



United States Department of the Interior



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge
W4279 Headquarters Road
Mayville, WI 53050

September 5, 2014

Dear Interested Trapper:

Details of the 2014/2015 Horicon Marsh trapping season for both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Horicon National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource's State Wildlife Area (DNR) are enclosed.

The Refuge will be open on Tuesday, October 7 and Wednesday, October 8, daylight hours only, to all trappers who wish to examine the areas of the Refuge that will be open to trapping. Interested trappers must obtain a permit at the Refuge Office/Visitor Center off of County Road Z (W4279 Headquarters Road, Mayville, WI 53050) before viewing the units. Permits can be picked up prior to October 7.

On Wednesday, October 8 doors will open at 5:00 p.m. at the Refuge Office/Visitor Center off of County Road Z, with the open public **auction** for trapping units beginning at **6:00 p.m.** Trapping units for both the Refuge and the DNR will be up for bid.

Trapping units will be awarded to the highest bidder with a limit of one unit per trapper (on either Refuge or DNR part of the Horicon Marsh). Bidders must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the auction. Trappers must be present at the auction. The Refuge will accept payments by check, money order, debit card, or credit card (no cash). The DNR will only accept checks. Both the Refuge and the DNR reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

For questions on the Refuge trapping, please call me at 920/387-2658 x 114. Questions pertaining to DNR trapping, please call Chris Cole at 920/387-7883.

