

South Dakota

Waterfowl Production Areas

Public Use Regulations

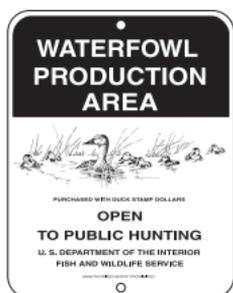




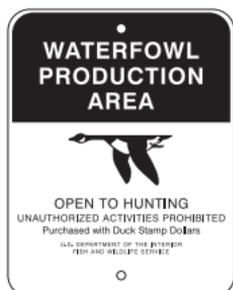
This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

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.



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



Waterfowl Production Areas

South Dakota has over 161,559 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 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 in accordance with State regulations. Equipment not in compliance with State law will be considered abandoned property and subject to removal and confiscation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The name and address or the year and current applicable big game license number of the owner or user must be on the exterior of an unoccupied blind and legible from the ground on a tree stand.

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

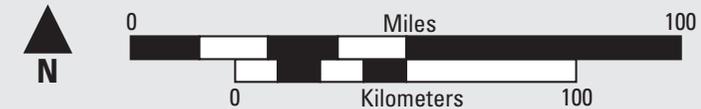
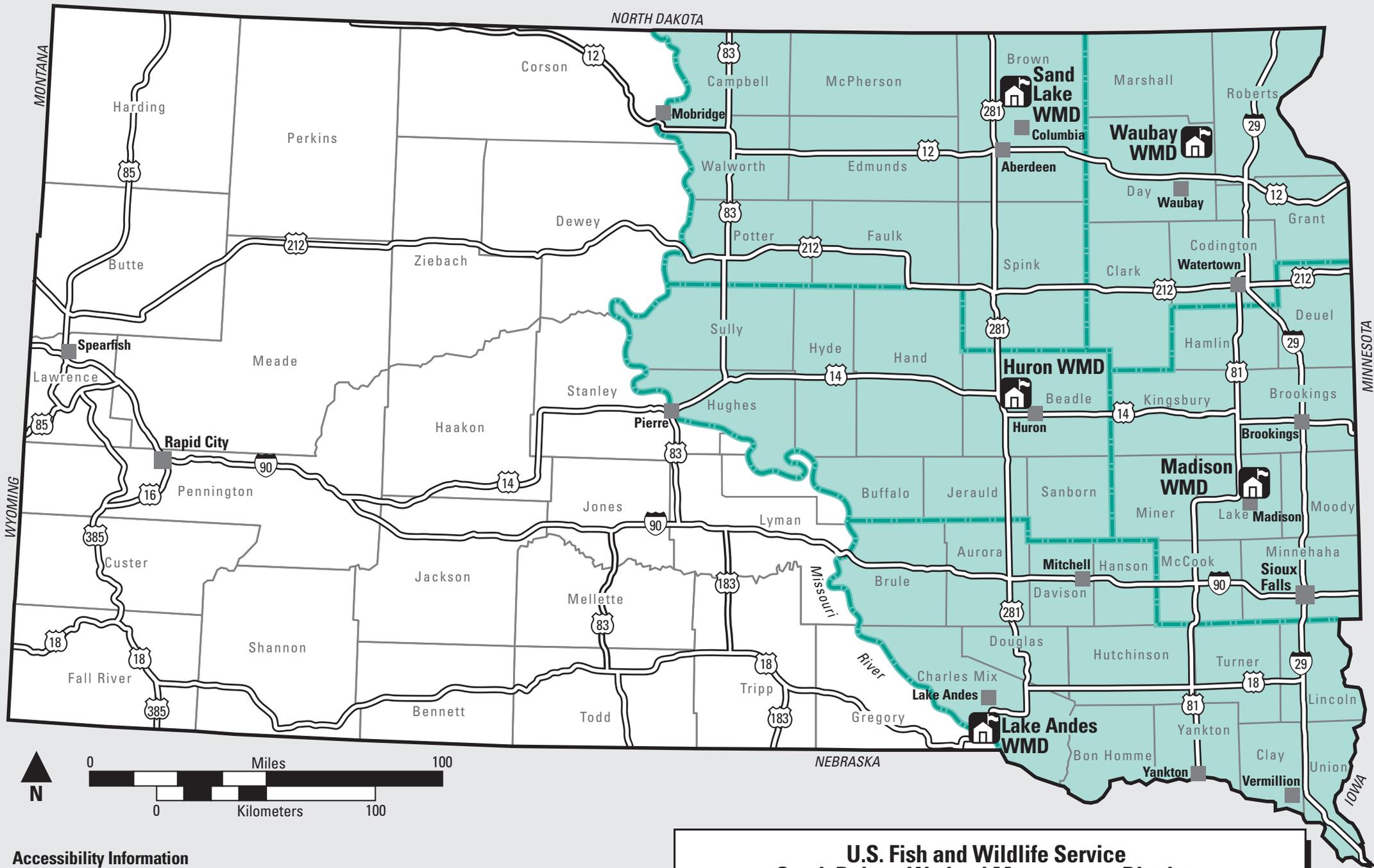
Fish houses may be used for ice fishing in accordance with State regulations. Fish houses may not be left unattended in uplands or in parking areas.

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 transfer 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.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
South Dakota Wetland Management Districts**

 Wetland Management District (WMD) Boundary	 Interstate Highway
 Wetland Management District Office	 Federal Highway

Wetland Management District (WMD) Offices

Huron WMD

Federal Building, Rm. 309

200 4th Street SW

Huron, SD 57350

605 / 352 5894

huronwetlands@fws.gov

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/huron_wmd

Madison WMD

23520 South Dakota Hwy 19

Madison, SD 57042

605 / 256 2974

madisonwetlands@fws.gov

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/madison_wmd

Lake Andes WMD

38672 291st Street

Lake Andes, SD 57356

605 / 487 7603

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/lake_andes_wmd

Sand Lake WMD

39650 Sand Lake Drive

Columbia, SD 57433

605 / 885 6320

sandlake@fws.gov

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/sand_lake_wmd

Waubay WMD

44401 134 A Street

Waubay, SD 57273

605 / 947 4521

waubay@fws.gov

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/waubay_wmd

For State Relay Service

TTY / Voice: 711

For Refuge and WMD Information

1 800 / 344 WILD

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov>

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