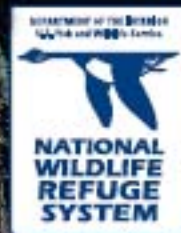
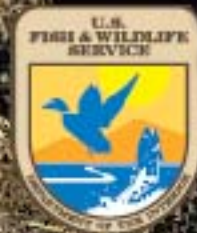


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Your Guide to Hunting *on National Wildlife Refuges*



Your Guide to Hunting at National Wildlife Refuges

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Introduction

“The sweetest hunts are stolen. To steal a hunt, either go far into the wilderness where no one has ever been, or else find some undiscovered place under everybody’s nose.”

-Aldo Leopold,
A Sand County Almanac

Widely acknowledged as the father of wildlife conservation in America, Aldo Leopold was writing about quail hunting in his beloved Wisconsin. But he could have been referring to the National Wildlife Refuge System. Where better to “steal a hunt” either in a remote corner or under everybody’s nose?

The mission of the 97-million-acre System is to administer a network of public lands and waters for the conservation of fish, wildlife and plants. Refuges provide habitat for nearly every species found on the continent. They safeguard nesting, feeding and wintering areas for migrating birds. They protect the habitat of our country’s rarest animals—ocelots and jaguarundis, Key deer and Atwater’s prairie chicken.

The Refuge System works to foster public understanding and appreciation of the natural world through wildlife-oriented recreation. This includes hunting, offered at more than 300 national wildlife refuges (NWRs) and protected wetlands.

Hunters have been long-time Refuge System partners. Sometimes called the “first conservationists”, they have played a role in the conservation of the nation’s wildlife resources since the late 19th century. Hunters continue to support conservation by buying Federal Duck Stamps. The stamps are required for hunting waterfowl anywhere in the country and the proceeds from Duck Stamps sales are used to purchase and preserve wetland habitat, primarily in the midwest’s ‘prairie pothole’ region. Since the stamp’s inception in 1934, more than \$700 million has been raised, purchasing more than five million acres.

This book serves as an introduction to hunting on national wildlife refuges. Use it to help plan your next hunting adventure. If you view hunting as a means to exploration, you will find new hunting spots, new species to hunt and new experiences.

At national wildlife refuges, you can be assured of a quality hunt. Refuge hunts are carefully managed in accordance with the Refuge System’s Guiding Principles, which state: “We are land stewards, guided by Aldo Leopold’s teachings that land is a community of life and that love and respect for the land is an extension of ethics.”

How to Use This Guide

Your Guide to Hunting at National Wildlife Refuges gives an overview of hunting opportunities found at refuges nationwide. The guide is organized by state. In cases where a national wildlife refuge crosses state borders, the refuge is listed in the state where its office or headquarters is located and cross referenced. There is no hunting at national wildlife refuges in Hawaii.

Without exception, all refuges follow state and federal regulations, including license requirements. In addition, since hunting on national wildlife refuges has to be conducted in a manner that does not negatively impact wildlife conservation, refuges have refuge-specific hunting management plans. These may include special rules and regulations, lottery drawings for hunts and designated hunting areas.

This guide provides an overview of each refuge's regulations, but refuge hunt programs change frequently. Always check with the refuge staff for updates regarding species, hunt dates and other regulations. Be aware that most refuge offices and visitor centers are closed on federal holidays.

Many refuges have detailed hunt brochures that provide information necessary for an enjoyable hunt, and most refuges post hunting information on their Web sites. *Your Guide to Hunting at National Wildlife Refuges* provides links to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge profile pages which provide access to refuge Web sites.

Species Icons

After each refuge description, a list of icons indicates the types of hunting available. For the most part, these icons are not all inclusive. A refuge that offers big game hunting, for example, is likely to offer a hunt for one big-game species, rather than the whole gamut of big game.

The following icons are used:

D: Deer, including white-tail, Coues white-tail, mule deer and black-tail.

BG: Native big game other than deer, including elk, moose, caribou, mountain sheep, mountain goat, bear, mountain lion, musk ox and javelina.

EX: Exotics, defined as non-native big-game species that are hunted for the purpose of population control. Species available for hunting at different national wildlife refuges include sika elk, sambar deer, feral hog, nilgai and oryx.

T: Turkey.

UB: Upland birds, including pheasant, grouse, quail, chukar and gray (Hungarian) partridge.

WF: Waterfowl, including duck, goose, coot and merganser.

MB: Migratory birds other than waterfowl. These birds include mourning dove, woodcock, snipe, rail and gallinule.

SG: Small game, which includes squirrel, rabbit, hare, raccoon and other small game.

Refuge Hunting Permits

Some refuges require special hunting permits, while others are open to hunters for general hunting seasons without permits. Permit requirements are listed following the text, but check with refuge staff for specifics. Some permits are free while others have a small charge. Permit requirements do occasionally change. Refuge staff have the latest information on fees, harvest reports, and how to apply for lottery hunts. In all cases, state hunting licenses are required.

Getting the Most from Your Hunting Experience

State and Federal Regulations

- Everyone who hunts on a national wildlife refuge must have the required state license(s). Some refuges also require their own permits and/or user fees. These are noted in this guide.
- Everyone over 16 years old who is hunting migratory waterfowl must have a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp). Proceeds from these stamps are used to purchase wetland habitat for waterfowl. More than \$700 million have been collected from the sale of Duck Stamps since 1934, leading to purchase of over five million acres of wetland. In some cases, state stamps are also required.
- All state and/or refuge regulations for bag and possession limits must be followed, as well as those for tagging and checking in after the hunt.
- Federal law (Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations) allows only non-toxic shot for upland and waterfowl hunting in Waterfowl Production Areas and Wetland Management Districts. Most refuges ban toxic shot.
- Follow state and/or refuge rules for wearing hunter orange.
- In some cases, a boat will be required to access hunting areas. While refuges have different rules on boats, all require adherence to U.S. Coast Guard and state regulations.

Refuge Requirements

- Hunting on refuges is permitted during certain time periods and in designated areas only, and these are subject to change. It is critical to contact the refuge for authorized activities and current guidelines before your visit.
- You may only hunt species specified by the refuge.
- The distribution of bait and/or hunting over bait is strictly prohibited.
- Some refuges require hunters to have hunter education certificates or bow hunters to have completed the International Bowhunter Education Course. Check individual refuge regulations.
- Dogs are permitted only in certain types of hunting, and, in a few cases, retrievers are required.
- Vehicles are allowed only on roads designated as open. Unless stated otherwise, all terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-roading are strictly prohibited.
- Hunters may not use nails, wires, screws or bolts to attach a stand to a tree, nor may they hunt from a tree in which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter.
- If portable blinds and/or decoys are permitted, they generally must be removed from the refuge each day.
- The use of artificial light to locate or take an animal is prohibited.

Youth Hunters

- Youth hunters must be supervised by an adult. Most refuges require supervising adults to be 18 years or older, but some specify 21. Refuge definitions of youth hunters vary. Check with the individual refuge.
- Most refuges require youth hunters to complete a hunter education course.

Hunters With Disabilities

- This guide notes special opportunities for hunters with disabilities; some refuges are universally accessible. Check with the refuge.

Personal Safety

- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited while hunting on national wildlife refuges.
- If traveling, check local weather, travel conditions and road closures. Pack extra gear in case of sudden weather changes, especially if you are visiting a wildlife refuge in a remote area, and be prepared to stay longer than anticipated.
- Share your travel plans with someone who can check your return.
- Take appropriate safety precautions such as first aid kits, extra food and water.
- In certain regions, notably Alaska, pack headnets and mosquito repellent.
- Be prepared for potentially harmful plants or animals or dangerous environmental conditions. For example, there are bears on most wildlife refuges in Alaska. Poisonous snakes are found on many refuges. Hypothermia can pose a threat on some refuges at certain times of the year.
- In remote areas, where getting lost is a possibility, it is a good idea to carry a compass or global positioning system (GPS) device.

Questions

- If you have questions, call the wildlife refuge where you plan to hunt. Ask about hunting opportunities and regulations as well as accommodations or campgrounds, food sources, service stations and medical facilities. Determine the closest place to obtain a local hunting license. A national wildlife refuge may be several miles from a license outlet. Some information is available on individual refuge Web sites

Consumption

- Do not hunt or eat any animal acting abnormally.
- Do not take an animal you find dead, even if it appears to have been killed by another hunter.
- Use rubber or plastic gloves when handling uncooked meat. Keep raw meats tightly wrapped, separated from other foods, and frozen or refrigerated below 45 F.
- Cook all game until well done.
- Disinfect utensils used to prepare the meat; if cutting through antlers, bone, or spinal column, disinfect those tools before using them on the meat.

Alabama

<http://www.outdooralabama.com/>

Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 808

Jackson, AL 36545

(251) 246-3583

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43535

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

A variety of wetland and flooded timber habitats makes Choctaw NWR a haven for waterfowl. About 200 broods of wood ducks are born in nest boxes each spring, and as many as 10,000 ducks land here during the fall migration. All hunting is conducted so as to minimize disturbance to migrating waterfowl. Duck hunting is not permitted, but the refuge offers a variety of other opportunities. An archery deer hunt each fall is important to maintain a healthy deer herd in the wetland habitats. In March, an archery hog hunt is held, creating a great opportunity for a big game hunt during a time of year closed to most other forms of hunting. These hogs can be especially destructive to the habitat on the refuge.

Getting there:

The Choctaw NWR is located about 20 miles northwest of Coffeerville. From Coffeerville, take Highway 84 across Tombigbee River going west. Turn north off U.S. Highway 84 at County Road 21, which is about 8 miles west of Coffeerville and 4 miles east of Silas. Go north 4 miles to Barrytown and turn east onto County Road 14. Follow County Road 14 to Womack Hill; turn right at Womack Hill. Watch for refuge directional signs from Highway 84 to the refuge entrance.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, BG, SG, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts.

Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge

509 Old Highway 165

Eufaula, AL 36027

(334) 687-4065

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=43560

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Hunters travel from Atlanta and Tallahassee to hunt waterfowl at Eufaula NWR, one of the few public hunting opportunities in this area. Hunters can pursue a variety of species here, but the quota waterfowl hunts remain the most popular draw. Two impounded areas are managed intensively for waterfowl, one in Alabama and one in Georgia. Hunters are assigned blinds and may bring two friends. Youth hunts are also held. Hunters can expect a varied bag of ducks, with wood duck, ring-necked duck, mallard, gadwall and wigeon the most common species. Hunts are

held on one day each week to keep pressure low. Hunters may only carry 25 shells per person. Deer hunting here is also excellent, and hogs (found only on the Georgia side of the refuge) may also be taken during these hunts.

Getting there:

The refuge is located about 40 miles south of Columbus, Georgia, and 80 miles east of Montgomery. Much of the refuge lies within the city limits of Eufaula. The headquarters is 7 miles north of Eufaula off U.S. Highway 431 on Alabama Highway 285 (also known as Old Alabama State Route 165).

Youth Hunts: Youth waterfowl and deer hunts are issued by lottery.

Species Icons: WF, MB, SG, D, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: Waterfowl hunts are issued by lottery. Successful applicants for youth hunts pay \$15 per hunter. For general waterfowl hunts the fee is \$45 and allows the permit holder and two guests. The youth deer hunt requires a \$12.50 fee. A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is mandatory for all other hunts.

Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

2700 Refuge Headquarters Road

Decatur, AL 35603

(256) 353-7243

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43664

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 3:30, M – F

Some of the most unique wildlife in the United States lives unseen by most people in deep caves throughout the southern United States. Key Cave is one such place, where the world's only known population of Alabama cave fish swims and thousands of endangered gray bats roost. The lands surrounding the cave may be hunted four days a week for a variety of species. A popular local hunting spot, Key Cave NWR can have good dove hunting early in the year. Quail hunting is also popular on the native grassland that is being restored to the refuge. While quail are not numerous, there are coveys throughout the refuge. The refuge shares a boundary with Alabama's Seven Mile Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA), which is also open to public hunting.

Getting there:

Key Cave NWR is located about 5 miles southwest of Florence. From State Route 20, turn west on Lauderdale County Route 2 (Gunwaleford Road). Follow Route 2 for about 4 miles and turn south on Lauderdale County Route 223 (gravel road). Follow Route 223 for about 1.5 miles and turn west on Lauderdale County Route 204 (gravel road). Follow Route 204 for 0.25 miles; the refuge is located on the south side of the road.

Species Icons: MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free hunting permit, issued by Alabama's Seven Mile Island WMA, is required to hunt the refuge.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

2700 Refuge Headquarters Road

Decatur, AL 35603

(256) 353-7243

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=43660

Visitor Center: 9:00 – 5:00, daily from October 1 – February 28; 9:00 – 4:00, Tu – Sat the rest of the year

The easternmost refuge in the Mississippi Flyway, Wheeler NWR provides an important home for Alabama's largest wintering duck population. While waterfowl may not be hunted here, the refuge does offer hunting opportunities for many popular game species. The deer herd is growing due to the refuge's diversity of habitats—including bottomland hardwood forest, pine uplands and croplands. Hunters may pursue deer during the state archery and muzzleloader (flintlock only) seasons. While hunting pressure is fairly high, deer hunters have a good chance for success if they put time into scouting. Feral hogs are scattered throughout the refuge and may be taken during the deer season. Pursuing raccoons at night with hounds is a popular local sport permitted on the refuge, and the refuge is also popular among rabbit and squirrel hunters.

Getting there:

Wheeler NWR is located in Decatur, about 80 miles north of Birmingham and 30 miles west of Huntsville. From Interstate 65, take exit 334 and travel west on highway 67. The refuge visitor center is 2 miles on the left and the refuge headquarters is 2.5 miles on the right.

For Hunters with Disabilities: There is a hunting area for hunters with disabilities on the refuge; hunters are issued a refuge permit and can access the area by vehicle.

Species Icons: D, EX, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts.

Hunting on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska

Alaska: The very word conjures up images of abundant big game, beautiful scenery, solitude and rugged outdoor adventure. For many hunters, Alaska is a dream destination and a hunt in the “Last Frontier” will likely exceed even the highest of expectations.

The nation’s largest state also contains the largest wildlife refuges. Here, refuges span hundreds of thousands, even millions of acres that are home to some of the most challenging big game — Dall sheep, Alaskan brown bear, mountain goat, caribou, moose and musk ox.

Hunting Alaskan refuges requires a different level of preparation than other refuges. Many people choose a guided hunt for their first Alaskan experience. Guides are permitted on all Alaska national wildlife refuges. Indeed, for brown bear, Dall sheep and mountain goat, guides are required for all nonresident hunters.

Unguided hunting offers great adventure but hunters must be prepared for changing weather conditions, difficult meat packing of large mammals, the presence of bears, and many other challenges. Self-reliance is a must; if an unguided hunter gets in trouble, help is often hundreds of miles away. Unguided hunters most often pursue moose, which can be hunted by floating rivers in many refuges. Caribou are also popular quarry, and on Kodiak Island, sitka black-tailed deer provide memorable big-game hunting.

In many cases, hunters access hunting areas via an air taxi. Road access is limited. Despite the challenges, an unguided hunt to Alaska is one of the great experiences available to American hunters.

While few go to Alaska for bird hunting, the state indeed offers some of the finest waterfowl and upland bird hunting. Some of the nation’s most unusual duck species can be hunted here, including harlequin, Barrow’s goldeneye, eider and Pacific brant. A waterfowler looking to hunt new species could have an incredible—and affordable—hunt on national wildlife refuges. Similarly, ptarmigan on some refuges are abundant.

Alaska

<http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/>

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center

95 Sterling Highway, Suite 1

Homer, AK 99603

(907) 235-6546

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=74500>

Visitor Center: 9:00 – 6:00, W – Sun, mid-May through mid-September

The hunting on Alaska Maritime NWR may be difficult and expensive to reach, but the effort is well worth it for the serious hunter looking for an exceptional caribou bull. The caribou and domestic reindeer, which now inhabit several islands in this expansive refuge, were originally introduced to provide food and sport for World War II servicemen based on remote islands. When the military personnel left, the caribou proliferated and are now damaging lichens and sea bird habitat. Hunts are conducted on Adak and Unimek islands, where the caribou are known to grow to huge size. There is also hunting on other parts of the refuge for caribou and feral reindeer, with the permits controlled by the Aleut Native Corporation. On any island, charter flights are very expensive, and the cost of getting meat off the island is even more cost prohibitive. However, for a hunter looking for a record-book caribou and an unusual hunting experience, Alaska Maritime is worth a once-in-a-lifetime journey.

Getting there:

The refuge is headquartered in the Alaska Islands, and the Ocean Visitor Center is located in Homer, which is at the end of the Sterling Highway, approximately 225 miles south of Anchorage. Regularly scheduled flights are available from Anchorage. The Alaska State Ferry System also serves Homer. Because most of the refuge is very remote, access is difficult and expensive. Visitors should contact the refuge for specific information about particular sites.

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 277, Building 4, Fish and Wildlife Service Road

King Salmon, AK 99613

(907) 246-3339

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=74512>

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 5:00, daily from May through September; M – Sat from October through April

Past volcanic activity in this area, along with the effects of shoreline erosion and glaciers, makes Alaska Peninsula NWR one of the most scenic refuges in the state. The area is also known for its great variety of wildlife, including marine species like seal, sea otter and whale. For many

hunters, a dream hunt here would be for brown bear, but hunters looking for a less expensive hunting adventure often come for caribou and moose. A popular subsistence hunting area, Alaska Peninsula NWR also attracts many nonresident hunters, who can find guide services, air charters or boat rentals available, depending on the type of hunt they prefer. The northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd is one of 13 major herds within the state. Herd size fluctuates naturally and has varied from 2,000 to 20,000 animals during the last half of the 20th century. The herd migrates up to 200 miles each year. As with most Alaska refuges, seasons for black bear, wolf and wolverine overlap with the caribou and moose season, so hunters may want to consider a tag for these species.

Getting there:

The refuge office is located approximately 0.12 miles across from the King Salmon Airport. Signs leading to the office complex are readily visible, and assistance can be obtained from the refuge visitor center, which is adjacent to the airport terminal. Regularly scheduled commercial flights are available between King Salmon and Anchorage.

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. State and federal rules apply.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

101 12th Avenue, Box 20, Room 236

Fairbanks, AK 99701

(907) 456-0250

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=75600>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Arctic NWR, a vast, remote and untrammled wilderness, may be as far as you can get from human civilization in the United States. The refuge's expanses of varied forest, mountain and tundra provide diverse and challenging opportunities to hunt caribou, moose, Dall sheep, and black and grizzly bears. Here, hunters find themselves immersed in the natural world, participating in the timeless relationship between predator and prey. While any hunting trip here is a true adventure, Dall sheep draw the most hunters. This white wild sheep roams mountains along river corridors in the refuge, providing good hunting in several locations. While residents can hunt sheep unguided, nonresidents must hire a guide. Access is only by planes that land on gravel bars along the refuge's rivers. Hunters must be prepared for some of the most challenging hunting conditions on earth. Weather can be in the mid-70s during the hunting season, but it can also be well below zero. Fog or blizzards can trap hunters in tents and make sheep hunting impossible. While hunters may spend years preparing for a trip here, they must also be prepared for weather that takes away hunting time. They should also bring extra food and dry clothes, in case planes are not able to return on schedule. For many hunters, these challenges are part of the allure of hunting at Arctic NWR. While the density of big game animals is generally lower here than elsewhere, and they are less likely to be trophy class, everyone who experiences the adventure of pursuing them is likely to return home with grand stories and unforgettable memories.

Getting There:

The Arctic NWR is remote and roadless. Very limited access is provided by the Dalton Highway which passes the western tip of the refuge. Most of the refuge is accessible only by aircraft, and several air service providers are authorized to provide transportation services. Most visitors come to Fairbanks, then take a commercial flight to Fort Yukon, Arctic Village, Deadhorse, or Kaktovik, and then charter a smaller bush plane to the Refuge. For a complete list of authorized air service providers and hunting guides, check the refuge's website at <http://arctic.fws.gov/>

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D
Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Becharof National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 277, Building 4, Fish and Wildlife Service Road
King Salmon, AK 99613
(907) 246-3339

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=74515>

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 5:00, daily from May through September; M – Sat from October through April

The 290,000-acre Becharof Lake located on this refuge serves as a nursery for the world's second largest run of sockeye salmon. The Bristol Bay commercial fishery takes 6 million fish each year from this tremendous salmon run. Four other species of salmon spawn in the waters of Becharof NWR each year, and this wealth of fish attracts not only anglers but also large numbers of hungry brown bears. The bears here are large due to the fatty content of the salmon and each fall, a limited number of hunters can come to hunt them. Located on the Alaska Peninsula, Becharof NWR has one of the densest bear populations in the state. Nonresidents must use a guide. Although bear hunting is never easy, success rates for outfitters in this area are typically high. The large, scenic lakes, mountainous terrain and rocky coastlines provide a stunning backdrop for a hunt for one of the world's largest game animals.

Getting there:

The refuge office is located approximately 0.12 miles from the King Salmon Airport. Signs leading to the office complex are readily visible, and assistance can be obtained from the refuge visitor center, which is adjacent to the airport terminal. Regularly scheduled commercial flights are available between King Salmon and Anchorage.

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D
Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Innoko National Wildlife Refuge

40 Tonzona Avenue, Box 69
McGrath, AK 99627
(907) 524-3251

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=75605>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Big-game hunters travel from all over the United States and around the world to pursue the large moose found on Innoko NWR. Hunters regularly take moose with antler spread of 60 to 70 inches. With no roads anywhere near the refuge, hunters ride in float-equipped airplanes and land on refuge lakes. Guided hunting is popular, but many hunters choose to go on their own. Unguided hunters are dropped off on the upper reaches of the Innoko River or one of the smaller rivers that flow into it. The float trip takes from a week to 10 days. Some hunters prefer a boat with a small motor for better access to tributaries in order to check prime moose locations multiple times. Moose are usually found along the riverbanks or in nearby meadows. Hunters could also encounter black bears, wolves and wolverines, and some bring a shotgun to pursue the refuge's waterfowl species.

Getting there:

The Innoko NWR is not accessible by car. Access is by means of airplanes equipped for water landings during spring, summer and fall. Due to its extremely remote and isolated location, access to the refuge by watercraft is, in most cases, not practical. Watercraft transportable by small aircraft, such as inflatable rafts and folding kayaks, can be used for transportation within the refuge. The primary means of access include privately owned aircraft, commercial guiding and outfitting services, and commercial air taxi operators. Access is via the town of McGrath, which is served by commercial airlines operating out of Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Izembek National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 127, 1 Izembek Street

Cold Bay, AK 99571

(907) 532-2445

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=74520>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Izembek NWR is world famous for its brown bear hunting, but it also offers some of the best hunting for much smaller game: waterfowl and ptarmigan. The refuge provides habitat for an incredible variety of duck and goose species. Most of the Pacific's black brant spends the summer here, and this is probably the best location to hunt these small, dark geese. Unusual duck species like eider, harlequin and Barrow's goldeneye can be found here in great numbers. More common ducks like mallard and pintail are also common. Hardy waterfowlers can find spectacular hunting in the fall, particularly at the 150-square mile Izembek Lagoon. Here, shallow, brackish water covers one of the world's largest beds of eelgrass, creating a rich feeding and resting area for hundreds of thousands of waterfowl. Many waterfowl hunters will spend the mornings and evenings pursuing waterfowl, and search the refuge for ptarmigan during the day. Good numbers of this upland bird species can be found on the refuge year-round. With its mix of species and spectacular wilderness setting, Izembek offers one of the most unique duck hunting experiences in the world.

Getting there:

Refuge headquarters is located in Cold Bay. This is a small, remote community of fewer than 100 people, and it is accessible only by air or water. The Alaska Marine Ferry System serves Cold Bay with one ship per month from April through October. Peninsula Airways (PenAir) serves Cold Bay with daily round-trip flights from Anchorage.

From Cold Bay, there is limited vehicle access to the refuge via five primary gravel or dirt roads, totaling about 40 miles (portions of these require four-wheel drive). Aircraft or boats are required for access elsewhere within the refuge. PenAir will fly visitors to remote villages. Off-airport air taxi operators and boat charters are limited. Contact the refuge for the latest information.

The refuge administrative office is located approximately 0.5 miles northeast of the Cold Bay airport terminal. Modest rental vehicles are available from a local entrepreneur. A small grocery store, motel, lodge and a couple of bed and breakfasts are open year-round.

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D
Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge

101 12th Avenue, MS 555

Room 262, Box 11

Fairbanks, AK 99701

(907) 456-0329

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=75610>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Kanuti NWR, a refuge about the size of the state of Delaware, is rich in game, including black bear, brown bear, caribou, moose, wolf, wolverine and waterfowl. But aside from hunters from local villages, few visit the refuge. It is relatively inaccessible and finding game in such a large refuge can be difficult. Hunters willing to learn the refuge and make the effort to get there, though, can find good hunting for a variety of species. Moose hunting opportunities on Kanuti NWR are limited for outsiders due to the closure of the Kanuti Controlled Use Area, but portions of the refuge are open and accessible from the road. Shallow water and large boulders reduce use of some creeks and rivers, but hunters willing to float down rivers in non-motorized boats can be picked up by chartered plane or motorboats at certain locations.

Getting there:

Most visitors to the refuge come through the community of Bettles, which lies 150 air miles northwest of Fairbanks. From Bettles, air charters are available for drop-offs at lakes, rivers and gravel bars. Visitors can then access the refuge on foot or by boat. Keep in mind, however, that this is a very wet area with no developed foot trails, and that many of the refuge's upland areas are not ideal for hiking.

In winter, the refuge can be reached from the Dalton Highway using nonmotorized transportation such as skis or dog teams. Snow machine access is also authorized for traditional activities; contact the refuge office for more information.

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D
Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

Ski Hill Road
P.O. Box 2139
Soldotna, AK 99669
(907) 262-7021

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=74525>

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 5:00, M – F; 9:00 – 6:00 Sat - Sun, June through August, and
8:00 – 4:30, M – F; 10:00 – 5:00 Sat – Sun, September 1 through May 31

Kenai Peninsula is internationally famous for its brown bears, which come to the rivers each summer to feed on migrating salmon. In addition to brown bear, hunters come here for a variety of other large game, including moose. Formerly known as the Kenai National Moose Range, the refuge was once managed primarily to protect the breeding and feeding ranges of the giant Kenai moose. Moose populations on the Kenai peninsula were declining in the early to mid-1900s until a large wildfire in 1947 produced excellent habitat that supported high moose numbers in the northern portion of the Kenai NWR. Today, hunters benefit from this wildlife management, as they have a chance to take a moose with antlers that can exceed 6 feet in spread. There are several cabins on the refuge that may be rented, or hunters may camp in other areas after being delivered by air taxi. Many hunters here choose a guided hunt.

Getting there:

Driving from Anchorage, take the Seward Highway south to the Sterling Highway; the eastern boundary of the refuge is at milepost 55 of the Sterling Highway. Another 5 miles from the boundary is a visitor contact station (open from Memorial Day through Labor Day) and the west entrance to the Skilak Wildlife Recreation Area. Continuing on to Soldotna will bring you to the refuge visitor center and headquarters. Take a left onto Funny River Road, then turning right (before the building supply store) onto Ski Hill Road.

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D
Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge

1390 Buskin River Road
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 487-2600

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=74530>

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F in winter; 8:00 – 7:00, M – F; 12:00 – 4:00, Sat – Sun from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day

Kodiak Island may have the best Sitka black-tailed deer hunting in the world and incredible sea duck hunting, but when this refuge is mentioned, most hunters think of one thing: Kodiak brown bear. While nonresidents must book a guided hunt that often costs five figures, hunters still dream of hunting the largest land predator on Earth. While the same species as the grizzly bear, the Kodiak bear can weigh up to 1,400 pounds. The bear population is carefully managed so that the bears continue to thrive, and about 3,000 bears roam the island. A heavy-caliber rifle and high-quality rain gear are essential items for a bear hunt. The island is mountainous and full of thick cover, so hunting can be grueling and often frustrating. You'll never forget when a 2,000-pound bear appears suddenly at 30 yards; it is an experience that is unlikely to be forgotten. The big brown bears should also be on the minds of deer hunters, as they now associate rifle shots with deer carcasses and gut piles. Hunters should pay close attention and always try to pack out a deer in one trip. For many hunters, though, the deer hunt offers a great way to hunt in this legendary destination for a fraction of the cost of a bear hunt.

Getting there:

Kodiak Island is accessible by commercial airlines from Anchorage or ferry through the Alaska Marine Highway System. The refuge is accessible only by float plane or boat. Several air charters in the town of Kodiak can fly you to the refuge.

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge

101 Front Street

P.O. Box 287

Galena, AK 99741

(907) 656-1231

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=75615>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

What's around the next bend of river? That's a question that many hunters ask themselves as they float through Koyukuk NWR. These hunters know that, at any moment, a moose may appear on a gravel bar or in the trees along the river's edge. Each fall, the moose concentrate along the river corridor, and floating remains the best way to hunt them here. Permits—which require registration for subsistence hunters and a lottery for sport hunters—are issued to limit pressure on the moose. This system yields some of the best moose hunting in the state. This is also an area where many hunters go without a guide. Boats are available for rental in nearby communities, and access to the rivers is fairly easy. There is no fly-in hunting along the river corridor. Many hunters find floating the river an enjoyable way to hunt, and seeing a bull moose emerge from a river is an exciting experience. Of course, the real work begins once a moose is down, and hunters should be prepared for the difficult chore of butchering and packing North America's largest big game animal.

Getting there:

The Koyukuk Refuge is located about 270 miles west of Fairbanks, and access is limited to air and river travel in this roadless part of Alaska. Air charters are available from Fairbanks and some local villages. Please contact the refuge office for a list of air taxi operators with refuge permits. Most visitors travel to and in the refuges using motorized boats, floatboats (including canoes, kayaks and rafts), aircraft or snowmobile. The Koyukuk River mouth is approximately 312 miles downriver from the Dalton Highway Bridge on the Yukon River or the Tanana River Bridge at Nenana.

