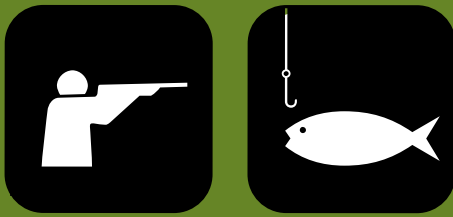


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge

National Wildlife Refuge 2008-2009 Hunting & Fishing Regulations



Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge General Hunt Permit 2008-09

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

The Refuge

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1990 to protect, restore, and manage wetlands

and bottomland forests in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Hunting and fishing opportunities are abundant within the Refuge. The area includes a variety of habitats from floodplain and upland forests, to deepwater swamps and shallow wetlands, to agricultural and support waterfowl, deer, turkey, squirrel, rabbit, and other game species. The Cache River and associated wetlands and backwater sloughs also offer opportunities to catch crappie, bass, bluegill and other fish throughout the year. Special arrangements can be made to accommodate persons with disabilities by contacting the refuge office.



Fishing regulations are in accordance with state regulations. Please refer to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fishing Information Guide. This publication is updated and printed annually.

Specific Fishing Regulations

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. As required by state law, all persons hunting deer or upland game during gun deer season must wear blaze or orange material. Upland game hunters must wear a solid blaze orange cap while afield during all other seasons.

Pits/permanent blinds are not permitted on the refuge. Only portable blinds or structures constructed of artificial camouflage or native plant material (use of cane and phragmites is prohibited) are permitted for waterfowl hunting. Blinds must be removed or dismantled at the end of each day's hunt. Cutting of any vegetation on the refuge is prohibited. Hunting with recognized pointer/retriever dogs during migratory bird seasons, recognized rabbit and squirrel dogs during the rabbit and squirrel season, and trailing hounds during designated raccoon/possum season is permissible. Deer hunters with dogs on the refuge is prohibited. Dog training outside of state upland game and waterfowl seasons is prohibited.

The regulations below govern hunting on national wildlife refuges. Hunting is in accordance with state regulations subject to the following refuge specific regulations:

Specific Hunting Regulations
State season 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. As required by state law, all persons hunting deer or upland game during gun deer season must wear blaze or orange material. Upland game hunters must wear a solid blaze orange cap while afield during all other seasons.

Pits/permanent blinds are not permitted on the refuge. Only portable blinds or structures constructed of artificial camouflage or native plant material (use of cane and phragmites is prohibited) are permitted for waterfowl hunting. Blinds must be removed or dismantled at the end of each day's hunt. Cutting of any vegetation on the refuge is prohibited. Hunting with recognized pointer/retriever dogs during migratory bird seasons, recognized rabbit and squirrel dogs during the rabbit and squirrel season, and trailing hounds during designated raccoon/possum season is permissible. Deer hunters with dogs on the refuge is prohibited. Dog training outside of state upland game and waterfowl seasons is prohibited.

Goose hunting is permitted after closure 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). 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.

Dove Hunting
Dove hunting is permitted throughout the refuge on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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 statewide fox season dates during daylight hours only. Hunting or taking of groundhogs or striped skunks is prohibited.

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 unless specifically authorized. Firearms 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.

Ammunition

Possession of shot larger than that legal for waterfowl hunting is prohibited; use or possession of lead shot is prohibited refuge wide, except:

- During deer and turkey hunts, lead ammunition legal for taking deer and turkey may be used.
- Small game and furbearers may be hunted with .22 and .17 caliber rimfire lead ammunition during open seasons.

Commercial Use

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.

Boats

The use of boats is authorized on the refuge, subject to a 10-horsepower motor restriction. Boats may not be left overnight on the refuge.

Motorized Vehicles

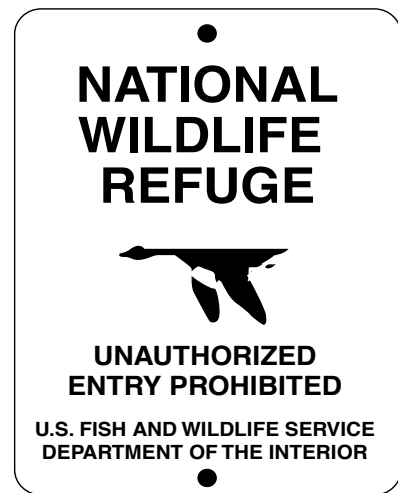
Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the refuge. All vehicles are restricted to roads that are delineated



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.

