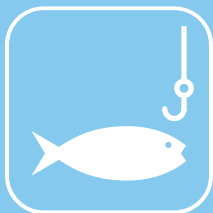


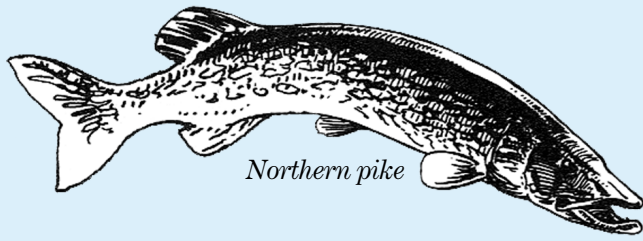
Upper Souris

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

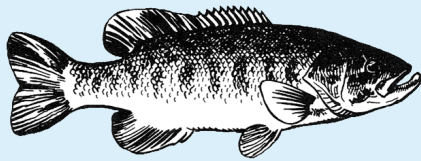
Fishing



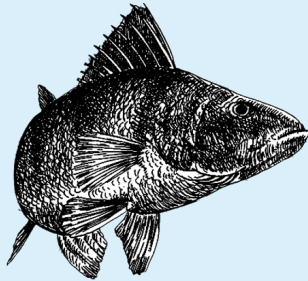
*Game fish found within
Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge*



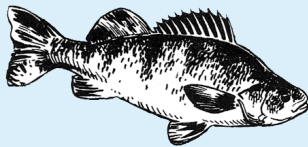
Northern pike



Smallmouth bass



Walleye



Yellow perch

**Upper Souris
National Wildlife
Refuge**

*A Place for
Wildlife and
People*



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

Welcome to Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The Refuge was established in 1935 as a “refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife.” Upper Souris NWR is one of over 550 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands set aside specifically for wildlife. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the System is a living heritage, preserving wildlife and habitat for people today and for generations to come.

Located in the beautiful Souris River Valley of northwestern North Dakota, this 32,000-acre Refuge extends for over 35 miles along the Souris River. A major feature of the Refuge is Lake Darling, the largest of several Refuge water impoundments. The lake is designed to hold a 2-year supply of water to safeguard marshes downstream against the threat of drought. Some of the finest fishing in the area is found on Lake Darling and along the Souris River on the Refuge.

Lake Darling Dam, a water management tool, makes it possible to reduce flooding and regulate water releases for marsh management during periods of low flow. Management of water, in conjunction with extensive fisheries management, provides excellent fishing opportunities on the Refuge for people and wildlife. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists monitor the size and numbers of fish present and recommend fish stocking rates to support this active and popular fishing program.

Many fish can be found in the lake and the Souris River. Game fish species, such as northern pike, walleye, yellow perch, and smallmouth bass, are present. Non-game fish include white sucker and brown bullhead. Many species of minnows also inhabit Refuge waters.

Spring, Summer, and Fall Fishing Season

Bank fishing is permitted in 14 designated areas described on the following pages. Fishing boats and canoes are permitted in designated fishing areas from May 1 – September 30. Float tube fishing is allowed where boat fishing is permitted.

Regulations

Regulations set forth by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and the Refuge must be observed in all public fishing areas. See the “Activities Not Permitted” section for additional Refuge regulations.

Hours

The Refuge is open from 5:00 am to 10:00 pm daily. No one is permitted on the Refuge between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am.

Spring, Summer, and Fall Fishing Areas

Please see the map for the locations of the following areas.

Baker Bridge on the Souris River

- Bank fishing is allowed on the north side of County Road 8 from the bridge west to the point where the Souris River meets the Refuge boundary fence. The area south of the bridge is private property.
- A restroom is available.
- No boats or canoes are permitted.

Silver Bridge on the Souris River (Silver Bridge has been removed)

- Bank fishing is allowed from the road right-of-way on the east and west sides of the former bridge site.
- A restroom is available on the west side of the Silver Bridge fishing area.
- No boats or canoes are permitted.

Outlet Fishing Area on the Souris River

- Bank fishing begins at a point 1/8-mile below Lake Darling Dam and extends south 700 yards.
- An accessible restroom, grills, tables, interpretive trail, and fishing dock are available.
- No boats or canoes are permitted.

Beaver Lodge Canoe Trail on the Souris River

- Fishing is permitted on the Beaver Lodge Canoe Trail from May 1 – September 30, which is located southeast of the parking lot.
- Non-motorized boats and canoes are permitted.