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D
Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge

101 Front Street

P.O. Box 287

Galena, AK 99741

(907) 656-1231

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=75621>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Nowitna NWR has been drawing fewer hunters in recent years, but for hunters willing to put some effort into their hunt, this refuge remains an excellent moose hunting destination. There is a registration for subsistence hunters and lottery for sport hunters, and hunters may access the best hunting areas by boat or plane. While guides are available, many hunters choose to hunt this refuge on their own. The Nowitna River is a wild and scenic river, and hunters float through a beautiful canyon and excellent moose habitat. However, some of the best hunting is found near grass lakes that can be located some distance from the river. These can be hunted effectively by hunters hiking in from their boat, or by fly-in hunters. Hunters who focus on these lakes can be quite successful, although it can take several years to learn the best areas. Overall, this is a low success hunt but refuge managers say that most hunters come here for the floating and the wilderness experience.

Getting there:

The Nowitna NWR lies in the vast roadless region of northern and western Alaska. Commuter aircraft provide regularly scheduled air transportation from Fairbanks and Anchorage to Galena, where the refuge headquarters is located. The two villages nearest the refuge, Ruby and Tanana, have less frequent air service, but there are local guides available. Visitors may charter small aircraft for transport to the refuge from Galena or McGrath. Most visitors travel to Nowitna NWR by boat, coming 240 miles down the Yukon River from the Dalton Highway Bridge or 280 miles down the Tanana River from Nenana. Local residents travel extensively on the Yukon River by boat in summer and snow machine in the winter.

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D
Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Selawik National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 270, 160 2nd Avenue

Kotzebue, AK 99752

(907) 442-3799

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=75625>

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 5:00, daily, May through September

Native Alaska residents have been fed, dressed and housed by the Western Arctic caribou herd for thousands of years. These subsistence hunters still rely on the caribou each year, and most of the hunting at Selawik NWR is by hunters returning for their annual pursuit of caribou. While the refuge is remote and access difficult, non-local hunters may also pursue these caribou (and a variety of other big game) in the fall. During the fall migration, thousands of caribou pass through the refuge. Hunters typically fly to Kotzebue and then hire a small bush plane to take them deep into the refuge. Guide services are available but are not required for caribou hunting on the refuge. Selawik NWR, and the numerous villages that surround it, embody some of the most representative aspects of life in the “True North.” The landscape remains largely undisturbed by human activities, and offers the same challenges and benefits as it did hundreds of years ago, to those adventurous few who choose to travel here.

Getting there:

To reach the refuge one usually takes a commercial air service from Anchorage to Kotzebue; Kotzebue can not be reached by road. From Kotzebue, visitors generally travel into the refuge by small bush aircraft. Air taxi operators also provide service to the refuge from Galena, which has air access from Fairbanks. The refuge office is in Kotzebue on Second Avenue, Building 160, and is within walking distance of the airport. Exit the airport left to Third Avenue. Go right on Third to Lake Street. Go left to Second Avenue, then turn right. The office is in the middle of the block on the right. Taxi service from the airport to the refuge office is also available.

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge

1.3 mile Borealis Avenue

P.O. Box 779

Tok, AK 99780

(907) 883-5312

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=75630>

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, daily, May 15 – September 14

Many hunters come to Tetlin NWR to hunt moose, due to the good air taxi service and canoe access. For hunters looking for even more adventure, a Dall sheep hunt on this refuge may be one of the most demanding trips around. There is a good sheep population, as the refuge borders Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. But to access the mountains where the rams live, hunters must first pack all of their equipment to a river a short distance from the road, then float five miles to the mountain. From here, the hunt is just beginning. Hunters must hike up the mountains to find

the best hunting opportunities. It is suggested hunters use a guide if they are nonresident. After the hunt, there is still more adventure ahead: Hunters must float out 30–40 miles before getting back to civilization. It's an extremely difficult undertaking, but hunters willing to put in the effort can often be rewarded with a Dall ram. There are unposted privately owned lands within the refuge boundary that are not open to hunting. Please check with refuge staff for details.

Getting there:

The Tetlin NWR headquarters is in the community of Tok at the corner of Midnight Sun and Borealis Avenues. Tok is 94 miles northwest of the U.S./Canada border, and is 205 miles southeast of Fairbanks. The refuge's visitor welcome station is located just 7 miles from the U.S./Canada border at milepost 1,229 on the Alaska Highway. The northern boundary of Tetlin NWR extends 65 miles along the Alaska Highway. Foot access to the northern portion of the refuge is available along the Alaska Highway from the U.S./Canada border at milepost 1,221.5 to milepost 1,242 of the Alaska Highway. Small boat/canoe access is available at Desper Creek at milepost 1,225.4, the Chisana River bridge in Northway at milepost 1,264, the old Riverside airstrip at milepost 1,281, and at the Tanana River bridge at milepost 1,303.6. Access to the interior of the refuge is limited to watercraft, small ski/float-equipped airplane, foot travel or snow machine.

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Togiak National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 270, 6 Main Street, Kangiituaq Building

Dillingham, AK 99576

(907) 842-1063

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=74535>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 5:00, M – F

The retreat of glacial ice and the power of earthquakes and volcanoes have shaped a striking land that appears from the air to be carved and crumpled. The varied topography supports a diversity of wildlife, including many game species. More than 150,000 caribou pass through Togiak NWR each year, providing excellent hunting for both subsistence and sport hunters. While guide services do operate in the area, Togiak NWR is a popular choice for unguided hunters. Hunters are dropped off in remote locations, and hunt from their camp sites. Hunters may also take other species during their caribou hunt, including black bear, wolf and ptarmigan – if they have the proper tags for these species. While caribou are now abundant throughout most of the refuge, they previously were extirpated on the Nushagak Peninsula section. In 1988, caribou were reintroduced, and today the herd is thriving. Subsistence hunters, who have pursued caribou here for 5,000 years, may now hunt this herd. Hunters visiting the refuge need to be aware of the existence of private and native lands within and bordering the refuge to avoid trespassing.

Getting there:

Most visitors travel to Togiak NWR by air charter services from airports in Dillingham (where the refuge office is located) and Bethel. Visitors generally travel to these communities on commercial flights originating at Anchorage's Ted Stevens International Airport.

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D
Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 346, 807 Chief Eddie Hoffman Road
Bethel, Alaska 99559
(907) 543-3151

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=74540>

Refuge Office and Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F, 1:00 – 4:00, Sat

Unlike most of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, Yukon Delta NWR supports a low density of big-game animals. This can make hunting here difficult and impractical. However, the refuge does offer one of the few opportunities in the United States to hunt a most unusual big-game animal: the musk ox. A species from the Pleistocene Era, 10,000 years ago, musk oxen roam the tundra with their long, woolly coats and large, curved horns. They are best known for standing defensively in a circle, with smaller musk oxen in the center, to protect against wolves. Musk oxen were hunted to dangerously low levels in the early part of the 20th century. A hunting prohibition allowed the herds to recover. Yukon Delta NWR offers good guided hunts for this species, principally on Nunivak Island. The excellent herd management of musk oxen means that large-sized bulls are quite common, and a selective hunter has an excellent chance of taking a record-book-sized animal.

Getting there:

No roads lead into Bethel, the location of the refuge headquarters. From Bethel, most nonlocal visitors travel into the refuge by small aircraft. Various airlines provide regular commercial flights to and from Bethel. The refuge office and visitor center is 2 miles from the Bethel airport on the Chief Eddie Hoffman State Highway, the only paved road in town. The office is located across from the hospital (a structure known locally as the "yellow submarine").

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D
Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge

101 12th Avenue, Room 264
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 456-0440

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=75635>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Yukon Flats NWR has some great moose habitat, but that doesn't mean the moose are easy to find. Much of the refuge is covered in water, including shallow lakes, sloughs and meandering streams. Seen from the air, the refuge appears as a gigantic wetland area, with lake after lake stretching across the landscape. Moose benefit from the periodic fires and floods, which

encourage new growth that makes excellent browse. With so much habitat, moose can be scattered at low densities throughout the refuge during the summer. In the fall, moose begin to congregate around the Yukon River valley for shelter and food. Hunters should concentrate their efforts there. Access is via plane, with many charter services available in nearby villages. Hunters have a good chance of encountering a black bear, so having a black bear license is a good idea.

Getting there:

The refuge office is in room 264 of the Federal Building at 101 12th Avenue in Fairbanks. The refuge is about 100 miles north of Fairbanks. Access is primarily by aircraft and boat. There are regularly scheduled commercial flights between Fairbanks and the seven villages in or near the refuge. Visitors may also drive the Steese Highway (a gravel road) from Fairbanks to the Yukon River, at Circle, and travel down the river via watercraft into the refuge. Visitors may also drive up the Dalton Highway to the Yukon River Bridge and travel upriver about 5 miles to reach the refuge. Charter service to remote lakes and gravel bars along rivers is available from Fairbanks and Fort Yukon.

Species Icons: BG, SG, WF, MB, UB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Arizona

<http://www.azgfd.gov/>

Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge

60911 Highway 95

Parker, AZ 85344

(928) 667-4144

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=22551>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

Cottonwoods and willows provide important habitat for game in desert environments, offering a ribbon of lush cover in an otherwise arid environment. Along the lower Colorado River, Bill Williams River NWR has one of the last stands of natural cottonwood-willow forest that is part of a rich blend of varying habitats: There are places on the Bill Williams River NWR where a cattail marsh sits next to a stand of saguaro cactus. This changing habitat supports a wide variety of species, including birds and upland game. The thick cover and good watering areas mean healthy populations of Gambel's quail, migrating mourning and white-winged doves, and cottontail rabbits, all of which may be pursued by hunters during Arizona state seasons (cottontail rabbits may be pursued only during the quail season). Hunters will also be rewarded with sightings of a wide variety of other wildlife, including mule deer, javelina, bobcat and dozens of migrating bird species.

Getting there:

From Lake Havasu City, follow Arizona Highway 95 south approximately 23 miles. The headquarters is located between mileposts 160 and 161.

Species Icons: MB, UB, SG, BG
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 109
Sansabe, AZ 85633
(520) 823-4251

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=22530

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, daily (Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day)

Among the many game species roaming the rippling grasslands of Buenos Aires NWR is the javelina, a small hoofed mammal that travels in large herds throughout the refuge. Javelina resemble pigs, but are not in the pig family. There are legendary stories of charging javelina, but they are actually secretive animals. For a hunter, they offer an interesting hunting experience on this refuge, where grasslands and native wildlife like pronghorn and masked bobwhite are being restored. As with all NWR hunting, javelina hunts follow state regulations. This means that hunters can participate in the “HAM” (handgun-archery-muzzleloader) hunt, a popular choice among avid javelina hunters. Since javelina can often be stalked at close range, short-range weapons provide an exciting hunting experience. Scouting can help hunters pinpoint areas where large herds are roaming. A quiet approach will often put hunters in the midst of a dozen or more javelina—that may be running in every direction! Hunters should be aware that there are actual feral hogs on the refuge, albeit in small numbers. These may be taken during javelina or any other hunting season without limit.

Getting there:

From Tucson, go west on Highway 86 (Ajo Way) to the town of Three Points. From Three Points, travel 38 miles south on Highway 286 to milepost 7.5.

If traveling on Interstate 19, take the Amado/Arivaca exit west, turn right at the T-intersection, and then left at the Cow Palace onto Arivaca Road. Proceed west 35 miles on Arivaca Road to Highway 286, and turn left at milepost 7.5.

Species Icons: D, BG, SG, MB, WF, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Request refuge hunting brochure for regulations specific to refuge.

Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge

1611 North Second Avenue
Ajo, AZ 85321
(520) 387-6483

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=22571

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F; closed between 12:00 and 1:00

In 1939, a group of Boy Scouts, concerned about the decline of desert bighorn sheep due to market hunting, wrote President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The result was the creation of Cabeza Prieta NWR to conserve the sheep and their habitat. Today, Cabeza Prieta offers the chance to hunt desert bighorn each year to hunters lucky enough to draw tags against astronomical odds. Hunting is often highly successful, although that doesn't mean it is easy. Conditions in the desert can vary widely, with dry and cold conditions being the norm. Access to this refuge is difficult, with 93 percent of the refuge designated as wilderness. Scouting is essential to find the areas where sheep are concentrated. Since this is a once-in-a-lifetime hunt, many hunters use the services of a guide. Even then, the hunt is not guaranteed. In a recent year, an unusual amount of precipitation kept the sheep dispersed, and only one out of six hunters bagged a ram. In other years, the success rate has been 100 percent.

Getting there:

From Phoenix, take Interstate 10 west to exit 112 and follow Highway 85 south to Gila Bend. Continue south on Highway 85 approximately 40 miles to Ajo. From Tucson, take Highway 86 (Ajo Way) west across the Tohono O'odham reservation to Why, then follow Highway 85 north to Ajo. From Yuma, take Interstate 8 east to Gila Bend, then follow Highway 85 south approximately 40 miles to Ajo. The refuge office is on the west side of the highway at the north end of town.

Species Icons: BG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Cibola National Wildlife Refuge

Route 2, Box 138

Cibola, AZ 85328

(928) 857-3253

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=22540

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

A place that receives only two inches of rainfall a year may seem an unlikely spot to hunt waterfowl. But located along the Colorado River, Cibola NWR is an oasis in the desert that provides important winter habitat for Canada and snow geese, ducks and coots. Refuge staff is working to improve migratory bird habitat by restoring river backwater areas, removing invasive plant species and providing waterfowl food in managed farm fields. Due to the restored habitat, hunters may pursue waterfowl at several locations on the refuge, in both marsh habitat and agricultural fields. One unit offers a controlled hunt via lottery, but other areas are open without special permit. There are a number of specific regulations for the hunting units, and hunters should check with the refuge headquarters for details. In the fall, thousands of ducks and geese use the refuge, providing a first-rate hunting experience in the middle of the Sonoran Desert.

Getting there:

From Blythe, go approximately 3 miles west on Interstate 10 to Neighbours Boulevard/exit 78. Go south on Neighbours Boulevard for 12 miles to the Cibola Bridge. After crossing the bridge, continue south for 3.5 miles to the headquarters.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No, except for Unit 2 goose hunts.

Havasu National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 3009

Needles, CA 92363

(760) 326-3853

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=22550

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M –F

From ducks and geese in wetlands to desert bighorn on the canyon rims, Havasu NWR is known for its variety of hunting opportunities. Probably the best hunting, though, is for Gambel's quail in the upland areas between the river and canyon rims. In a good year, large coveys are literally everywhere in the uplands, and hunters with strong legs and well-trained dogs can find fantastic hunting. Hunters can expect extremely rugged and often very dry hunting conditions, so they should pack plenty of water for themselves and their dogs. Those who make the effort will be rewarded not only with many flushing quail, but also with the spectacular sandstone cliffs of Topock Gorge. An alert hunter may see some Native American petroglyphs, artistic reminders that this desert country has been used by hunters for millennia.

Getting there:

From Interstate 40, watch for a Havasu NWR exit sign close to the California/Arizona border. Follow the signs to the refuge.

To reach Topock Marsh from Needles, cross the Needles Bridge into Arizona following Highway 95 north, then turn right onto Courtwright Road and watch for the refuge sign.

The refuge office is in Needles. From Interstate 40, exit on J Street and go southwest (uphill) 0.06 miles. Turn right at the headquarters entrance sign and follow the signs; the office is in the back.

Species Icons: WF, UB, MB, SG, BG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Imperial National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 72217

Yuma, AZ 85365

(928) 783-3371

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=22560>

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F, and 9:00 – 4:00, Sat – Sun from November 15 to March 31

While Imperial NWR offers excellent hunting for a number of species, the most popular game animal serious hunters pursue here is the desert bighorn sheep. Among big game hunters, a desert bighorn hunt is one of the most highly coveted experiences in the world. Tags auctioned for conservation purposes have brought as much as \$200,000. For hunters lucky enough to draw a state permit to hunt Imperial NWR, the hunting success rates are usually 100 percent. That doesn't mean the hunting is easy. For any desert bighorn hunt, scouting is one of the most important factors. Since this is a once-in-a-lifetime hunt, many hunters choose to spend weeks scouting the bighorn sheep, learning the animals' habits, finding feeding and bedding areas, and evaluating trophies. This not only increases hunting success, but also gives the hunter an opportunity to really know this beautiful game animal and spend more time in rugged, isolated sheep country.

Getting there:

From Yuma, go north on Highway 95 for 25 miles. Turn west on Martinez Lake Road, drive 13 miles and follow signs to the visitor center.

Species Icons: D, BG, WF, UB, MB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Kofa National Wildlife Refuge

356 West First Street

Yuma, AZ 85364

(928) 783-7861

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=22570

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 5:00, M – F

While desert bighorn sheep may be the most famous game species on this refuge, hunters don't need to draw a bighorn tag to experience incredible hunting here. The Gambel's quail hunting on this huge refuge could rank among the best quail hunting in the country. With liberal bag limits and a long hunting season, a hunter prepared for a lot of walking can find large coveys of quail scattered throughout the Sonoran Desert landscape. Quail numbers are dependent on spring precipitation, and in wet years the bird numbers can be tremendous. Quail hunters use 200 miles of roads to access the huge 650,000-acre refuge, much of which is wilderness. Many hunters use dogs, but the country can be rough on canine companions. The small spines of the cholla cactus can be particularly painful on paws, so hunters are advised to put leather boots on their dogs. Hunters without dogs should listen for quail calls and then try to approach the covey. In dense vegetation, the quail hold quite well. In open areas, they often run, and refuge managers suggest hunters be prepared for a lot of exercise. In this wilderness, hunters should also bring plenty of water and food, a reliable vehicle and spare tires.

Getting there:

From Interstate 8 in California, take the Winterhaven Drive and Fourth Avenue exit south into Yuma. The refuge office is located at the first intersection. To get to the refuge itself, from Yuma, take Highway 95 north toward Quartzite, to refuge entrance signs.

Species Icons: D, BG, UB, SG
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 3509
Douglas, AZ 85608
(520) 364-2104

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=22523

Refuge Office: Normal hours are 8:00 to 3:00, but it is best to call ahead.

Located in an extremely remote area along the Mexican border, San Bernardino NWR is not a refuge many hunters know. In fact, during the course of most hunting seasons, five or fewer hunters visit the refuge. This doesn't mean the hunting is restricted, nor does it mean the hunting is poor. In fact, a hunter willing to make the trip will likely be rewarded with a bag limit of the game of choice, whether dove, quail or rabbit. The dove population, which includes mourning and white-wing doves, is particularly high, and doves pass over the upland area every morning. There are also two species of quail on the refuge, Gambel's and scaled. Hunters should find birds throughout the refuge's mesquite thickets and grassland habitat. Since the refuge is along a border, hunters should be aware of the possibility of encountering illegal aliens and drug smugglers, although no confrontations have occurred to date. Due to the heat of the desert environment, hunters are advised to get out early when game is moving and conditions are more pleasant.

Getting there:

From Douglas, take Highway 191 north to mile marker 11. About 0.25 miles past milepost 11, take the paved road to the east for 1 mile to the refuge office complex.

Species Icons: UB, MB, SG
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Arkansas

<http://www.agfc.com/>

Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge

1439 Coal Chute Road
Bald Knob, AR 72010

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43522

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 4:30, M – F

Each year, many pintail will end their fall migration at Bald Knob NWR. The refuge was acquired in 1993 to provide important habitat for this species in decline. Pintails are just one of the many waterfowl species that land on this wetland refuge, creating an excellent opportunity for duck and goose hunters. Duck hunters can hunt until noon during the refuge season. After the January duck season closure, goose hunters may hunt all day. All waterfowl hunters must stay 100 yards apart and may bring only 25 shells per person. The refuge also offers a variety of other hunts, including ample opportunities for deer. In addition to a lengthy archery season, a muzzleloader hunt and quota gun hunt are held each year. Deer hunting may be periodically closed when the White River reaches high water levels.

Getting there:

Bald Knob NWR is located south of the town of Bald Knob in White County. From Highway 367 in Bald Knob, take Hickory Street south. This street will turn into Coal Chute Road at the city limit. Continue on Coal Chute Road approximately 1.25 miles to the refuge headquarters on the left side of the road.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Hunters with disabilities may apply for a special permit that allows them to hunt from an ATV on refuge roads.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, UB, MB, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: The quota gun hunt is issued via lottery. All other hunts require a free permit, contained in the refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 67

Manila, AR 72442

(870) 564-2429

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43515

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

Once a free-flowing river, Big Lake NWR was changed to a lake and swamp ecosystem by earthquakes in 1811–12. Today, the area still consists mainly of wooded swamps and open water. The lake is shallow, with a depth of three feet, and is an oasis of bottomland hardwood forest in an area that is today mainly in agricultural production. The refuge annually attracts up to 200,000 waterfowl and is an important spring nesting area for wood ducks. Since the refuge is protected as a sanctuary for waterfowl, no duck or goose hunting is permitted. For hunters, the main draw is an annual archery deer season and good hunting opportunities for squirrels and raccoon. Due to the swampy terrain, access can be difficult, but there are several places on the refuge for foot or boat access.

Getting there:

Big Lake NWR is located in northeast Arkansas adjacent to the bootheel of Missouri. From Blytheville, travel west on State Highway 18 approximately 15 miles. From Jonesboro, travel

east on State Highway 18 approximately 35 miles. Headquarters is located on the north side of the highway. Various directional signs are located along the route.

Species Icons: D, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free permit, contained in the refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts.

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge

26320 Highway 33 South

Augusta, AR 72006

(870) 347-2614

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43514

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

In April 2005, Cache River NWR attracted attention around the world, when it was announced that the ivory-billed woodpecker had been sighted on refuge lands. Most people had assumed that the beautiful large bird was extinct. Hunters helped make its survival possible, since Federal Duck Stamp dollars were used to help purchase the woodpecker habitat that became the refuge. And hunters can continue to play an important role, by carrying a camera and reporting any ivory-billed woodpecker sightings. A managed access area to protect woodpecker habitat at the refuge has been established, and hunters should check for current area regulations. The refuge is open for deer, turkey, waterfowl, rabbit, squirrel and other game. Hunting can be excellent, especially for waterfowl, which winter in this area in the hundreds of thousands. Waterfowl hunting is permitted until noon. Many access points for hunting by boat and on foot go through private land, so please get permission before crossing this land. Deer hunting may be periodically closed due to high water levels.

Getting there:

Cache River NWR headquarters is located 16 miles south of Augusta on Highway 33. From U.S. Highway 64, turn south on Highway 33. Follow Highway 33 approximately 16 miles. The headquarters is on the left side of the road.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Hunters with disabilities may apply for a Special Use Permit that allows the use of ATVs on existing refuge roads.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, SG, UB, MB, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: Deer gun hunt tags are issued by lottery. All other hunts require a free hunting permit, contained in the hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge

5531 Highway 82 West

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1157, Crossett, AR 71635

Crossett, AR 41635

Phone Number: 870-364-3167

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43579>

Office Hours: 7:00 – 3:30

Thousands of mallard flying through flooded timber has traditionally made Felsenthal NWR a major hunting destination for traveling sportsmen. In years past, the refuge had as many as 100,000 waterfowl hunting visits per season. Recently, the waterfowl flight path has changed, and far fewer ducks are found on the refuge during the fall. Hunting success has been low, and hunters' visits have fallen to about 40,000 per year. The refuge is still a popular destination for those who want a remote hunting experience in bottomland hardwood forests. Access is difficult on this 65,000-acre refuge, and hunters must come prepared for an adventure. Less than 20 percent of the refuge is accessible by road, and a boat is the best way to reach prime hunting spots. Currently, many hunters travel here to experience the refuge's quality deer and turkey hunting.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Some roads are open only to hunters with disabilities with a Special Use Permit.

Getting there:

Felsenthal NWR is located about 5 miles west of Crossett on U.S. Highway 82. Signs along the way will invite you to visit the office and visitor center before entering the refuge.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Some roads are open only to hunters with disabilities with a Special Use Permit.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Deer firearms and muzzleloader hunts are issued by a lottery system; all other hunts require a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge

10448 Holla Bend Road

Dardanelle, AR 72834

(479) 229-4300

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43590

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

Holla Bend is a bowhunter's paradise. With the exception of a youth gun hunt, the refuge's deer seasons are restricted to bow and crossbow hunters. This creates a perfect place for bowhunters to pursue unpressured deer. The 6,600-acre refuge includes bottomland hardwoods as well as 1,300 acres of croplands. There are good places to place stands throughout the refuge. Hunters typically start scouting in the late summer or early fall to find the best locations. Unlike at many refuges, stands here can be left up throughout the season. Furbearers may be taken during the deer season, including bobcats, coyotes, raccoons, beavers, muskrats and nutrias. For spring

turkeys, an opening weekend shotgun hunt is followed by an archery-only season. While bagging a turkey is an extremely difficult proposition with a bow, the refuge does hold a large number of birds.

Getting there:

Holla Bend NWR is located about 5 miles southeast of Dardanelle. From Dardanelle, take State Highway 7 south to State Highway 155 east and go about 4 miles to the refuge entrance.

Youth Hunts: A youth deer hunt is offered.

Species Icons: D, T, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: A \$12.50 refuge hunting permit is required for all hunts.

Overflow National Wildlife Refuge

3858 Highway 8E

Parkdale, AR 71661

(870) 473-2869

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43571

Visitor Center: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

Each winter, a 3,500 acre green tree reservoir is managed to provide wintering waterfowl habitat for mallard, wood duck and other waterfowl species. When water levels are adequate, overflow can provide the classic green timber waterfowl hunting experience that eastern Arkansas is famous for. The amount of flooded acreage is rainfall dependent and can vary annually. It is advisable to call the refuge office to check water levels before planning an extended hunt. Waterfowl hunting hours end at noon and no more than 25 shotshells per hunter can be possessed per day. Deer season is primarily limited to archery and crossbow but is open during the first statewide muzzleloader season when either archery tackle or muzzleloading rifles may be used. Wild turkey may be hunted during the state spring season. Legal weapons for turkey are limited to archery tackle and crossbows. Feral hog, beaver, nutria, and coyote can be taken in conjunction with any open season with legal weapons. Centerfire rifles are not allowed for any refuge hunt. Due to the diversity of habitats and water levels, preseason scouting is recommended for those unfamiliar with the 13,500 acre refuge.

Getting there:

Overflow NWR headquarters is located on Arkansas Highway 8, approximately 15 miles southeast of Hamburg and 5 miles northwest of Parkdale.

Youth Hunts: None

Species Icons: WF, D, T, MB, SG, EX,

Refuge Hunting Permit: The general refuge hunt permit is required for all hunts and must be signed and kept in the hunter's possession while hunting.

Pond Creek National Wildlife Refuge

1958 Central Road

Lockesburg, AR 71846

(870) 289-2126

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43575

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

Prior to becoming a refuge, this area was hunted heavily, and the deer population was low. However, since Pond Creek NWR's opening in 1994, deer populations have been rebounding and hunters have a new public opportunity in the area. Recent ice storms knocked down many trees in the refuge, allowing thick cover to grow throughout the area. This cover has created great deer habitat, but also means that hunting conditions can be extremely difficult. Hunters can choose from lottery-issued firearms hunts or an open archery hunt that coincides with the state season. Road access is good throughout the refuge. The refuge has also become a popular place to hunt squirrel. While visibility can be difficult in the tree tops, the refuge is home to a tremendous population of these upland game mammals.

Getting there:

Pond Creek NWR is south of De Queen and north of Ashdown, off State Highway 71. Watch for signs directing visitors to the refuge.

Youth hunts: A firearms deer hunt is held for youth hunters, issued by lottery.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Deer and spring turkey firearms hunt tags are issued via lottery; all other hunts require a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried by the hunter.

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 279

Highway 42 East

Turrell, AR 72384

(870) 343-2595

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43650

Visitor Center: 7:00 – 4:00, M – F

Wapanocca NWR offers a great public hunting opportunity just 20 miles northwest of Memphis, Tennessee. The refuge is literally an oasis for wildlife in a sea of agricultural development. In the heart of the refuge is a 600-acre open lake surrounded by 1,200 acres of cypress swamps. A diversity of other habitats also can be found here. Prior to becoming a refuge, this area was owned by the Wapanocca Outing Club, one of the region's oldest and most prestigious hunting clubs. The club managed the habitat as a waterfowl sanctuary. Today, hunters come here to hunt deer, squirrel, rabbit and raccoon. Deer hunters can choose from a lengthy general-access archery season or a quota gun hunt (shotguns, handguns and muzzleloaders are allowed). Raccoon hunters may hunt at night with hounds and are the only ones who may use horses on the refuge.

Getting there:

From Interstate 55 heading south, turn off at exit 23 (Turrell exit), travel southeast on Highway 77 2 miles, turn east on Highway 42, go under the railroad overpass and turn right at the top of the hill (refuge entrance).

From Interstate 55 heading north, turn off at exit 21 (Highway 42), travel east 1.5 miles on Highway 42, cross Highway 77, go under the railroad overpass and turn right at the top of the hill (refuge entrance).

For Hunters with Disabilities: Hunters with disabilities may apply for a Special Use Permit that allows the use of ATVs on designated roads and trails.

Species Icons: D, SG, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: The gun deer hunt requires a tag drawn by lottery. All other hunts require a free permit, contained in the hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

White River National Wildlife Refuge

57 South CC Camp Road, P.O. Box 205

St Charles, AR 72140

(870) 282-8200

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43670>

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F; 8:00 – 3:00, weekends

Lying in the floodplain of the White River near where it meets the Mississippi River, White River NWR is one of the largest remaining bottomland hardwood forests in the Mississippi River Valley. The 160,000-acre refuge is home to an incredible diversity of wildlife, including as many as 350,000 ducks in the fall and winter. Obviously, the waterfowl hunting can be excellent, although the large size of the refuge can make it difficult to find the right spot. Commercial guides licensed to operate on the refuge can be a good way for a traveling hunter to experience a world-class Arkansas duck hunt in flooded timber. The refuge includes the North Unit and the South Unit, each with different regulations for hunting various species. Other scattered tracts are also open to public hunting per state regulations. For ducks, the North Unit is open until noon every day during the state season. Waterfowl hunters in the South Unit may hunt until noon four days a week. Deer hunters can choose from quota and general access hunts; deer seasons may be periodically closed due to flooding. Hunters may access the refuge by foot, boat or ATV trail, depending on the hunt.

Getting there:

From State Highway 1, turn west onto Second Street in DeWitt. At the second stop sign, turn left onto Jefferson Street. Turn right on Seventh Street. The visitor center/refuge office is the second building on the left.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Deer hunts for those with disabilities are held. A refuge mobility impaired quota permit is required.

