Special Designation Areas
These areas are closed year-round to all motorized vehicles and watercraft except watercraft powered by electric motors or non-motorized means. The possession of other watercraft motors is not prohibited, only their use. For example, anglers could switch from using an outboard motor to an electric trolling motor when entering these areas. These areas are: Island 42 Pool 5, Snyder Lake-Pool 5A, Morton Slough-Pool 6, Browns Marsh-Pool 7, and Hoosier Lake-Pool 10.

From March 16 through October 31 in these areas, watercraft must travel at slow, no-wake speed. No airboats or hovercraft are allowed during same time period. Respective state definitions for what constitutes “slow, no-wake” speed or operation apply. These areas are: Nelson-Trevino-Pool 4, Demers Slough-Pool 5A, Black River Bottoms-Pool 7, Blue Target Lake-Pool 8, Root River-Pool 8, Reno Bottoms-Pool 9, Nine Mile Island-Pool 12, and Princeton-Pool 14.

Watercraft are required to travel at slow, no-wake speed at all times. Respective state definitions for what constitutes “slow, no-wake” speed or operation apply.

Special Regulation Areas
Areas throughout the refuge are designated as closed or restricted use areas, usually autumn to spring, to protect migrating waterfowl or for public safety. These areas are marked with orange-topped “special regulation” signs and list the restrictions and effective dates or seasons. Please read and adhere to the regulations identified by these signs.

This is a listing of the most commonly referenced regulations. Additional regulations are published in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 50, Subchapter C, The National Wildlife Refuge System, and available at refuge offices or the refuge website.

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Leaving No Trace
- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Camp Size
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Refuge Signs - Know their Meaning!
- Boundary Signs
- Special Regulation Signs
- Electric-Motor Areas
- Slow, No-Wake Areas
- Slow, No-Wake Zones

These signs identify an area which is closed year-round to all motorized vehicles and watercraft except watercraft powered by electric motors or non-motorized means. The possession of other watercraft motors is not prohibited, only their use. For example, anglers could switch to an electric trolling motor when entering these areas.

In areas marked by these signs, watercraft must travel at slow, no-wake speed and no airboats or hovercraft are allowed from March 16 through October 31. Respective state definitions for what constitutes “slow, no-wake” speed or operation apply.

Special Regulation Signs designate various area restrictions during hunting seasons. See the refuge hunting brochure for complete descriptions of special regulation areas.
Welcome to the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Established in 1924, the 260,000-acre refuge provides for the protection, management, and increase of aquatic, wetland, and upland wildlife, while providing opportunity for public enjoyment and use.

Public Use Regulations

- **Alcohol** Persons under 21 may not possess or use alcohol in accordance with state laws. Entering or remaining on the refuge while under the influence of alcohol, to a degree that may endanger oneself or other persons or property or unreasonably disturb other persons in the vicinity, is prohibited. Providing alcohol to minors is prohibited. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

- **Artifacts** Searching for or removing objects of antiquity, such as arrowheads, is prohibited. Searching for or removing objects such as trails, sandbars, and boat landing areas is prohibited. Boats moored within 200 feet of refuge boat landings is prohibited. Boats moored, beached, of any audio devices, power equipment, or other hardware may not be attached to trees. Cutting, up to a diameter of 2 inches, for trap stakes, commercial fishing gear, and hunting blinds and on the refuge when under the influence of alcohol, in violation may be impounded at the owner’s expense. If tables, fireplaces, and other facilities are erected, they must be removed before departure. Any property left unattended in violation of this regulation applying on the refuge. Boats may not be moored, beached, or unreasonably annoy persons in the vicinity. Possession or use of fireworks or target practice is prohibited. Any property left unattended in violation of this regulation applying on the refuge. Vehicles left parked in violation of this regulation applying on the refuge. Cutting, removing, or damaging any trees or other vegetation is prohibited without a special use permit. See Hunting brochure for regulations on temporary hunting and trapping.

- **Camping** Camping is defined as erecting a tent or shelter of natural or synthetic material, providing a sleeping bag or other bedding material for use, parking of vehicles (See Firewood Section), or anchoring of a vessel, for the apparent exclusive use of occupying or leaving personal property, including boats or other craft, at a site any time between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. No dogs are allowed to disturb or molest other visitors by the inconsiderate operation or use by the owner’s expense. If tables, fireplaces, and other facilities are erected, they must be removed before departure. Any property left unattended in violation of this regulation applying on the refuge. Vehicles left parked in violation of this regulation applying on the refuge. Cutting, removing, or damaging any trees or other vegetation is prohibited without a special use permit. See Hunting brochure for regulations on temporary hunting and trapping.

- **Camping Regulations** Camping is defined as erecting a tent or shelter of natural or synthetic material, providing a sleeping bag or other bedding material for use, parking of vehicles (See Firewood Section), or anchoring of a vessel, for the apparent exclusive use of occupying or leaving personal property, including boats or other craft, at a site any time between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. No dogs are allowed to disturb or molest other visitors by the inconsiderate operation or use by the owner’s expense. If tables, fireplaces, and other facilities are erected, they must be removed before departure. Any property left unattended in violation of this regulation applying on the refuge. Vehicles left parked in violation of this regulation applying on the refuge. Cutting, removing, or damaging any trees or other vegetation is prohibited without a special use permit. See Hunting brochure for regulations on temporary hunting and trapping.

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- **Fires and Refuges** Firewood posts such as emerald ash borer pose a threat to the region’s forests! In cooperation with other agencies, firewood originating more than 50 miles from the refuge is not allowed unless certified as pest-free when purchased.

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