Spillway Fishing Area and Boat Ramp on Lake Darling

- Bank fishing is allowed on the southeast corner of Lake Darling. Check signs to determine boundaries.
- A restroom and boat ramp are available.

Lake Darling Dam

- The west end of the embankment is open to bank fishing on Lake Darling.
- No facilities are available.
- The remainder of the dam is closed to bank fishing.

Landings 1, 2, and 3 on Lake Darling

- The lake is open to boat fishing from Lake Darling Dam north to Greene Crossing at Highway 28.
- Bank fishing is permitted on the west shore from the dam north approximately 1¼ miles to Landing 3.
- Accessible restrooms, boat ramps, tables, and grills are available at Landings 1 and 3.

Grano Crossing and Boat Ramp on Lake Darling

- Bank fishing is allowed from the road right-of-way on both sides of Grano Crossing road and within the boundaries of the Grano boat ramp. The bridge and a portion of the shoreline are accessible.
- Boat fishing is allowed on the lake from Lake Darling Dam to Greene Crossing.
- Restrooms, boat ramps, tables, and grills are available.
- No boat fishing is permitted within 100 feet of Grano Bridge.

Greene Crossing and Boat Ramp on Lake Darling

- Bank-fishing is allowed from the road right-of-way on both sides of Greene Crossing at Highway 28.
- Boat fishing is allowed on the lake south from Greene Crossing to Lake Darling Dam. The lake north of Greene Crossing is closed to boats.
- A restroom and boat ramp are available.

Carter Dam (Dam 41)

- Bank fishing is allowed on both sides of the road near the water control structure (east end of the dam) and culvert (west of the dam).
- No facilities are available.
- No boats or canoes are permitted.

Highway 5 on the Souris River

- Bank fishing is permitted along the highway right-of-way and within the river loop on the north side of the highway.
- No facilities are available.
- No boats or canoes are permitted.

Renville County Memorial (Mouse River) Park

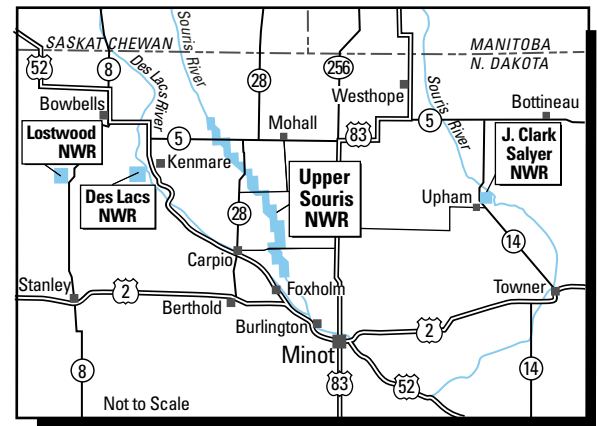
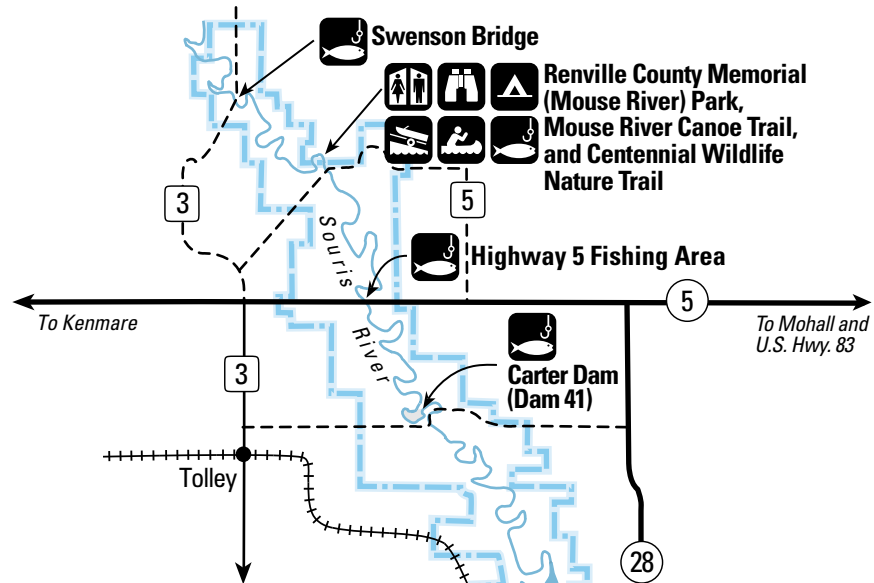
- All county ordinances and State regulations apply within the Park.
- Restrooms, a boat ramp, tables, grills, and overnight camping are available in the Park.