Youth Hunts: A youth deer hunt is held which requires a refuge youth quota permit.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: Deer gun and muzzleloader hunts require tags issued by lottery. The cost is \$12.50. All other hunts require a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

California

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/about/hunting/>

Clear Lake National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Klamath Basin Refuges

4009 Hill Road

Tulelake, CA 96134

(530) 667-2231

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11661

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F; 10:00 – 4:00 weekends

California is not usually considered a place to hunt pronghorn antelope, but there are still healthy herds in the northeastern part of the state. Each year, a few lucky hunters (chosen by California Department of Fish and Game lottery) have the chance to hunt the many good-sized bucks on the rolling, sagebrush-covered hills of Clear Lake NWR. Access is good on several roads through the 20,000 acre refuge. The rolling hills may look easy to walk, but uneven terrain and a plethora of rocks can make stalking pronghorn difficult. Hunters still have a very good chance of taking a pronghorn, with hunt success rates above 80 percent.

Getting there:

Travel south on State Highway 139 for 20 miles from the town of Tulelake. Turn east onto Clear Lake Reservoir Road and travel approximately 10 miles to the refuge's south boundary.

Species Icons: BG, WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes (administered through California Department of Fish and Game)

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Sacramento NWR Complex

752 County Road 99W

Willows, CA 95988

(530) 934-2801

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11621

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 4:30, M – F; open daily during hunting season

A well-known duck hunting area in the Sacramento Valley, Colusa NWR attracts good numbers of puddle ducks and snow geese migrating along the Pacific Flyway. The refuge offers both free-roam areas and assigned ponds three days a week, with hunts administered by the California Department of Fish and Game. Youth hunts are offered after the regular season. No blinds are

provided, but temporary blinds are allowed and are quite popular with hunters. The refuge includes artificially created wetlands to provide habitat for ducks. Water in these ponds is only two to three feet deep, making wading easy. Since this refuge is in the southern part of the Sacramento Valley, hunting can be better later in the season. Hunting at the refuge is consistent, and over the past few years hunters have taken about two birds per day afield. There is also good pheasant hunting in hardstem patches; successful hunters wade out and work dog in heavy cover. Roosters are often shot over water.

Getting there:

From Colusa, drive about 0.5 miles west on Highway 20 to the refuge entrance. From Colusa, drive half a mile west on Highway 20 to the refuge entrance. From Williams, exit Interstate 5 at Williams. Travel approximately six miles to gravel Ohair Road. Travel south on Ohair Road to the refuge entrance.

Youth Hunts: Offered after the regular season.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes (administered through California Department of Fish and Game).

Delevan National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Sacramento NWR Complex

752 County Road 99W

Willows, CA 95988

(530) 934-2801

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11622

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 4:30, M – F; open daily during hunting season

Many people dream of having their own private island. Duck hunters at Delevan NWR really can expect their own private islands, at least during their assigned hunting days. These islands are located on the wetlands, and each hunting party is assigned its own. Hunters should bring their own temporary blinds to sit on the islands. Three established blinds are available for hunters with disabilities, and a youth hunt is held following the regular season. The refuge is open to hunting three days a week. This is a very popular hunting location and is one of the most successful duck hunting spots in the Sacramento Valley. A variety of duck species—including mallard, pintail, gadwall and shoveler—use the refuge during the season. Goose hunting also can be quite good.

Getting there:

From Colusa, travel north on Colusa-Princeton Road approximately 5 miles to Colusa-Maxwell Road. Turn west and travel 4 miles to gravel Four Mile Road.

From Williams, take Interstate 5 north approximately 9 miles to the Maxwell Road exit. Drive east on Colusa-Maxwell Road for approximately 4 miles to Four Mile Road, which parallels the west refuge boundary.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Three established blinds are available.

Youth Hunts: Held following the regular season.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes (administered through California Department of Fish and Game).

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

9500 Thornton Avenue

Newark, CA 94560

(510) 792-0222

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=81648>

Visitor Center: 10:00 – 5:00, M – F

Hunters in the San Francisco Bay Area are used to driving three to six hours for quality waterfowl hunting, but newly opened hunting areas at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR provide opportunities for first-rate waterfowling within sight of San Francisco. There are a variety of hunting options here, including free-roam areas on tidal waters and constructed ponds, and established hunting blinds open three days a week. Most exciting for hunters is the refuge's addition of former commercial salt ponds. Before becoming part of the refuge, these ponds were used by a private hunting club. Today, the ponds are being managed for salinity, which has increased waterfowl use by as much as 300 percent per season. Thousands of mallard, pintail, wigeon, shoveler and ruddy use the area each year. Unlike the wild settings of many refuges, this refuge borders an urban area, with commercial buildings right up to the refuge boundary. Hunters should always remember that they share the refuge with other visitors.

Getting there:

From Highway 84 (at the east end of the Dumbarton Bridge), exit at Thornton Avenue. Travel south on Thornton Avenue for approximately 1 mile to the refuge entrance on the right. Turn right into the refuge and follow Marshlands Road to the stop sign. Turn left into the parking lot.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: A hunting permit, issued by the refuge, is required to hunt in the Alviso Ponds. Other areas open to hunting on Don Edwards NWR, do not require a permit.

Check with the refuge office regarding boat registration requirements.

Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge

1020 Ranch Road

Loleta, CA 95551

(707) 733-5406

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11590

Refuge Office: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., daily

The Humboldt Bay watershed is considered the most important wintering habitat between San Francisco Bay and the Columbia River. Many species of waterfowl use habitats on Humboldt Bay NWR, particularly for resting and foraging during their annual migrations. Seasonally

common waterfowl include: northern pintail, northern shoveler, American wigeon, green-winged teal, mallard, bufflehead, scaup, tundra swan and Pacific (or black) brant, as well as Aleutian and cackling geese, and non-native Western Canada geese, which were introduced to the area in the 1980's. Larger species, such as Pacific brant, Canada goose, and cackling goose, are highly valued by sport hunters. This refuge has been described as one of the most important areas in the United States south of Alaska for Pacific brant. This is especially true during the spring when the bay is a key staging area for more than 60% of the flyway brant population prior to its return to arctic nesting grounds. Similarly, the north coast of California and southern coast of Oregon are key spring staging areas for the growing Aleutian cackling goose population. Humboldt Bay NWR consists of 7 units in and around Humboldt Bay, west of HWY 101 near the cities of Loleta, Eureka, and Arcata. Hunting at the Jacoby Creek, Eureka Slough, Table Bluff, White Slough/Egret Island, Hookton Slough/Teal Island Units is free roam with boat access only except for the Table Bluff Unit. Salmon Creek Unit features a regulated, spaced blind hunting program and is part of the Recreation Fee Permit program. Salmon Creek receives the most hunting pressure of all the refuge units. Hunting blind areas may have one or more standup blinds, pit blinds or both. Hunting occurs from 15 blind areas, separated to ensure a safe hunting experience. Harvest of waterfowl, coot and snipe is permitted at all units open for hunting.

Getting there:

To reach the regulated hunting area located at the Salmon Creek Unit: about 10 miles south of Eureka take the Hookton Road exit (Exit # 696) from Hwy 101. Southbound traffic takes a right at end of off ramp followed by an immediate left onto Ranch Road. Northbound traffic turns left onto overpass from off ramp and travels back over HWY 101; then takes the first right onto Ranch Road. There is a large sign at the entrance to Ranch Road.

Species Icons: WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No, except the Salmon Creek Unit requires a special permit.

Kern National Wildlife Refuge

10811 Corcoran Road

Delano, CA 93215

(661) 725-2767

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11610

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30 weekdays, excluding holidays

Once this area was covered with the largest marsh west of the Mississippi, but this habitat was quickly drained after settlement. Kern NWR was formed to re-create habitat here through a series of constructed wetlands. These wetlands have been used extensively by migrating waterfowl, and Kern NWR is considered one of the three best public waterfowl hunting areas in the state. The hunting includes both free-roam areas and blinds reserved via the California Department of Fish and Game. The blinds are spaced far apart to give hunters plenty of room and include a wire cage that hunters can cover with brush for concealment. Shoveler is the most common bird on the refuge, but cinnamon and green-winged teal, gadwall, wigeon and pintail are all present. The refuge offers the only public waterfowl hunting within 100 miles of Los Angeles and is a popular spot with sportsmen from that metropolitan area.

Getting there:

From Interstate 5, take Highway 46 east 5 miles to Corcoran Road and turn north. Drive 10.6 miles to the refuge at the intersection of Corcoran Road and Garces Highway (Highway 155).

From Highway 99: At Delano, exit Highway 99 at Highway 155 exit (Garces Highway) and proceed 19 miles west on Garces Highway to the refuge; located at the intersection of Corcoran Road and Garces Highway.

For Hunters with Disabilities: One universally accessible blind is available.

Species Icons: WF, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes (through California Department of Fish and Game).

Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Klamath Basin Refuges

4009 Hill Road

Tulelake, CA 96134

(530) 667-2231

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11663

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F; 10:00 – 4:00 weekends

The nation's first waterfowl refuge, Lower Klamath NWR was created in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt. The importance of Roosevelt's vision is apparent every fall, when as many as 500,000 ducks and 50,000 geese visit. The refuge offers a variety of hunting opportunities, including hunting over fields and water. Hunters may hunt mornings throughout the California duck season. Waterfowl and pheasant hunting occurs seven days per week during the normal California seasons, but shooting ends every afternoon at 1:00 p.m. Opening weekend hunts are under a draw-permit system. When hunting is good, average bags range from three to four ducks. There are duck hunting guides with licenses that operate on the refuge, and this could be a good way for hunters to familiarize themselves with the many hunting options and most productive areas. The refuge offers youth hunting days during the season and has two blinds available for hunters with disabilities. The sounds of thousands of ducks flying over a marsh is a regular experience at this refuge, and hunters can thank President Roosevelt, an avid hunter and conservationist, for this first-rate waterfowling area.

Getting there:

Lower Klamath NWR straddles the Oregon-California border along Stateline Highway 161, accessible from Highway 97. The refuge headquarters and visitor center are located on Hill Road, approximately 5 miles west of Tulelake.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Two blinds are available.

Youth Hunts: Offered during the regular season.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes

Merced National Wildlife Refuge

947 West Pacheco Boulevard, Suite C

P.O. Box 2176

Los Banos, CA 93635

(209) 826-3508

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11652

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F, excluding holidays

The Merced NWR is an important wintering location for ducks, geese and other waterbirds traveling the Pacific Flyway. More than 2,000 acres of seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands are extensively managed to produce natural waterfowl food plants such as wild millet and swamp timothy, which provide ideal food and habitat for ducks, especially northern pintail, green-winged teal and mallard. This 10,200-acre refuge has a long-standing waterfowl hunting program that incorporates permanent spaced-blind and assigned zone hunting. A popular draw among sportsmen is the 60,000 arctic nesting geese, including snow and Ross' geese that spend the winter on the refuge. This is the largest wintering concentration along the Pacific Flyway. The refuge is open to hunting during the waterfowl hunting season on Wednesdays and Saturdays from one-half hour before sunrise until noon. Reservations to hunt the Merced NWR must be made through the California Department of Fish and Game.

Getting there:

The Merced NWR is located in California's San Joaquin Valley approximately 15 miles southwest of Merced.

From Interstate 5, connect with eastbound Highway 152 and travel east approximately 25 miles to Highway 59. Travel north on Highway 59 for approximately 10 miles to Sandy Mush Road. Turn left to travel west on Sandy Mush Road approximately 10 miles to the hunter parking lot.

From Highway 99, connect with southbound Highway 59 in Merced and travel approximately 8 miles south to Sandy Mush Road. Turn right to travel west on Sandy Mush approximately 10 miles to the hunter parking lot.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes (through California Department of Fish and Game).

Modoc National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 1610

Alturas, CA 96101

(530) 233-3572

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11690

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

There are many fine public duck hunting opportunities on national wildlife refuges nationwide, but certain hunting units at Modoc NWR have some of the highest success rates on public

marshes anywhere. Located in the high desert country of northeastern California, Modoc NWR offers an oasis for thousands of migrating waterfowl each year. There are a variety of habitats on the hunt area, including dry and flooded grain fields, wet meadows, ponds and marshes. Hunters can easily hide in the dense stands of hardstem bulrushes (known locally as tules). Some ditches and marshes may have spots of deep water, so caution is advised when wading. A boat is not necessary and decoying is an effective method to hunt the refuge's Canada goose, mallard, wigeon and gadwall. A local working group of hunters meets once or twice a year to advise the refuge on how to make the hunting program even better, a great way for local sportsmen to give their input and recommendations.

Getting there:

Highway 395 runs along the west side of the refuge and enters into the south end of Alturas. From Highway 395, turn east on County Road 56 (at the Modoc County Museum on the south end of Alturas) and travel east about 1 mile across the railroad tracks. Turn right at the first paved road (County Road 115) and travel south 0.8 miles to the first road on the left. This is the refuge entry road. After 1.5 miles, it ends at the refuge office.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Three blinds are available for hunters with disabilities. Contact the office to reserve.

Youth Hunts: A special waterfowl hunt and pheasant hunt are held each fall for youth hunters.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: A refuge hunting permit is required. Check the refuge Web site for refuge-specific regulations.

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge

752 County Road 99W

Willows, CA 95988

(530) 934-2801

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11619

Visitor Center: 9:00 – 4:00 daily, November through February; weekdays only, March through October

This 11,000-acre refuge, the largest in the Sacramento Valley, offers better hunting early in the season. This can be a good place to take snow or white-fronted geese, particularly when it is foggy, and the puddle duck species common to the valley can be found here. While Sacramento NWR has a free-roam hunting area, the blinds on the refuge are most appealing to avid waterfowl hunters. These blinds, assigned via the California Department of Fish and Game, are spaced apart for a quality hunt. Most hunters prefer staying in their blinds for better concealment, but they are permitted to hunt anywhere within 100 feet of the structure. Hunters will be sitting over ponds, ranging in size from 20 acres to 200 acres that were constructed for waterfowl. Blinds for hunters with disabilities and youth hunts are available.

Getting there:

From Williams, take Interstate 5 north for approximately 20 miles to the Road 68 exit. At the Road 68 and Highway 99 west interchange, turn north and travel approximately 1.6 miles to the refuge entrance.

For southbound travelers, take Interstate 5 south to County Road 57. Turn east over the overpass to Highway 99 west. Drive approximately 4.5 miles south to the refuge entrance.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Blinds are available.

Youth Hunts: Youth hunts are available.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes (administered through California Department of Fish and Game).

Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Sacramento NWR Complex

752 County Road 99W

Willows, CA 95988

(530) 934-2801

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11627>

Visitor Center at Sacramento NWR: 9:00 – 4:00 daily, November through February; weekdays only, March through October

The Sacramento River NWR was established in 1989 to protect and restore riparian habitat on the Sacramento River where only about 15% of riparian vegetation has survived. Still in the acquisition phase, the refuge currently consists of 26 units that stretch along 77-miles of the Sacramento River from Red Bluff to Princeton. Twelve units are partially or entirely open to hunting for state shotgun and archery seasons for black-tailed deer, waterfowl and upland birds, especially quail. Turkey are also common here, and experienced hunters are likely to have success with the wily bird. A special junior hunt for pheasant is held at Llano Seco Ranch near the Llano Seco Unit. Junior hunters with their non-hunting adult companions are guided by ranch staff. See the Refuge Web site: sacramentovalleyrefuges.fws.gov, to apply for this hunt. Because the refuge is relatively new, hunting pressure is light, but hunters are warned to be on the outlook for mountain lions. A boat is necessary for access, except on Sul Norte Unit, which also has foot access from a parking area. Boaters need to be aware of seasonal river hazards i.e. winter flooding causing high water with floating debris and underwater snags during the spring/summer. The most reliable boat launches are at the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park (Irvine Finch River Access and Pine Creek Boat Launch) and Ord Bend Park.

Getting there:

The Sacramento River NWR units that are open to hunting are widely scattered. Visit the refuge Web site: sacramentovalleyrefuges.fws.gov for maps and directions.

Junior Hunts: A junior hunt for pheasant is held in December.

Species Icons: WF, UB, D, T, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge

c/o San Francisco Bay NWR Complex

9500 Thornton Avenue

Newark, CA 94560

(510) 792-0222

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=81642>

Complex Office: 8:00 – 4:30. M – F

Salinas River NWR, located just 11 miles north of Monterey, protects the place where the Salinas River empties into Monterey Bay. Monterey Bay is recognized as providing habitat for some of the most interesting wildlife in the country. The migrating humpback and right whales, sea otters, harbor seals, sea lions and pelicans attract the most attention. But this bay is also important for a wide variety of bird species, including migrating waterfowl. Portions of the refuge are open to public hunting for waterfowl. Waterfowl hunting is allowed along the southeast bank of the Salinas River, within the posted boundaries of the hunt area. During the waterfowl season, hunting is permitted daily from one half-hour before sunrise until sunset. There are no facilities on the refuge other than a parking lot and pedestrian trails leading to the Salinas River or beach.

Getting there:

The refuge is located 11 miles north of Monterey at the confluence of the Salinas River and Monterey Bay. Take the Del Monte Avenue exit from Highway 1 and drive 0.75 miles west to the parking lot.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

San Luis National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 2176

Los Banos, CA 93635

(209) 826-3508

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11655

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F, excluding holidays

The San Luis NWR in the San Joaquin Valley is one of the last remnants of the historically bountiful wintering grounds for the migratory waterfowl of the Pacific Flyway. Thousands of wetlands, fed by an intricate system of canals, are managed to produce natural foods for ducks, geese and other migratory birds. Hundreds of thousands of ducks flock to the refuge each fall, and hunters can enjoy this bounty through a high-quality hunt offered on set days each week of the season. There are both walk-in units and non-motorized boat units, but waders are a must for hunting anywhere on the refuge. There are concrete barrel blinds set up in some units. Hunters may also construct portable blinds provided they pack them out at the end of each day. Hunters

can expect excellent hunting. Large flocks of mallard, pintail, green-winged teal and ring-necked ducks use the refuge.

Getting there:

San Luis NWR is approximately 10 miles north of Los Banos, California. From Highway 152 in Los Banos, take Highway 165 (Mercey Springs Road) north 8 miles, then northeast 2 miles on Wolfsen Road to the refuge.

Species Icons: WF, UB, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes (through California Department of Fish and Game).

San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

7715 Lakeville Highway

Petaluma, CA 94954

(707) 769-4200

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11644

Refuge Office: 8 :00 – 4 :00, M – F

San Pablo Bay NWR is not a refuge for terrestrial hunters since most of the refuge is pickleweed marsh or under water. For those who love the fast flights of diving ducks over a large spread of decoys, though, the refuge offers a great hunting destination. The open bay area is open to hunting all week, while other areas are limited to specified days each week. Hunting is done by boat only. The refuge is accessible via several nearby marinas. Hunters must hunt from their boats to protect the pickleweed marsh and the endangered species this habitat supports, including the California clapper rail, salt marsh harvest mouse, California black rail, San Pablo song sparrow and Suisun shrew. Hunters should pay close attention to the tide, and, if the tide falls, they must remain in the boat and wait until it rises again. For those who prefer to hunt on dry land, the refuge does offer a pheasant hunt. The pheasant are mainly escaped birds from an adjacent hunting club, and local sportsmen conduct group hunts to flush these birds.

Getting there: Boats can be launched from the marinas in Vallejo or Petaluma Bay.

Species Icons: WF, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge

906 West Sinclair Road

Calipatria, CA 92233

(760) 348-5278

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11631

Visitor Center: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

The Salton Sea is a major stopover area for ducks and geese migrating along the Pacific Flyway, and this refuge was created to provide additional habitat for these birds. Ponds have been created

and farm fields planted to provide feeding and resting areas. Hunting blinds are set up throughout the refuge, with pit blinds buried in the farm fields and near ponds for goose and duck hunting. The blinds are assigned via a lottery administered by the California Department of Fish and Game. During years when the ponds contain much aquatic vegetation, duck hunting can be very good for mallard, teal, redhead, gadwall and other species. Field hunting for snow and Ross's geese is consistently productive. The refuge provides an important public hunting opportunity in California's Imperial Valley and is a very popular spot for Southern California hunters.

Getting there:

From Interstate 10 east, take the Highway 86 south exit toward Brawley/El Centro. Continue south on Highway 86S for approximately 15 miles. Turn left on Route 195 (also called 66th Avenue). At the next stop sign, turn right onto Highway 111 and continue south for approximately 60 miles. Once you pass through Niland, continue south for 4 miles to Sinclair Road. Turn right and look for the refuge parking lot.

From Interstate 10 west, take the Dillon Road exit south toward Highway 86 south. Head south on Highway 86S approximately 15 miles. Turn left on Route 195 (also called 66th Avenue). At the next stop sign, turn right onto Highway 111 and continue south for approximately 60 miles. Once you pass through Niland, continue south for 4 miles to Sinclair Road.. Turn right and look for the refuge parking lot.

From Interstate 8 (coming from either direction), exit onto Forrester Road. Travel north toward the town of Westmorland. Continue north through Westmorland on Forrester Road, which turns into Gentry Road. Continue north on Gentry Road until you see the refuge sign and parking area (Gentry Road ends at this point).

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes (through California Department of Fish and Game).

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

1624 Hood-Franklin Road

Elk Grove, CA 95757 - 9774

Phone Number: 916-775-4420

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=81710>

Office Hours: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Stone Lakes NWR opened its Sun River unit for hunting duck, goose, coot and moorhen in 2005 and hunters have responded enthusiastically. The refuge has seven blinds that are available by reservation on seasonal Wednesday and Saturday hunt days. Because there is no free roam hunting, hunters describe the Stone Lakes hunt as relaxed and private. On Saturdays, two of the blinds are allotted to youth hunters and one to a disabled hunter. Parents say the privacy gives them a good opportunity to teach junior hunters. A post season youth only hunt is held. In California's urban Central Valley, Stone Lakes is a rich mosaic of habitats - grassland, permanent and seasonal wetland, vernal pool, riparian and oak forest. The refuge's prime

location on the Pacific Flyway attracts the full range of migratory birds. The Sun River unit is a restricted area; there is no prior access to reserved hunt day.

Getting there:

Directions will be sent to reserved applicants.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A blind is available for disabled hunters.

Youth Hunts: Two blinds are available for youth hunters. In addition there is a post season youth hunt.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. All hunters must have blind reservations. General hunt reservations are made by the state; youth and disabled applications are processed by the refuge.

Sutter National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Sacramento NWR Complex

752 County Road 99W

Willows, CA 95988

(530) 934-2801

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11623

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 4:30, M – F; open daily during hunting season

Sutter NWR offers free-roam hunting, administered by the California Department of Fish and Game, in the southern part of the Sacramento Valley. Because the refuge is within 50 miles of the city of Sacramento, demand can be high for hunting spaces. About 30 percent of the 2,600-acre refuge is open to hunting. The area is prone to flooding, with at least one flood per year. This creates habitat for migrating birds, including nearly 175,000 ducks and 50,000 geese that use the refuge in the fall. This refuge offers better hunting late in the season, when the migrating birds reach the southern part of the valley. A high percentage of the ducks in the area are mallard, although other puddle ducks can be common.

Getting there:

From Yuba City, travel south on Highway 99E approximately 6 miles to Oswald Road. Turn west and proceed 5.5 miles to Schlag Road. Travel north on Schlag Road for about 0.12 miles and turn west onto Hughes Road, which bisects the refuge.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes (administered through California Department of Fish and Game).

Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge

4009 Hill Road

Tulelake, CA 96134

(530) 667-2231

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11664

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F; 10:00 – 4:00, weekends

Wildlife habitat and area farming coexist at Tule Lake NWR, an important waterfowl resting area in the Klamath Basin. About 17,000 of the refuge's nearly 40,000 acres are leased to farmers. The waste grain and alfalfa from these agricultural fields provide food for migrating waterfowl each fall. Waterfowl and pheasant hunting occur seven days per week during the normal California seasons, but shooting ends every afternoon at 1:00 p.m. Tule Lake NWR hunting areas consist of a large marsh unit accessible by boat, a spaced-blind hunt in dry fields, and open free-roam field hunts over harvested grain. Opening weekend hunts are under a draw-permit system. Tule Lake NWR draws many of the large flocks that have made the Klamath Basin area a prime waterfowling location. Duck hunting success can be quite good throughout the season. Four blinds for hunters with disabilities are available, and youth hunts are held each fall.

Getting there:

Tule Lake NWR is in northern California near the small town of Tulelake. Located 25 miles north of the refuge, Klamath Falls, Oregon, is the closest city. The refuge headquarters and visitor center are located on Hill Road, approximately 5 miles west of Tulelake.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Four blinds are available.

Youth Hunts: Hunts are held each fall.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes

Colorado

<http://wildlife.state.co.us/Hunting/>

Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge

9383 El Rancho Lane

Alamosa, CO 81101

(719) 589-4021

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=65510>

Visitor Center: 10:00 – 4:00, M – F

Historically, as the Rio Grande River meandered through the San Luis Valley of southern Colorado, it created wetlands. Today, many of those wetlands are gone, but Alamosa NWR protects cattail marshes, grasslands and oxbow wetlands in this high-elevation valley. At an elevation of approximately 7,600 feet and on the western edge of the Central Flyway, the San Luis Valley has always provided crucial migratory bird habitat. Some of the best waterfowl hunting in the state was once found here, but years of drought have significantly reduced the number of ducks that use the refuge in the fall. Hunters can still find some good hunting, particularly early in the season. During the first two weekends of the waterfowl season, the number of hunters is limited, but the rest of the season the refuge is open to walk-in hunting. Hunters may also take pheasant, dove and rabbit during the waterfowl season. A youth hunt is

offered, and there is a blind for hunters with disabilities. Most of the marshes are quite shallow, making for easy wading.

Getting there:

To reach the refuge, travel 4 miles east of the town of Alamosa on Highway 160, then drive 2 miles south on El Rancho Lane.

For Hunters with Disabilities: An accessible blind for hunters with disabilities is available.

Youth Hunts: A youth waterfowl hunt is held on the refuge hunt is offered.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: A special lottery permit is required for the first two weekends of the season.

Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge

953 Jackson County Road 32

Walden, CO 80480

(970) 723-8202

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=65520>

Visitor Center: 7:00 – 4:30, M – F

Arapaho NWR was created to help offset the loss of wetlands throughout the prairies of the Midwest and today provides important habitat for waterfowl in Colorado. To create wetlands, water is diverted from the Illinois River and directed through a complex system of ditches to irrigate meadows and fill ponds. The wet meadows and ponds provide important breeding habitat for many duck species. These shallow wetlands also provide good hunting, particularly for Colorado's first waterfowl season. Since the refuge is at an 8,000-foot elevation, the ponds can be frozen by the end of October. As many as 8,000 ducks will be on the refuge in the fall and hunters can expect to see a variety of species, with gadwall and lesser scaup being especially abundant.

Getting there:

To reach the refuge visitor center and headquarters, travel 8 miles south of Walden on Highway 125, turn east off the highway on County Road 32 and travel 1 mile. The auto tour route is 4 miles south of Walden, on Highway 125. Turn west off the highway to begin the tour.

Youth Hunts: The refuge is open to youth hunters during the state youth waterfowl weekend.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, BG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge

1318 Highway 318

Maybell, CO 81640

(970) 365-3613

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=65550>

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 4:30, M – F

The rugged country of Browns Park NWR was once a hideout for horse thieves and cattle rustlers. Outlaws like Butch Cassidy knew they could easily evade sheriffs in the remote canyons. Located in a remote area of northwestern Colorado bordering Dinosaur National Monument, Browns Park NWR has a diversity of habitats — including sagebrush, riparian cottonwood forest and wetlands – that draw such diverse wildlife as sage grouse, bald eagle, elk and otter. When Flaming Gorge Dam was built on Green River, it eliminated many wetland areas along the river by preventing flooding. The refuge pumps water from the river to restore wetlands that annually attract thousands of Canada geese, mallard, canvasback and other waterfowl. Hunters can pursue these waterfowl on a free-roam basis, or from a wheelchair-accessible blind. There are also opportunities for deer, elk and small-game hunting. Hunters should be prepared for the same rugged conditions that daunted cowboys a century ago.

Getting there:

From Craig, travel west on Highway 40 to the town of Maybell. About 0.5 miles to the west of Maybell, turn west onto Highway 318. The refuge’s visitor contact station and office are about 63 miles from Maybell.

From Rock Springs, Wyoming travel south on Highway 430 for 56 miles toward the Colorado state line. After crossing the state line, the road turns to an improved, all-weather dirt road (County Road 10). Travel about 22 miles on County Road 10 until you reach pavement (Highway 318). Turn west on Highway 318 and travel about 20 miles to the refuge visitor contact station and office.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A wheelchair-accessible blind is available.

Species Icons: D, BG, WF, MB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Alamosa NWR

9383 El Rancho Lane

Alamosa, CO 81101

(719) 589-4021

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=65511>

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, M –F

Monte Vista NWR is known for its hundreds of artesian wells that offer a regular source of water in the San Luis Valley. The refuge has impounded some of that water to improve conditions for migrating waterfowl. This area is especially important as a spring breeding area for ducks and other wetland birds, but good numbers of ducks can also be found on the refuge in the fall. Hunting is allowed without special permits, with the exception of the popular first two weekends

of the season. A youth hunt is offered, and an accessible blind for hunters with disabilities is available. Pheasant, mourning dove and rabbit may be pursued during the waterfowl season. Duck hunters will find mostly mallard, but other species are often encountered, including all three North American teal, gadwall, pintail, shoveler, redhead and Canada goose.

Getting there:

Monte Vista NWR is located 6 miles south of the town of Monte Vista on Highway 15.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A universally accessible blind is available.

Youth Hunts: A youth waterfowl hunt is offered.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: A special lottery permit is required for the first two weekends of the season.

Connecticut

http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2700&q=323414&depNav_GID=1633

Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge

733 Old Clinton Road

Westbrook, CT 06498

(860) 399-2513

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/recEdMore.cfm?ID=53546>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Great Meadows was once an enormous bountiful tidal marsh where local native Americans hunted and fished, as did English settlers who arrived in the early 1600s. The remnant that is now the Great Meadows unit of Stewart B. McKinney NWR is the largest block of unditched high salt marsh left in Connecticut. The unit provides important wintering, nesting and migration habitat for many waterfowl species, including black duck, green teal, canvasback and scaup. When it freezes to the north, local hunters know there will be waterfowl on the marsh, which provides a relaxed, unpressured hunting experience. Access is by the Lewis Gut waterway. The refuge requires hunters to have special-use permits that are good for the entire state waterfowl season. Hunting is permitted three days a week.

