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Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman as well as wildlife populations. The regulations below govern hunting on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Code of Federal Regulations, and fishing regulations. New refuge regulations changes are highlighted in bold text.

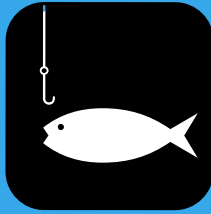
Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by refuge or state officers.

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1990 to protect, restore and manage wetlands and bottomland forest habitats in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The refuge is located in the Cache River flood plain in southernmost Illinois. Public hunting and fishing are permitted on approximately 15,000 acres during specific times of the year. **Special arrangements can be made to accommodate persons with disabilities by contacting the refuge office.**



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge 2005-2006 Hunting & Fishing Regulations



Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge General Hunt Permit 2005-06

This permit must be completed to be valid and must be carried by the hunter while hunting on the refuge. It is not transferable. Note: No permit required for fishing.

I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations. This permit is valid only when signed by the hunter and must be carried on hunter's person.

Signature

Any commercial use of a national wildlife refuge, including hunting guide, commercial fishing and filming are prohibited except as may be authorized by a refuge special use permit.

Commercial Use
State deer and turkey permits are required for deer and turkey hunting on quite the refuge. Gun deer and turkey blinds must be removed by the end of each day's hunt.

Permits
The **Refuge General Hunt Permit** on the front of this brochure must be signed and in the hunter's possession while hunting on the refuge. The permit acknowledges your understanding of refuge regulations. In addition to the Refuge General Hunt Permit, hunter's must possess all State required licenses, stamps and permits for the species hunted.

Ammunition
Possession of shot larger than that legal for waterfowl hunting is prohibited for waterfowl hunting. The permit is strictly prohibited unless specifically authorized. Fire arms carried in vehicles or boats must be unloaded AND encased or dismantled. Loaded is defined as shells in gun or caps on muzzle-loader. Weapons legally possessed for hunting on the refuge are the same as those prescribed by the State of Illinois.

Weapons
Firearms and archery tackle are permitted on the refuge only during designated refuge hunts. Carrying, possessing, or discharging firearms, fireworks, explosives, crossbows, bows and arrows, air guns, spears, gigs, or other weapons on a National Wildlife Refuge is strictly prohibited

Hearing impaired persons may contact Cypress Creek through the Federal Relay Number at 1 800/877 8339.

<http://midwest.fws.gov/cypresscreek>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov/>



Specific Hunting Regulations
State seasons and bag limits apply unless otherwise specified.
Hunting is permitted only in designated areas shown on map.
Hunters born on or after January 1, 1980, must show proof that they have successfully completed a Hunter Education Course. Hunters under 16 years of age must possess proof of completion of an approved Hunter Education Course and be accompanied (in sight and in normal voice contact) at all times by an adult 21 or older. Each adult must have a Refuge General Hunt Permit and can supervise only one youth during deer hunts and not more than two youths during all other hunts.
All deer and turkey must be tagged as prescribed by state regulations and checked through authorized state harvest reporting procedures.
Only portable deer stands or blinds may be used. All tree stands or blinds must be removed by the end of each day's hunt.

Boats
The use of boats is authorized on the refuge, subject to a 10-horsepower motor, prohibited. Boats may not be left overnight on the refuge.
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Motorized Vehicles
Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the refuge. All vehicles are restricted to roads that are delineated on refuge map. Roads may be closed at any time due to adverse weather or management needs. Vehicles may be parked alongside roads in a manner that will not block gates or interfere with the normal flow of traffic. ATVs are prohibited except by disabled persons possessing a refuge special use permit.

Hunters must be selected in State lottery drawings for a specific county. The refuge has land open to hunting in Union, Pulaski, Johnson and Alexander counties.

All bass taken from refuge ponds must be at least 15 inches in length.
Refuge ponds have a daily creel limit of six channel catfish per angler.

Prohibited Activities

- The following activities are prohibited on Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Littering
- Camping/overnight parking and open campfires
- Taking of any wildlife or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than specified in this brochure.
- Target practice
- Baiting and/or hunting in the vicinity of bait. Baiting includes, but is not limited to, the distribution of grains, feeds, salts, mineral blocks, meats, and fruits.
- Hunting within 300 yards of any inhabited dwelling when hunting with shotgun slugs or muzzleloaders.
- Hunting within 100 yards of any inhabited dwelling when hunting with bow or shotshells.
- Marking trails with paint, flagging, reflectors, tacks or other manmade materials.
- Trapping
- Riding horses or mules except on roads open to vehicle traffic.
- The entire refuge is closed to all night hunting activities except for raccoon/ opossum hunting in designated areas.
- Spot-lighting-artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife.
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles
- Drive or screw a nail, spike or other metal object into a tree or to hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven; or using climbing spikes.