Souris River from Park to North End of Refuge

- Boat fishing and canoeing are allowed from May 1 – September 30.
- A boat ramp is located in the Park.

Swenson Bridge on the Souris River

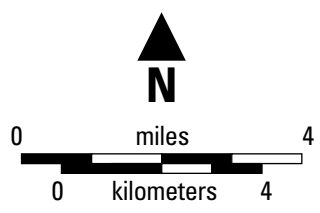
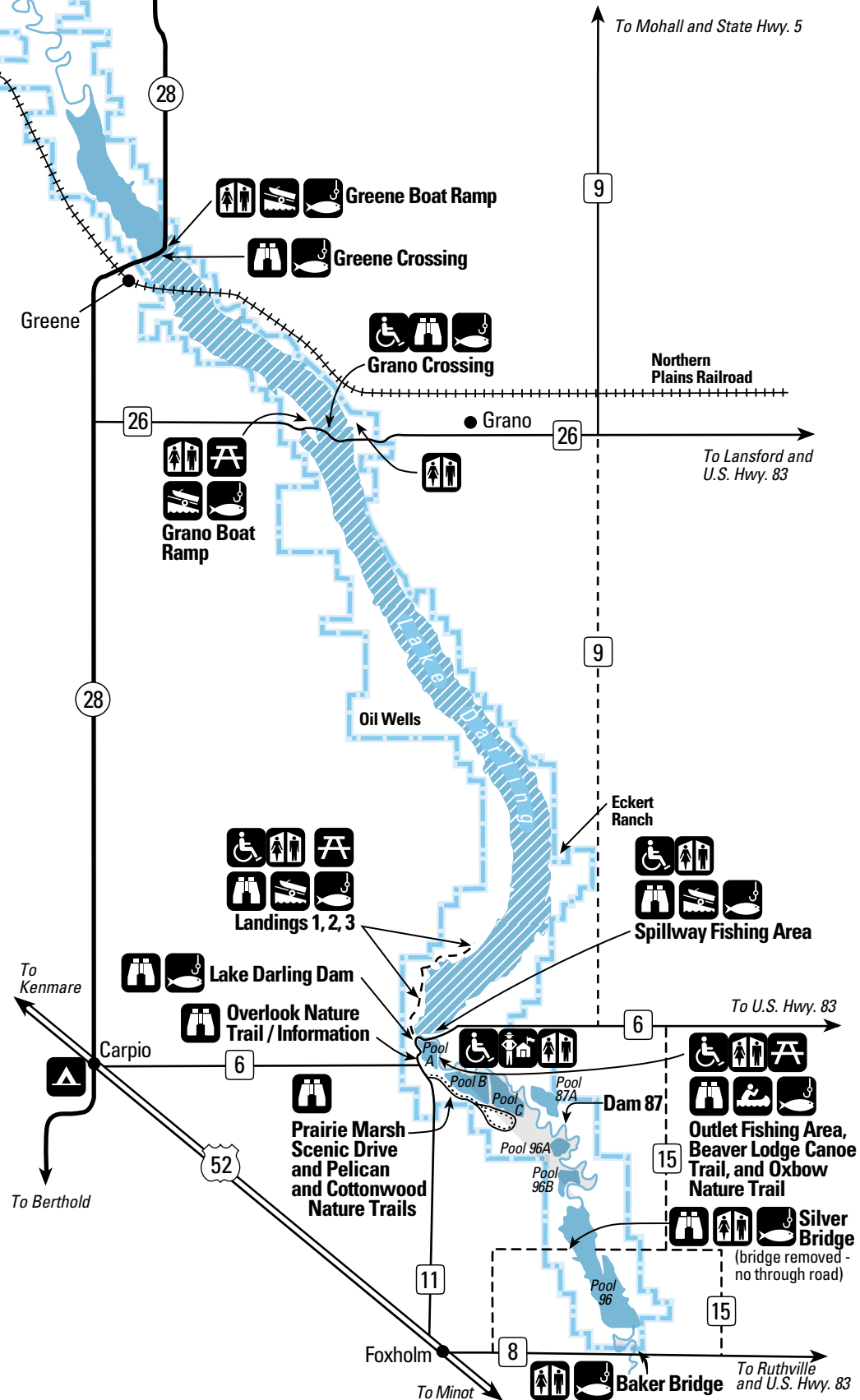
- Bank fishing is allowed from the road right-of-way.
- No facilities are available.