Getting there:

The Great Meadows unit is off Lordship Boulevard (Route 113) in Stratford. Access is by foot or boat. Foot Access: Exit 30 (Surf Avenue) off Interstate 95, left at the end of the ramp, at the traffic light turn left onto Lordship Boulevard. At the fourth light, turn right onto Long Beach Boulevard. Follow the road to the end, cross railroad tracks and park at the small parking area on left.

Boat Access: Take Interstate 95 to Exit 29. At the end of the ramp, turn south onto Seaview Avenue and continue 0.7 miles. Turn right onto Newfield Avenue and proceed to the boat ramp.

Species Code: WF

Refuge Permit: Yes. Permits are free and may be obtained at the refuge office. They are good for the entire State waterfowl season.

Hunting Deer

At the turn of the 20th century, white-tailed deer sightings were so rare they were reported in daily newspapers. Now, thanks in part to hunter conservation, deer populations are thriving, and national wildlife refuges are great places to hunt them.

Check out a big game record book, and one thing is clear, the Midwest has become *the* destination for white-tailed deer. Many of the national wildlife refuges in the Midwest offer a chance to pursue the trophy Midwestern bucks pictured in so many hunting magazines and videos. The region also offers a true variety of places to hunt, from bottomland hardwood forest in Missouri to wide-open prairie in Minnesota and Iowa, from small Mississippi River islands to the “big woods” of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. There are enough interesting choices here to keep an avid deer hunter occupied for a lifetime.

The northern prairie is also legendary for white-tailed deer that haunt the draws and woodlands scattered throughout the Dakotas, Nebraska and eastern Montana. Deer hunting opportunities are abundant, and some refuges offer extremely long seasons (especially for bowhunters) and unlimited tags. Because many of the refuges offer only walk-in access, hunting pressure can be light and success rates high. Local hunters know these areas offer some of the highest-quality white-tail hunts on the plains.

In the East, deer hunting attracts almost fanatical devotion. At the turn of the 20th century, deer could be found only in the deepest forests, but today they thrive in agricultural lands, suburbia and even urban areas. Deer are so numerous they threaten important wildlife habitats at many national wildlife refuges, which provide ample opportunities for hunting. Northeastern hunters can pursue deer in the shadows of New York City at Great Swamp NWR in New Jersey or experience genuine wilderness at refuges in northern New England. Many southern refuges have antler restrictions for deer, which are often waived for the first buck taken by youth hunters. Details are available in refuge hunting brochures.

Finally, don’t overlook hotspots for white-tailed deer in the Northwest. Several refuges also have locally popular hunts for black-tailed deer.

Delaware

<http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Pages/FWPortal.aspx>

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge

2591 Whitehall Neck Road

Smyrna, DE 19977

(302) 653-6872

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51550

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F; 9:00 – 5:00, weekends in Spring and Fall

In the winter, snow geese blanket the salt marshes and agricultural fields of Bombay Hook NWR. Approximately 200,000 of these birds overwinter here, providing long hunting seasons, abundant hunting opportunities and a spectacle that has few rivals on the Atlantic seaboard. A boat is required to access the snow goose area, and hunters must use temporary blinds. The refuge also offers excellent opportunities for other waterfowl species, deer, upland game and turkey. With the exception of the South Upland area, hunters must obtain a daily permit prior to hunting, drawn one hour before legal shooting time by a ticket-lottery system. Hunters in most areas must use assigned existing blinds and may leave the blind with a shotgun only to dispatch crippled game. Each hunting area has specific regulations. Check with the refuge manager before planning your hunt.

Getting there:

Bombay Hook NWR is located on the western shore of Delaware Bay, about 8 miles southeast of Smyrna and about 10 miles northeast of Dover.

From the Philadelphia area and points north, take Interstate 95 south into Delaware. From I-95, take the Christiana exit to Route 1 south (\$1 toll). From Route 1, take exit 114B (Smyrna – south exit). Route 13 north will be a right turn at the end of the exit ramp at a traffic light. From Route 13, turn right at the next light onto Road 12 East (Smyrna-Leipsic Road). This road merges with Route 9 south (5 miles). Turn left onto Whitehall Neck Road, which ends at the refuge entrance.

From the Washington, D.C., area and points south, take Interstate 95 north to the Washington, D.C., Beltway (I-95/I-495). Continue on the Beltway to Route 50 east and cross over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. Take 301 North to Route 300 east toward Smyrna. Take Route 13 south. Turn left on Route 12 east (Smyrna-Leipsic Road) and proceed until it merges with Route 9 (5 miles). Stay on Route 9 South. Turn left on Whitehall Neck Road, which ends at the refuge entrance.

From Dover, take Route 13 North. Turn right onto Route 42 East into Leipsic. Turn left onto Route 9 and proceed north for 2 miles. Turn right onto Whitehall Neck Road, which ends at the refuge entrance.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A “Wheelin’ Sportsman” goose hunt, run by the National Wild Turkey Federation, is offered on the refuge.

Youth Hunts: A waterfowl hunt limited to young hunters accompanied by a guardian is conducted on the South Waterfowl Area on the fourth Saturday in October. A special youth deer hunt is also offered.

Species Icons: D, WF, T, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Waterfowl permits are issued by lottery one hour prior to each daily hunt. Deer blackpowder and shotgun hunts are also issued by lottery. Archery deer, upland game and turkey may be hunted in the South Upland area without registration or special refuge permits.

Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge

11978 Turkle Pond Road

Milton, DE 19968

(302) 684-8419

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51560

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F; 9:00 – 4:00, weekends

Ducks Unlimited consistently ranks Prime Hook NWR as one of the top five waterfowl hunting spots in the United States. It is not difficult to see why. As many as 85,000 ducks and 200,000 snow geese use the refuge in the fall. The refuge's well-managed hunting program includes 26 well-spaced, fixed duck blinds that are allocated by a standby lottery drawing, held two hours before legal shooting time each morning during refuge hunting days. Hunters who are drawn are assigned specific blinds, which must be accessed by boat. Hunters may hunt ducks until 3 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays throughout the state duck season. Prime Hook also offers hunts for white-tailed deer, dove, quail, rabbit, pheasant and goose. The early season Canada goose hunt requires a permit and is limited to 15 parties per day, with no more than three hunters per party, issued on a first-come, first-serve basis. Hunts are conducted on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays during the season, and hunters must use boats to access blinds in designated areas. The late season snow goose hunt is also available on a first-come, first-serve basis in five field hunting zones. One hunting party is permitted per zone, with up to 10 hunters allowed per party. Snow goose hunts are conducted on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays during the season. For both goose hunts, permits are issued from two hours before shooting time to noon. Prime Hook NWR is one of the sport's great destinations in the Atlantic Flyway. With such a wealth of hunting opportunities, it's easy to see why many sportsmen return year after year.

Getting there:

From the north, take State Route 113 south from Dover. At Milford take Route 1 south.

Approximately 15 miles south of Milford, turn left on State Route 16 and follow it for 1.1 miles toward Broadkill Beach. Turn left onto Turkle Pond Road and follow it 1.6 miles to the office and visitor center.

From the south, travel north on U.S. 13/113 to State Route 16 (10 miles north of Georgetown). Turn right on State Route 16 and travel to the intersection of Routes 1 and 16. Follow Route 16

for 1.1 miles toward Broadkill Beach and turn left onto Turtle Pond Road. Follow Turtle Pond Road 1.6 miles to the office and visitor center.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Hunters with disabilities may reserve a wheelchair-accessible duck blind by phoning the refuge the day before the desired hunting day. Non-ambulatory hunters must have an individual to assist them. Deer hunts for hunters with disabilities are also offered.

Youth Hunts: In the early fall, a “young waterfowler’s course” is offered on the refuge, featuring instruction in safety and shooting ethics, followed by a refuge hunt. The hunt coincides with the date of the state youth waterfowl hunt. A youth deer hunt is also offered.

Species icons: WF, D, UB, MB, SG
Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes.

Florida

<http://myfwc.com/hunting/>

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

10216 Lee Road
Boynton Beach, FL 33437
(561) 732-3684

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41560

Visitor Center: 9:00 – 4:00 M – F; 9:00 – 4:00 Sat – Sun from November through April; open W – Sun from May through November

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR offers a surprisingly uncrowded, quality duck hunt, especially given that the refuge lies within 70 miles of 6 million people. This refuge offers hunting on a giant impoundment—created for flood protection and storm water control—at the northern end of what is left of the Everglades. Hunters may hunt about one-third of this 144,000-acre refuge. Access is by boat only, and hunters will find three access points in different parts of the refuge. No airboats or “go devils” are allowed, so hunters get around the wetlands and small tree islands by canoe or small johnboat. Hunters hide in cattails or set up their boats next to sloughs for the ring-necked and mottled ducks that frequent the area.

Getting there:

The refuge is located about 10 miles west of Boynton Beach and is accessible from Interstate 95 and the Florida Turnpike by going west on either Boynton Beach Boulevard or Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach, until you reach Highway 441/State Road 7. From Boynton Beach Boulevard, proceed south on Highway 441/SR7 for 2 miles and turn west onto Lee Road.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts.

Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge

1502 SE Kings Bay Drive

Crystal River, FL 34429

(352) 563-2088

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41510

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

Twenty years ago, tens of thousands of ducks landed at Chassahowitzka NWR, making this one of the most important waterfowl refuges in the state. Migratory patterns have since changed, and today only a few thousand ducks land on the 31,000-acre refuge. Duck hunting has thus been very difficult in recent years. But hunters seeking solitude should not overlook hunting here. Despite being only 80 miles from Tampa/St. Petersburg, hunting pressure is extremely light. Much of the refuge is a wilderness area, and hunters find a beautiful, unspoiled estuary. Hunting is by boat access only. The use of airboats requires a refuge airboat permit, which allows airboat use within navigable waters in the Hernando County section of the refuge; in the Citrus County section of the refuge airboats are only allowed within designated airboat routes. Throughout the refuge, hunters need a boat that can handle very shallow water. An adjacent state Wildlife Management Area (WMA) offers additional hunting opportunities, so hunters have a large area to explore. Deer, hog and migratory birds, other than waterfowl, may be hunted in the Hernando County portion of the refuge; the Citrus County section is limited to waterfowl.

Getting there:

Chassahowitzka NWR is located approximately 80 miles north of Tampa/St. Petersburg. A boat ramp, maintained by Citrus County, provides a launching point for boats on the Chassahowitzka River for a small fee. To get there; take U.S. Highway 19 north from St. Petersburg (or south from Perry) to State Road 480. Follow State Road 480 to the Chassahowitzka boat ramp, which is located at the end of this road. The refuge is approximately 3 miles down river from this boat ramp. An alternate route from Tampa/St. Petersburg is the Veterans Expressway to the Suncoast Toll Road (589) to U.S. Highway 98. Go west on U.S. 98 until you reach U.S. 19. Continue west across U.S. 19 onto State Road. 480 and follow this road to the boat ramp.

Species Icons: WF, D, SG, EX, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting permit, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts. In the Hernando County portion of the refuge, a Chassahowitzka WMA stamp is required in addition to other state hunting stamps and licenses.

Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge

2045 Mud Lake Road

De Leon Springs, FL 32130

(386) 985-4673

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41550

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Located along the St. John's River, Lake Woodruff NWR offers an important public opportunity in an area with few places to hunt. The inland refuge offers a great way to experience wild

Florida, with a mix of swamp bottomlands and oak and pine forests. The beautiful refuge holds archery and muzzleloader deer hunts, issued by lottery, each year. Deer are common in the area but often move on and off the refuge throughout the year. This can make finding them difficult, but hunters who take time to learn the refuge and its different habitats can have a successful hunt. Since the majority of the refuge is covered by water, reaching the best hunting locations can be difficult. Areas adjacent to swampy areas often have the most deer. Feral hogs may also be taken during all deer hunts.

Getting there:

Lake Woodruff NWR is located 25 miles west of Daytona Beach and 7 miles north of DeLand on U.S. Highway 17, near the community of DeLeon Springs. From Highway 17 in DeLeon Springs, turn west and go one block to Grand Avenue. Turn south on Grand and go approximately three blocks to Mud Lake Road. Refuge directional signs are prominently displayed on both Highway 17 and Grand Avenue.

Species Icons: D, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: Hunts are issued by lottery and require a \$12.50 fee.

Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge

16450 NW 31st Place

Chiefland, FL 32626

(352) 493-0238

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41515>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Lower Suwannee NWR protects one of the largest river delta and estuary systems in the United States. This 53,000-acre refuge, located where the Suwannee River empties into the Gulf of Mexico, is home to all manner of interesting and unusual creatures, including manatees, alligators, swallow-tailed kites and Gulf sturgeon. Hunters will also find more than 100 miles of roads providing either vehicle or foot and bicycle access. Hunters can choose from general and quota hunts for many of Florida's game species. Deer hunters can participate in general access archery, muzzleloader and firearms hunts. The general firearms hunt is for bucks and hogs only. Quota deer hunts include a two-day, either-sex hunt, an antlerless deer hunt and a youth deer hunt. A lottery hog hunt is also offered. The late small-game season offers hunters the chance to pursue squirrel, rabbit, armadillo, raccoon and opossum in late January and February. A mid March to mid April turkey season is available as well.

Getting there:

The refuge is approximately sixteen miles from Chiefland. From Chiefland, take U.S. 19 to 345. Turn right on 330, which leads to State Road 347 south. Follow signs. From U.S. 19 south of Chiefland, take SR 347 south. Follow signs.

To reach the refuge office, which is located in Levy County, take State Road 26 from Gainesville to Trenton. Then take Highway 129 south to Chiefland. Get on U.S. 19 south and go 1 mile to

County Road 345, and follow County Road 345 south for 6 miles to County Road 347. Go west on County Road 347 for 12 miles to the refuge sign leading to the refuge office, a good first stop for a brochure and map of the area.

Youth Hunts: A quota deer hunt for youth is offered.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Some hunts for deer and hogs require tags issued by lottery. All general access hunts require a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 6504

Titusville, FL 32796

(321) 861-0667

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41570

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F; 9:00 – 5:00 on weekends. Closed Sun,
April – October

Overlaying the John F. Kennedy Space Center, Merritt Island NWR was established in August 1963 to provide a buffer zone for NASA. Approximately one half the Refuge's 140,000 acres consist of brackish estuaries and marshes. Waterfowl hunting is permitted on 36,000 of these acres in designated hunt areas from November through January. Concentrations of waterfowl occur in the open waters of Mosquito Lagoon and in the brackish and fresh water impoundments during the fall and winter. Common species include scaup, mottled duck, blue-winged teal, pintail and American wigeon. The open season for ducks and coots is concurrent with seasons established by the State of Florida. Hunting opportunities in Areas 1 and 4 are issued by quota during November and December, and specific regulations apply. An early teal season is also held. Check with refuge headquarters for any closed areas due to NASA activity as well as unit-specific regulations.

Getting there:

From Interstate 95, take Exit 220 (SR 406, Garden Street) east through Titusville. Cross over the Indian River Lagoon. The refuge entrance sign and information kiosk are located on the east side of the Indian River Lagoon. Refuge maps and brochures are available at the kiosk. Continue east for 4 miles to reach the visitor information center, located on the right side of the road.

Or, follow U.S. 1 to Titusville. At the intersection with SR 406 (Garden Street), turn east. Cross over the Indian River Lagoon and follow the above directions.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: A refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required. In addition, a quota hunt permit is needed to hunt areas 1 and 4 during the months of November and December.

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 68

St. Marks, FL 32355

(850) 925-6121

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41640

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F and 10:00 – 5:00 on weekends

Prescribed burns and other habitat management have benefited the wild turkeys of St. Marks NWR, and in the spring gobblers can be found throughout the refuge. This has made the refuge's spring turkey hunt one of the most popular quota hunts in the state. In spite of the popularity, hunters still have good odds of drawing a permit, and hunter success is good. The refuge offers other opportunities, with two of its three management units open for hunting. The refuge is known for its large deer, which may be hunted during archery and firearms hunts in each unit. Wild hogs may be taken in the deer season, but the most popular time to hunt them is during the small-game season. During this season, hunters may use a .22 rimfire, shotgun with buckshot or muzzleloader. The refuge has a large hog population, but most are found in difficult-to-access marsh edges. A hunter willing to hunt hard and wait patiently along travel routes, has an excellent chance of success.

Getting there:

St. Marks NWR is located 25 miles south of Tallahassee. Take State Highway 363 through Woodville to the intersection of State Highway 363 and State Highway 267 (there is a blinking light at this intersection). Turn left onto State Highway 267 and drive 4 miles to the dead end into U.S. Highway 98 (Coastal Highway). Turn left onto Coastal Highway and drive about 0.5 miles, cross over the St. Marks River, and take your first right on County Road 59 (Lighthouse Road).

For Hunters with Disabilities: A portion of one unit, the Panacea Unit, is reserved for hunters with disabilities and their assistants. This hunt is issued by lottery.

Species Icons: D, T, EX, SG, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Deer and turkey hunts are issued by quota and require a fee. The refuge's waterfowl hunt requires a free Piney Island waterfowl permit. A free hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is needed for the small-game hunt.

St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 447

Apalachicola, FL 32329

(850) 653-8808

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41650

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

St. Vincent NWR, located on a barrier island off the coast of Florida, offers one of the most interesting big game hunting opportunities on the continent. Each fall, lucky hunters drawn by lottery hire boats to take them to the island, where they camp at the location of the hunt. Hunters

must bring all supplies, including fresh water, with them. Seasons are offered for archery-only and primitive-weapons (including bow and muzzleloader) hunters. Hunters may pursue white-tailed deer and may also take unlimited feral hogs and raccoons. A skinning rack is available for hunters to use at game check stations. Another opportunity on the refuge allows hunters to pursue the introduced sambar deer, a 300- to 400-pound Asian deer that roams the island. This is one of the few places in the world to pursue this exotic species, but the hunts are extremely difficult. The deer prefer thick habitat and are extremely wary of human presence. Of the 200 hunters chosen by lottery, only about six or seven will bag a sambar. Hunters on sambar hunts may also take feral hogs and raccoons. Hunters will find an enchanting island with many interesting wildlife species, including a pack of red wolves, bald eagles and sea turtles.

Getting there:

The refuge office/visitor center is in the Harbor Master Building at 479 Market Street, Apalachicola. Refuge signs on Highway 98 will direct you to the center. St. Vincent Island is 9 miles southwest of Apalachicola. The closest public boat ramp to the island is 22 miles west of Apalachicola at the end of County Road 30-B. From that boat ramp it is currents, storms and oyster bars.

Species Icons: D, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: All hunts are issued by lottery. White-tailed deer permits are free; sambar deer permits cost \$15.

Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge

3860 Tollgate Boulevard, Suite 300

Naples, FL 34114

(239) 353-8442

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41555

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

Ten Thousand Islands NWR protects habitat for some of the most unique species on the continent, including endangered manatees, wood storks and sea turtles. This interesting habitat, consisting of small islands interlaced with small coastal waters, also draws blue-winged teal, mottled ducks, ring-necked ducks and other species each fall. About 4,000 acres are open to hunting, accessible from a parking area at the northern end of the refuge. While hunters can walk into the hunting area, a boat offers the best access. Canoes and johnboats with a 25-horsepower or less motor are permitted. Taking time to learn the refuge is important for success. Only a small number of ducks use the hunting area, and savvy hunters learn the ducks' flight patterns so they can draw these birds into their decoys.

Getting there:

Ten Thousand Islands NWR is located between Marco Island and Everglades City. The refuge is best accessed by boat. The two prominent boating access points are found in Goodland and Port-of-the-Islands. Take U.S. 41 south out of Naples and drive 12 miles to Highway 92, turn right and drive 5 miles to Goodland. Or continue on U.S. 41 for 5 miles to Port-of-the-Islands. Refuge

headquarters is located at 3860 Tollgate Boulevard in Naples, within the Comfort Inn at exit 101 on Interstate 75.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts.

Georgia

<http://georgiawildlife.dnr.state.ga.us/hunting.aspx>

Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge

Route 2 Box 2147

Townsend, GA 31331

(912) 832-4608

<http://blackbeardisland.fws.gov>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

Blackbeard Island NWR has been in continuous federal ownership since 1800, when the U.S. Navy bought it to harvest timber for shipbuilding. The refuge is named for Edward Teach, also known as Blackbeard the Pirate. Legend tells of his nefarious activities along the coast, and his use of this island for “banking” purposes. Rumors abound on where treasure lies buried, but hunters would do well to focus on deer instead. The refuge hosts two general-access, three-day archery deer hunts each year. Hunters may take up to five deer as well as an unlimited number of feral hogs. The refuge is accessible only by boat, and the refuge does not provide transportation to the hunting area. However, charter boats are available, and hunters may camp on the island during the hunt.

Getting there:

Arrangements for trips to the refuge can be made at Shellman’s Bluff. To reach Shellman’s Bluff, travel south from Savannah on U.S. 17 for approximately 51 miles to Shellman’s Bluff Road, which terminates at Shellman’s Bluff on the Julienton River. A public boat ramp on Harris Neck NWR (Barbour River Landing) may also be used as a launching site for trips to the island.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts.

Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge

718 Juliette Road

Round Oak, GA 31038

(478) 986-5441

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41685

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F; 9:00 – 5:00 on weekends

Deer and feral hogs roam throughout Bond Swamp NWR, but finding them is never easy. The refuge holds general-access deer and feral hog archery hunts, as well as one lottery firearms hunt for deer and two for feral hogs. Feral hogs are common but often inhabit the least accessible places. Hunters have an excellent chance of getting a hog if they work hard and are willing to deal with the often-inhospitable conditions. The Bond Swamp, located in the floodplain of the Ocmulgee River, floods frequently. Access is by foot only and the terrain is thick and marshy. Rubber boots are recommended. Hunters can expect plenty of mosquitoes, ticks, snakes and alligators throughout the hunt area. Many hunters find these conditions add to the adventure of hunts in this wild landscape.

Getting there:

Located in middle Georgia, Bond Swamp NWR is 6 miles south of Macon. In Macon, take Interstate 75 south to Interstate 16 east. From I-16, take exit 6 to Route 23/129 south. Go 4.2 miles to the Bond Swamp NWR sign at the Stone Creek entrance on the right.

Bond Swamp NWR operates a hunter check station on-site. The refuge visitor center is at Piedmont NWR in Jones County, approximately 30 miles north of Macon.

Species Icons: D, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting permit is required for archery deer and hog hunts; firearms hunts are issued by lottery and require a \$12.50 fee.

Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge

Route 2, Box 2147

Townsend, GA 31331

(912) 832-4608

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41627

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

Once a World War II airfield, Harris Neck NWR today provides an important link for thousands of migrating birds along the Atlantic Flyway. For hunters, two managed deer hunts are conducted on the refuge each year. The first, in the fall, is a nonquota archery hunt; the second, in the winter, is a quota shotgun hunt. Feral hogs can also be taken during both of these hunts. The auto loop is open during the archery season, but shotgun hunters may enter only by foot or bicycle. One stand per bowhunter may be placed a week in advance of the season, but must be removed after each hunt. Five deer of either sex may be taken during these hunts. Check with the refuge brochure for the latest required entry and exit times and other regulations.

Getting there:

Harris Neck NWR is located in McIntosh County, 5 miles north of Eulonia and 50 air miles south of the port city of Savannah. To reach the refuge, take exit 67 off Interstate 95 and travel

south on U.S. 17 for approximately 1 mile, then travel east on Harris Neck Road for 7 miles to the main entrance gate.

Species Icons: D, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: The shotgun hunt permit is administered by lottery and costs \$12.50; the archery hunt requires a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

Route 2, Box 3330

Folkston, GA 31537

(912) 496-7836

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41590>

Visitor Center: 9:00 – 5:00, daily

The beautiful and mysterious swamp of Okefenokee NWR is one of the best-protected wilderness areas in the southeastern United States. The refuge has become a popular destination for paddlers who camp out on platforms along wilderness canoe trails. Hunters can also experience this special place, with three hunting units in the upland portion of the refuge. The Suwannee Canal Unit hunts, for deer and feral hog, are issued by lottery and are held along a developed wildlife drive. Hunters are assigned blinds, where they must stay until 9 a.m. After this time, they can walk around the unit. The Pocket Unit offers a general access archery hunt for deer and feral hog. The Cowhouse Unit offers a hunt in conjunction with the adjacent Dixon Memorial Wildlife Management Area. This walk-in hunt is held during state seasons for deer, feral hog, turkey, rabbit and squirrel. Regardless of the unit, hunters should be prepared for plenty of rain, abundant insects and thick terrain. Rubber boots are recommended. Hunters prepared for the conditions can expect a quality hunt in one of the finest wild areas in the country.

Getting there:

Okefenokee NWR has three primary and two secondary entrances. The main entrance is located 11 miles southwest of Folkston, off Highway 121/23. The west entrance is located 17 miles east of Fargo, off Highway Spur 177. The north entrance is located 8 miles south of Waycross, off Highway 1. Secondary entrances are located at Kingfisher Landing, off Highway 1 north of Folkston, and the Suwannee River Sill, accessed from Highway Spur 177 east of Fargo.

For Hunters with Disabilities: The Suwannee Canal hunt includes an interior island reserved for hunters with disabilities. A permit is required.

Youth hunts: The refuge annually offers hunter safety courses and a hunting skills class, open to hunters of all ages.

Species Icons: D, EX, T, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Suwannee Canal Unit tags are issued by lottery. Hunts on the Pocket Unit and Cowhouse Unit require no special permits, but hunters are required to sign in and out at designated locations.

Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge

718 Juliette Road

Round Oak, GA 31038

(478) 986-5441

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41680

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F; 9:00 – 5:00 on weekends

Established in 1939 on land that was once worn out by cotton farming, Piedmont NWR has been returned to upland forest where wildlife is thriving. Georgia hunters, who know the refuge, know it is a great place to pursue large deer. Bucks scoring 140 Boone and Crockett points are regularly taken. The 35,000-acre refuge has a density of about 40–45 deer per square mile, but hunting is not easy. Deer become wary early in the hunt and can be hard to locate. The refuge offers a general-access archery hunt as well as lottery-issued firearms and muzzleloader hunts. New hunters are attracted by a growing turkey population. A skilled hunter has an excellent chance of locating gobblers and working several birds in a day. Hunters on the refuge will notice it is scattered with historic, old homesites and cemeteries.

Getting there:

From Interstate 75, 30 miles north of Macon, take exit 186 to Juliette Road. Drive 18 miles east from the interstate to the refuge. Or from Highway 11 between Gray and Monticello, take Juliette Road west 3 miles to the refuge office and visitor center.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A special deer hunt for hunters with disabilities is held on the refuge, and other lottery-issued hunts offer special access for hunters with disabilities.

Species Icons: D, T, SG, UB, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: Firearms and muzzleloader deer hunts and spring turkey hunts are issued via lottery and require a fee; all other hunts require a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on the hunter.

Savannah National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Savannah Coastal National Wildlife Refuge

1000 Business Center Drive, Suite 10

Savannah, GA 31405

(843) 784-6751

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41625

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Located in the heart of the coastal lowcountry, Savannah NWR is 29,000 acres of freshwater marshes, tidal waterways and bottomland hardwoods. The refuge has a problem with feral hogs, which tear up habitat, damage levees, eat ground-nesting bird eggs and kill snakes. A hog hunt held each March helps control the numbers and draws hunters from far and wide. The most successful hunters bring boats and hunt various islands on the Savannah River. Hunters will find islands ranging from 1/10 of an acre to 400 acres. Deer hunting can also be good on the refuge,

particularly on upland areas surrounded by swamps. Much of the refuge is open only to shotguns with slugs or muzzleloaders. Turkey hunting is not as popular, but there is a good population of the birds in the upland areas and on islands. Scouting the islands is critical to a successful hunt, regardless of species. Hunts are general access.

Getting there:

Savannah NWR is located on SC 170, 6 miles south of Hardeeville, South Carolina via U.S. 17 (exit 5 off Interstate 95) or 1 mile north of Port Wentworth on GA 25/SC 170 (take I-95 exit 109 to GA 21 south, then go east on GA 30 to GA 25 north).

For Hunters with Disabilities: A deer hunt is held for hunters with disabilities, with tags issued by lottery.

Youth Hunts: The refuge holds youth waterfowl and archery deer hunts, issued by lottery.

Species Icons: D, T, EX, SG, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts. Only the youth hunt and hunt for hunters with disabilities are issued by lottery.

Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Savannah Coastal National Wildlife Refuge

1000 Business Center Drive, Suite 10

Savannah, GA 31405

(912) 652-4415

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41628

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Unlike many of Georgia's coastal islands, Wassaw Island is little touched by development. The 10,053-acre Wassaw NWR includes beaches with rolling dunes, maritime forest and vast salt marshes. Two three-day deer hunts are scheduled in the fall and winter every year. The first is a general-access bow hunt, and the second is a quota gun hunt. Five deer of either sex, and unlimited feral hogs may be taken. Wassaw NWR is accessible only by boat, and hunters must make their own transportation arrangements. There are several local marinas in the area, and the refuge keeps a list of charter boats that will transport hunters. Boaters should pay close attention to tidal tables.

Getting there:

Wassaw NWR is accessible only by boat. Both Wassaw and Pine Island are open to the public during daylight hours; other upland areas are closed. Transportation to the refuge must be arranged by the visitor. Several local marinas in the Savannah area (Skidaway Island and Isle of Hope) and a public boat ramp adjacent to the Skidaway Island bridge can serve as launching sites for trips to Wassaw.

Species Icons: D, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: The shotgun hunt permit is administered by lottery and costs \$12.50; the archery hunt requires a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Becoming a More Effective Waterfowl Hunter

During the early 1900's, waterfowl hunters were the leaders of this country's conservation movement. True to that tradition, waterfowlers are still ardent conservationists who care deeply about the birds they hunt – and the need to conserve is just as great today as it was a hundred years ago.

Because of dwindling habitat, waterfowl numbers are under tremendous pressure. This makes it important for waterfowl hunters to be as efficient as possible and do everything in their power to ensure that every duck or goose that is shot is retrieved. Improving hunting techniques will not only help get good shots, but increase the likelihood of lethal hits.

The Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program (CONSEP) provides the following tips to assist hunters in becoming as effective and efficient as possible, and to reduce unretrieved losses.

Tips for Successfully Bagging a Bird

- **Shoot within your personal maximum shooting distance – no “sky busting.”** Know the effective range of your shotgun and your own shooting skill. The average hunter is able to shoot successfully at a target that is less than 25 yards away. Set decoys in such a manner to bring the birds in close. Set specific decoys so that they can be used as yardage markers then when birds are in the decoys you know they are within your effective range. Practice at a trap or skeet range is critical to determine, and improve, your skill level.
- **Learn to estimate distances.** Hunters can train themselves to accurately estimate distance to a target by using the end of the shotgun barrel as a gauge against the size of the bird, using landmarks in the field as reference points, and tracking or following the target with gun barrel or finger.
- **Take your time — but not too much time.** Concentrate, fire the shot with a steady hand and swing through smoothly. Pellets must penetrate a vital area to bring down a duck instantly. A well-placed shot provides a quick, humane kill.
- **Follow through with your shot.** Keep the barrel moving after firing your shotgun. Learn to pull through the target. Allow more forward allowance (lead) than you think is necessary when a flock is passing by; many birds are not taken because hunters shoot behind the flock.
- **Do not shoot into the middle of a flock.** Often such shots wound adjacent birds. On an incoming flight, select an isolated bird, such as the last or highest bird, or a bird on the edge of the flock.
- **Do not shoot at birds flying away if they are beyond 30 yards.** If the back of a bird is facing you, the bird's vital organs are shielded by ribs and backbone, making it much more difficult to take that single, lethal shot.
- **Do not shoot through brush or trees.**

- **Know where your bird is going to fall.** Ideally, the waterfowl should fall in open water where it is easier to retrieve.
- **Do not shoot at one bird while retrieving another, especially if the first bird has landed in dense cover.** Take a mental snapshot of where the bird landed by lining up the spot with something on the horizon or select a landmark such as a tree or an easily identifiable plant. Don't erase that mental snapshot in the excitement of trying to bring down a second bird.
- **Practice shooting with the ammunition that is appropriate for the type of game you are hunting.** Use appropriate shotshell loads and chokes for various distances and types of game.
- **Do not shoot duck loads at geese.** Geese require larger shot. Using ammunition intended for ducks will only wound the geese. Generally, using larger shot is more lethal and causes fewer unretrieved losses.
- **No more than two hunters should be shooting simultaneously.** Fast shooters and slow shooters can easily upset the timing of their companions if multiple hunters are taking shots at the same time. Two hunters should take turns shooting or decide which hunter will take which bird.

CONSEP, Ducks Unlimited (www.ducks.org), and the International Hunter Education Association (www.ihea.org) have teamed up to provide on-site hunter education clinics focused on ways to improve hunting skills.

These clinics teach hunters how to identify waterfowl, use camouflage and concealment, design and locate a blind so a harvested bird is likely to fall in open water, improve shooting technique, set decoys, know when to use duck calls, and understand the value of using a trained retriever. Many national wildlife refuges offer these clinics just before hunting season. IHEA and many sportsmen's clubs sponsor clinics and opportunities to practice shooting. IHEA also provides an online course that assists hunters in developing skills and techniques to improve their success and add to their enjoyment of the hunting experience.

With proper training and practice, hunters can reduce their individual wounding losses. Every hunter is repeatedly faced with a decision to shoot or not to shoot. That decision should be made with respect for wildlife. "Pulling the trigger should not be the most important part of the experience," says Tom Reed, former national hunting and fishing coordinator for the National Wildlife Refuge System. "An understanding of waterfowl behavior, waterfowl habitat and the environmental conditions is a tie between people and the resource."

Idaho

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/hunt/>

Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 9, 370 Webster St

Montpelier, ID 83254

(208) 847-1757

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=14613

Refuge Office: Contact the refuge.

In many places, Bear Lake NWR's waterfowl hunting would make it a major sporting destination. But in a remote location in Idaho it is a select hunting area, and often a group of hunters will have the whole place to themselves. Nearly 40% of the refuge's 19,000 acres is open to hunting, and a variety of hunting opportunities is offered. Two boat launches are available, and motorized boats are allowed. There are also ample walk-in opportunities, ranging from areas where vehicles can almost pull up to the hunting spot to areas that require a long hike. Every duck species that migrates through Idaho can be found at the refuge during the hunting season, including the occasional cinnamon teal. Boat hunters do better on diving duck species like bufflehead, goldeneye, lesser scaup and redhead. Walk-in hunters find large numbers of mallard, pintail and green-winged teal. As fantastic as the hunting can be, it's a short season. The marshes are typically frozen by Thanksgiving and as early as November 1 in some years.

Getting there:

The refuge is located 7 miles southwest of Montpelier. Drive 3 miles west of Montpelier on U.S. Highway 89. Turn south on the gravel Bear Lake County Airport Road. Drive 5 miles to the north entrance of the refuge.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Two wheelchair-accessible blinds are available.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Camas National Wildlife Refuge

2150 East 2350 North

Hamer, ID 83425

(208) 662-5423

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=14611

Refuge Office: Contact the refuge.

In wet years, duck hunting can be quite good on Camas NWR. Recent drought years, however, have left much of the waterfowl areas quite dry during the hunting season. Hunters should keep an eye on the weather before planning a duck hunting trip here. An 80-acre alfalfa field at the south end of the refuge in the hunting unit offers a consistent opportunity for waterfowlers. This field is farmed to provide feed for geese and other wildlife. Hunters can set up decoys for geese that feed in the field in the mornings and evenings. Some hunters also come to Camas for

pheasant or sage grouse. Both birds exist in spotty numbers throughout the refuge. A hunter with a dog has a chance of finding a few birds during an afternoon hunt.

Getting there:

From Interstate 15, take the Hamer exit (exit 150). Turn east and go about 0.25 miles into the little village of Hamer. Turn north on the frontage road, continue about 3 miles, then turn west. Continue nearly 2 miles to the refuge. There are signs after you turn off the interstate.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

13751 Upper Embankment Road

Nampa, ID 83686

(208) 467-9278

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=14560

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F; 10:00– 4:00, Saturday

Deer Flat NWR provides a watery oasis for resident and migratory wildlife. Lake Lowell, an irrigation reservoir just southwest of Boise, creates a haven for waterfowl and other birds, and is a very popular spot for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation. Although duck populations have fallen due to changing migration patterns and other factors, about 100,000 ducks still use the refuge in the fall, and hunting on the lake can still be quite good. The refuge also includes islands on the Snake River along the Idaho and Oregon border. Hunters from both states can hunt these islands for quail, pheasant, rabbit, waterfowl and deer. A boat is necessary, and hunting can be difficult due to dense vegetation.

Getting there:

Take Exit 33 (east-bound) or 33a (west-bound) off Interstate 84. Follow Karcher Road (ID Highway 55) west to Indiana Avenue. Turn left onto Indiana Avenue. Continue straight onto the refuge entrance road at the intersection of Indiana and Roosevelt Avenue. Follow signs to the visitor center.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge

74 Grays Lake Road

Wayan, ID 83285-5006

(208) 574-2755

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=14612

Visitor Center: 7:00 – 4:30, M – F

Grays Lake NWR is known for some of the most interesting birding in Idaho. Trumpeter swans and peregrine falcons are regularly sighted. The refuge is home to the largest nesting population of sandhill cranes in the world, and as many as 40,000 nesting Franklin's gulls. The largest hardstem bulrush marsh in North America also attracts large numbers of ducks in the fall, and hunters may hunt them during the state waterfowl season in designated areas. Constructing temporary blinds using reeds is popular, but hunters should remember that once left, these blinds will be available to other hunters on a first-come, first-serve basis. Although non-motorized boats are permitted, a boat is not necessary for waterfowl hunting on the refuge. There are no launching ramps, and the marsh is suitable for car-top type boats only. As at many refuges, hunting is heavily dependent on the weather, and an early freeze can move most of the birds south.

Getting there:

Grays Lake NWR is north of Soda Springs off Route 34. The turnoff is about 27 miles north of Soda Springs and 21 miles from Freedom, Wyoming. The turnoff is signed. From the intersection it is about 3 miles north to the refuge office, visitor center and overlook.

Species Icons: WF,MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge

287 Westside Road

Bonnors Ferry, ID 83805

(208) 267-3888

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=14580>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Located just 20 miles south of the Canadian border, Kootenai NWR is located in the wild heart of the northern forests of Idaho. Grizzly bears, woodland caribou and wolverines still roam the Selkirk Mountains to the west. The wetlands of the Kootenai River Valley, however, were drained early in the 20th century, eliminating nearly 25,000 acres of prime waterfowl habitat. Kootenai NWR has restored many wetlands over the years and grows grain crops for migratory waterfowl. Hunting for waterfowl can be excellent. Up to 40,000 ducks, mainly dabbling species, are found on the refuge in the fall. While most hunters associate this refuge with wetland habitat, it also contains forested mountains. Here, hunters can pursue three species of grouse as well as the big game that roam the forested habitat, including elk, moose, deer, black bear and mountain lion.

Getting there:

You can reach the refuge by taking Riverside Road, on the south bank of the Kootenai River, at Bonnors Ferry. Drive west for 5 miles to the refuge entrance. The office is 2 miles beyond the entrance.

Species Icons: WF, UB, D, BG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge

961 E Minidoka Dam

Rupert, ID 83350

(208) 436-3589

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=14614

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 4:30, M – F

The middle part of the Snake River that winds through southern Idaho is well known for its excellent waterfowl hunting. Minidoka NWR offers an excellent opportunity on this part of the river, and refuge hunts often draw out-of-state hunters. Located on a river reservoir, Lake Walcott, the refuge offers a wide variety of duck species as well as Canada geese during the early part of Idaho's waterfowl season. Hunters hide among the willows and vegetation that line the river as it winds through sagebrush country. Later in the season, when the reservoir recedes, hunters must hide behind large exposed rocks in order to get close to the water. Hunters may drive up to the hunting site to unload decoys, but must return their vehicles to a nearby parking area. Late-season hunting can be excellent for mallard and fast-flying goldeneye. Hunters may also take any pheasant, gray partridge or rabbit that they flush.

Getting there:

From Rupert: To reach the refuge office and Walcott State Park, take Route 24 northeast; there are some tricky turns in Rupert so watch the signs carefully. About 5.5 miles from Rupert, turn right on the Minidoka Dam road and follow it to the refuge.

From Interstate 86: Take exit 21, Cold Water, and follow the gravel road on the north side of the interstate to the refuge gate, or take exit 15, Raft River, then follow the signs on the north side of the interstate to the Gifford Springs boat ramp. Another route to the refuge can be found on the south side of Lake Walcott reservoir from Old Highway 30.

Species Icons: WF, UB, SG, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Oxford Slough Waterfowl Production Area

4425 Burley Drive, Suite A

Chubbuck, ID 83202

(208) 237-6615

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=14615

Refuge Office: Contact the refuge for hours.

In the 1950s, farmers tried to drain Oxford Slough, but were only marginally successful. Today, it is an important spring nesting area for waterfowl, particularly redhead ducks. The refuge is largely a bulrush marsh, interspersed with open water and surrounded by a variety of habitats, including native wet meadow and cropland. Some of the cropland is still farmed, with a portion of the crop left in the fields for waterfowl. Hunting for waterfowl at the refuge can be

exceptional provided there is sufficient water. Most standing water freezes by December, making hunting difficult. Some hunters enjoy walking the perimeters of the marsh for upland game. While there is not a large pheasant population on the refuge, hunters have a good chance of flushing a few birds. Gray partridge and sharp-tailed grouse may also be encountered.

Getting there:

Oxford Slough WPA is just east of the village of Oxford. Turn off Route 91 about 2 miles north of the village of Swan Lake onto Road D1 and continue south toward the village of Oxford. Go into Oxford and take the small bypass road on the east side of town. Turn east just north of town, onto a gravel road that skirts the north edge of the waterfowl production area. About 0.75 miles east of this intersection, the access road turns toward the marsh. There is a small parking lot. This road may not be obvious or may be overgrown with vegetation. It is not advisable to try this road during wet weather or when the ground is thawing in spring.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Illinois

<http://dnr.state.il.us/>

Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge

19031 East County Road 2110N

Havana, IL 62644

(309) 535-2290

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=33650

Refuge Office: 7:30–4:00, M–F

More than 100,000 ducks use Chautauqua NWR each fall, which means waterfowl hunters will see lots of birds. But getting them can be an entirely different matter. The ducks become wary early in the season, and hunting here is known to be difficult. The refuge is open to hunting in the Liverpool Lake area, which is accessed only by boat. While wading the refuge hunting area is possible in places, using a dog makes retrieving birds safer and easier. There can be good hunts for puddle duck species, and the area receives light hunting pressure. It is also one of the few public areas in the state that does not require a special permit or lottery drawing.

Getting there:

Chautauqua NWR is located 8 miles north of Havana and 30 miles south of Pekin, on the Manito Blacktop.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge

8588 Route 148

Marion, IL 62959

(618) 997-3344

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=33610

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 5:00, daily

Hunters in southern Illinois enjoy a rich tradition of hunting on public lands. Crab Orchard NWR contributes to this public opportunity with excellent hunting for a variety of species. The deer hunt is especially well known, as deer are abundant and success rates are high. Before the deer season starts, refuge volunteers set up temporary blinds around the refuge. These are used for a shotgun hunt reserved for hunters with disabilities and youth hunting. About 75 percent of participants in these hunts take a deer. A general shotgun hunt is conducted later in the season. A controlled Canada goose hunt includes blinds that are issued by lottery throughout the season. Geese can be plentiful, but many hunters end up taking more ducks than geese. The number of blinds depends on waterfowl population forecasts, but there are both land and water blinds. The goose and deer hunts, as well as other lottery hunts, occur in a 20,000-acre area open during special hunts only. The refuge also has a 23,000-acre general hunt area where hunting for squirrel, rabbit, quail and dove is allowed without special permit.

Getting there:

Crab Orchard NWR is located 5 miles west of Marion, and 5 miles south of Herrin, on State Route 148. From Interstate 57 in Marion, go west on Illinois Route 13 about 3 miles to Illinois Route 148. Turn left (south) and go 2.5 miles. The refuge visitor information center is located on the left.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A deer hunt for hunters with disabilities is held each fall, with blinds issued via state lottery. Hunters with disabilities may also reserve two goose blinds by calling the refuge.

Youth Hunts: A youth deer hunt is held during the deer hunt for hunters with disabilities. Youth waterfowl and turkey hunts are also conducted.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. A brochure must be signed and carried by all refuge hunters. A permit issued by the state is required to hunt during special lottery hunts in the “closed area” for deer, goose, dove and turkey.

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge

137 Rustic Campus Drive

Ullin, IL 62992

(618) 634-2231

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=32630

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Known by many as the “Illinois Bayou,” the area that encompasses Cypress Creek NWR is undoubtedly one of the most unique natural areas in the state and is home to waterfowl, deer, turkey, squirrel, rabbit and other game species. The area includes a diversity of habitats from floodplain and upland forest, to deepwater swamp and shallow wetlands, to agriculture and early

successional fields. The refuge includes 16,000 acres open to hunting. The Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve is managed as a resting and feeding area for migrating ducks. It is open for goose hunting after the end of duck season. Please visit the refuge Web site for special regulations.

Getting there:

Cypress Creek NWR is in the southernmost portion of Illinois, with lands located in Union, Pulaski, Alexander and Johnson counties. Follow Interstate 57 and take exit 18, Shawnee College Road. Travel approximately 7.1 miles east to the refuge office located on the Shawnee College Rustic Campus, Building D. The refuge is approximately 22 miles north of Cairo and 35 miles south of Carbondale.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Special arrangements can be made to accommodate persons with disabilities during the hunting season; contact the refuge office for details.

Species Icons: WF, MB, SG, D, T, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts.

Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge

19031 East County Road 2110N

Havana, IL 62644

(309) 535-2290

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=33654

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Big bucks roam the wooded areas that line the old oxbow lakes of Emiquon NWR, a fact not lost on area bowhunters. They set up temporary blinds along the white-tailed deer trails that run along refuge backwaters. Many bowhunters even come here during the Illinois firearms season, as hunting pressure is lighter here than other places. When the backwater areas fill with water from the Illinois River, waterfowl hunting can also be good. Mallard, pintail, wigeon and Canada goose are all common when the water conditions are right. Access to the best duck hunting areas is on foot.

Getting there:

Emiquon NWR is located at the confluence of the Spoon and Illinois rivers in Fulton County. Situated just west of Havana on Route 97/78, the refuge is accessible by State Highway 24 from Peoria or Lewistown, and State Highway 136 from Havana.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Great River National Wildlife Refuge – See Missouri

Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge

1293 Rocky Hollow Road
Rockwood, IL 62280
(618) 763-4420

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=33660>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Illinois and Missouri deer hunters are beginning to discover the quality hunting available on Middle Mississippi NWR. Until recently, this refuge was private land, off limits to most hunters. Established after the 1993 flood breached various levees, the refuge now provides a public hunting opportunity along the Mississippi River. Because refuge lands offer walk-in access only, pressure is light, although not all units are open for all seasons. A hunter willing to walk will find good populations of deer, especially in the thick cover. Turkeys also thrive throughout the refuge lands, particularly on the Missouri side. Duck numbers are not very high, but wood ducks and other waterfowl numbers are increasing along riverside channels as the habitat improves. In the future, waterfowl hunting may be as rewarding as deer and turkey hunting.

Getting there: Contact refuge manager for driving directions to each district.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. The refuge includes lands on both the Illinois and Missouri sides of the river, and hunters are required to have the appropriate state license.

Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge

HC 82, Box 107 (Hagen Road)
Brussels, IL 62013
618-883-2524

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=33621>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Located near the confluence of the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, Two Rivers NWR is an important stop on the Mississippi flyway. In the winter months thousands of ducks and snow geese rest on the 2,600-acre Swan Lake and feed on winter wheat grown on cooperative farms. Hundreds of bald eagles also frequent these areas. The portion of Calhoun Division that lies east of the Illinois River Road is open to all state seasons except migratory birds and waterfowl. Apple Creek Division is open to all state hunting seasons, although deer hunting is the most popular. 270 acres of bottomland forest and shallow wetlands, Apple Creek is located about 5 miles northwest of Carrollton in Greene County. Refer to the refuge's public use regulations for site specific rules.

Getting there:

The refuge headquarters, including the visitor center, is located at the Calhoun Division, four miles east of Brussels, Illinois.

FROM ILLINOIS: Travel 14 miles west of Alton, Illinois, on the Great River Road (Hwy 100) to the Brussels Ferry. Cross the Illinois River and proceed another 4.5 miles to the refuge entrance.

FROM MISSOURI: The refuge is located north of St. Charles County, Missouri. From Highway 370, take the Elm Street exit north 0.5 mile. Turn left onto Fountain Lakes Boulevard and go 0.65 mile to Huster Road. Turn right onto Huster Road and go two miles to Highway B. After turning left onto Highway B, drive two miles and turn right onto Golden Eagle Ferry Road. Drive one mile and use the Golden Eagle Ferry to cross the Mississippi River into Illinois. After leaving the ferry, travel two miles on Ferry Road to the intersection with Mississippi River Road, then turn right. This road meanders through rolling hills for 3.4 miles to the intersection with Illinois River Road. Turn right onto Illinois River Road, travel two miles, and turn left onto Hagen Road. Travel one mile on Hagen Road to the refuge entrance.

Species Icons: D, T, UB, WF, MB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge - Savanna District

7071 Riverview Road

Thomson, IL 61285

(815) 273-2732

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/savanna/>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Spread along 80 miles of the Mississippi River, the Savanna District of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge offers a variety of excellent hunting opportunities. The refuge largely consists of backwater lakes, floodplain forests and islands which provide excellent habitat for a variety of game species. With the exception of limited uplands, most of the hunting area is accessible by boat only. Hunters should be aware that some refuge areas are closed to hunting. Also, other users may be present and unaware of ongoing hunting.

Getting there:

The refuge headquarters is located approximately 3 miles south of Savanna and 7 miles north of Thomson on Highway 84, on the west side of the road (across from the airport).

Species Icons: WF, MB, D, T, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: A drawing is held for waterfowl hunting sites in the Potter's Marsh area, but other sites do not require special permits. Hunters should check with the refuge office for the latest regulations.

Indiana

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3199.htm>

Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge

1661 W JPG Niblo Road
Madison, IN 47250
(812) 273-0783
www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=31531
Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

A former U.S. Army ordnance testing range, Big Oaks NWR includes the largest unfragmented forest area in southeast Indiana and one of the largest grasslands in the state. The refuge has healthy deer and turkey populations, and holds well-managed hunts, issued by state or refuge lottery. Deer hunters can choose archery or shotgun seasons. For both deer and turkey hunts, hunters are assigned a specific area and must enter the refuge with a partner. A compass is also required of all hunters. The hunts include numerous regulations to ensure safety and quality; check the refuge Web site for the latest details on bag limits, season dates, open areas and more. A mandatory safety briefing covering refuge regulations is held before each hunt. Because the refuge was formerly an ordnance testing facility, a safety video is also shown. It is required viewing for all visitors, who must sign an acknowledgement of danger form. For hunters who don't draw a tag, no show drawings are held on each hunt day. Also, the refuge's general-access squirrel hunt is a good way to experience the 50,000-acre refuge.

Getting there:

The entrance to the refuge is located on U.S. Highway 421, 5 miles north of Madison. The refuge office is in Building 125 in the cantonment area of the former Jefferson Proving Ground. From Madison, drive north on Highway 421 to the main entrance. Take the first right (Shun Pike) and then a left on Niblo Road. Building 125 is at 1661 West Niblo Road.

Youth hunts: The refuge holds youth hunts for deer and turkey, issued by lottery.

Species Icons: D, T, SG
Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes

Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge

12985 East U.S. Highway 50
Seymour, IN 47274
(812) 522-4352
refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=31530
Visitor Center: sunrise to sunset, daily

Gently rolling hills, woodlands and old fields provide a haven for game, and a quiet, uncrowded place for hunters to enjoy a public hunt in southern Indiana. Deer hunts begin with the state muzzleloader season. The lottery hunt includes permits for both muzzleloader and archery hunters. This is followed by a general archery hunt that runs late in the season. About 75 percent of the 8,000-acre refuge is open to deer hunting. While the requirement for close-range weapons makes hunting a challenge, most hunters will at least see deer. The refuge also hosts a highly successful spring turkey hunt, with 10 permits a day issued during the nearly two-week season. Turkey populations are outstanding and birds can be located throughout the refuge woodlands.

While these species get most of the attention, the refuge has large populations of rabbit and squirrel, which are open to hunting but are largely unhunted. Hunters may also find the occasional covey of quail during a typical upland game hunt.

Getting there:

The refuge is located in south-central Indiana on U.S. Highway 50, just 3 miles east of the Interstate 65/U.S. 50 interchange at Seymour. Muscatatuck NWR is approximately an hour's drive from Louisville, Kentucky, and Indianapolis, and is approximately 86 miles from Cincinnati, Ohio. The main entrance on U.S. Highway 50 is marked with large brown signs.

Species Icons: D, T, SG, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 217

510 1/2 West Morton Street

Oakland City, IN 47660

(812) 749-3199

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=31560

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

The 5,946-acre Patoka River NWR consists of scattered parcels for 20 miles along the river bottomlands with an acquisition goal of 22,472 acres. The current patchwork could lead to confusion among hunters as to what parcels are part of the refuge and what areas are privately owned. However, the refuge has good maps detailing open hunting areas. About 15 miles of the eastern portion of the Patoka River meanders naturally, and a good way to access the refuge is to float this portion of the river. Early wood duck hunting can be especially productive, with hunters flushing birds from the boat as they float along the river or stop at cutoff oxbows. Other hunters float along and hunt white-tailed deer, squirrel or turkey. The bottomlands are marshy and often flood, but hunters willing to put in the effort can find excellent populations of deer, turkey, squirrel, raccoon and other game. Waterfowl hunting can be excellent if the bottoms flood. Farmers of refuge land leave part of the crop for wildlife which provides excellent hunting opportunities for both migratory birds and upland game.

Getting there:

Located in the counties of Pike and Gibson, the refuge is 30 miles north of Evansville by way of State Road 57. It is adjacent to the small towns of Oakland City along State Road 64 and Winslow on State Road 61. The refuge headquarters is located on the west side of Oakland City on the south side of State Road 64.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free permit is required for night hunting raccoons and opossums.

Iowa

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/files/hunting.html>

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

1434 316th Lane

Missouri Valley, IA 51555

(712) 642-4121

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=33510

Visitor Center: 9:00 – 4:30, except federal holidays

One of the most visible species at DeSoto NWR is the wild turkey. Large numbers of these birds roam nearly every corner of the refuge. The refuge's spring hunts are especially designed for those with disabilities (refuge blinds are made available to disabled hunters) and young hunters. Both hunts have good success rates. An archery-only hunt is also available to the general public for those who want to try for one of the refuge's many gobblers. Quality deer hunting—including archery and muzzleloader hunts—round out the excellent opportunities at this refuge along the Missouri River. DeSoto NWR is one of the few places in the nation where neighboring states (Nebraska and Iowa) honor the adjoining state's hunting license. This is true for refuge hunts only.

Getting there:

DeSoto NWR is located midway between the communities of Blair, Nebraska, and Missouri Valley, just off U.S. Highway 30.

From the Omaha, Nebraska, metropolitan area, take Interstate 29 north to Missouri Valley. Exit at mile marker 75. Head west on U.S. Highway 30 approximately 6 miles to the refuge entrance; the visitor center is an additional 1 mile south into the refuge. It is an approximately 25-minute drive to the refuge from Omaha.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A mobility-impaired turkey hunt includes the use of blinds

Youth Hunts: Hunts for turkey are available.

Species Icons: D, T, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes.

Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 460

McGregor, IA 52157

(563) 873-3423

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=32596

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Sandstone cliffs, deep valleys and coldwater trout streams aren't typical Iowa terrain, but these unique habitats are all part of Driftless Area NWR in the northeast part of the state. The refuge is located in the "driftless area" of the Upper Midwest, a portion of the region that remained unglaciated during the last Ice Age about 12,000 years ago. Existing glaciers surrounded, but did not pass over, this land. Today, this refuge is home to the Iowa Pleistocene snail, found only in

this area. The refuge permits archery and muzzleloader hunting for deer, which are numerous in the wooded habitat. Upland bird and game hunting is also open. While Iowa is best known by bird hunters for its pheasant, the refuge provides a good, and overlooked, opportunity for ruffed grouse hunting. The woodlands and steep slopes provide perfect habitat for this fast-flying game bird.

Getting there:

The refuge office is located at the McGregor District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The office and visitor contact station are located along Business Highway 18 north, between the towns of Marquette and McGregor.

Species Icons: D, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Some slopes are closed to public access. Check with the refuge to see if special regulations apply.

Iowa Wetland Management District

1710 360th Street

Titonka, IA 50480

(515) 928-2523

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=33581

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Some of the best waterfowl hunting opportunities in central Iowa can be found in one of the waterfowl production areas (WPAs) in 17 counties that make up the Iowa WMD. This district covers almost one-third of the state, with 22,000 acres of huntable land, some of which can be heavily used by ducks in the fall, depending on weather conditions. Almost all of the WPAs have consistently excellent hunting for pheasant, although pheasant populations also vary due to weather. While the WPAs are typically not large (100 to 2,000 acres), some do hold deer, and local deer hunters know where to find them. These WPAs offer a variety of opportunities for local and visiting hunters, especially since Iowa ranks among states with the least amount of public land in the country.

Getting there:

The Iowa WMD is managed by staff at the Union Slough NWR. Union Slough is roughly two and a half hours southwest of Minneapolis and northwest of Des Moines. From Algona, take Highway 169 north to Bancroft; turn right (east) on County Road A42, and proceed 6 miles to the office at 1710 360th Street. From Interstate 90, take the Blue Earth, Minnesota exit and follow Route 169 south into Iowa. At Lakota, follow P60 south to A42, then take A42 west 0.5 miles to the office.

Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: Special regulations apply. Please contact the refuge headquarters for specific rules and information. These areas differ from state wildlife management areas.

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 399
9981 Pacific Street
Prairie City, IA 50228
(515) 994-3400

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=33670

Visitor Center: 9:00 – 4:00, M – Sat; 12:00 – 5:00 Sun

Neal Smith NWR has the unprecedented task to reconstruct the tallgrass prairie ecosystem which includes native grasses, wildflowers and wildlife. Bison and elk are part of this effort and have been re-introduced. Deer are common in the area and offer the archery, muzzleloader or shotgun hunter an exciting experience. Pheasant also thrive here and provide excellent hunting, particularly for hunters with dogs. Hunting is not permitted in the elk/bison area, but hunters should drive through this 800-acre section to experience a small glimpse of what the prairie must have looked like in pre-settlement times.

Getting there:

The refuge is 18 miles east of Des Moines on State Highway 163. Follow the refuge directional signs just south of Prairie City at exit 18. Travelers on Interstate 80 should use exit 155 at Colfax and follow directional signs approximately 7 miles south on Highway 117 to the refuge.

Species Icons: D, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Special regulations apply. Please contact the refuge headquarters for specific rules and information.

Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge – see Minnesota

Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge

10728 County Road X61
Wapello, IA 52653
(319) 523-6982

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=33630

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Located along the Upper Mississippi River, Port Louisa NWR, the northernmost refuge of the Mark Twain complex, is extensively managed to improve habitat conditions for waterfowl and many other species of wildlife. Two of the refuge's four divisions are open to deer and/or upland game hunting (excluding migratory birds). The Big Timber division is the only unit open to waterfowl hunting. Migratory bird hunting is allowed in accordance with state seasons and regulations. Large numbers of puddle and diving ducks flock to the refuge in the fall providing for excellent hunting. Detailed hunting information can be found at the refuge Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/portlouisa/>

Getting there:

From Highway 61 in Wapello, turn east on Highway 99. Pass through Wapello and cross the Iowa River, then turn left on County Road G62. Follow G62 for 3.5 miles. At the stop sign turn north (left) onto County Road X61 and follow it for 1.4 miles. The refuge headquarters is on the east (right) side of the road. Please visit the refuge headquarters for detailed directions and maps to refuge units.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, UB, SG, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge

1710 360th Street

Titonka, IA 50480

(515) 928-2523

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=33580

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Union Slough NWR is an important place for wildlife in an area where extensive cropland offers little cover for game. The north and south ends of the refuge are open for all state hunting seasons. During times of higher water, good numbers of mallards and other ducks use the floodplain and backwaters of the South Unit. Hunting spots, at this time, may be accessed by boat or foot. A large marsh in the center of the refuge is off limits to waterfowl hunting to provide a resting place for the birds, but limited hunting for deer and upland game is permitted here after the close of the annual waterfowl season. Pheasant hunting is especially popular. Successful shotgunners during the late-season hunt know that the area of heavy cover and cattails along the marsh is where the birds are most plentiful.

