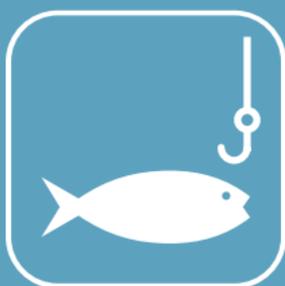


# Upper Souris

*National Wildlife  
Refuge*

---

*Fishing*



## Welcome



*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 565 refuges and 38 wetland management districts 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, conserving 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 35 miles along the Souris River. A major feature of the Refuge is Lake Darling, the largest of several water impoundments on the Refuge.

Lake Darling Dam is an effective water management tool. Refuge staff can reduce flooding by holding water in Lake Darling, and during dry periods, release water for marsh management. The water management, in conjunction with fisheries management, provides excellent fishing opportunities on the Refuge.

### *Office and Visitor Center Location*

The Refuge office 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 12 miles north of Minot on Highway 83 and 12 miles west on County Road 6.

### *Office and Visitor Center Hours*

Office and visitor center hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays.

### *Refuge Hours*

The Refuge is open from 5:00 am to 10:00 pm daily.

## **General Information**

Many kinds of fish can be found in Lake Darling and the Souris River. Game fish 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.

## *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.

## *Prohibited Activities*

To protect wildlife, habitat, and other visitors, the following activities are prohibited:

- Remaining on the Refuge between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am.
- Entering closed areas of the Refuge.
- Off-road vehicle travel, with the exception of vehicles on ice for ice fishing.
- Accessing the ice at locations other than designated access points.
- Operation of a boat in excess of idle speed in the Grano Boat Ramp Bay and within 100 feet of bridges.
- Bow and underwater spear fishing.
- Camping, swimming, sailing, water skiing, and jet skiing.
- Disturbing or removing natural objects or artifacts.
- Collecting vegetation.
- Fireworks.
- Unleashed pets.
- Open fires on the ground or on the ice.
- Littering, including in grills and toilets.

## **General Fishing Regulations**

Fishing is in accordance with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department fishing regulations and Refuge regulations as described in this brochure.

## **Open-Water Fishing Areas**

Bank fishing is allowed in designated areas where there is open water. Fishing from a boat or paddle craft is allowed in designated areas May 1 – September 30. Fishing areas are described below and shown on the map.

### *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.
- Boats and paddle craft are not allowed.

### *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.
- Boats and paddle craft are not allowed.

### *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.
- Boats and paddle craft are not allowed.

### *Beaver Lodge Canoe Trail on the Souris River*

- Fishing is allowed on the Beaver Lodge Canoe Trail (located southeast of the parking lot) May 1 – September 30.
- Non-motorized boats and paddle craft are allowed.

### *Spillway Fishing Area and Boat Ramp on Lake Darling*

- Bank fishing is allowed on the southeast corner of Lake Darling. Check for the Closed Area signs to determine boundaries.

*Spillway Fishing Area and Boat Ramp on Lake Darling, continued*

- The lake is open to fishing from Lake Darling Dam north to Green Crossing at Highway 28 May 1 - September 30. Boats and paddle craft are allowed.

*Lake Darling Dam*

- Bank fishing is allowed on the west end of the Lake Darling Dam.
- The remainder of the dam is closed to bank fishing.

*Landings 1, 2, and 3 on Lake Darling*

- Bank fishing is allowed on the west shore from the dam north to Landing 3.
- The lake is open to fishing from Lake Darling Dam north to Greene Crossing at Highway 28 May 1 – September 30. Boats and paddle craft are allowed.

*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 provide accessible fishing opportunities.
- Boat and paddle craft fishing is allowed on the lake from Lake Darling Dam to Greene Crossing May 1 – September 30.
- Boat and paddle craft fishing is not allowed 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 and paddle craft fishing is allowed on the lake south from Greene Crossing to Lake Darling Dam. The lake north of Greene Crossing is closed to boats and paddle craft.

*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).
- Boats and paddle craft are not allowed.