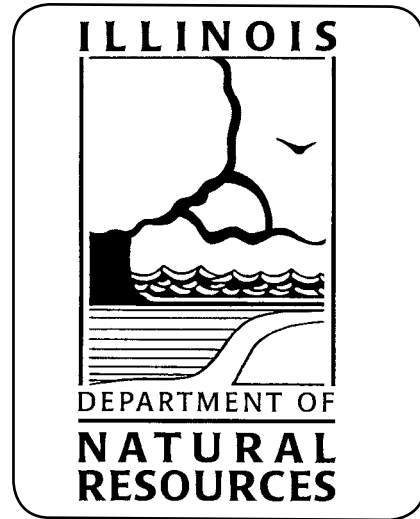
These signs mark the boundary of the refuge. It is important to understand they DO NOT prohibit access, only unauthorized uses.



These signs mean no public access.



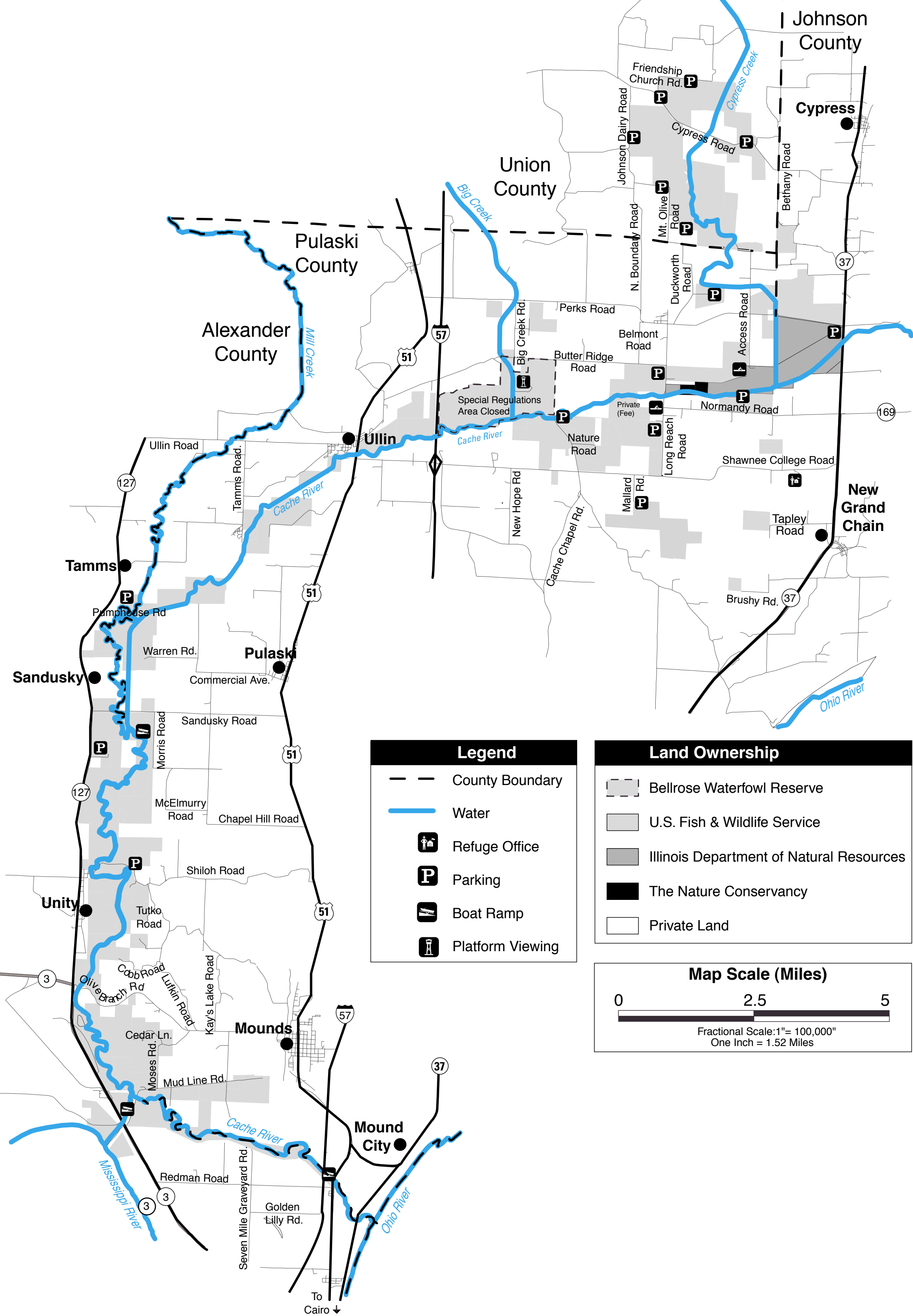
This sign marks the boundary of the Cache River State Natural Area.



This sign marks the boundary of TNC property.



This map is a product of Cypress Creek NWR and is for reference purposes only. The map is not a survey and should not be used to establish legal ownership. Reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this map, but it is not guaranteed to be without error. Cypress Creek NWR expressly disclaims responsibility for damages or liability that may arise from the use of this map.



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