Getting there:

Union Slough NWR is roughly two and a half hours southwest of Minneapolis and northwest of Des Moines. From Algona, take Highway 169 north to Bancroft; turn right (east) on County Road A42 and proceed 6 miles to the office at 1710 360th Street. From Interstate 90, take the Blue Earth, Minnesota exit and follow Route 169 south into Iowa. At Lakota, follow P60 south to A42, then take A42 west 0.5 miles to the office.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: Special regulations apply. Please contact the refuge headquarters for specific rules and information.

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge - McGregor District

P.O. Box 460

McGregor, IA 52157

(563) 873-3423

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/McGregor/>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Canvasback could once be found on the menus of every nice restaurant in the East. The market hunting pressure, coupled with habitat loss, decimated populations of this diving duck, one of the most striking waterfowl species on the continent. There are still limited hunting seasons, and no place is better for encountering the “can”—as diving duck hunters call them—than McGregor District of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge. About 65 percent of the continent’s population of canvasbacks stop here during the fall, and as many as 70,000 of them can be on the refuge at any given time. Large decoy spreads are required to lure canvasbacks and other diving ducks into range, and few hunters make the effort with the currently small bag limits. A few traditionalists believe, though, that no sport is finer than trying to bag a flock of fast-flying cans over a huge rig of decoys. Not all the hunting on this refuge is over water. Hunters will find a great public opportunity for turkey, white-tailed deer and even grouse in the hardwoods along the river.

Getting there:

The McGregor District office and visitor contact station is located along Highway 18 north between the towns of Marquette and McGregor, Iowa.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Check with the refuge to see if special regulations apply.

Kansas

<http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/Hunting>

Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 128

Hartford, KS 66854

(620) 392-5553

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=64580>

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Once the Neosho River Valley was a rich mosaic of habitats, including prairie, wetlands and riparian corridors. Flint Hills NWR is protecting and restoring that habitat, providing a wildlife-rich environment. Located just to the west of one of the last and largest unplowed areas of tallgrass prairie, the 18,500-acre refuge is a complex of wetlands on the upstream portion of John Redmond Reservoir. Numerous ponds, shallow marshes and farmlands on the refuge provide important waterfowl habitat during spring and fall migrations. Hunters may hunt waterfowl south of the Neosho River and can expect to encounter common duck species of the Central Flyway, including mallard, gadwall and wigeon. Kansas is probably best known to hunters for its excellent white-tailed deer and turkey hunting, but public opportunities are rare in this state that has the fewest acres of public land. The refuge allows deer and turkey hunting during state seasons, although no rifles may be used during the firearms deer season.

Getting there:

Flint Hills NWR is near the town of Hartford. From Interstate 35, take exit 141 and turn south on Kansas Highway 130. Follow K130 south for 8 miles until reaching Hartford. Turn west on Maple Avenue and drive three blocks to the main entrance road. Turn north to the refuge headquarters and visitor center. Directional signs are located along the route.

For Hunters with Disabilities: The refuge offers a deer hunt for hunters with disabilities.

Youth Hunts: The refuge is open for state youth-only waterfowl, upland bird and deer seasons.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, D, T, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge

702 East Xavier Road

Kirwin, KS 67644

(785) 543-6673

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=64610>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Each fall, the reservoir within Kirwin NWR attracts from 50,000 to 60,000 geese, making this a great goose hunting destination. Indeed, most of the nearby farms are leased by waterfowlers. Hunters without a lease shouldn't worry, though, as the refuge itself offers excellent hunting. The refuge opens several of its agricultural fields to hunting, and hunters lie in the field and use large numbers of decoys to lure birds into range. Other hunters position themselves on high points in the refuge for pass shooting. Most of the geese are Canadas, but there are also a few snow and white-fronted geese. Hunting is not allowed on much of the refuge's reservoir, which means that geese will often stay in the area later in the season. The refuge offers a variety of other hunting options such as bow deer hunting. A program to improve grassland bird habitat should improve hunting for upland birds like prairie chickens and bobwhite quail in the near future. Both the deer and goose hunting programs are nationally known.

Getting there:

Kirwin NWR is 6 miles east of Glade. From U.S. Highway 183, turn east on Kansas Highway 9.

Follow Highway 9 for 6 miles and turn south at the large brown Kirwin NWR sign. The refuge

headquarters and visitor center are 1 mile south of Highway 9.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, T, SG, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge permit is required for archery deer hunting.

Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge

Flint Hills NWR

24141 Kansas Highway 52

Pleasanton, KS 66075

(913) 352-8956

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=64630>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

“Marais de Cygnes” means “marsh of swans” in French, and it is presumed that this area was named after the once-common trumpeter swans. The swans are no longer here, but many natural wonders still can be found. The largest bottomland hardwood forest in Kansas is home to thriving populations of game, including deer, turkey, squirrel, rabbit and bobwhite quail. Waterfowl hunting is generally limited to small farm ponds, mine ponds and the Marais des Cygnes River. However, during floods as many as 2,000 additional acres of flooded timber and old fields may become available for hunting. Deer and spring turkey hunting are open only to those possessing a valid Refuge Access Permit. These permits are limited in number and are distributed by a drawing. The refuge is also popular among wild food gatherers, who come here to collect wild strawberries, morel mushrooms, pecans and black walnuts; all nice accompaniments to a wild game dinner.

Getting there:

Marais des Cygnes NWR is located 39 miles south of the Kansas City metropolitan area along U.S. Highway 69. At the intersection of U.S. Highway 69 and Kansas Highway 52, travel east 1.25 miles. The refuge office is on the south side of Kansas Highway 52.

Species Icons: D, T, UB, SG, WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: A refuge hunting permit is required for deer and turkey hunting.

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

RR 3, Box 48A

Stafford, KS 67578

(620) 486-2393

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=64620>

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Many marshes echo with the sounds of geese each fall, but at Quivira NWR wetlands virtually roar as geese darken the skies and blanket the waters. At the peak of the migration, the refuge can host more than 750,000 geese, divided equally among Canada, snow and white-fronted geese. Huge flocks of mallard, gadwall, wigeon and other ducks complement the geese, making Quivira NWR a true waterfowling hotspot. Hunting for quail, pheasant, dove, snipe, rail, squirrel and rabbit is also permitted. Hunters may go in areas marked as “public hunting areas” and will find a variety of marsh conditions. Hunters will also enjoy seeing hundreds of thousands of sandhill cranes, but are reminded that these may not be hunted on the refuge. Endangered whooping cranes also visit the refuge, and, when they are passing through, the refuge is closed to all hunting. Sandhill crane hunters on land adjacent to the refuge should also be aware of the presence of the endangered cranes. Hunting for pheasant and bobwhite quail is also excellent, and often overlooked in favor of the more obvious waterfowling opportunities.

Getting there:

To reach Quivira NWR from Wichita and points east, take Kansas Highway 96 west to Hutchinson. Take Highway 50 west approximately 14 miles to Highway 14 north. Go 5 miles north to Fourth street, turn left and go 17 miles west to the refuge headquarters.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No, but refuge hunting regulations may differ from general state regulations.

Kentucky

<http://www.kdfwr.state.ky.us/Navigation.asp?cid=151>

Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge

91 US Highway 641N

Benton, KY 42025

Phone Number: 270-527-5770

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42622>

Refuge Hours: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Lying along the East Fork of the Clarks River in Western Kentucky, Clarks River NWR is seasonal home to over 200 different species of migratory birds that use the bottom land hardwood forest habitat that dominates the refuge. Hunters may pursue waterfowl and snipe within the refuges managed and forested wetlands. In slightly higher, better drained areas, they may catch a glimpse of deer or wild turkey among willow oak, swamp chestnut oak, red oak, sweet gum, sycamore, ash and elm. An annual quota waterfowl hunt is held on the Sharpe-Elva water management units during the state season with drawings held by the refuge. If observed, coyote may be taken on any refuge hunt.

Getting there:

From Paducah, Kentucky, take I-24 east to exit 25, and go south on the Purchase Parkway. Take exit 43 off the Purchase Parkway and go right on Hwy. 348. Go to the intersection of Hwy 641 and turn left heading north on Hwy. 641. Go 1.2 miles and the Refuge Headquarters will be on the left at 91 U.S. Highway 641 North.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. A free refuge hunting permit that details special regulations that apply to the refuge may be obtained at refuge headquarters or by mail. It must be signed and carried by hunters.

Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge – see Tennessee

Hunting Turkey

Wild turkeys find the mix of hardwoods and prairie on many refuges in the Midwest to be ideal habitat. Thanks to reintroduction efforts, wild turkeys are thriving. On refuges that had no turkeys 20 years ago, hunters can now encounter flocks of 40 birds or more.

Some of the best turkey areas in the nation can be found in the bottomland hardwood forests of refuges in Missouri and other states with Mississippi River tributaries. At DeSoto NWR in Iowa, turkeys roam nearly every corner of the refuge, which holds wheelchair accessible turkey hunts in the spring, as well as youth and archery hunts.

In the Southeast, calling wary old gobblers in mysterious cypress brakes is one of the longest-standing sporting traditions. The turkeys there are some of the wariest in the country, and calling in a big gobbler in the thick swamps and forests is difficult but exciting. The spring turkey hunt at St. Marks NWR is one of the most popular quota hunts in Florida.

Northeast gobblers are equally cautious, but more hunters are taking up the challenge as the turkey population continues to recover. More refuges now offer turkey hunts in the spring and fall. Wallkill River NWR in New Jersey is known for its spring and fall turkey seasons.

And keep the Northwest in mind for turkey. There are some overlooked hotspots here. At Little Pend Oreille NWR in Washington, turkeys can be seen nearly everywhere on the refuge.

Upland Birds

Some of the best pheasant hunting in the country can be had in the Northern Plain states. With a good dog and a willingness to work thick cover, hunters can pursue what is arguably still the most popular game species in this part of the country.

Upland bird hunters can find large populations of grouse in the Northeast, while hunters come from as far away as Alabama to hunt American woodcock at Moosehorn NWR in Maine, where the bird is thriving in the refuge's alder thickets.

Since many refuges in the Northeast are in areas with high human density, refuge hunts are tightly managed for quality and safety. While this guide provides an overview, regulations vary by refuge. Check the refuge Web sites for specific rules and regulations.

Other Upland Bird Opportunities:

- In the Midwest, refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas offer world-class hunting for upland birds. Pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse and gray partridge are common on many refuges, and an ambitious hunter with a good dog can take all three birds in one day. Pheasant can often be found in the cattails around the marsh, while the healthy prairies hold sharptails and partridge.
- Hunters should not overlook the desert refuges in the Southwest for excellent upland bird hunting. While the desert may look like a monotonous landscape from the interstate, it has abundant game populations of quail and dove. In fact, some of the best quail hunting

in the country can be found on Arizona's national wildlife refuges. Hunters can expect large coveys of quail, challenging shooting and very little hunting pressure.

- Upland game bird hunting is available on many refuges in the Northwest, including a number of wetland refuges better known for duck hunting. Pheasant, California valley quail, gray partridge, blue grouse and other species are often overlooked by hunters focusing on ducks and geese.

Louisiana

<http://www.wlf.state.la.us/hunting/>

Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex

61389 Highway 434

Lacombe, LA 70445

(985) 882-2000

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43614

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

The largest river swamp in the country, the Atchafalaya Basin includes a rich variety of habitat that holds a tremendous variety of wildlife, including many game species. Atchafalaya NWR is encompassed within nearly one-half million acres of hardwood swamps, lakes and bayous. Located 30 miles from Baton Rouge, the refuge is part of a popular public hunting area known as the Sherburne Complex, which also includes Louisiana's Sherburne Wildlife Management Area and U. S. Corps of Engineers lands. All these lands are open to public hunting for deer, squirrel, rabbit, feral hog and waterfowl. All hunts are managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The Sherburne Complex also has a shooting range near the camping area and headquarters that has accommodations for rifle, pistol and shotgun shooters to sharpen their marksmanship skills.

Getting there:

Atchafalaya NWR is located about 30 miles west of Baton Rouge and 1 mile east of Krotz Springs, just east of the Atchafalaya River. From Baton Rouge, take Interstate 10 east to the Whiskey Bay exit; go north on LA Highway 975 (a gravel road). Turn right on either Bayou Manual, Happytown, or Big Alabama roads until you see the refuge signs.

Species Icons: WF, D, SG, T, MB, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Bayou Cocodrie National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 1772

Ferriday, LA 71334

(318) 336-7119

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43530

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

Many young hunters will remember Bayou Cocodrie NWR as the place they killed their first deer. That's because the refuge offers a special youth deer hunt in an area closed to all other hunters. The young hunters have guides—volunteers and refuge staff—who ensure the hunt is safe and fun. Kids are assigned blinds, and the hunt is typically very successful. At other times hunters with disabilities may use the blinds. The refuge has developed a reputation for producing large deer; it offers archery, muzzleloader and rifle seasons. Rabbit and squirrel hunts are also

offered. Bayou Cocodrie, which contains some of the least disturbed timber in the Mississippi delta, is broken into three management units for hunting purposes.

Getting there:

The refuge headquarters is approximately 15 miles west of Natchez, Mississippi. Take U.S. Highway 84 west/65 north from Natchez to Ferriday. Continue on U.S. Highway 84 west to the junction with Louisiana Highway 15 south. The refuge headquarters is 3.5 miles off Highway 15 South, at 3391 Poole Road, Ferriday, LA.

Youth Hunts: The refuge offers a special youth deer hunt in an area closed to all other hunters. Young hunters have guides and assigned blinds.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Wheelchair-dependent hunters may use the deer blinds in the youth area. Special-access ATV trails are available for hunters age 62 and older.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: General firearms deer hunts are issued by lottery and require a \$12.50 fee. Youth hunts are also issued by lottery but are free. A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all other hunts.

Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge

3599 Bayou Black Drive

Houma, LA 70360

(337) 828-0092

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43628

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

The thick cover and swampy terrain of Bayou Teche NWR is difficult for humans to navigate, which makes it a good home for the threatened Louisiana black bear. The bears need undisturbed habitat to survive. Hunting seasons, divided among six units on the refuge, are designed to minimize disturbance to the bears, particularly during the winter denning season. General-access archery and youth deer hunts, and a lottery-issued firearms deer hunt are held, with about 200 hunters participating. The difficult terrain makes hunting a challenge. Since the hunts were started in 2001, only two to three deer per year have been taken. Squirrel, rabbit and wood duck are also hunted on the refuge.

Getting there:

The refuge is located in the coastal Louisiana towns of Franklin, GaRoaden City and Centerville. The refuge lands can be accessed by vehicle, boat and foot. The refuge headquarters is located southwest of Franklin, 1725 Willow Street. If traveling from New Orleans on Highway 90 (future Interstate 49), exit at the North Franklin exit and head north on Highway 3211 (Northwest Blvd.). Turn south (right) onto Chatsworth Road. Travel 1.2 miles and turn left (east) onto Willow Street. The headquarters office trailer is on the right and directly across from the Franklin Canal.

Youth Hunts: A deer hunt for youth is available.

Species Icons: D, WF, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts. Lottery hunts for deer require a separate free permit.

Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex

61389 Highway 434

Lacombe, LA 70445

(985) 882-2000

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43558

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

An influx of saltwater and the fierce winds from Hurricane Katrina have altered vegetation and damaged habitat on Big Branch Marsh NWR. Big Branch Marsh will take several years to fully recover from the damage. Big Branch Marsh was historically a popular waterfowl hunting area, and the refuge is still open to hunting. Just to the north of Lake Pontchartrain, it is one of the few public hunting spots near New Orleans. Hunting access is by boat, with several launch sites on and off the refuge. A non-motorized launch is a good way to access secluded marshes on the refuge. Hunters will also find opportunities here for deer (archery only), squirrel, rabbit, quail, and feral hog.

Getting there:

To get to the visitor center, take Interstate 12 to exit 74. Go south on LA Highway 434 for 2 miles, then look for the signs on the right.

Species Icons: WF, D, SG, MB, UB, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts.

Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge

11372 Highway 143

Farmerville, LA 71363

(318) 726-4400

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42652

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F; 9:00 – 4:00 Sat; 1:00 – 5:00 Sun

While most of Black Bayou Lake NWR is a lake, deer hunters shouldn't overlook this refuge as a hunting spot. Fields around the lake are becoming reforested, creating ample cover and browse for deer. The refuge restricts deer hunting to archers, and bowhunters take good-sized deer each year. Many hunters from nearby Monroe hunt the refuge throughout the season. Coyote and beaver may be taken as incidental species during any hunt season. A waterfowl hunting area, on the north end of the lake, is accessible by foot. Hunters will mainly find wood ducks in this area,

and the hunting success is heavily dependent on water levels. The refuge can be accessed by vehicle or ATV. ATVs are allowed on designated trails only.

Getting there:

Black Bayou Lake NWR is located just north of Monroe, off U.S. Highway 165. Approximately 1.3 miles north of the CenturyTel corporate headquarters turn east on Richland Drive. Cross Bayou DeSiard and the railroad tracks. The visitor center is on the right side of the road.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunt brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts.

Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex

61389 Highway 434

Lacombe, LA 70445

(985) 882-2000

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43616

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

The Pearl River that flows through Bogue Chitto NWR offers a pathway to an unforgettable hunting adventure deep in an undeveloped river swampland. Many deer hunters use a boat to reach areas of higher ground and then set up primitive hunting camps. While the refuge is primarily accessible by boat, there are areas that offer walk-in access. A good number of deer roam the refuge, and feral hogs may also be taken during the archery season. A special hog season is held each spring, but hunters may pursue them only with trained hunting dogs. Legal weapons for the hog hunt include shotguns and .22 rimfires. The refuge includes land in both Louisiana and Mississippi, so hunters should be sure they have appropriate licenses. The Pearl River has many channels and islands, creating an intricate network of waterways. This feature adds to the adventure but can also make it easy to get lost. Hunting (except waterfowl) and camping is closed during high water.

Getting there:

Bogue Chitto NWR is located about 45 miles north of New Orleans. To reach the southern tip of the refuge, take Interstate 59 north to the Pearl River Turnaround exit, or take Highway 41 north of Slidell and access the refuge at Locks 1, 2 and 3. To access the Mississippi side of the refuge, take I-59 N to the Picayune, Mississippi, exit. For further directions, please call Southeast Louisiana NWR at (985) 882-2000.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts.

Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex

1428 Highway 27

Bell City, LA 70630

(337) 598-2216

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43612

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F; 10:00 – 4:00 Sat

Established in 1988, Cameron Prairie NWR was once a series of commercial rice fields. Hunting opportunities include snipe, deer/archery and limited permit youth waterfowl hunting. Successful applicants to the waterfowl lottery hunt are assigned a blind, which can be used by one adult and two youths. All are allowed to hunt. Decoys are provided by the refuge. Held on Saturdays and school holidays, the hunt provides a quality public opportunity to introduce youth to the sport. The refuge is also known by a core group of hunters who brave marshy habitat, biting insects and thick cover to bowhunt deer on the refuge. Many visit the refuge daily during the season. The lack of hunting pressure makes up for the inconveniences of hunting this refuge, managed for moist soil habitat.

Getting there:

From Lake Charles, take Interstate 10 east to exit 36 (Highway 397 south). Follow Highway 397 south 8 miles. At the stop sign, turn left onto Highway 14. Follow Highway 14 to Holmwood. Where Highway 14 turns left, continue straight onto Highway 27. From this point the refuge headquarters is located 11 miles south on the right-hand side of the road.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Limited ATV trails are maintained for use by hunters with disabilities from October 1-31.

Youth Hunts: A youth waterfowl hunt is issued by lottery.

Species Icons: WF, MB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: The youth hunt is issued by lottery. All other hunts require a free SW LA National Wildlife Refuge Complex hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge

c/o St. Catherine Creek Complex

P.O. Box 217

Sibley, MS 39165

(601) 442-6696, www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43697

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Hunters will find healthy deer and squirrel populations on 9,500 acres of the cypress swamp and bottomland hardwood forest that make up Cat Island NWR. Deer hunters can choose from a general-access archery hunt or lottery firearms hunts. Firearms hunters experience around 25 percent success during the quota hunts. Squirrel is a popular local quarry, and the habitat here is conducive to large numbers of this small-game species. During any open hunting season, hunters may hunt beaver, raccoon and feral pig, but no special season has been set for these species. The

refuge floods seasonally and all hunting (except waterfowl) may be closed due to high water. Before visiting, check with refuge staff for any closures. When the refuge does flood, ducks use the flooded timber, and a hunter with a boat can experience good gunning opportunities.

Getting there:

From U.S. Highway 61, go north of St. Francisville to Highway 66 and turn left (west toward Angola). After 1.5 miles, turn left on Solitude Road. Go about 3.5 miles and turn right at the refuge sign. Go another 1.5 miles to the refuge entrance.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: A \$15 annual refuge hunting permit is required. Lottery hunts require an additional \$15 permit and application fee.

Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 120

Rhinehart, LA 71363

(318) 992-5261

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43525

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

Catahoula Lake is well-known in the state for its large numbers of waterfowl. Catahoula NWR, located next to the lake, draws many of these birds to its flooded timber habitat. Two units on the refuge offer different hunting opportunities. The Headquarters Unit holds a popular squirrel hunt in October and an archery deer hunt from October to January. The Bushley Bayou Unit offers a variety of opportunities, but waterfowling is the most popular option. It is at its best when the unit floods. Many ducks move onto the refuge from the lake during high water. Four impoundments hold water year-round and offer hunting even when the refuge isn't flooded. However, these can be crowded. The waterfowl hunt is held four days a week, and hunters may be afield until noon. The refuge is closed to all hunting except waterfowl when flood levels reach 44 feet on the refuge.

Getting there:

Catahoula NWR headquarters is located approximately 12 miles east of Jena. From the Intersection of LA 28 and U.S. 84, turn west on U.S. 84 and follow it about 1.5 miles. Then turn west on Catahoula NWR Road. The headquarters is about 0.5 miles from U.S. 84, located in the second building. Directional signs are found along the route.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Contact the refuge manager. The fishing pier at Cowpen Bayou is wheelchair accessible.

Species Icons: WF, MB, D, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: A \$15 annual refuge hunting permit is required.

D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge

c/o North Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex

11372 Highway 143

Farmerville, LA 71363

(318) 726-4400

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43545

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

D'Arbonne NWR is well-known by local hunters for its excellent deer and waterfowl hunting opportunities. The 17,000-acre refuge floods in some years, creating excellent habitat for puddle ducks, which flock to the flooded timber. During these conditions hunters can expect good hunting here throughout the season. There is also a healthy deer herd, and hunters, who focus on the upland areas of the refuge can have good success. There are seasons for firearms and bow hunters. Squirrel hunting is a popular local tradition, and the forested habitat of the refuge provides excellent hunting early in the season. Public roads allow access to the refuge but no ATVs are permitted. Many hunters combine a trip here with hunting at Upper Ouachita NWR, located in the same floodplain just 30 miles away.

Getting there:

D'Arbonne NWR is located in Ouachita and Union Parishes on either side of Bayou D'Arbonne, near its confluence with the Ouachita River. Take White's Ferry Road (Highway 143) north out of West Monroe. This highway forms the eastern refuge boundary and there are seven access points with parking lots along the highway. The refuge complex headquarters is located approximately 7 miles north of West Monroe at the intersection of Highway 143 and Holland's Bluff Road.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A deer hunt for hunters with disabilities is held each year. Refuge staff take hunters to the hunt area.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts.

Delta National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex

61389 Highway 434

Lacombe, LA 70445

(985) 882-2000

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43555

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 4:00, M – F

Delta NWR was severely impacted by Hurricane Katrina. The waterfowl season immediately after the hurricane was dismal with waterfowl numbers on the refuge down by 80 to 85 percent. The waterfowl seasons since the storm have been great with normal numbers of waterfowl back on the refuge. The Mississippi River provides tremendous amounts of freshwater which

promotes ideal vegetation and abundant food choices for waterfowl. Located on the East side and near the mouth of the Mississippi River, hunters access the refuge by crossing the river by boat. Be aware of potential fog, ships and other hazards associated with large rivers while accessing the refuge. The refuge also offers a minimal archery deer hunting and a rabbit season. Feral hogs may be taken during the deer hunt.

Getting there:

Delta NWR is located at the mouth of the Mississippi River, approximately 10 miles south of Venice, LA. No vehicular access to the refuge is available; access is by boat only. The refuge office is located at 215 Offshore Shipyard Road, approximately 80 miles south of New Orleans, on Highway 23 south.

Species Icons: WF, D, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts and may be obtained online.

Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Central Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex

401 Island Road

Marksville, LA 71351

(318) 253-4238

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43696

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Refuge staff has been working to improve habitat on the impoundments on Grand Cote NWR. As a result, more ducks have been using the refuge, and the hunting has been getting better each year. Hunters can apply in advance for lottery hunts or choose to hunt a general-access area. A youth-only hunt is also held each fall. Successful applicants to the lottery hunts are assigned a blind along an impoundment. More blinds have been added in recent years. Hunters in the general area will find flooded agricultural areas as well as bottomland hardwood forest. During the fall migration, the refuge holds good numbers of ducks, including mallard, gadwall, shoveler and wood duck.

Getting there:

The refuge headquarters is located on Louisiana Highway 1194, 3.9 miles from the junction of Highway 1194 and Highway 1 in the town of Fifth Ward. Highway 1194 becomes Island Road 0.5 miles from the headquarters.

An alternate route to the refuge from Marksville, is to travel south on Highway 115 to Little California Road, then 3.3 miles to Island Road. The headquarters is 1/2 mile left from the intersection of Little California Road and Island Road

Youth Hunts: Participants in the annual youth-only hunt must be accompanied by an adult supervisor, who may not hunt on that day.

Species Icons: WF, MB, D, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: A \$15 annual refuge hunting, fishing and ATV use permit is required of all hunters and anglers 16 years old and older. Controlled waterfowl hunt tags are drawn via lottery and require an additional \$5 per person (\$10 minimum per hunting party) blind fee.

Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex

1428 Highway 27

Bell City, LA 70630

(337) 598-2216

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43610

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

The flooded agricultural fields and freshwater marsh of Lacassine NWR draw thousands of white-fronted geese, as well as scattered flocks of snow geese, to the refuge each year. Hunters have several opportunities to pursue these wary geese, as well as a variety of puddle duck species that frequent the refuge. Lottery hunts are held for youth, senior citizens and the general public. Youth hunters are assigned blinds in an area of flooded rice fields on Saturdays; senior citizens receive blind permits for the same area on Wednesdays. The general lottery hunt, which is held on a different part of the refuge, features designated hunting sites which can be reached only by boat. A general-access waterfowl hunting area is open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, by boat access only. The entire 35,000-acre refuge is open for an October archery deer hunt.

Getting there:

If traveling west on Interstate 10, take exit 64 (Jennings) and travel south on Highway 26 to Lake Arthur. At Lake Arthur, go west on Highway 14 for 7 miles to Highway 3056. Travel south on Highway 3056 for 4.5 miles. If traveling eastbound on Interstate 10, take exit 54 (Welsh) and travel south on Highway 99 to Highway 14. Then go east on Highway 14 for 3 miles to Highway 3056, then south 4.5 miles to the end of Highway 3056. Lacassine Pool, a 16,000-acre freshwater impoundment and a major feature of the refuge, is at the end of Illinois Plant Road, 4.5 miles south of Highway 14.

For Hunters with Disabilities: One waterfowl hunt blind is available for lottery hunters with disabilities.

Youth Hunts: A lottery waterfowl hunt is held on Saturdays in a specified area.

Species Icons: D, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Three controlled waterfowl hunting opportunities are issued by lottery. The general-access waterfowl and archery deer hunts require a free SW LA National Wildlife Refuge Complex hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Central Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex

401 Island Road
Marksville, LA 71351
(318) 253-4238
www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43695
Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Good forage and nice cover have created ideal conditions for bucks to survive on Lake Ophelia NWR. The refuge has become known as one of the best areas in the state to tag a large buck, as some have scored as high as 186 Boone and Crockett points. State muzzleloader deer records have been set by deer killed on the refuge. Three muzzleloader hunts, issued by lottery, offer the best chances for taking a deer. Bowhunters participate in a general-access hunt, and archers have taken several nice bucks. Waterfowl hunting can also be pretty good, with flocks of wood ducks, mallard, teal and gadwall using the small lakes and bayous found on the refuge. Beaver, raccoon, coyote and feral hog may be taken during any open season as “incidental game.”

Getting there:

The refuge office is at 401 Island Road just north of Marksville. To reach the office, take LA Highway 1 north from Marksville to Fifth Ward. Turn left onto LA Highway 1194 and follow signs to the headquarters. To reach the refuge, follow Louisiana Highway 452 northeast from Marksville, 22 miles to refuge.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A universally accessible trail is available during the deer hunt.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: A \$15 annual refuge hunting permit is required. A lottery tag (\$5 application fee) is required for muzzleloader deer hunts.

Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge

3599 Bayou Black Drive
Houma, LA 70360
(985) 853-1078
<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43626>
Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Shallow wetlands rich in emergent and submerged vegetation provide an excellent food source for thousands of migrating waterfowl. A well-managed hunt allows hunters to experience this beautiful marsh. Much of the 4,200-acre refuge is off limits to waterfowl hunting, but 750 acres is open two days a week throughout the waterfowl season. Permits are issued via lottery, and youth hunters receive preference. All access is by boat. Hunters are assigned one of five blinds on the refuge. The daily bag of ducks averages about 2.5 per hunter and an overall waterfowl bag of about 4.0 birds per hunter. An archery hunt for deer allows hunters access to most of the refuge, but due to the large wetland expanses, deer hunting can be difficult. Feral hogs may also be taken during this season.