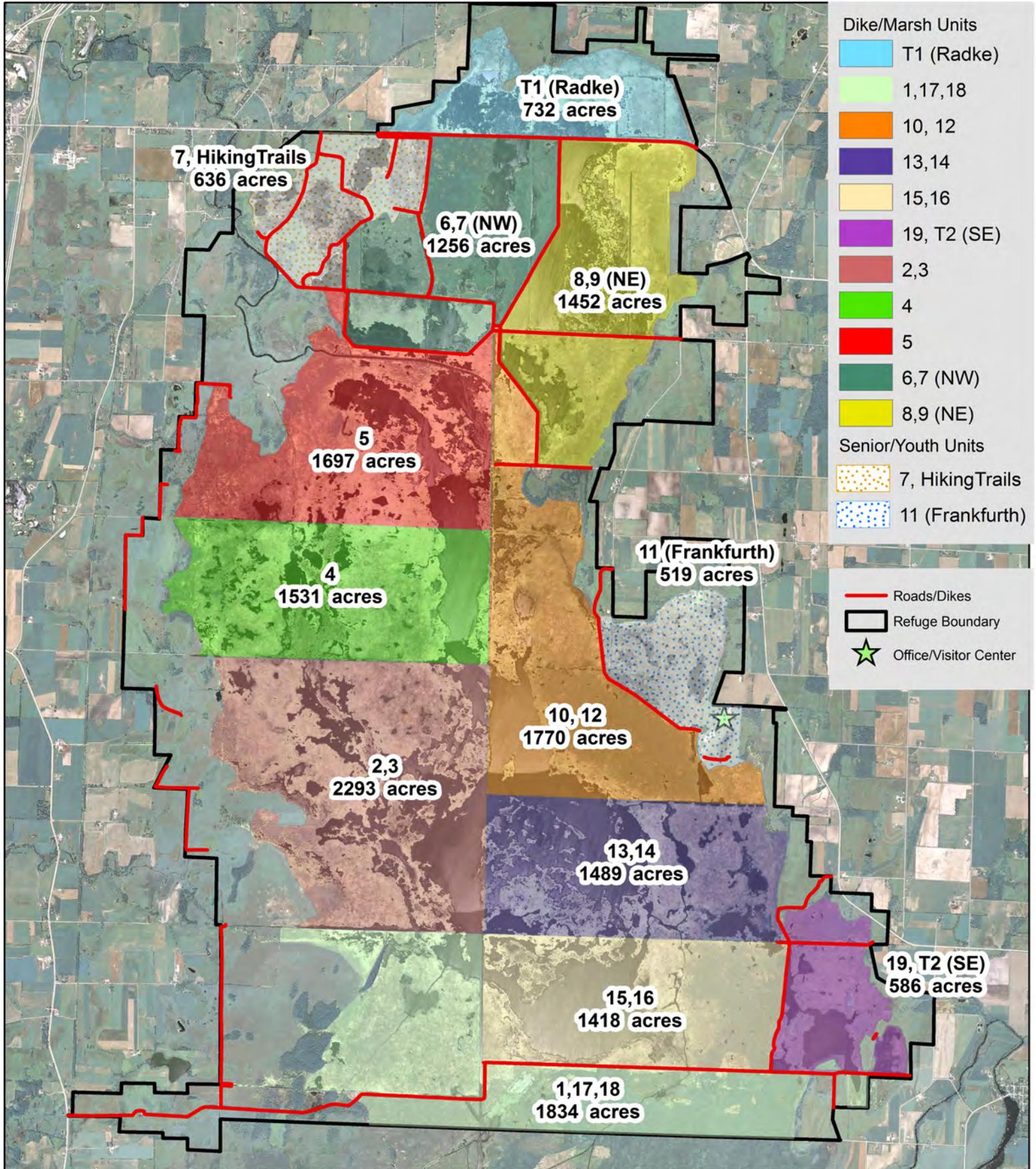
Sincerely,

Sadie O'Dell
Wildlife Biologist



Dike/Marsh Trapping Units

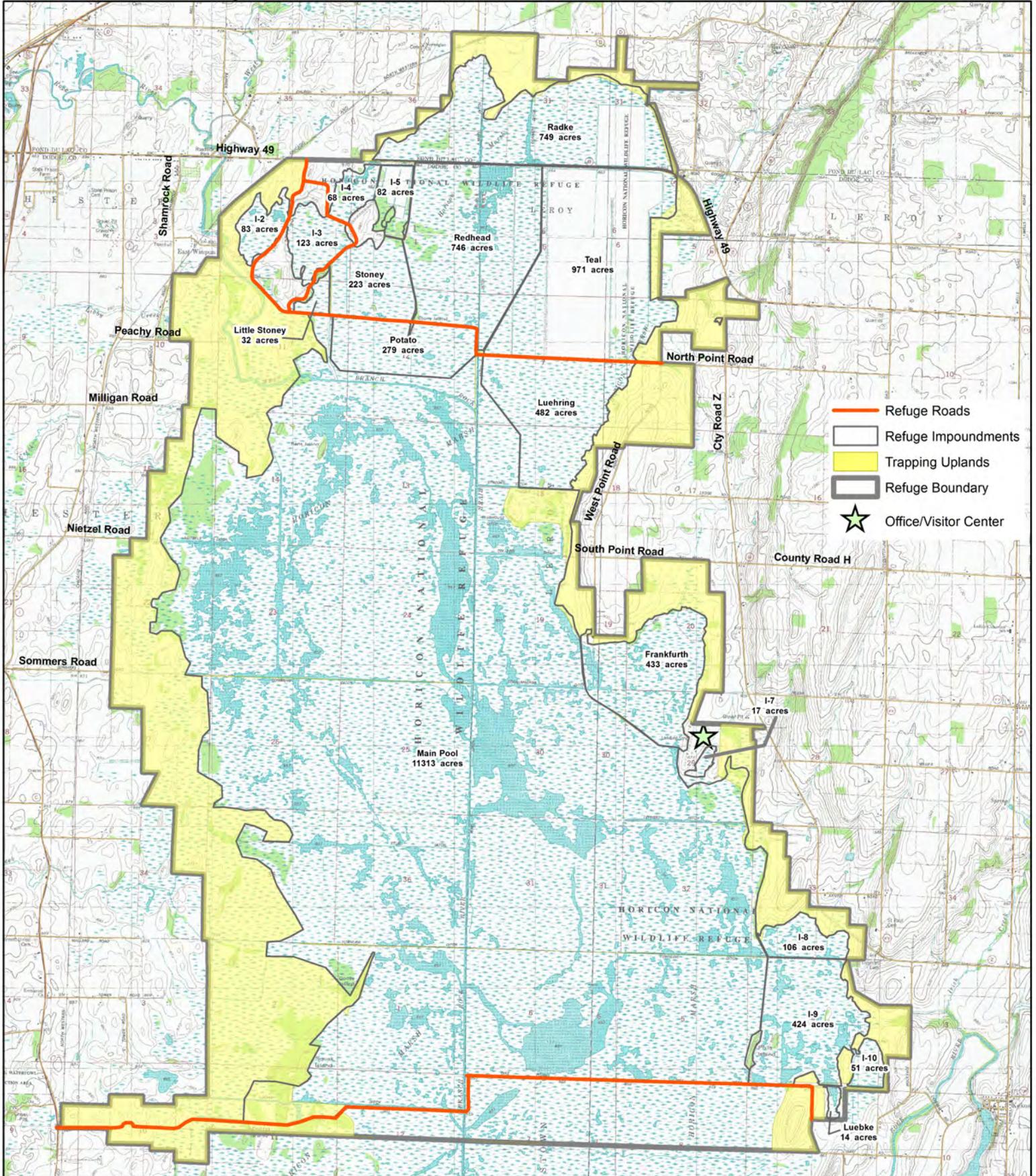
Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties, Wisconsin