Goose hunting is permitted after close of the duck hunting season on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 1 p.m. (This area will not be open to any late snow goose hunting season).

The Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve is closed to hunting except under the following conditions:

Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve
out the refuge on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Dove Hunting
Dove hunting is permitted through

Hunting with recognized pointer/ retriever dogs during migratory bird seasons, recognized rabbit and squirrel dogs during the rabbit and quail season, and trailing hounds during designated racoon/opossum season is permissible. Deer hunting with dogs on the refuge is prohibited.
Dog training outside of state upland game and waterfowl seasons is prohibited.
Cutting of any vegetation on hunt. Cutting of any vegetation on land at the end of each day's hunt must be removed or disabled.
Blinds must be removed or disabled during designated racoon/opossum and pheasant hunting.
Native plant material (use of cane stalked or artificial camouflage or portable blinds or structures constructed on the refuge. Only permanent blinds are not allowed during all other seasons.
Pits/permanent blinds are not wear a solid blaze orange cap while material. Upland game hunters must square inches of solid blaze orange outer garment displaying at least 400 blaze orange cap or hat and an upper gun deer season must wear a solid hunting deer or upland game during any required by state law, all persons

Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve continued

- Hunters may enter the area after 4:30 a.m. and must be out of the area by 2:00 p.m. each day. Those hunting at Bellrose Reserve must sign in at the check station and walk to designated hunting sites.
- No hunting is allowed within 100 yards of any private property boundary. In addition, the distance between hunting parties shall be no less than 200 yards (a hunting party is defined as an individual or group of hunters occupying a hunting site).
- Each party is required to hunt over a minimum of twelve decoys at each blind site and decoys must be removed from the area at the end of each day's hunt.
- All hunters must sign out at the end of their hunt and report harvest.
- Boats are not allowed in the Bellrose Reserve.

Furbearer Hunting

- Raccoon/Opossum hunting is allowed at night on the refuge during the Illinois statewide season.**
- Red and grey fox and coyote hunting is allowed during the Illinois state wide fox season dates.
- Hunting or taking of groundhogs or striped skunks is prohibited.

Specific Fishing Regulations

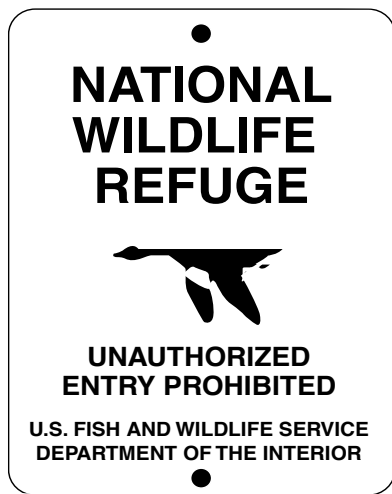
- Sportfishing, frogging and taking of turtles for personal use are permitted in all refuge waters in accordance with state regulations. Refuge waters include the Cache River, it's tributaries and refuge ponds.**
- The use of trotlines, jugs, yo-yo's, nets or any other commercial fishing equipment is prohibited, except that commercial fishing is allowed by legally licensed and equipped fisherman in the Cache River downstream of HWY 51.
- Anglers are prohibited from possessing more than two poles per angler with no more than two hooks or lures per pole.

Rely on Signs, Not the Map

To avoid trespass on private property, know the meaning of the signs below and area regulations. Authorized activities on refuge land include hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife observation, canoeing, nature photography, environmental education and interpretation.

These signs mark the boundary of the refuge. It is important to understand they DO NOT prohibit access, only unauthorized uses.