*Highway 5 on the  
Souris River*

- Bank fishing is allowed along the highway right-of-way and within the river loop on the north side of Highway 5.
- Boats and paddle craft are not allowed.

*Renville County  
Memorial (Mouse  
River) Park*

- All County ordinances and State regulations apply within the Park.

*Souris River from  
Park to North  
End of Refuge*

- Boat and paddle craft fishing are allowed May 1 – September 30.

*Swenson Bridge  
on the Souris  
River*

- Bank fishing is allowed from the road right-of-way.

**Ice Fishing**

Ice fishing is allowed when ice covers the water.

*Hazards*

Many unknown hazards can exist. Always check ice thickness before venturing onto the ice. 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 constantly changing conditions, consult the Refuge Manager for current access points.
- Licensed and registered cars, pickups, ATVs, ORVs, and snowmobiles can be driven on the ice between Lake Darling Dam and Carter Dam (91st St. NW) for ice fishing purposes only.

*Lake Darling  
Ice Fishing,  
continued*

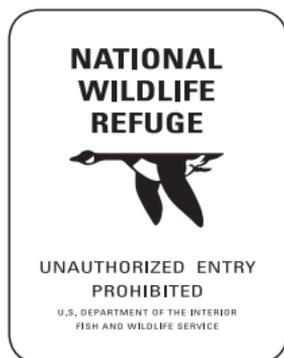
- Permanent fish houses are allowed on the ice. They must be labeled according to State law when unattended, and removed by the date set by the State for removal. Following the date for removal of permanent fish houses, portable fish houses may be used, but they must be removed daily.

*Remainder of  
the Refuge*

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

## 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.



These signs mark the Refuge boundary. Contact the Refuge manager for specific regulations.

*Refuge  
Boundary Sign*



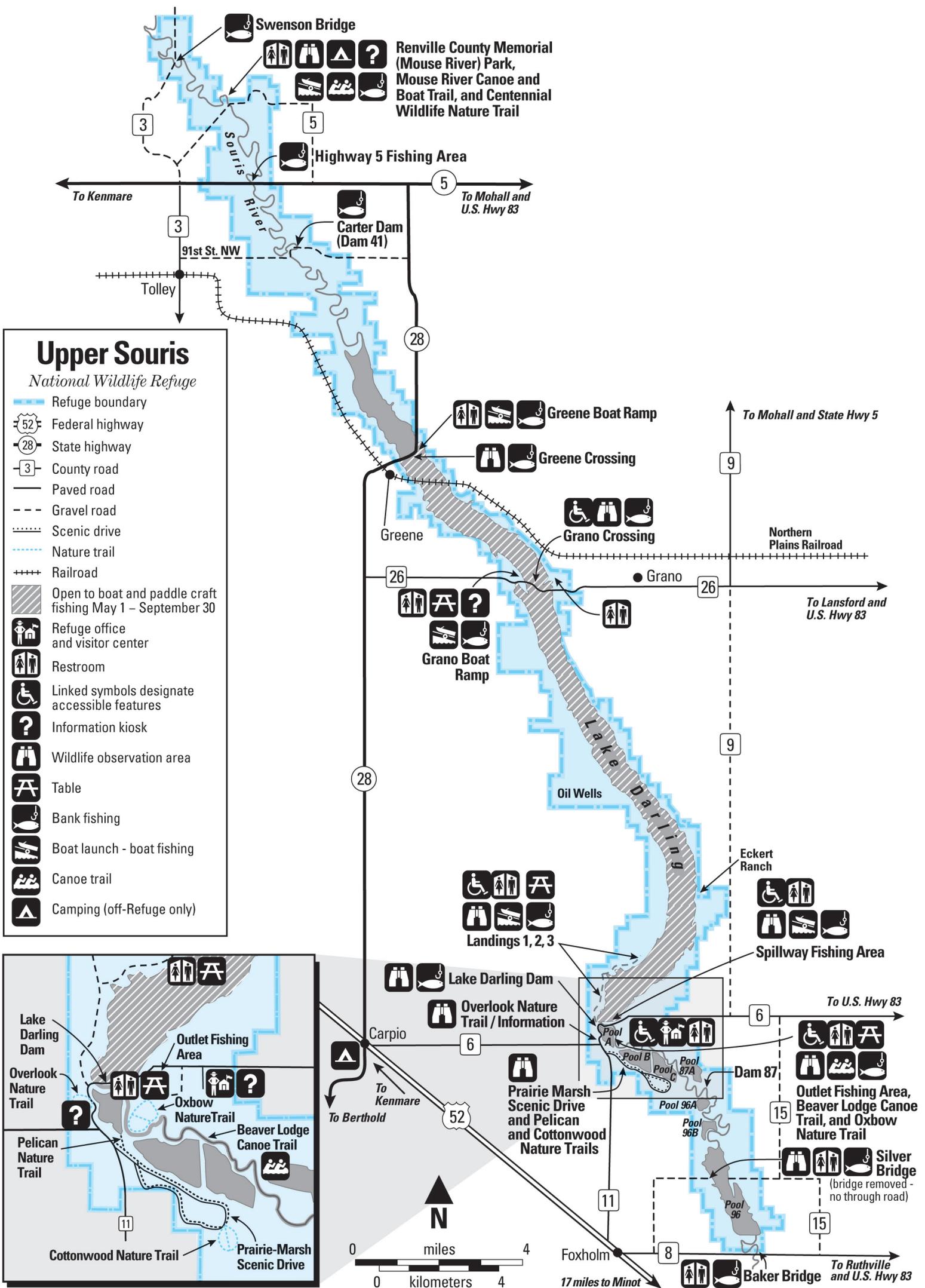
These signs mark areas closed to all public access.

