

To Blair, Nebraska

Refuge Entrance

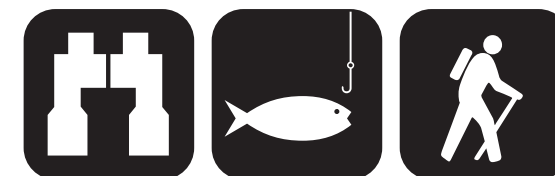
U.S. Highway 30

To Missouri Valley, Iowa

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

## Regulations



**DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge**  
1434 316th Lane  
Missouri Valley, IA 51555

**Phone: 712/642-4121**  
People with hearing disabilities may contact the refuge via the Federal Information Relay System at 1 800/877 8339.

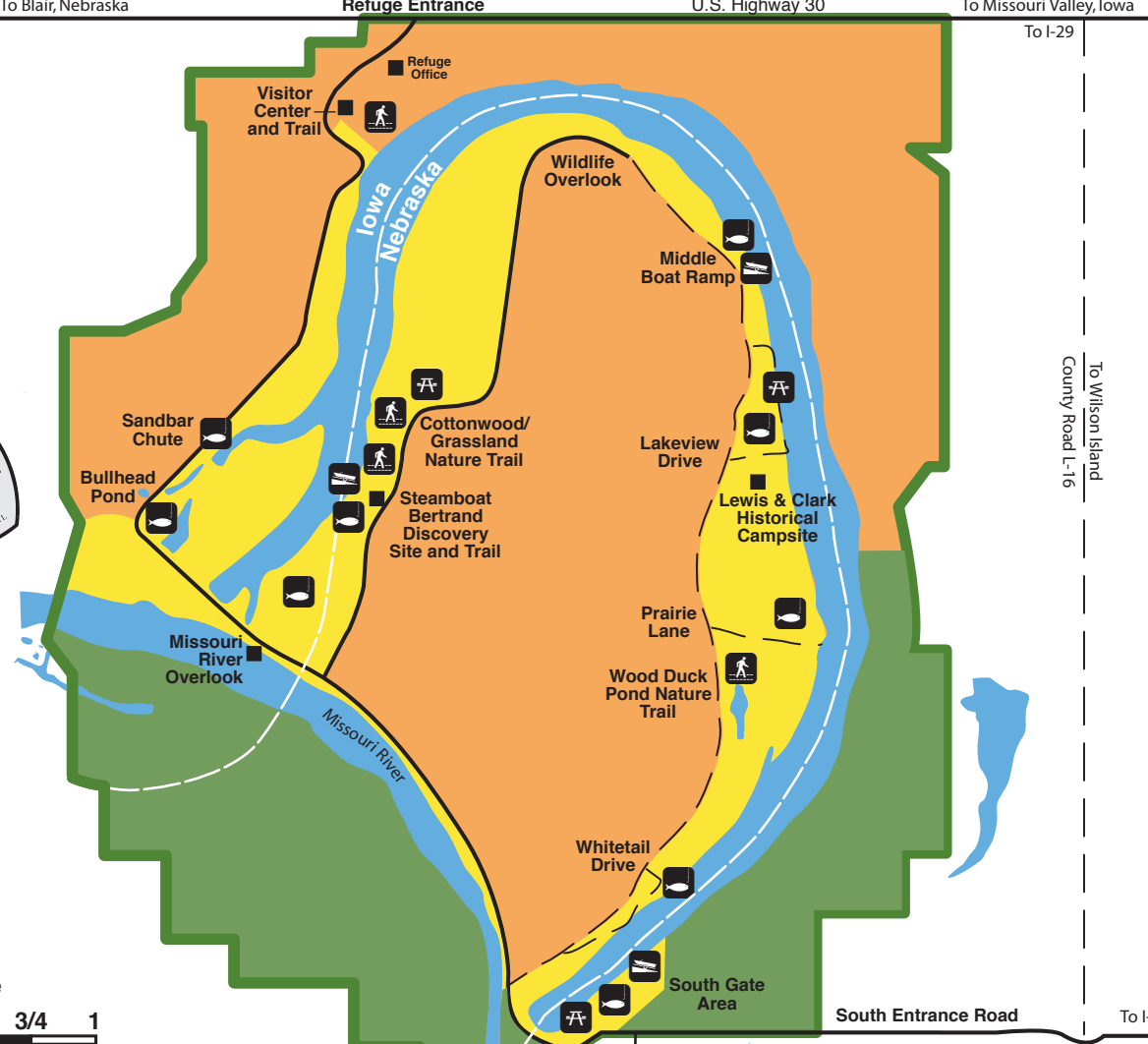
**Website:**  
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/desoto>



