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, Mortus Slough-Pool 6, Brown Marsh-Pool 7, and Hosier 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, Denzers Slough-Pool 5A, Black River Bottoms-Pool 7, Blue/Target Lake-Pool 8, Root River-Pool 8, Rino Bottoms-Pool 9, Nine Mile Island-Pool 12, and Princeton-Pool 14.

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Leave No Trace

Plan Ahead and Prepare
Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
Dispose of Waste Properly
Leave What You Find
Minimize Campfire Impacts
Respect Wildlife
Be Considerate of Other Visitors

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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Refuge Signs - Know their Meaning!

Boundary Signs

These signs mark the refuge boundary or let you know you are in the refuge.

Slow, No-Wake 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.

Slow, No-Wake Zones

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.

No Hunting Zones

These areas are closed to hunting during certain seasons. Areas are marked by “no hunting” signs. See the refuge hunting brochure for complete descriptions of special regulation areas.

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Disturbing
Boat Mooring
Alcohol
or lighting devices, or interfering with,
of any audio devices, power equipment,
by the inconsiderate operation or use
of annual visitors. To conserve this
environmental feature is prohibited.
Disturbing
manner to create a safety hazard, or
of any natural objects, rocks, stones or miner-
specifically authorized by permit. Col-
ornamental use is prohibited unless
removing plants or their parts for
harvest is prohibited. Cutting or
personal use is allowed with a limit of
240,000-acre refuge provides for the
experience for all, we ask you to
observe these regulations.
Alcohol
Persons under 21 may not posses or
use alcohol in any manner on state
lands. Persons under 21 may not possess or
use alcohol, to a degree that may endanger
oneself or other persons or property
or unreasonably annoy persons in the
vicinity, is prohibited. Providing alcohol
to persons under 21 is prohibited. Use or
possession of alcoholic beverages while
swimming is prohibited.
Artifacts
Searching for or removing objects of
anthropologic or historic nature is prohibited.
Boat Mooring
Boats may not be moored, beached,
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