



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge
7071 Riverview Road
Thomson, Illinois 61285
July 3, 2007

Spring Lake Furbearer Management Unit

Beginning in 2007, the Refuge will conduct a special trapping program within the Spring Lake Furbearer Management Unit in order to reduce the muskrat and beaver populations that are causing damage to Refuge structures. This management unit contains 3,600 acres. The Spring Lake Furbearer Management Unit overlays the Spring Lake Closed Area Sanctuary that prohibits all public access, including trapping, from October 1 to the end of the duck hunting season, annually. This special management program will allow exclusive trapping rights under restricted conditions during the duck hunting season. Exclusive trapping rights for the upcoming furbearer season will be awarded to the highest bidder.

The following guidelines will be implemented within the Spring Lake Furbearer Management Unit:

1. Time table for special trapping program.
 - September 1: Bid forms are available at the Refuge office.
 - September 15-October 15: Sealed bids are accepted at the Refuge office.
 - October 16: Bids are opened and trapping rights awarded to highest bidder.
 - October 19: Full payment must be received in Refuge office.
2. Bids will be accepted at the Savanna District office (Ingersoll Wetlands Learning Center, 7071 Riverview Road, Thomson IL) for exclusive trapping rights during the regular Illinois duck hunting season within the Spring Lake Furbearer Management Unit. Inspection of the trapping unit must be conducted under existing access guidelines that allows foot and bicycle traffic. There will be no vehicle access allowed to inspect the trapping unit.
3. The highest bidder will be awarded a Special Use Permit to exclusively trap the Spring Lake Furbearer Management Unit, during that portion of the Illinois trapping season (starts in early November) that occurs prior to the end of the regular duck hunting season (typically ends in mid-December).
4. These exclusive trapping rights within the Spring Lake Furbearer Management Unit under this Special Use Permit will expire the last day of the regular Illinois duck hunting season. The trapper must remove all traps and equipment prior to the end of the duck

season. The day after the close of the duck hunting season, the Spring Lake Furbearer Management Unit will be open to public trapping in accordance with Refuge regulations.

5. The Spring Lake Furbearer Management Unit includes all water areas within five subunits: “A” impoundment; “B” impoundment; “C” impoundment; Sloane Marsh impoundment; and Lower Spring Lake. See the attached map for location of the subunits.

6. Trapping will be conducted in accordance with State and Refuge regulations and the special conditions of this exclusive trapping program. In accordance with Refuge regulations, all legal furbearer species can be trapped, however only water-sets are allowed. A water-set is defined as any trap that is placed or set in contact with water.

7. Refuge trap tags will not be required under this permit. An unlimited number of traps may be used within the Spring Lake Furbearer Management Unit during the period that this exclusive trapping permit is valid. Trap size is restricted to body gripping traps not to exceed 10 inches to prevent the incidental take of waterfowl. Leghold traps are not allowed.

8. The permittee will be allowed 3 helpers in the field to tend traps. Helpers must be identified on the Special Use Permit. A maximum of 6 helpers can be identified on the permit, but only 3 can help tend traps during each visit. If helpers are replaced with individuals not listed on the permit, the permittee must notify the Refuge office and add the new helper’s name to the Special Use Permit prior to using the new helper. Each helper must have a valid state trapping license. The permittee must be physically present within the Spring Lake Furbearer Management Unit during all trap tending activities. Any individual (including helpers) that has committed a Refuge or State trapping violation within one year of September 15 annually, is ineligible to trap in the Spring Lake Furbearer Management Unit.

9. Access into the Spring Lake Furbearer Management Unit will be restricted in order to reduce disturbance to waterfowl. The permittee will be issued keys to the Spring Lake and Sloane Marsh gates and will be permitted to drive the designated levee roads within Upper Spring Lake and Sloane Marsh. All gates must be immediately closed and locked. The Lower Spring Lake area can be trapped but no vehicular access will be allowed on the lower levee and no boat access will be allowed. In order to minimize disturbance to waterfowl within the Closed Area Sanctuary the following access restrictions are in effect for the Spring Lake Furbearer Management Unit:

A. Access into the Unit, including setting and tending traps, is only allowed from 11:00AM to 2:00PM, daily.

B. Trapping will be conducted in only one subunit at a time. The subunits are: “A” impoundment; “B” impoundment; “C” impoundment; Sloane Marsh; and Lower Spring Lake. The permittee can select which subunit is to be trapped, but must contact the Refuge office 24 hours in advance of moving traps from one subunit to the next. All subunits must be trapped.

C. Only vehicles that are licensed to travel on highways are allowed access into the Unit. Vehicles must stay on designated routes of travel. A maximum of two vehicles are allowed within the Unit. The Lower Spring Lake levee is not open to vehicular access. The levees will not be snowplowed and vehicular access may be restricted if weather or river conditions require it.

D. No all-terrain vehicles (ATV) or snow machine use is allowed anywhere, including on ice, in the Unit under this Special Use Permit.

E. No watercraft are allowed in the Unit under this permit.

10. A weekly Fur Trap Report must be submitted to the Refuge office by 4:00 PM each Monday and identify the number and type of traps set, number of trap days, and the total harvest of furbearers by species, conducted during the previous week. The weekly Fur Trap Report must also include any and all non-target species, e.g. waterfowl, waterbirds, otters, that are accidentally trapped. Non-target species that are alive should be released on site. Non-target species that are dead should be left in the trap and Refuge Law Enforcement Officer Daryn Witt notified (cell 815-541-4607) as soon as possible. Non-target species cannot be possessed under this permit.

11. The retention of exclusive trapping rights under this Special Use Permit within the Spring Lake Furbearer Management Unit will be based upon performance of trapping activities. Minimum trapping performance requires 100 trap days per week, e.g., 25 traps set for 4 days. If minimum performance requirements are not met, the Special Use Permit for exclusive trapping rights may be terminated immediately with no refund of bid monies.

12. Traps must be checked daily. All animals/carcasses must be removed from the Refuge and disposed of properly. Skinning of animals is not allowed within the trapping unit. All materials (e.g., wood, lathe, flagging, wire) used for trapping must be removed from the Refuge at the end of the Special Use Permit period.

13. A violation of Refuge regulations or these Special Use Permit regulations may be sufficient reason for the immediate termination of this permit with no refund of bid monies.