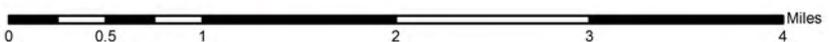


Upland Trapping Areas

Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties, Wisconsin



- Refuge Roads
- Refuge Impoundments
- Trapping Uplands
- Refuge Boundary
- Office/Visitor Center



Horicon National Wildlife Refuge
Fur Harvest
Special Conditions
2014-2015

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 combinations to locked gated areas 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.

4. Trapping Seasons/Species - For all units including dike, marsh, and upland the trapping season will be as followed; or 5 days after "ice out", whichever comes first. For dike and marsh trapping "ice out" will be a determining factor for end date. Refuge Manager will determine "ice out" conditions, which is related to when the birds return to the Refuge. Trappers will have 5 days' notice. Only muskrat, beaver, mink, raccoon, weasel, fox, coyote, opossum, and skunk will be trapped. Trapping for otters is also allowed with an otter tag. Otter trappers must obtain a valid state issued otter tag.

Upland

Upland Units Open Oct 19- March 31

***Must Follow State Regulations Start Dates for Specific Species**

***Water sets are allowed starting Oct 26**

Dike

Dike Units Open Oct 26- March 15

***Trappers are restricted to 25 yards into the marsh from where the water meets the dike.**

Marsh

Marsh Units Open Dec 1- March 15

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 and must be reported on the required weekly form. 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 and tagged the information on the tag must be reported to a Refuge Officer or State Game Warden for a location to drop animal off. 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 call 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. New forms will be issued and required starting 2014. **Not reporting this required information could result in termination of trapping for current and future years.**

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.

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 ATVs have flotation when over the ice (follow the guidelines for the Dane County ordinance as to the type of flotation.) 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. Dike and Marsh 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. Vehicle and ATV 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, 2014, to March 15, 2015, 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 22 December 14).

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.

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 since the area will be shared with other youth trappers.

The Hiking Trails area will be set aside for any senior or trapper with a disability. No random drawing will be held, but seniors must obtain a (free) Refuge permit. 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 will be shared by other trappers.



2013-2014 Trapping Summary

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge

Unit	Bid	Muskrat	Raccoon	Opossum	Skunk	Mink	Beaver	River Otter	No Trapping	Grand Total
2013-2014										
NE	\$ 75.00	10								10
NW	\$2,000.00	132				2				134
Radke	\$ 50.00								0	0
SE	\$ 750.00								0	0
Unit 1/17/18	\$ 700.00								0	0
Unit 10/12	\$ 750.00	69	2							71
Unit 13/14	\$ 500.00								0	0
Unit 15/16	\$ 500.00	148	77	2	3	2				232
Unit 2/3	\$1,300.00	14								14
Unit 4	\$ 700.00	129	2	10	2	1				144
Unit 5	\$ 600.00	93				2				95
Upland	Free	2	168	4	14	2				190
Y/S Frankfurth	Free	65	8	4						77
Y/S Hiking	Free	7	8	2			2	1		20
Grand Total		669	265	22	19	9	2	1	0	987

Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area 2014-15 Trapping Unit Information

Dike Units

Five dike units are available to trap for the 2014-15 season. One trapper and a helper are allowed per unit. Trappers are limited to one unit, either as a trapper or helper. Successful bidders and their helpers will be allowed to trap muskrats, raccoon, opossum, skunk, fox, coyote, mink, and weasel. In addition, 2 beaver and 2 otter (trapper and helper must possess a central zone otter tag) may be harvested per unit. Trapping season for all units will run from November 1, 2014 through March 15, 2015. Boats and skiffs are allowed in all of these units and ATV's may only be used on the ice. Boat motors are not allowed in the following units: I-1 & I-12, Bachhuber, or Burnett. These units are located within waterfowl refuges. Pre-staking is allowed and stake willows may be cut on the Wildlife Area.

Youth/Disabled Trapper Unit

Any interested youth (between the ages of 12 to 17) or disabled trapper (must possess a disabled hunting permit) will be allowed to trap Unit N, free of charge. Trappers must obtain a permit at the auction or from the DNR office prior to trapping. Mentors may accompany the youth or disabled persons but will not be allowed to actually check or set traps.

Upland Permits

Upland trapping permits will be given free of charge. Upland trappers are allowed to trap raccoon, opossum, skunk, fox, coyote, mink, and weasel. Species not allowed to be harvested under this permit include muskrat, beaver, and otter. Season dates for all species will run from November 1, 2014 through March 15, 2015. Upland trappers may trap on any upland regardless of wetland unit boundaries. No wet sets will be allowed to minimize incidental muskrats. Any incidental muskrat, otter, or beavers must be reported and dropped off at the DNR office located on Hwy 28.

Other Rules and Considerations

- All flagging, stakes, and traps must be removed at the end of the season.
- Trapper harvest reports are mandatory for all dike and upland trappers. Reports are due by the 7th of each month. You may choose to call in your harvest, mail a report, or email your harvest.
- Preseason scouting by foot or boat is allowed at any time.
- Trappers will be billed \$25 for lost or unreturned keys.
- Be conscious, courteous, and respectful of other trappers, hikers, hunters, dogs, and other Wildlife Area users. Always portray a positive image because the future of trapping at Horicon depends on it.