Getting there:

The refuge, which is accessible only by boat, is 5 miles southwest of Houma. Houma is approximately 60 miles southwest of New Orleans.

The refuge headquarters is 5 miles west of Houma on LA Highway 182.

Youth Hunts: Youth hunters receive preference for permits. Lottery-issued waterfowl hunts for youth hunters are held on state youth waterfowl hunting days and throughout the waterfowl season.

Species Icons: D, WF, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: Free waterfowl hunt permits are issued via lottery. All hunters, regardless of age, must have completed a hunter safety course. Deer hunters receive a free permit by checking in and checking out daily at designated areas. An International Bowhunter Education card is required to hunt deer on the refuge.

Red River National Wildlife Refuge

c/o North Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex

11372 Highway 143

Farmerville, LA 71363

(318) 726-4400

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42653

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Lands are still being acquired for this new refuge, and hunters can expect a growing list of opportunities. Hunting began in 2004, with seasons for a variety of game species. The refuge consists of four parcels of land, with two open to hunting. Currently, agricultural lands are being converted to flooded fields, and other fields are being left to revert to forest. Popular hunting opportunities on other Louisiana refuges—such as for squirrel—are marginal here due to lack of tree cover. However, quail and woodcock hunting can be good in open areas. The refuge, now 8,000 acres, has approval to be as large as 50,000 acres, which will restore habitat along Red River and create an excellent public hunting opportunity.

Getting there:

Contact the refuge for directions.

Species Icons: D, UB, MB, SG, WF, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting permit, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts.

Sabine National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex

1428 Highway 27

Bell City, LA 70630

(337) 598-2216

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43640

Visitor Center: 7:00 – 4:00, M – F; noon – 4:00, weekends

Established in 1937, Sabine NWR consists of 125,000 acres of coastal marsh. Annually this refuge hosts a popular general-access waterfowl hunt on 34,000 acres, most of which must be accessed by boat. Hunters pursue a variety of duck species and have an occasional opportunity to bag a snow goose. Some walk-in areas are available to the willing and able outdoorsman. This general-access waterfowl hunting area is open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 3:00 am until noon.

Getting there:

Sabine NWR is located about 22 miles south of Sulphur. Take exit 20 off Interstate 10 in Sulphur. Turn south on Highway 27 and proceed south through Hackberry. The refuge office is located approximately 8 miles south of Hackberry on the east side of Highway 27.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Hunters need a free SW LA National Wildlife Refuge Complex hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge

2312 Quebec Road

Tallulah, LA 71282

(318) 574-2664

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43690

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

Throughout the South, hunting raccoons with hounds remains a cherished tradition even though fur prices are down. At Tensas River NWR, a one-month raccoon season gives hunters the chance to chase raccoons along the river bottoms, the perfect place for a night of sport. Many hunters do not kill the raccoons, but rather just enjoy the hound work. ‘Coon hunting is just one opportunity available on 55,000 acres of this 80,213-acre refuge. Turkey hunting is excellent, with perfect turkey habitat and a large population of birds. Hunters typically have high success. The deer hunt is well known, although in recent years the deer population has been considerably reduced due to changing habitat. Hunters can choose from general-access archery and muzzleloader seasons, or lottery-issued firearms hunts. Hunters can access the refuge from several roads and ATV trails.

Getting there:

Tensas River NWR is located in three parishes of northeast Louisiana. The visitor center and headquarters are approximately 60 miles east of Monroe and 35 miles west of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

From Monroe: To reach the visitor center and headquarters, head eastbound on Interstate 20, exit at Waverly (exit 157). Make a left onto Highway 577. After approximately 1.5–2 miles, make a right onto Highway 80 heading eastbound toward Tallulah. Drive approximately 8 miles

and make a right onto Quebec Road. Drive the approximately 6 miles of gravel road and 4.5 miles of paved road. The visitor center and headquarters is on the left.

From Vicksburg: To reach the visitor center and headquarters heading westbound on I-20, exit at Tallulah (exit 171). Make a right onto Highway 65 and drive approximately 2 miles into Tallulah. Make a left between the courthouse and Popeye's onto Highway 80 (westbound). Drive approximately 7–8 miles on Highway 80 and make a left onto Quebec Road. Drive the approximately 6 miles of gravel road and 4.5 miles of paved road. The visitor center and headquarters is on the left.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A special ATV trail is open only to hunters with disabilities. A special guided lottery hunt is offered to those individuals who are wheelchair-bound, allowing hunting access to a normally closed area.

Youth Hunts: Guided lottery youth hunts for deer are offered for qualifying youths between 8-15 years of age.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Firearms deer hunts are issued by lottery and require a \$12.50 fee. All other hunts require a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person. ATV users must have a \$10.00 refuge permit.

Upper Ouachita National Wildlife Refuge

c/o North Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex

11372 Highway 143

Farmerville, LA 71363

(318) 726-4400

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43546

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Upper Ouachita NWR, lying on both sides of the Ouachita River, offers classic duck hunting in the flooded timber created by a deep, overflowing swamp. One of the few public hunting spots in the area, the refuge provides many hunting opportunities, but waterfowling is consistently the most popular. About 5,000 acres of the 42,500-acre refuge are off limits to duck hunting, and this area serves as a preserve that holds birds in the area. Hunters know they can find ducks flying to and from this area throughout the season. A youth season for ducks and turkeys provides special opportunities for younger hunters. Access is by road and ATV trails. Squirrel hunting is popular early in the year, and big game hunters will find a healthy deer herd without heavy hunting pressure.

Getting there:

Access Finch Bayou Recreation area and the scenic River Road on the west side of the refuge by way of La Highway 143. From Haile, turn east on Hooker Hole Road. Drive 4 miles and turn north onto River Road. Visitors can access the east side of the refuge in Morehouse Parish by way of Bastrop. From U.S. Highway 165 turn west onto Hang Out Road and travel 5 miles. Turn left onto Meter Station Road. Go straight into the parking lot.

Youth Hunts: A youth season for ducks provides special opportunities for younger hunters.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, UB, SG, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts. Youth waterfowl and turkey hunts are issued by lottery.

Maine

<http://www.maine.gov/ifw/index.shtml>

Carlton Pond Waterfowl Production Area

16 Rockport Park Centre Drive

P.O. Box 495

Rockport, ME 04856

(207) 236-6970

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=53561

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

The only waterfowl production area (WPA) on the east coast can trace its origins to an old sawmill dam. The dam has provided nesting areas for a variety of waterfowl species in central Maine since 1850, and in 1966 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquired it to protect this important habitat. The dam was reconstructed in 1972 to assure continued maintenance of open water, marsh and wetland areas totaling 1,055 acres. Today, many waterfowl species, including black duck, teal, shoveler and merganser, flock to the area each fall and spring. Hunters access the pond using a canoe or a boat with small motor. Although all Maine hunting seasons are open at the refuge, most hunters come to the little-known and uncrowded Carlton Pond WPA to pursue waterfowl.

Getting there:

Carlton Pond WPA is a satellite refuge managed by the staff of Maine Coastal Islands NWR. To get to Carlton Pond, turn east from U.S. 202 in Troy onto Maine Route 220. Follow Route 220 for about 3 miles until you see Bog Road on your right. Bog Road crosses over Carlton Pond after about 0.5 miles. A small parking area is on the right.

Species Icons: D, BG, WF, MB, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge

103 Headquarters Road, Suite One

Baring, ME 04694

(207) 454-7161

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=53530

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F, except holidays, May through October

Hunters come from as far away as Alabama to hunt American woodcock at Moosehorn NWR. The refuge has been opened to deer hunting since 1954, and when it expanded its big-game program and opened upland game and waterfowl hunting in 2005, word spread quickly. Moosehorn NWR has two divisions open to hunting: Baring and Edmunds. At the northern end of the Atlantic Flyway, Moosehorn NWR has critical alder thicket that provides habitat for the threatened woodcock, which is thriving at the refuge. A varied landscape of rolling hills, large ledge outcrops, streams, lakes, bogs, and marshes, the 29,887 acre refuge also provides important feeding and nesting habitat for other types of birds, such as shorebirds, upland game birds, songbirds, ducks, geese, and common loons. Waterfowl hunting opportunities are more available at Edmunds. Moosehorn is open to all state hunting seasons. Participants in the refuge's November deer hunt are likely to spot black bears foraging for apples and see moose feeding in forest clearings. A refuge hunt permit is required and can be obtained at the refuge headquarters office.

Getting there:

Moosehorn NWR Baring Division is located off US Route 1 southwest of Calais. It can be reached by taking Route 1 north from coastal Maine, Route 1 south from northern Maine, or Route 9 east from the Bangor area. From Route 1, follow signs to the refuge headquarters about 3 miles south on Charlotte Road. Edmunds division is located South of Calais near Pembroke on US Route 1. Edmunds Division is located near Cobscook State Park.

Species Icons: UB, D, BG, WF, SG, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes

Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge

Water Street

P.O. Box 279

Milbridge, ME 04658

(207) 546-2124

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=53533

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

In the spring, the 49 islands that form part of Maine Coastal Islands NWR provide habitat for unusual birds such as puffins and terns. In the fall, these birds migrate away and are replaced by flocks of eider—a large, beautiful sea duck that is attracting more hunters each year. Eider hunting is a challenge for even the most rugged sportsmen; the bird is notoriously tough and flies extremely fast. The weather can often be cold and miserable, and the coastal islands offer little protection from the elements. But the challenging conditions add to the allure for avid sea duck hunters. Twenty six of the coastal islands on the refuge are open for hunting and can be accessed only by boat; contact the refuge office for specifics. For hunters looking for a more typical duck hunt, the 1,650 acres of salt marshes on the refuge's mainland divisions offer great puddle duck hunting, including black duck, green-winged and blue-winged teal, pintail and mallard. The Gouldsboro Bay Division and Sawyer's Marsh Division are both open for waterfowl, small-game and big-game hunting. In addition, Bois Bubert Island is open for hunting white-tailed deer. Moose hunting is not permitted on the refuge. Maine Coastal Islands NWR provides the

opportunity for an uncrowded hunting experience, and for those hunters willing to brave the elements on the coastal islands, the chance to pursue a duck species that few hunters will ever even see.

Getting there:

The refuge office is in Milbridge. From Ellsworth, travel north on Route 1 to the village of Milbridge and turn right on to Water Street. The office is next to the post office.

Species Icons: WF, MB, D, BG, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge

321 Port Road

Wells, ME 04090

(207) 646-9226

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=53553

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

With more than 50 miles of coastline available for waterfowl hunting on the refuge, choosing a spot at Rachel Carson NWR may seem a daunting task. The salt marshes that make up the 5,000 acres of this refuge are heavily used each fall by a wide variety of waterfowl, including several puddle duck and sea duck species. Boats, jump shooting and temporary blinds are permitted. Hunters need a Special Use Permit from the refuge to use the refuge's permanent blinds. A few hunters practice the ancient sport of falconry at Rachel Carson NWR. Pheasant are released on the refuge by local hunting clubs and organizations, and native ruffed grouse are occasionally found. All hunters must purchase a species-specific permit. With so much coastline, finding a productive hunting area in Rachel Carson NWR is never a problem. A phone call to refuge headquarters will help hunters pick less-crowded locations and identify the best areas to try at different times during the season.

Getting there:

From the Maine Turnpike, take exit 2 (Wells exit) and travel east on Route 109/9 to Wells. Turn left (north) onto Route 1. Proceed approximately 1.5 miles and turn right (east) onto Route 9. Travel 0.7 miles; the refuge will be on your right. Look for the large wooden sign at the entrance.

From points north of Wells, take Route 1 south through Kennebunk. Approximately 3 miles south of Kennebunk, turn left (east) onto Route 9. Travel 0.7 miles; the refuge will be on your right. Look for the large wooden sign at the entrance.

From points south of Wells, proceed north on Route 1 through Wells. Turn right (east) onto Route 9 (approximately 1.5 miles north of Wells Center). Proceed approximately 1.5 miles and turn right (east) onto Route 9. Travel 0.7 miles; the refuge will be on your right. Look for the large wooden sign at the entrance.

From Kennebunkport, travel west on Route 9. Approximately 5 miles from Kennebunkport Center, look for the large wooden sign at the entrance on the left.

Youth Hunts: Some areas are designated for youth only.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Species-specific refuge hunting permits are required for all hunts; prices vary depending on species.

Sunkhaze Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

16 Rockport Park Centre Drive

P.O. Box 495

Rockport, ME 04856

(207) 236-6970

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=53560

Refuge Headquarters: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Sunkhaze Meadows NWR is not an easy place to hunt. It is relatively inaccessible and can be hunted on foot only, and the thick terrain can make finding game difficult. All three Maine big-game species — white-tailed deer, black bear and moose — are found here. The state has a lower deer density than many states, but white-tail remains the most popular game on the refuge. The most successful hunters hunt slowly through an area or set up a stand along known deer paths. Black bears are plentiful and may be hunted during deer season. Hunters may use hounds, but bears must not be baited or trapped on the refuge. Maine has one of the largest moose populations in the world, and Sunkhaze Meadows NWR is an excellent place to hunt them. The refuge is near thousands and thousands of acres of timberlands also open to hunting. This creates a very large area of habitat for hunters to enjoy. Because the refuge is restricted to foot access, hunters here experience solitude and wilderness.

Getting there:

Sunkhaze Meadows NWR is a satellite refuge managed by the staff of Maine Coastal Islands NWR. Hunter information is also available at the Maine Field Office. To get to the office, exit Interstate 95 at exit 50 in Orono (Kelley Road). Turn right off the exit ramp to a blinking light at U.S. 2. Turn left on U.S. 2 and continue east through Orono to Old Town. The office is located at 1168 Main Street (U.S. 2), about 0.25 miles past the "Welcome to Old Town" sign.

Species Icons: D, BG, SG, UB, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Maryland

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/huntersguide/>

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

2145 Key Wallace Drive
Cambridge, MD 21613
(410) 228-2692

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51531

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F; 9:00 – 5:00 Sat – Sun. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

If you hear something that sounds like an elk bugle coming from the marshes of Blackwater NWR, you aren't imagining things. The shrill bugle is coming from a sika elk, an Asian elk species that now thrives at this refuge. While much smaller than an elk — a big sika typically weighs 100 pounds or less — this species behaves in much the same way. Blackwater NWR offers fantastic sika hunting during archery, blackpowder and shotgun seasons. A \$20 season permit gives archers more than 50 days of non-quota hunting, including a two-week January hunt that includes crossbows. The blackpowder hunt often falls during the bugling season and provides excellent opportunities to take a large sika. The shotgun season consists of a two-day quota hunt while the last three days of Maryland's gun season are open to hunting on a non-quota basis. Hunters may also take white-tails during the deer hunt and can expect to see waterfowl, egrets, bald eagles and the rare Delmarva fox squirrel at Blackwater NWR. The refuge has about 10,000 acres open to hunting. Parking is distributed throughout the refuge, and hunters access their units on foot.

Getting there:

Blackwater NWR is about 12 miles south of Cambridge. From U.S. 50, turn south on Route 16. Follow Route 16 about 7 miles to Church Creek and turn south on Route 335. Follow Route 335 about 4 miles and turn east on Key Wallace Drive.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Unit B1 is reserved for hunters in wheelchairs.

Youth Hunts: A youth deer hunt is offered.

Species Icons: D, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Permits are issued by mail in advance on a first-come, first-serve basis. In addition, youth hunt permits will be issued to walk-ins on hunt day at the check-in station. Fees vary from one hunt to another. First year youth hunters are permitted to hunt for free.

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge

1730 Eastern Neck Road
Rock Hall, MD 21661
(410) 639-7056

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51590

Refuge Headquarters: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

The Eastern Neck NWR has a long hunting tradition since much of the refuge land was once owned by private hunting clubs. The current visitor center originally served as a private hunting lodge. Waterfowl hunting once dominated in the Eastern Neck area. Today, the refuge serves as a resting area for ducks and geese, drawing thousands of tourists each year. But hunters come to

Eastern Neck NWR each fall to hunt white-tailed deer. Specific hunting days are designated annually by the refuge manager in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Typically the refuge offers one day for archery hunters, one day for muzzleloader hunters, and one day for shotgun hunters, all during the month of October. Hunters may take two deer, one of which must be antlerless.

Getting there:

From the west, take U.S. Route 50/301 east across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge (\$2.50 toll). Continue on Route 301 north after Routes 50 and 301 split. Exit Route 301 onto Route 213 north toward Chestertown. In Chestertown, turn left from Route 213 onto Route 291. At the end of this short bypass, turn right onto Route 20. Follow Route 20 south for 12 miles into Rock Hall. At the caution light, turn left onto Route 445. Follow Route 445 approximately 7 miles from Rock Hall to the refuge entrance bridge.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A one-day deer hunt for non-ambulatory hunters with permanent disabilities is held in September and is offered via lottery. A state-issued "Hunt from Vehicle" permit is required. Only hunters with disabilities may carry a weapon and hunt, but they are encouraged to bring along a non-hunting partner. All other hunters with disabilities who may qualify for special accommodations during regular hunt days must contact the refuge manager in advance.

Youth Hunts: A one-day deer hunt is reserved for youth hunters, ages 10–15, in September. Shotgun, archery and muzzleloader hunting is permitted. A youth turkey hunt was held in spring 2007 in cooperation with the local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Species: D, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Permits are issued by mail on a first-come, first-serve basis and cost \$10. Group applications for up to five hunters must be mailed in the same envelope. All hunters must check in at the refuge check station prior to the hunt; hunters not checking in before sunrise will forfeit their permits.

Patuxent Research Refuge

12100 Beech Forest Road, Suite 138

Laurel, MD 20708

(301) 497-5580

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51640>

Visitor Contact Station (North Tract): 8:00 – 4:00, daily

National Wildlife Visitor Center (South Tract): 9:00 – 4:30, daily; the refuge is closed on all federal holidays.

A mix of forests, meadows and impoundments, Patuxent Research Refuge offers a wide range of hunting possibilities, particularly for white-tailed deer, which threaten the refuge's habitats through overbrowsing if populations are not controlled. The refuge offers archery, muzzleloader and modern firearms seasons for deer. These hunts follow state hunting seasons, but in some cases, access is through tags drawn in a lottery. Some of the hunts provide opportunities for

hunters to take large numbers of deer. For example, in heavily overbrowsed areas, hunters are allowed to take up to four deer per day. The deer harvested on the refuge do not count toward state limits. The refuge lands that were formerly part of Fort George G. Meade are open to hunting for a wide variety of species, including rabbit, squirrel, woodchuck, turkey, dove, waterfowl and resident Canada goose. Hunting permits are purchased through the Meade Natural Heritage Association (MNHA) in partnership with Patuxent Research Refuge through a cooperative agreement. Permits are sold September through January and other times, as needed, at the FWS Hunting Control Station located at the refuge's North Tract on Bald Eagle Drive. Hunting seasons typically follow state hunting seasons with a few exceptions. No Sunday hunting is permitted. Hunters are cautioned that unexploded ordnance is still found on the refuge's North Tract, and all hunters must sign a waiver releasing the government from liability.

Getting there: The FWS Hunting Control Station is located off Route 198, just 1.4 miles east of the Baltimore/Washington Parkway, on Bald Eagle Drive.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Two assigned spots are reserved for hunters with disabilities during the Central Tract firearms lottery hunt. Accommodations at other locations may be made. Youth Hunts: Junior Deer Firearms, Junior Waterfowl and Junior Spring Turkey Hunts are offered.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, UB, SG, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. All hunters must purchase a Meade Natural Heritage Association permit. Some deer and spring wild turkey hunts are issued by lottery; other hunts typically follow state seasons.

Massachusetts

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/recreation/hunting/hunting_home.htm

Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge

C/O Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex

73 Weir Hill Road

Sudbury, MA 01776

(978) 443-4661

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=53513>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

Assabet River NWR is one of three refuges (including Great Meadows and Oxbow) in the Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex that is open to hunting in the vicinity of Boston, MA. Twenty-five miles west of the city, Assabet River is 2,230 acres of pine/hardwood forest and wetlands. It has three deer seasons (archery, muzzleloader and shotgun), as well as hunts for spring turkey, American woodcock, ruffed grouse, rabbit and squirrel. Assabet River is a relatively new hunting opportunity since the refuge — a former U.S. Army training annex — did not open to wildlife-dependent recreation until 2005. Not all parts of the refuge are open for each hunt season; maps are available at the refuge's Web site.

Getting there:

There are currently two parking areas on the Assabet River NWR. The main parking lot is on Hudson Road in Sudbury, MA, 3 miles west of the Sudbury Town Center. The north gate parking area is off White Pond Road, reachable from Rt. 117 in Stow, MA.

Administrative staff for the refuge are located at Great Meadows NWR. To reach the office and visitor center at Weir Hill, follow Route 27 1.7 miles from Wayland and turn right onto Water Row Road. Follow Water Row Road 1.2 miles until it ends and turn right onto Lincoln Road. Travel 0.5 miles, turn left onto Weir Hill Road and follow to the end.

Species Icons: D, T, SG, UB, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Hunters must possess a current, signed Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex permit when scouting or hunting on the refuge.

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

C/O Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex

73 Weir Hill Road

Sudbury, MA 01776

(978) 443-4661

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=53511>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

Not far from Walden Pond, the freshwater wetlands of Great Meadows influenced and inspired the transcendentalist writing of Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson. Stretching along 12 miles of the Concord and Sudbury Rivers, Great Meadows is open for waterfowl hunting during the state season. Eight buoys have been installed along the rivers to show areas where hunting is allowed. Maps are available on the refuge's Web site. The maps also show designated parking areas for hunters. Great Meadows also has an archery season for deer.

Getting there:

To reach the office and visitor center at Weir Hill, follow Route 27 1.7 miles from Wayland and turn right onto Water Row Road. Follow Water Row Road 1.2 miles until it ends and turn right onto Lincoln Road. Travel 0.5 miles, turn left onto Weir Hill Road and follow to the end. The Concord Unit is located on Monsen Road, off Route 62, in Concord, Massachusetts. The Sudbury Unit is located in Sudbury, MA.

Species Icons: D, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Hunters must possess a current, signed Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex permit when scouting or hunting on the refuge.

Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge

C/O Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex

73 Weir Hill Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
(978) 443-4661
www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=53512
Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

Oxbow NWR consists of approximately 1,667 acres of upland, southern New England flood-plain forest and wetland communities along nearly 8 miles of the Nashua River corridor. Freshwater and oxbow wetlands along the river provide habitat for waterfowl and wading birds. Upland habitat supports white-tailed deer, small mammals, and migratory and upland birds such as American woodcock and turkey. Upland game birds, upland game and turkey hunting are currently permitted on limited portions of the refuge in April and May. A lottery is held in the first week of April, and 20 lucky hunters will have an opportunity to hunt the birds. Hunters are required to immediately tag and report harvested game according to state regulations. The refuge will not provide check stations.

Getting there: From Massachusetts Route 2, take exit 38 (Route 110/111) south toward Harvard; bear right to stay on Route 110 at Harvard Center and turn right onto Still River Depot Road at the Still River post office. The refuge parking area is at the end of Still River Depot Road, past the railroad tracks.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, SG, UB, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Hunters must possess a current, signed Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex permit when scouting or hunting on the refuge.

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

6 Plum Island Turnpike
Newburyport, MA 01950
(978) 465-5753
<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=53550>
Refuge Headquarters: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

It's a well-known fact that duck hunters are picky about their methods of hunting. Whether they prefer hunting by boat or walking into a hunting area, using decoys or jump shooting, staking out large salt marshes or hunting small creeks, waterfowlers can suit their preferences at Parker River NWR. Coast and barrier island, the refuge is on the Atlantic Flyway and is a significant stopover for waterfowl. The refuge's three hunting areas each have specific regulations. Accessible only by boat, area A offers decoying in marsh areas or jump shooting on creeks. Area B can be reached either by boat or on foot. Here, hunters are required to set out a minimum of six decoys and hunt within 50 yards of them. Decoying and jump shooting are both legal in area C, which is walk-in only. Portable blinds are allowed in all three areas. Originally established to provide habitat for Canada goose and black duck, Parker River NWR still has good populations of both species as well as mallard and teal. During most seasons, large flocks of birds can be found in the salt marsh. Hunting is not crowded due to the variety of hunting areas. Parker River NWR also offers an annual one-day deer hunt limited to shotguns and muzzleloaders as an

integral part of a comprehensive wildlife management program,. The hunt is by refuge permit only, with a maximum of 35 hunters, including up to four paraplegic hunters and 20 standbys selected by public lottery. Selected hunters are required to attend an orientation. The hunt takes place on the 1,400-acre Plum Island section of the refuge, which includes dune, maritime forest, open field, freshwater marsh, and salt marsh habitats.

Getting there:

The refuge is approximately 35 miles north of Boston. From Interstate 95 take exit 57 and travel east on Route 113, then continue straight onto Route 1A south to the intersection with Rolfe's Lane, for a total of 3.5 miles. Turn left onto Rolfe's Lane and travel 0.5 miles to its end. Turn right onto the Plum Island Turnpike and travel 2 miles, crossing the UGt. Donald Wilkinson Bridge to Plum Island. Take your first right onto Sunset Drive and travel 0.5 miles to the refuge entrance. The refuge headquarters is located at the northern end of Plum Island near the Newburyport Harbor Lighthouse. Once on the island, continue straight for 0.25 miles. The road will then curve sharply to your left. Continue for 1.5 miles to the refuge headquarters on your left.

Youth Hunts: Each year, the refuge sponsors a special youth waterfowling course and hunt with a local sportsmen's group.

Species Icons: WF, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

103 East Plumtree Road

Sunderland, MA 01375

(413) 548-8002

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=53590

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

White-tailed deer are not usually considered a migratory animal, but in the northern parts of their range, they do migrate in winter to avoid the deepest snow, congregating in areas called deer yards. The Nulhegan Basin Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge has the biggest deer yard in Vermont, drawing deer from as far as 20 miles away. As many as 1,000 deer have been observed in a single yard. The 26,000-acre division also offers excellent hunting for other "big woods" species, including grouse, snowshoe hare, moose and bear. The hunt for snowshoe hares with hounds is particularly rugged. Hunters enter the refuge via snowmobile, using about 35 miles of snowmobile trails, pulling dog kennels on cargo sleds. When hare tracks are found, the dogs are turned loose, and the hunter follows the chase through heavy snow on snowshoes. It could accurately be called "extreme hunting." All hunters should be prepared for a backwoods adventure when traveling here. There is a 40-mile network of roads to get hunters into prime locations, but the best hunting is still located away from the roads, requiring a lot of walking for success. A map and compass (GPS can be unreliable in the thick timber) are essential. The Pondicherry Division, located in Jefferson and Whitefield, NH, offers about 5,000 acres of hunting opportunities in northern forest habitats. Access is limited to hiking,

skiing and snowshoeing. Hunters typically use developed trails and a network of old logging roads in pursuit of game. Favorite game include white-tailed deer, black bear, moose, ruffed grouse and snowshoe hare. Waterfowl hunting is allowed in Moorhen Marsh and Cedar Marsh, but not in Cherry or Little Cherry ponds. Hunting maps are available from the headquarters office or at Pondicherry trailhead kiosks. The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge is scattered over the 7.2 million-acre Connecticut River watershed, including tracts in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Getting there:

Headquarters: Take Massachusetts Route 116 north from its intersection with Route 9 in Hadley, Massachusetts. After passing Annie's Garden Center, Bub's Barbeque, and a gas station on the right, take the next road to the right, E. Plumtree Road. Go down the road and turn in at the third building on the right. A large brown sign identifies this building as the Connecticut River Resource Center.

Nulhegan Basin Division: In Vermont, on Route 105 between Island Pond and Bloomfield. Enter at Stone Dam Road.

Species: D, BG, UG, T, UB, WF, MB
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Archery, Carrying on the Tradition at National Wildlife Refuges

Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia celebrated its 60th year of primitive hunting in 2006. The refuge holds the oldest managed archery hunts in the National Wildlife Refuge System. During two weekend hunts in October and December, hunters camp in tents on the refuge. They are permitted to use long bows only.

For the refuge, the archery hunts are a management tool for white-tailed deer and, even more, for the feral hogs that root up dikes and make roads on the dikes impassable. For the almost 200 hunters, who participated in the 2006 hunts, bowhunting is a direct tie to nature and a return to an ancient challenge and tradition. Both the refuge and the hunters had reason to be pleased with the October hunt which had a 60 percent success rate.

On another level, the 2006 hunts could be seen as disappointing because they drew less than half the number of hunters who participated in refuge archery hunts in the 1970's and 1980's. These numbers reflect a decline in interest in primitive archery; ninety-five percent of U.S. bowhunters prefer compound bows that maintain the speed and thrust of traditional bows but require the archer to draw and hold only 20-40% of the set draw weight.

The drop in bowhunters at Blackbeard Island Refuge is also part of a general decline in bowhunting. The Archery Trade Association estimates that the number of bowhunters in the United States now numbers just over three million and has been static since the early 1990's.

The National Wildlife Refuge System encourages young people to try the sport of archery and, when they become proficient archers, bowhunting. Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma is actively involved with the National Archery in the Schools (www.nasparchery.com) program. Deep Fork NWR partnered with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Archery Trade Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, and others, to translate indoor archery skills taught in school to an outdoor experience. One student, Casey Martel, has a disabled arm, so she cannot physically hold the bowstring. Her teacher adapted the bow with a little piece of leather on the string near the nocking point. Casey pulled the leather with her teeth to release the arrows, shooting as well as her classmates.

Deep Fork Refuge Manager Darren Unruh expects other refuges to participate in the school archery programs as a way to interest young people in the outdoors. Deep Fork NWR also hosts two archery hunts for deer every autumn; young hunters may participate if they have earned a Hunter Safety Certificate.

A Bowhunting Partnership

The school archery program is one of many programs actively supported by the Archery Trade Association (ATA) (www.archerytrade.org). ATA, along with the Bowhunting Preservation Alliance and Arrowsport, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2004 to 1) develop and implement of all types of archery and bowhunting programs on refuges and 2) to more effectively manage Federal excise taxes, paid by archery manufacturers, that go to state wildlife agencies.

Since 1975, excise taxes paid on bows and arrows have contributed more than \$320 million to state conservation programs. These taxes are collected by the Internal Revenue Service and distributed to state wildlife agencies under the USFWS Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program. States use the funds for a variety of purposes, including bowhunter education and training, urban and special hunts, support for the archery in the schools programs, and efforts to develop and maintain shooting ranges.

