

Refuge Facts

Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) lies in the floodplain between two major waterways: the mighty Mississippi and Illinois rivers. This peninsula environment provides unique and valuable habitats for both resident and migratory wildlife. The Refuge functions as an important link for migratory birds that rest, feed, and winter along the Mississippi Flyway.

Five Divisions, totaling 8,500 acres, are managed by Two Rivers NWR - Calhoun (4820 acres), Gilbert Lake (735 acres), Batchtown (2300 acres), Portage Island (230 acres), and Apple Creek (270 acres). Refuge headquarters is located near Brussels, Illinois in Calhoun County.

Public Use

Two Rivers NWR offers many opportunities for public use including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation.

Throughout the years refuge visitors witness an array of wildlife, including ducks, geese, eagles, pelicans, shorebirds, otters, fox, deer, turtles, and frogs.

The provisions listed below supplement the general regulations which govern public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in *Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations*. When permitted, hunting, fishing, and other public uses will be in accordance with applicable state laws unless otherwise listed.

The Refuge is open to public use during **daylight hours only**.

To help meet the primary Refuge purpose of providing “an inviolate sanctuary, or for any

other management purpose, for migratory birds”, Batchtown, Portage Island, Gilbert Lake, and most of the Calhoun Division are closed from October 16 through December 31.

Bicycling and hiking are allowed on Refuge roads unless otherwise posted.

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the Refuge. ATVs are prohibited, except by disabled individuals possessing a Refuge special use permit.

Pets must be on a leash, except when used for the purpose of hunting where hunting is allowed.

Berry and mushroom gathering are permitted for personal consumption only. These items shall not be used for any commercial use.

Firearms: Except for authorized hunting on the refuge, firearms are only permitted when being transported on refuge roads or waters and must be unloaded and either dismantled or cased.

Special group trips (school groups, scouts, etc.) are encouraged. Guided group tours may sometimes be arranged in advance by contacting the Refuge.

Camping is not permitted on the Refuge.

Trapping is not permitted on the Refuge.

Big Game Hunting

Apple Creek Division and Calhoun Division land east of Illinois River Road- Deer hunting is allowed in accordance with Illinois state seasons and regulations.

Portable stands may be used but they must be removed at the end of each day’s hunt. No nails, screws, or other hardware may be used to climb or secure blinds to the trees.

Batchtown, Portage Island and Gilbert Lake, and the remainder of the Calhoun Division - Closed to big game hunting.

Migratory Bird Hunting

Apple Creek - Migratory bird hunting is allowed in accordance with Illinois State seasons and regulations. Only portable blinds are permitted. Hunters must remove boats, decoys, and portable blinds at the end of each day’s hunt.

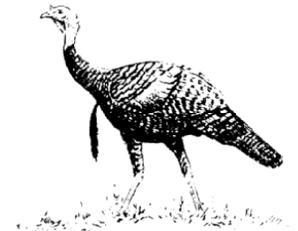
Batchtown, Calhoun, Portage Island, and Gilbert Lake Divisions - Closed to migratory bird hunting.

Upland Game Hunting

**Includes small game, furbearers, turkey and game birds (except migratory birds).*

**The refuge is open to public use during daylight hours only, and therefore is closed to all nighttime hunting of furbearers.*

**Hunters must possess and use only non-toxic shot while hunting all game, except turkey and deer.*



Apple Creek and Calhoun Division land east of Illinois River Road - Upland game hunting is allowed in accordance with Illinois state seasons and regulations.

Batchtown, Portage Island, Gilbert Lake, and the remainder of the Calhoun Division - Closed to upland game hunting.

Sport Fishing

Apple Creek Division - Fishing is allowed during daylight hours only in accordance with Illinois state seasons and regulations.

Batchtown, Calhoun, Gilbert Lake and Portage Island Divisions - Fishing is allowed during daylight hours only from January 1 through October 15, in accordance with Illinois state seasons and regulations. Boats are allowed in Batchtown and Swan Lake during this period for sport fishing purposes only. Boats are allowed in Gilbert Lake only when flood waters enable access from the river over the levee, and only for sport fishing purposes during the period specified above. Bank launching is not allowed in Gilbert Lake.

**The taking of turtles or frogs is prohibited on the refuge.*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under the Department of the Interior, is the primary Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the Nation's fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. The Service has specific trustee responsibilities for migratory birds, endangered species, anadromous fish, and certain marine mammals as well as for lands and waters administered as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service encourages everyone to engage in allowed recreational activities on the refuge. However, certain regulations are necessary to protect wildlife and preserve the beauty of the area. Any public access or activity that is not specifically allowed is prohibited.

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is *"To administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United State for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans"*.

For more information contact:

Two Rivers NWR
HC 82 Box 107
Brussels, IL 62013
(618) 883-2524
TTY: (800) 735-2942

or visit our web site at
<http://midwest.fws.gov/tworivers>

For information on state hunting licenses and state regulations in Illinois, please contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at:

(888) 673-7648
TTY: (800) 735-2942
<http://dnr.state.il.us/>



UNITED STATES
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge

2011-2012

Public Use Regulations



**Apple Creek Division
Batchtown Division
Calhoun Division
Gilbert Lake Division
Portage Island Division**