2014-15 Trapping Report Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area

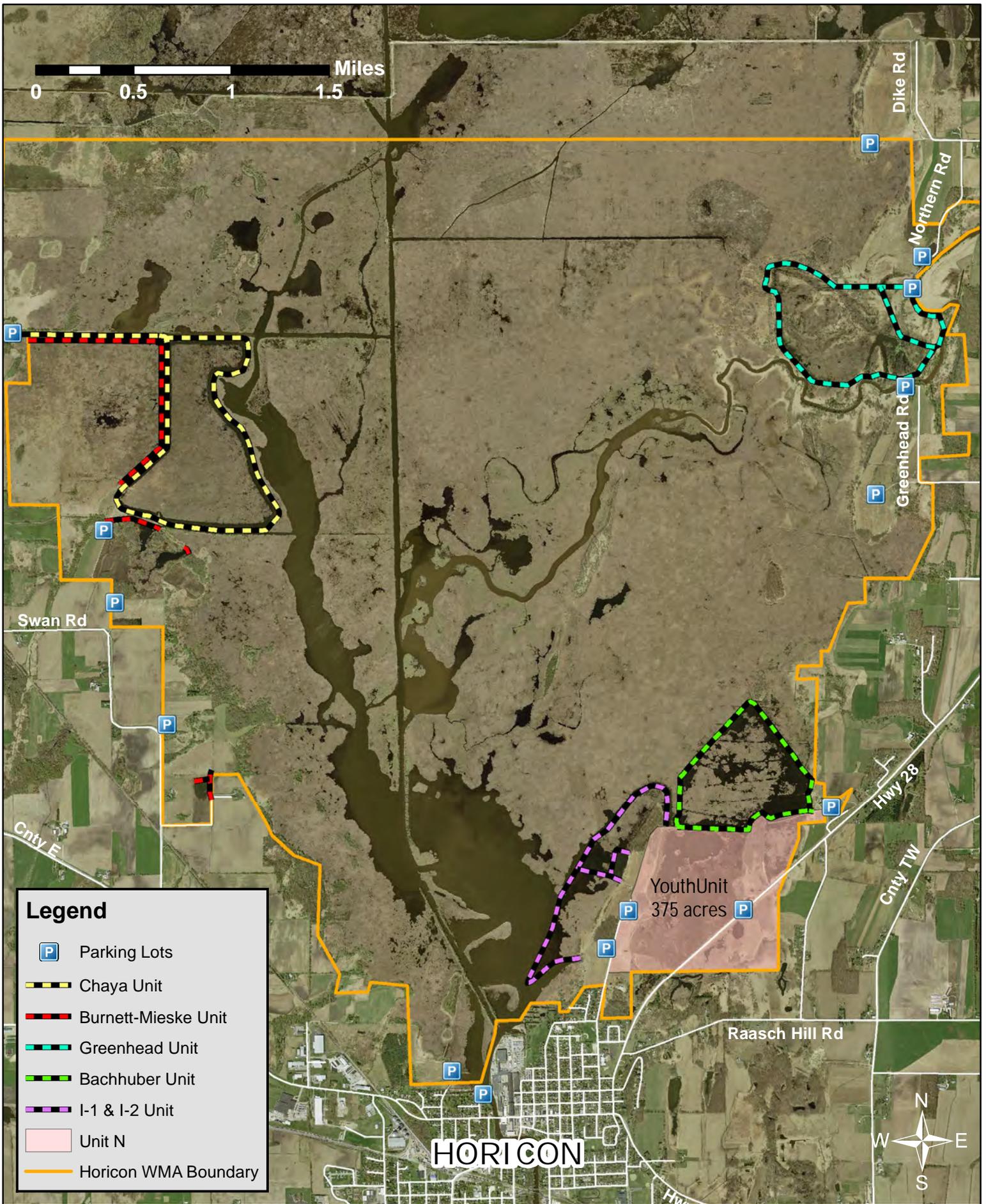
Trapping Unit	Bid Amount	Totals
A, B	\$850	0
C, E, G	\$2,025	68 muskrat, 1 beaver
D	\$1,650	184 muskrat
F	\$650	112 muskrat
H, I	\$475	17 muskrat, 1 mink
J	\$325	0
K, L	\$800	174 muskrat, 10 mink, 18 raccoon, 8 opossum, 2 beaver, 2 skunk, 1 weasle, 1 red fox, 1 coyote, 1 otter
M	\$200	4 muskrat, 14 raccoon, 2 skunk
N (Youth)	FREE	0
O, P	\$250	19 muskrat
Q	\$500	0
R	\$250	16 muskrat, 1 beaver
S	\$725	0
T	\$75	39 muskrat
TOTAL	\$8,775	633 muskrat, 11 mink, 4 beaver, 32 raccoon, 8 opossum, 2 skunk, 1 weasel, 1 red fox, 1 coyote, 1 otter