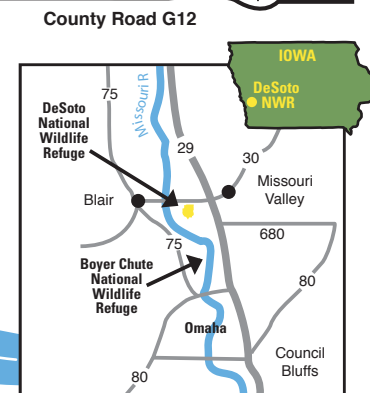
**Visitor Center**  
The DeSoto Visitor Center is open daily from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., except federal holidays.

**Directions**  
From I-29: Exit onto Highway 30 heading west 5 miles to the refuge.

From Missouri Valley, IA or Blair, NE:  
Follow Highway 30 west from Missouri Valley 5 miles or from Blair on Highway 30 east 4 miles to the refuge entrance.



- Refuge Boundary
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Area Open Daily April 15 - October 14. Only the roads and nature trails are open, unless otherwise posted, from October 15-April 14.
- Closed Area
- Restricted Mushroom Area Open April 15 - May 31 only, CLOSED Rest of Year
- Fishing Access
- Picnicking
- Boat Ramp
- Nature Trail



To Wilson Island  
County Road L-16

To I-29

South Entrance Road  
County Road G12

*Refuge Hours*

The refuge is open ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset.

*Entrance Fee*



Daily entrance fees are \$3.00 per vehicle. Fees are collected at the visitor center or self-service fee stations at entrances. The refuge is a federal fee area and a valid entry permit is required to enter the refuge or travel on roads in the refuge.

Other valid entrance passes (available for purchase at the visitor center) include the:

- DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge annual pass (\$15.00)
- Federal Duck Stamp (\$15.00)
- America the Beautiful Annual, Senior, Access, or Volunteer Pass.

*Vehicles*



The charge for commercial vans and buses is \$20 or \$30 if 21 or more people are aboard.



Auto touring, biking, and wildlife observation are encouraged.



Vehicles, including bicycles, are allowed on public roads and designated parking areas only.

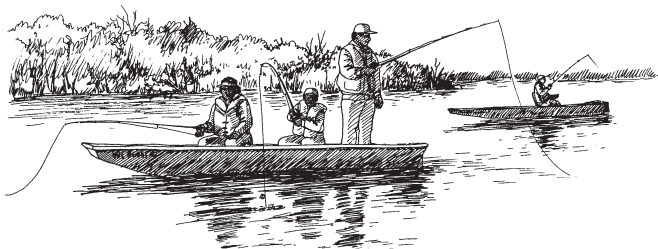
*Fishing*



*DeSoto Lake*  
Open April 15 – October 14

*Ice Fishing on DeSoto Lake*  
January 2 – end of February (when conditions permit)

*Missouri River*  
Open daily except for posted endangered species areas which are closed to fishing and boating.



*Special Fish Regulations*

State and federal regulations apply. An Iowa or Nebraska license is required. Some special regulations may be posted, in addition to the following regulations:

- Leaving fish or any part thereof on the banks, in the water, or on the ice is prohibited.
- Digging or seining for bait is prohibited.
- Trotlines, bank lines, set lines, and float lines are prohibited.
- No more than two lines and two hooks per lines may be used, including ice fishing.
- Archery and spearfishing are permitted for roughfish only.
- Motor or wind-driven conveyances are not permitted on the lake during the ice fishing season.
- Portable ice fishing shelters are permitted, but must be removed daily.
- Refuge regulations apply on all refuge lands along the banks of the Missouri River.