*Sanctuary Area*

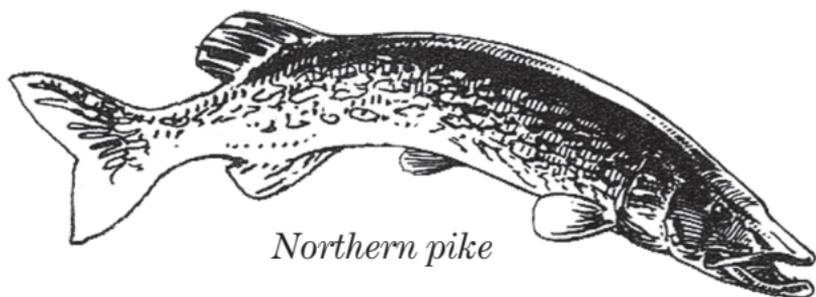


These signs mark areas open to public fishing.

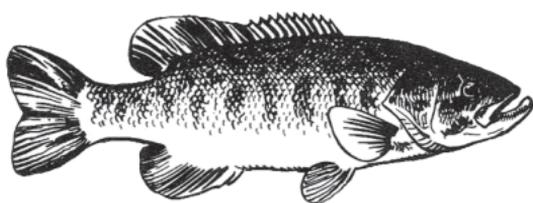
*Open to  
Public Fishing*



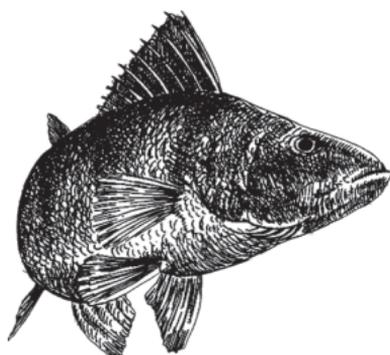
*Game fish found at  
Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge*



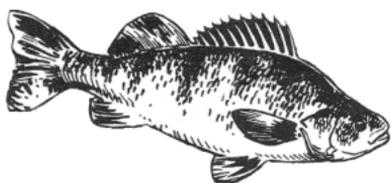
*Northern pike*



*Smallmouth bass*



*Walleye*



*Yellow perch*

**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 people with hearing and speech disabilities. 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/refuge/upper\\_souris](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/upper_souris)

**For State Relay Service**  
TTY / Voice: 711

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

**For Refuge Information**  
1 800 / 344 WILD

**April 2019**