Upper Souris

National Wildlife Refuge

- Refuge boundary
- 52 Federal highway
- 28 State highway
- 3 County road
- Paved road
- - - Gravel road
- - - - Auto tour route
- ++++ Railroad
- Open to boat fishing and canoeing May 1 – September 30
- Refuge headquarters and visitor center
- Restroom
- Linked symbols designate accessible features
- Wildlife observation area
- Table
- Bank fishing
- Boat launch - boat fishing
- Canoe trail
- Camping



Winter Fishing Season

Ice fishing is permitted when ice covers the water. Always check ice thickness before venturing onto the ice.

Regulations

Regulations set forth by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and the Refuge must be observed in all public fishing areas. See the “Activities Not Permitted” section for further Refuge regulations.

Hours

The Refuge is open from 5:00 am to 10:00 pm daily. No one is permitted on the Refuge between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am.

Hazards

Many unknown hazards can exist. Ice will be thinner around bridges, water control structures, beaver lodges, and vegetation. The ice will also be thinner near pressure ridges, at the Grano boat ramp opening into Lake Darling, near the springs north of the Greene Crossing, and wherever water is flowing under the ice.

Lake Darling Ice Fishing

- Due to changing conditions consult the Refuge Manager for current access points.
- Street legal cars and pickups can be driven on the ice on Lake Darling for ice fishing purposes only. All other ice fishing areas are walk-in access only.
- Ice fishing shelters are permitted on the ice. Ice fishing shelters must be removed on the date set by the State for ice fishing shelter removal. Following the date for removal of permanent shelters, portable ones may be used, but must be removed daily.
- No open fires are permitted.

Remainder of the Refuge

- Access to the ice by walking is permitted only at designated sites.
- Portable shelters are allowed, but must be removed daily.

Fish Consumption Advisories

The North Dakota Department of Health has issued advisories for the consumption of fish from Lake Darling and other State lakes and rivers. For more information, please contact the Refuge Manager.

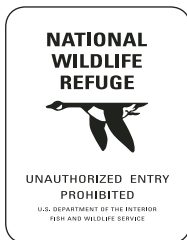
Activities Not Permitted

To protect wildlife, habitat, and other visitors, the following activities are not permitted:

- Camping, swimming, sailing, water skiing, personal watercraft (jet skis, etc.), off-road vehicle travel, fireworks, trespassing in closed areas, unleashed pets, and drunk and disorderly conduct.
- Remaining on the Refuge between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am.
- Littering. Please pack your trash home. Do not leave litter in grills or in toilets.
- Pleasure boating on Lake Darling.
- Collecting vegetation.
- Bow and underwater spear fishing.
- No snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-highway vehicles (OHVs), utility terrain vehicles (UTVs), amphibious vehicles, personal watercraft (PWCs), or similar vehicles on the Refuge.
- Open fires on the ground or on the ice.
- Searching for or removing historic or prehistoric artifacts.
- Entering onto the ice at other than designated access points.
- Leaving ice fishing shelters on the Refuge after the State-declared date for removal of shelters from the ice.
- Operation of a boat in excess of idle speed in the Grano Boat Ramp Bay, and within 100 feet of bridges.

Refuge Signs and Their Meaning

These signs allow or restrict certain activities to provide maximum enjoyment for visitors while protecting Refuge wildlife from undue harm.



Refuge Boundary Sign

These signs mark areas open to public uses. Contact the Refuge manager for specific regulations.



Sanctuary Area

These signs mark areas closed to all public access to protect wildlife and habitat.



Open to Public Fishing

These signs mark areas open to public fishing.

Administration and Location

The Refuge is administered and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior. The Refuge headquarters and visitor center are located southeast of Lake Darling Dam and can be reached by traveling on Highway 52 to Foxholm, and north 7 miles on County Road 11, or by traveling 18 miles north of Minot on Highway 83 and west 12 miles on County Road 6. Refuge headquarters and visitor center hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays. The Refuge is closed to all entry from 10:00 pm to 5:00 am.

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 relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from the speech and hearing impaired. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 701 / 468 5467, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge
17705 212th Avenue NW
Foxholm, ND 58718
701 / 468 5467
701 / 468 5600 fax
uppersouris@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/uppersouris>

For State relay service
TTY / Voice: 711

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

May 2012