	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Length
Largemouth Bass	3	15 inches
Walleye	4	15 inches
Northern Pike	3	24 inches
Crappie/Bluegill	30 (combined)	None
White Bass	15	None
Channel Catfish	5	None
Flathead Catfish	5	None
Turtles and Frogs	None	Can't be caught

*The daily bag limit for fish species not listed above will be the more restrictive limit of either Nebraska or Iowa.*

*Boating*



Boating operation is permitted in accordance with state regulations, and the following special regulations:

- Boating is limited to no-wake speeds, not to exceed 5 miles per hour.
- Airboats, houseboats and boats containing toilets that flush directly into the water are prohibited.

*Picnicking*



There are a number of picnic sites on the refuge. Please don't litter.

*Hunting*



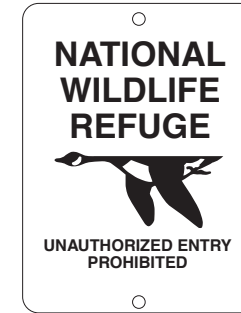
Limited hunting opportunities are allowed on the refuge by special hunting permit only. Contact the refuge manager for current regulations.

*Mushroom Gathering*

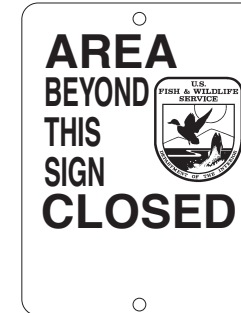
Certain areas of the refuge are open to the public for mushroom picking from April 15 through May 31. See map for open areas

*Refuge Signs*

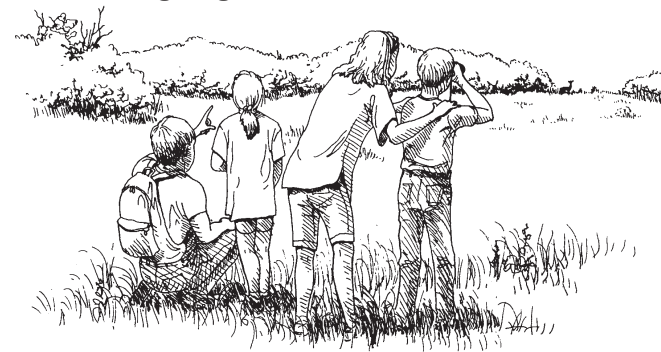
What these signs mean:



Refuge boundary sign. Public use permitted in accordance with refuge regulations.



No entry allowed



**Prohibited Activities**

- Open fires are prohibited.
- Fires*
- Camping is not permitted on the refuge. Campsites are available at Wilson Island State Recreation Area, adjacent to the refuge at the south gate.
- Camping*
- The use of artificial lights to take or locate wildlife is prohibited.
- Lights*
- Disorderly conduct or disturbance of the peace is prohibited. No intoxicated person shall enter or remain upon the refuge.
- Disorderly Conduct*
- Firearms, fireworks, airguns and all other weapons are prohibited, except when used in authorized refuge hunting programs.
- Firearms*
- Pets are not permitted on the refuge.
- Pets*
- Horseback riding is prohibited on the refuge.
- Horses*
- Swimming is not allowed on the refuge.
- Swimming*
- Trespassing into closed areas is prohibited.
- Trespassing*
- Collecting or destruction of plant and animal life is prohibited. Digging or seining for bait is prohibited. Collecting shed deer antlers is prohibited. Searching for or removing artifacts or objects of antiquity is prohibited.
- Collecting*
- Plants and animals collected or taken elsewhere shall not be introduced, liberated or placed on any part of the refuge.
- ATVs*
- Use of motorized All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs, snowmobiles, etc.) is prohibited at all times.
- Illegal Substances*
- Use or possession of alcohol by minors is prohibited. Use or possession of any illegal drug or drug paraphernalia is prohibited.