage WPAs. Established to protect and restore waterfowl habitat, nearly 95 percent of WPAs in the United States are located in the Prairie Pothole Region of North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, and Iowa.

The existing WPA boundary signs (1) will be replaced in the near future with a sign (2) that will feature the image of the green goose.

South Dakota has over 160,000 acres of habitat conserved as WPAs. The wetland and grassland habitats on WPAs are managed through livestock grazing, haying, and prescribed burning, which improve and maintain grasslands for waterfowl and other nesting birds. By providing permanent secure habitat, these critical areas are helping to sustain North America's waterfowl populations.

Wildlife-dependent recreational activities are allowed on WPAs, including hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education, and interpretation. Please observe the following regulations to protect natural resources and to help ensure that your visit will be safe and enjoyable.

## Waterfowl Production Area Boundary Signs



## Visitor Information

## General Regulations

- Vehicles are permitted only on designated roads, parking areas, and on the ice for ice fishing. Vehicle access to the ice is limited to ice accessible from a right-of-way or designated road. Motorized 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 those waters that are accessible from a right-of-way or designated road.
- Collection of mature wild fruits, berries, above-ground portion of asparagus, and mushrooms 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 and associated parking areas:

- overnight camping
- fires
- littering, including leaving spent shotgun shells or the remains of hunted animals
- removing or disturbing property, including artifacts
- removing natural objects or destroying plants, excluding the gathering of dead plant materials for on-site blind construction, and
- riding or using horses for any purpose.

## 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 on 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.

## 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).

## Ammunition

When hunting with a shotgun, hunters must use and possess only approved non-toxic shot. Lead bullets in rifles and muzzle loaders are allowed in accordance with State regulations.

## Tree Stands

Portable tree stands and free-standing elevated platforms may be used in accordance with State regulations. The use of nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach a stand or steps to a tree is prohibited.

## Equipment Removal

With the exception of tree stands, all personal property including, but not limited to boats, decoys, trail cameras, portable blinds, and any materials brought into the area for blind construction, must be removed at the end of each day. Blinds constructed of dead and down materials gathered on-site may be left throughout the hunting season.

## Dogs

The use of dogs is encouraged for hunting. 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. Dog training is prohibited.

## Baiting

The distribution of bait and hunting over bait is prohibited.

## Alcohol

Using or possessing alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

## Trapping Regulations

Trapping is allowed in accordance with Federal and State regulations.