*2 upland trappers harvested an additional 23 raccoons

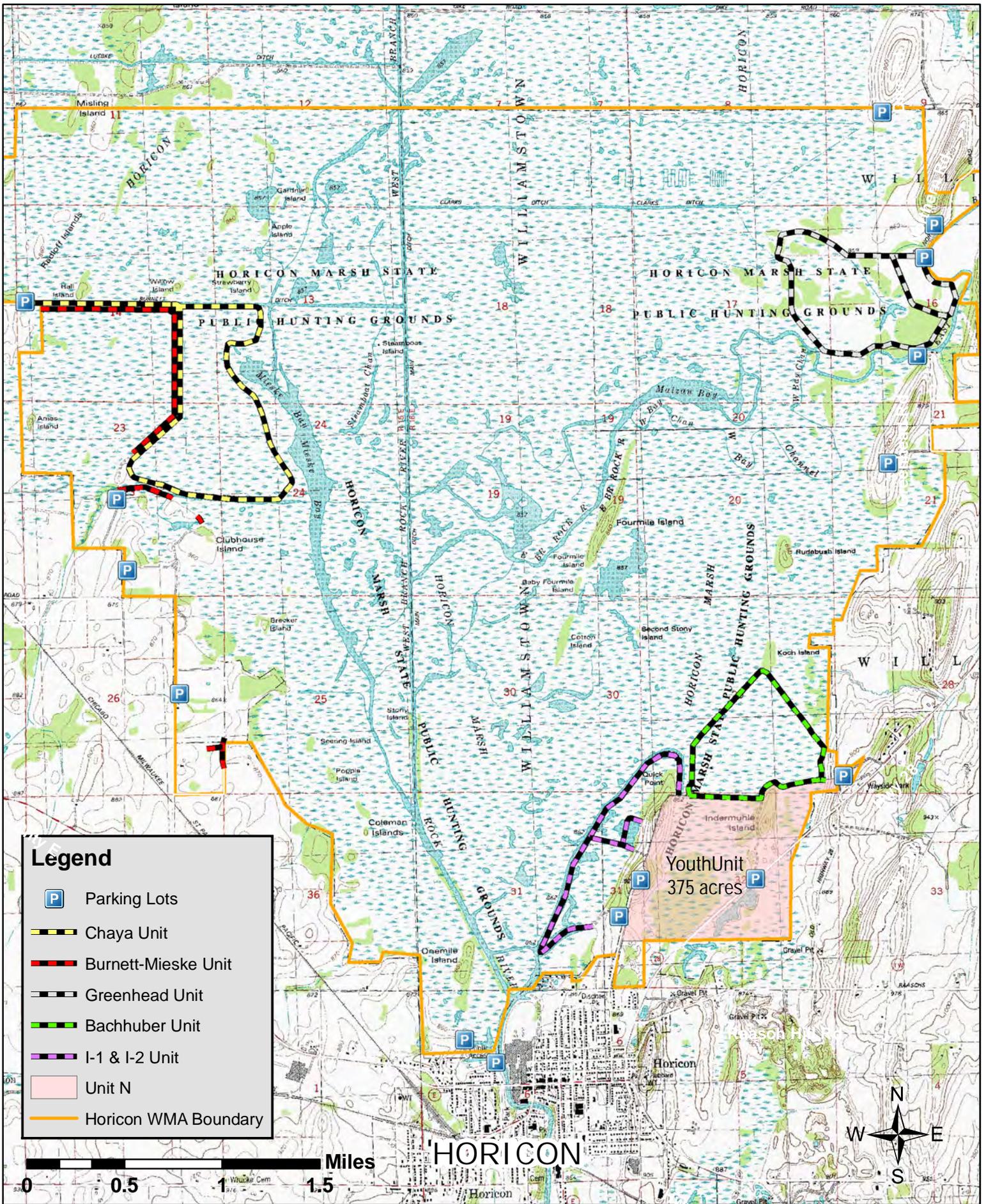
2014-15 Season Summary:

Trappers were active early on in the fall despite lower than average water levels and difficulties accessing their units. Five trappers never set a trap in their units due to low muskrat numbers. The marsh froze up late-November and first ice was not very conducive to marking runs. As the winter went on we experienced very cold temperatures which made lots of ice quickly. Only one trapper trapped from January through mid-March. We can assume this was due to the low muskrat numbers coupled with 15-18" of ice, and extended periods of subzero temperatures. Although we had another late spring we chose not to extend the season due to the anticipated stress on the remaining muskrats from the long, cold winter. Ice out conditions on the marsh occurred around the first and second week of April. We didn't see much of a winter runoff since it warmed up so gradually. Water levels remained good through the end of May this spring then we experienced several large rainfall events in June which brought water levels up 1' higher than normal until late July. Since then we've come back down to normal and water levels are sitting pretty good going into the fall.

HORICON MARSH STATE WILDLIFE AREA 2014-15 TRAPPING UNITS



HORICON MARSH STATE WILDLIFE AREA 2014-15 TRAPPING UNITS



Legend

-  Parking Lots
-  Chaya Unit
-  Burnett-Mieske Unit
-  Greenhead Unit
-  Bachhuber Unit
-  I-1 & I-2 Unit
-  Unit N
-  Horicon WMA Boundary

0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