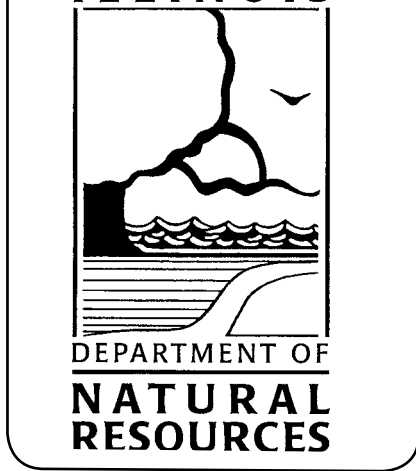
Refuge Boundary Sign



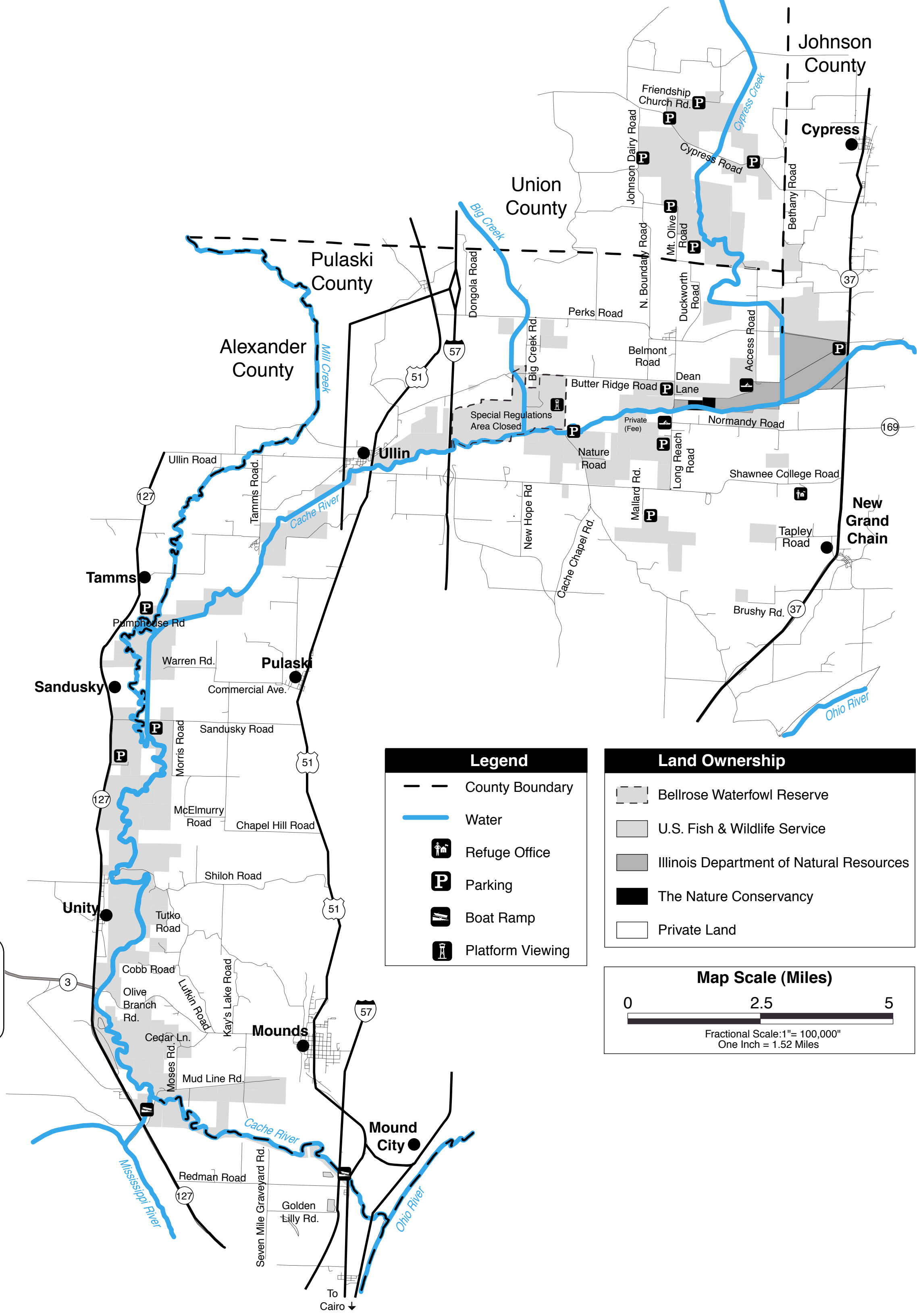
Area Closed Sign



This sign marks the boundary of the Cache River State Natural Area.



This sign marks the boundary



Legend

- County Boundary
- Water
- Refuge Office
- Parking
- Boat Ramp
- Platform Viewing

Land Ownership

- Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy
- Private Land

Map Scale (Miles)

0 2.5 5

Fractional Scale: 1" = 100,000"
One Inch = 1.52 Miles