The MOU encourages the expansion of bowhunting, when compatible, on units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. ATA Chief Executive Officer and President Jay McAninch believes bowhunting and archery have particular value on refuges in urban areas as a wildlife management tool and for young people who have fewer opportunities to interact with nature. McAninch also believes school archery programs like the one at Deep Fork Refuge “entice kids to a refuge to have fun shooting arrows while they are introduced to a whole new world.”

Sumpter Cassels, III, recalls his first archery hunt at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge in South Carolina in 1961 when he was 11 years old. “I was basically the firewood boy, oyster boy. The old men used to run me ragged.” Cassels’ father attended the first refuge archery hunt in 1957. In keeping with the tradition, Cassels has brought his son, Brandon, and Scout troops to the island. “It’s just a kind of family event. They just like it so much,” he says.

But at Cape Romain refuge too, the archery hunt has been drawing fewer participants. “Generation by generation is how we keep something like this going,” Cassels maintains, “That, and thanks to the federal government for wanting to keep it going.”

11 Steps to Archery Success

1. Stance
2. Nock
3. Set draw hand
4. Set bow hand
5. Pre-draw
6. Draw
7. Anchor
8. Aim
9. Shot set-up
10. Release
11. Follow-through/reflect

From the National Archery in the Schools Program

Michigan

<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>

Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge

1674 Refuge Entrance Road

Seney, MI 49883

(906) 586-9851

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=31512

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

A 700-acre island on the St. Mary's River, Harbor Island NWR has sandy beaches, upland woodlands, and a cedar swamp in its middle. The island is well browsed by deer, but finding them can be difficult at best. Access to the island is by boat only, and later in the season, crossing the large river can entail extreme gales, choppy water and other dangerous conditions. Early in the season, bowhunters can do fairly well by setting up near food sources like mast trees. Baiting is prohibited. During the firearms season, local hunters visit the refuge and conduct deer drives. This tactic can be successful early in the season, but relatively few hunters are willing to make the boat trip out to the island. Hunting for black bear is allowed during Michigan Department of Natural Resources seasons.

Getting there:

The refuge is 1 mile north of the town of Drummond in Potagannissing Bay.

Species Icons: D, BG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Michigan Wetland Management District

2651 Coolidge Road

East Lansing, MI 48823

(517) 351-6236

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=31731>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

The Michigan WMD, includes four waterfowl production areas (WPAs): The 160-acre Schlee WPA and 137-acre Mahan WPA in Jackson County, the 77-acre Kinney WPA in Van Buren County and the 160-acre Edgar WPA in Barry County. All are open to hunting. Although the Michigan WMD was established to increase duck breeding habitat in the Great Lakes area, the WPAs are open for hunting deer, upland birds and upland game in accordance with Michigan regulations. Use of non-toxic shot is required. In contrast with the surrounding agricultural lands, the grasses and wildflowers of Michigan's WPAs provide dense nesting cover for mallard, blue-winged teal and other grassland nesting birds. The wetlands offer excellent habitat for raising duck broods. In the fall ducks are found in the Schlee and Kinney WPAs, providing good hunting opportunities.

Getting there:

The Schlee WPA is located on the north side of Page Road approximately 6 miles east of U.S. 127 on the east side of Jackson. The Kinney WPA is in southeast Van Buren County, approximately 3.5 miles south of Lawton, near the intersection of County Road 352 and 29th Street.

Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Seney National Wildlife Refuge

1674 Refuge Entrance Road

Seney, MI 49883

(906) 586-9851

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=31510

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Visitor Center: 9:00 – 5:00, daily from May 15 – October 15

The Upper Peninsula of Michigan has some of the most storied and traditional hunting camp traditions in the country, with hunters often erecting canvas tents and large cook stoves in the middle of the big woods. This tradition lives on at Seney NWR, where some hunters have been coming for 50 years or more. The deer are not as numerous as in some places, but hunters here know that pursuing white-tails in the big woods is some of the finest sport available. About 75,000 acres of the refuge's 95,000 acres are open to hunting. Hunters here know that less traditional forms of hunting like baiting and ATVs are prohibited, and they can expect a solitary experience. If there is heavy snow, deer move through the refuge en route to their winter yards. Dedicated hunters may also return for a snowshoe hunt of hare or grouse. Woodcock or black bear may be hunted earlier in the fall (Sept. – Oct.)

Getting there:

The refuge headquarters and visitor center are located in the east-central Upper Peninsula of Michigan on Highway M-77, 2 miles north of Germfask and 6 miles south of Seney.

Species Icons: D, BG, UB, MB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. See refuge hunt brochure. A camping permit is required to camp on the refuge during the rifle deer season; camping is not permitted at other times of year.

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

6975 Mower Road

Saginaw, MI 48601

(989) 777-5930

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=31520>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Known locally as the “Shiawassee Flats,” this refuge lies in the Saginaw Bay watershed, historically one of the largest wetland areas in Michigan. Shiawassee NWR has protected important waterfowl habitat, and each fall many bird species land here during migration. Among these birds are Canada geese, and each fall hunters use refuge blinds during a high-quality controlled hunt. Drawings for blinds are held each morning, and up to three hunters may occupy a blind. Hunters may be in the field until noon. The refuge also hosts a thriving deer population, making for a popular deer hunt. The deer hunt is so popular, in fact, that the refuge gives “preference points” to hunters who do not receive a tag. These points improve the hunter’s drawing odds in future years.

Getting there:

The refuge headquarters is 5 miles south of Saginaw. From Interstate 75, take the Bridgeport exit and turn west onto Dixie Highway; go 0.5 miles. Turn left onto Fort Road, and go about 2 miles. Turn west onto Curtis Road, and go about 4 miles to the refuge headquarters.

For Hunters with Disabilities: The refuge holds deer hunts for hunters with disabilities.

Species Icons: D, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. The refuge deer hunt drawing is held prior to the season; the goose hunt drawing is held at 5:30 a.m. on hunting days. Check the refuge Web site for specific application information.

Minnesota

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting/index.html>

Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge

22996 290th Street Northeast

Middle River, MN 56737

(218) 449-4115

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=32510>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F; weekends during deer firearms season

The forests and wetlands of this northwestern Minnesota refuge are known by outdoors enthusiasts across the nation as one of the continent’s best wildlife watching areas. Each year, thousands of waterfowl nest here, including giant Canada goose, canvasback and ruddy duck. Wolves and moose roam the forests. Hunters can enjoy this “wildlife wonderland” while pursuing white-tailed deer on the refuge. While the northern forests don’t have the deer densities found in many parts of the country, Agassiz NWR does offer a real adventure for hunters who want to get away from the crowds. Successful hunters often use portable stands along deer trails, and some use bicycles (permitted on refuge trails) to reach more inaccessible areas. A 4,000-acre wilderness area allows only walk-in hunting for those who want to explore the refuge’s wild backcountry.

Getting there:

The refuge headquarters is located on Marshall County Road 7. From Thief River Falls, take Highway 32 north for 12 miles to the town of Holt. At Holt, turn east onto Marshall County Road 7 and travel 11 miles. The refuge headquarters is located on the left (north) side of the road.

For Hunters with Disabilities: An accessible stand is available on request.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge

44843 County Road 19

Odessa, MN 56276

(320) 273-2191

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=32640>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

A variety of species can be hunted on Big Stone NWR, but most hunters come here to pursue pheasant. On a good year, sportsmen find birds throughout the grassland habitat that surrounds the refuge's marshes and lakes. The first two weekends of the season can be crowded, but hunters who come later in the season will still find plenty of pheasant. A hunter willing to put in some effort should have a decent chance of taking a deer as well. An often-overlooked opportunity is turkey hunting. Few turkey hunters visit the refuge, but those who do have good success. Flocks of birds can be seen moving about the prairie in the fall, and in the spring, gobblers roost in the hardwood stands.

Getting there:

The refuge office and maintenance facility are located approximately 8 miles east of Ortonville (South Dakota border) and 0.5 miles west of Odessa. From Highway 7/75, take Big Stone County Road 19 south approximately 0.75 miles.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A wheelchair-accessible hunting blind is available on a reservation basis. It is used primarily for deer hunting.

Species Icons: D, T, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Big Stone Wetland Management District

44843 County Road 19

Odessa, MN 56276

(320) 273-2191

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=32641>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Big Stone WMD provides important waterfowl nesting habitat in a part of the state where most wetlands have been drained. With 13 Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) in Lyon and Lincoln counties, Big Stone also offers 2,500 acres of public hunting. Good numbers of ducks can be found on the WMD early in the season, but hunting pressure often moves them out of the area fairly quickly. The district's grasslands offer good hunting opportunities, particularly for pheasant. In a good year, hunters should be able to find birds in the thick cover, especially with a good dog. While the WPAs are not large, deer can be found hiding in the cover. By working slowly through the grasslands, hunters have good chances of taking one.

Getting there:

The district office is co-located with the Big Stone NWR office, approximately eight miles east of Ortonville and 0.5 miles west of Odessa. From Highway 7/75, take Big Stone County Road 19 south approximately 0.75 miles.

Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District

26624 North Tower Road

Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

(218) 847-4431

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=32586>

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Both the grasslands and prairie potholes of northwest Minnesota were largely eliminated when the land was converted to agriculture, but Detroit Lakes WMD preserves important habitat in this area for waterfowl and other wildlife. Covering parts of five counties, the district manages over 42,000 acres on its 165 waterfowl production areas (WPAs), all of which are open to public hunting. The district is important as a waterfowl breeding area, as well as for the preservation of native tallgrass prairie habitat. About 3,200 acres of remnant prairie can be found on the WPAs. Hunters will find good populations of ducks during the season, as well as good numbers of deer living on the prairie habitat. There are also limited opportunities for hunting pheasant on some of the WPAs.

Getting there:

To reach the district headquarters from the junction of U.S. Highways 10 and 59 in Detroit Lakes, proceed north two miles on Highway 59 to Tower Road (County Road 139). Turn east on Tower Road and travel approximately 1 mile. The office is on the north side of the road.

Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Fergus Falls Wetland Management District

18965 County Highway 82

Fergus Falls, MN 56537

(218) 739-2291

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=32585

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Fergus Falls WMD protected wetlands and prairies make up the “prairie pothole” region of Minnesota. These potholes were once found throughout the tallgrass prairies of the western part of the state, providing habitat for huge flocks of ducks and geese. Today, many have been drained, making the tallgrass prairie one of the most threatened ecosystems in North America. The 217 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) of this district, totaling almost 44,000 acres, protect potholes and prairie wildlife habitat. Almost all of these WPAs are open to public hunting. Hunters can expect to find good numbers of Canada goose, mallard, teal and various diving ducks, as well as pheasant and white-tailed deer in the surrounding grasslands.

Getting there:

Take Interstate 94 to State Highway 59 Route N (exit 61) and travel north 2.5 miles to the headquarters.

Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge

17788 349th Street SE

Erskine, MN 56535

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/GlacialRidge/>

(218) 687-2229

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

In 2004, the Glacial Ridge NWR was established with a 2300 acre donation by The Nature Conservancy. It's anticipated that by fall 2008 the refuge will grow to at least 8,000 acres and 20,000 acres by 2012. Hunting will be provided as per the approved Glacial Ridge Hunting Plan written in 2005. As Refuge acres vary over the next decade, hunters are advised to check with the refuge for the latest regulations. Although restoring tallgrass prairie habitat will include the removal of most tree species, deer thrive quite well in the open prairie habitat and should provide good hunting opportunities. Waterfowl numbers are expected to increase as nearly 4,000 wetland acres are restored. Glacial Ridge's topography was formed by the wave action of the glacial Lake Agassiz some 13,000 years ago. Today these beach ridges that run from southwest Minnesota into Canada are a major migratory route for waterfowl and other migratory birds. The area is also part of Minnesota's extensive prairie chicken restoration effort, with growth in the prairie chicken population allowing an annual hunting program.

Getting there:

The refuge is located 6 miles west of Mentor, Minnesota. Glacial Ridge NWR operates out of the Rydell NWR office, which is located along U.S. Highway 2, approximately 60 miles east of East Grand Forks, between Erskine and Mentor. From U.S. Highway 2, turn south on Polk County Road 210 and follow it for approximately 2.5 miles to the refuge gate. Various directional signs are located along the route.

Species Icons: D, UB, WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Litchfield Wetland Management District

22274 615th Avenue

Litchfield, MN 55355

(320) 693-2849

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=32588

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Litchfield WMD is located just south of where Garrison Keillor’s fictional Lake Wobegone would be, along the eastern edge of the “prairie pothole” region. Covering a seven-county area in central Minnesota, the district is extremely important for nesting waterfowl, since many historic wetlands have been drained for agriculture. Made up of 150 waterfowl production areas (WPAs), the district offers up to 35,000 acres of hunting. There can be good numbers of waterfowl in the area early in the season, as well as healthy pheasant and deer populations. Hunting is good early on but often success drops off due to heavy hunting pressure.

Getting there:

The office is located 3 miles south of Litchfield on 615th Avenue.

If arriving from the north, east or west, turn south on Highway 22 where it intersects with U.S. Highway 12 in downtown Litchfield. Proceed south 1.5 miles to Lake Ripley Drive. Turn right on Lake Ripley/615th Avenue. The district office is located 2.1 miles south on 615th Avenue and is marked with entrance signs.

If arriving from the south on Highway 22, turn left (west) onto Meeker County 28. Meeker County 28 is 8.1 miles north of the intersection of MN Highway 7 and MN Highway 22. After turning west on Meeker County 28, proceed 0.9 miles to the intersection with 615th Avenue. Turn right onto 615th Avenue and travel north 0.8 miles to the refuge entrance.

Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, D, SG, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. State regulations and seasons apply.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

3815 American Boulevard East

Bloomington, MN 55425

(952) 854-5900

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=32590

Visitor Center: 9:00 – 5:00, Tu – Sun, Apr. 1 – Oct. 31; 9:00 – 4:00, Mon. – Fri. and the first full weekend of the month, Nov. 1 – Mar. 31

The Minnesota Valley NWR is a hunter's getaway from the urban and suburban areas of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The refuge is located in a green belt of large marsh areas, bordered by office buildings, highways, residential areas and grain terminals. While this may seem like an unusual place for hunting, the refuge lands allow hunters to get away from the city noise and experience wild country near home. Comprised of eight main units totaling over 14,000 acres, the refuge encompasses 45 miles of the Minnesota River. A variety of hunting opportunities is offered, in accordance with Minnesota state regulations and refuge regulations specific to each unit. Turkeys, reintroduced in 1986, are thriving, particularly on the Rapids Lake Unit. In the fall, hunters often see flocks of 30 to 40 birds, while spring hunters can find numerous trophy gobblers.

Getting there:

The refuge office and visitor center are located just off 34th Avenue in Bloomington, Minnesota, across the street from the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Hilton Hotel. From Interstate 494, visitors should take the 34th Avenue exit south to East 80th Street. Turn left on East 80th Street and proceed east for 0.25 miles to the visitor center entrance, which is on the right.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Special areas of the refuge may be hunted for migratory birds by hunters with disabilities; a special refuge hunting permit is required.

Youth Hunts: The refuge offers a Youth Waterfowlers Hunting Program, which allows access to areas of the refuge for waterfowl hunting.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District

3815 American Boulevard East

Bloomington, MN 55425

(952) 854-5900

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=32591

Visitor Center: 9:00 – 5:00, Tu – Sun, Apr. 1 – Oct. 31; 9:00 – 4:00, Mon. – Fri. and the first full weekend of the month, Nov. 1 – Mar. 31

The Minnesota Valley WMD offers public hunting on 28 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) located in a 14-county area of east-central Minnesota. The district includes portions of the Minnesota, Cannon and Mississippi river watersheds. The WPAs offer 4,700 total acres of public hunting opportunities, many within easy driving distance of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Restored

habitat has drawn many waterfowl species as well as deer and turkey, and hunters have begun to recognize the WPAs as great hunting opportunities. All Minnesota hunting seasons are open on the WPAs in accordance with state regulations. The district provides aerial photos of each WPA on its Web site to help hunters plan their hunting trips.

Getting there:

The district office is located with the Minnesota Valley NWR office and visitor center, off 34th Avenue in Bloomington, Minnesota, across the street from the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Hilton Hotel. From Interstate 494, visitors should take the 34th Avenue exit south to East 80th Street. Turn left on East 80th Street and proceed east for 0.25 miles to the visitor center entrance, which is on the right.

Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Morris Wetland Management District

43875 230th Street

Morris, MN 56267

(320) 589-1001

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=32581

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Waterfowl hunters have a tremendous variety of public hunting spots in western Minnesota within the 244 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) of the Morris WMD. Covering an eight-county area, these WPAs include 50,000 acres, most of which are open to public hunting. A variety of puddle duck species—including mallard, wigeon and blue-winged teal—are common during the waterfowl season. Many WPAs also offer excellent hunting for deer and pheasant. The Loen WPA in Swift County offers the best bet for deer hunting, while the Lundgren WPA in Chippewa County is considered to be exceptional for pheasant. These WPAs draw many nonresident hunters; in fact, visitors (most of them hunters) are estimated to contribute more than \$7 million to the local economy each year.

Getting there:

The office is located 4 miles east of Morris on County Road 10.

Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge

44843 County Road 19

Odessa, MN 56276

(320) 273-2191

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=32642

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Created to protect remaining tallgrass prairie parcels, Northern Tallgrass NWR is a new refuge just beginning to acquire parcels of land. The refuge currently consists of eight scattered tracts in western Minnesota and northwestern Iowa, totaling 2,500 acres. These parcels are not well known and receive very little hunting pressure, but all are open to a variety of hunting options. The prairie habitat offers good opportunities for hunting pheasant, and is worth exploring for a hunter looking for new public spots. There are also healthy deer numbers on these tracts. On the few wetland areas, hunters can encounter ducks and geese, particularly early in the season. As the refuge grows, there will be more public opportunities for sportsmen in an area where few public lands exist. Badger and skunk may be hunted on the Minnesota portions of the refuge. Hunting for groundhog is allowed in the Iowa sections.

Getting there:

Refuge lands are widely scattered throughout western Minnesota and northwestern Iowa. The project leader of Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR is based at the Big Stone NWR office, approximately 8 miles east of Ortonville and 1 mile west of Odessa. From Highway 7/75, take Big Stone County Road 19 south approximately 0.75 miles.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge

36289 State Highway 65

McGregor, MN 55760

(218) 768-2402

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=32540

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

For thousands of years, Native Americans have been coming to Rice Lake for a traditional fall harvest of the bountiful wild rice that gives the lake its name. This ancient tradition continues today by the Ojibwe people on refuge lands. The wild rice also attracts huge flocks of ducks. The waterfowl may not be hunted, but other species are open to hunting in this scenic forest and bog area of northern Minnesota. White-tailed deer are particularly numerous, and an archery deer season allows hunters to pursue the animals throughout the season. A limited-entry firearms hunt is also held. Upland bird hunters can find flights of woodcock in boggy areas, ruffed grouse in forests and snipe in the wetland areas. Hunters with disabilities may apply for a special deer hunt.

Getting there:

The refuge is located 5 miles south of McGregor on State Highway 65. The refuge is a one-hour drive from Duluth, Brainerd and Grand Rapids, and a two-hour drive north of the Twin Cities metro area.

The Sandstone Unit is located approximately 2 miles southeast of Sandstone, or 80 miles northeast of the Twin Cities, off Interstate 35. From Sandstone, follow the signs to the Federal Correctional Facility (Highway 123 east, across the Kettle River, to County Road 29, south to County Road 20 east), then follow the Sandstone signs (right on Nature Avenue). Two parking areas are located off Nature Avenue.

Species Icons: D, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Rice Lake NWR is a state-designated “special permit” area for either sex deer. Hunters may apply to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the permit.

Rydell National Wildlife Refuge

17788 349th Street SE

Erskine, MN 56535

(218) 687-2229

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=32583

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Hunters who participate in the annual deer hunts at Rydell NWR know to expect interesting habitat, abundant deer and uncrowded conditions. But this refuge offers more than a quality deer hunt; it instructs young hunters and provides great opportunities for hunters with disabilities. The youth hunt is held each fall for 20 lucky hunters. First, the young hunters take a course that expands on what they learn in hunter safety, with such topics as orienteering, tracking and field dressing. The youth hunters then go into the field with mentors. Each is assigned a separate unit, to be treated as the hunter’s own private land. A young hunter may go on another hunter’s unit only if permission is given. The deer hunt for sports men and women with disabilities is run by Options, a nonprofit organization that specializes in creating opportunities for disabled hunters. Mentors go afield with the hunters, and many are able to get deer. Male or female deer may be taken on these two hunts. In years with high deer populations, a general hunt, issued by lottery, is also held.

Getting there:

Rydell NWR is located along U.S. Highway 2, approximately 60 miles east of East Grand Forks, between Erskine and Mentor. From U.S. Highway 2, turn south on Polk County Road 210 and follow it for approximately 2.5 miles to the refuge gate. Various directional signs are located along the route.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A hunt is offered by Options, a nonprofit organization that specializes in creating opportunities for the disabled.

Youth Hunts: A hunt is held each fall for 20 lucky hunters.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Permits for the deer hunts are issued via lottery by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge

17076 293rd Avenue

Zimmerman, MN 55398

(763) 389-3323

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=32550

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

The St. Francis River Valley is considered one of the finest natural areas in Minnesota. However, by the 1920s, a ditch system drained much of the land for agricultural production. Sportsmen and other citizens organized in 1965 to protect and restore wetlands in this area. This effort led to the creation of Sherburne NWR. Hunters can enjoy a number of opportunities on the refuge. Area B is open to waterfowl and other migratory birds during the state season. Areas A and B are open to upland game and deer archery during the state seasons. Areas A, B and C are open to deer firearms during the state season.

Getting there:

Sherburne NWR is located in east-central Minnesota, approximately 50 miles northwest of Minneapolis and 30 miles southeast of St. Cloud.

From Minneapolis, take Interstate 94 west to Highway 101 at Rogers. Go north on Highway 101 to Highway 169 north, then follow Highway 169 north 4 miles past Zimmerman to County Road 9. Go west on County Road 9, 4 miles to the refuge entrance and an additional mile to the refuge office.

From St. Cloud, take Highway 23 north to Highway 95, then east on Highway 95 approximately 15 miles. After the sign for Sherburne NWR, take the first right, which is Mille Lacs County Road 7. Go south on County Road 7, 4 miles to the refuge entrance, then 3 more miles to County Road 9. Go east 2.5 miles on County Road 9 to the refuge office.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Blinds for hunters with disabilities are available by reservation during waterfowl and firearms deer seasons.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

35704 County Highway 26

Rochert, MN 56578

(218) 847-2641

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=32560

Visitor Center: 7:30 - 4:00, M – F; 10:00 – 5:00, summer weekends

Tamarac NWR is managed for mixed stands of coniferous and deciduous trees in a variety of age classes. These mixed age stands offer a variety of habitat conditions favorable for ruffed grouse. Upland bird hunters know Minnesota is one of the finest destinations in the country for this challenging game bird, and this 43,000-acre refuge is a great place to experience quality hunting. Over 50 miles of mowed trails, as well as 50 miles of primitive, spur trails are available for access. In addition to upland game hunting, the entire refuge (except around buildings) is open to hunting for deer, squirrel, rabbit, red fox, raccoon and striped skunk. Portions of the refuge are open to migratory bird hunting. The refuge's extensive wild rice stands and shallow lakes attract a large number of migratory ducks each fall.

Getting there:

The refuge office/visitor center is located 18 miles northeast of Detroit Lakes, at the junction of County Roads 26 and 29. Leaving Detroit Lakes on Highway 34 east, go 9 miles to the intersection with County Road 29. Turn left (north) on County Road 29 and go approximately 9 miles (paved and gravel roads).

Leaving Detroit Lakes on County Road 21, go north approximately 9 miles to the intersection with County Road 26. Turn right (east) on County Road 26 and go approximately 9 miles (paved/gravel road).

For Hunters with Disabilities: A number of gated trails are open during the hunting season, and hunters with disabilities, with the appropriate permits, may hunt from a vehicle in these areas.

Species Icons: D, UB, WF, MB, SG, PR

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge – Winona District

51 East 4th Street, Room 203

Winona, MN 55987

(507) 454-7351

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

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Rocky bluffs form a backdrop for the Mississippi River as it flows through one of the most scenic areas along its entire length. The Winona District, co-located with refuge headquarters, is at the headwaters of the 126-mile long refuge. Refuge habitat has been influenced by the lock and dam system put in place for navigation in the 1930's. Today, inter-agency efforts are underway to rebuild lost islands and restore aquatic vegetations through water level management. These on-going projects have been beneficial to the fish, wildlife and people that use the refuge. During the fall, hunters with boats will find an abundance of migratory waterfowl on both large, open-water lakes and quiet backwaters. Hunters in search of deer can access refuge islands for a challenging hunt.

Getting there:

The headquarters and Winona District office are located in the Exchange Building at the corner of Fourth and Center streets in Winona. From Highway 61, turn north on Huff Street until it intersects with Fourth Street; turn right. The Exchange Building is on the right-hand side of the road.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D, T
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Windom Wetland Management District

49663 County Road 17

Windom, MN 56101

(507) 831-2220

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=32587

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Protecting habitat in a 12-county area of southwestern Minnesota historically known for large concentrations of waterfowl, Windom WMD also offers a variety of hunting experiences on its wetlands and grasslands. Sixty-seven waterfowl production areas (WPAs) totaling 13,700 acres are open to public hunting. The most popular hunts are pheasant, waterfowl and deer. Waterfowl hunters are likely to encounter Canada goose, mallard, teal, wood duck and pintail, as well as other species passing through on their fall migrations. Pheasant populations have increased dramatically in recent years, especially on WPAs in Cottonwood and Jackson counties. The pheasant find excellent cover in the cattail marshes and thick native grass plantings of the WPAs. White-tailed deer are common throughout the district, and the WPAs are open for shotgun, muzzleloader and archery seasons. Hunters typically enjoy a high success rate.

Getting there:

The district headquarters is located 1 mile east of Windom on County Road 17. Windom lies in the scenic Des Moines River valley of southwestern Minnesota, on Highway 71, 18 miles north of Interstate 90.

Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, UB, SG, T
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Mississippi

<http://home.mdwfp.com/>

Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge

c/o North Mississippi Refuges Complex

2776 Sunset Drive

Grenada, MS 38901

(662) 226-8286

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43676>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

Coldwater River NWR first offered hunting among the bottomland hardwoods of the 306-acre Warwick Tract in 2004. Located in the southern part of the refuge, this tract is open to general-access waterfowl hunting and remains the only part of the refuge where public entry is permitted. The rest is protected as a sanctuary for waterfowl and other migratory birds. Waterfowl hunting is open four days a week until noon. Access is by foot only. Hunters find excellent hunting on this refuge; it is located in the middle of an area heavily used by waterfowl. The opening of this tract gives hunters a chance to experience the tremendous waterfowl flights in this area each fall.

Getting there:

From State Highway 35, turn west on Paducah Wells Road and continue west to the Corps of Engineers Panola-Quitman Flood Control Levee. Turn left and go 1/4 mile. The hunting area begins here and continues for approximately two miles on the left side of the road. There are two parking areas.

Youth Hunts: The refuge is open for youth hunters during state youth-only season for waterfowl.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: A \$12.50 annual refuge hunting and fishing permit, good for any refuge in the North Mississippi National Refuges Complex, is required for all hunts.

Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge

c/o North Mississippi Refuges Complex

831 Highway 446

Boyle, MS 38730

(662) 742-9331

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43635

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

Squirrel hunters know that some of the best hunting in the Mississippi River Delta can be found at Dahomey NWR. That's because the refuge offers 10,000 acres of forested habitat, the largest tree stand in the lower Delta, an area largely surrounded by land converted to agriculture. The refuge, which once was a private hunting club, has a healthy deer population that can be hunted during archery, primitive weapons and firearms seasons. Waterfowl hunters will find bottomland hardwoods and moist soil areas that harbor good numbers of ducks. Waterfowl hunting runs until noon, four days a week. The refuge has a good network of roads, but there are no boat ramps. Youth hunters may choose from special squirrel, waterfowl, turkey and deer hunts held each year.

Getting there:

From Cleveland, go south on Highway 61 and turn west onto Highway 446 at Boyle. Refuge properties are signed and lie north and south of Highway 446, about 15 miles west of Boyle.

From Rosedale, head south on Highway 1 through Beulah. Go 5.5 miles south of Beulah and turn east on Highway 446. Refuge properties start 2.5 miles east of Highway 1, are signed and lie north and south of Highway 446. The refuge headquarters is located on the north side of Highway 446.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Two universally accessible deer blinds are available for deer hunters, located in an area closed to other deer hunting.

Youth Hunts: The refuge is open for youth hunters during state youth-only seasons for squirrel, waterfowl, turkey and deer.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, SG, UB, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: A \$12.50 annual refuge hunting and fishing permit, good for any refuge in the North Mississippi Refuges Complex, is required for all hunts. Raccoon and frog hunters are required to have a Special Use Permit, issued by the refuge on an individual basis.

Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge

6005 Bayou Heron Road

Moss Point, MS 39562

(228) 475-0765

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43617

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

Grand Bay NWR's marshy habitats hold many surprises for adventurous hunters. For instance, many do not consider this to be a good spot for waterfowling, but good numbers of wood ducks can be found in backwater sloughs. Hunters willing to search upland areas can also be rewarded with good deer hunting during the archery season held on the refuge. All hunts are general access, and the entire refuge is open to hunting with the exception of a nature trail around the visitor center. During Hurricane Katrina, 20 feet of water blasted across the refuge, inundating habitat. But game populations seem to have recovered, and the refuge continues to be open to hunting.

Getting there:

Grand Bay NWR is approximately 7 miles east of Pascagoula and approximately 20 miles west of Mobile, Alabama. From Interstate 10, take the Franklin Creek exit (exit 75) and head south to U.S. Highway 90. Cross U.S. 90 onto Pecan Road and go approximately 1 mile to a very active railroad crossing at Bayou Heron Road. Cross over the railroad tracks and keep to your right.

The office is approximately 1 mile from the railroad crossing.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunt brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts.

Hillside National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Morgan Brake National Wildlife Refuge

1562 Providence Road

Cruger, MS 38924

(662) 235-4989

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43580>

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 4:00, M – F

Hillside NWR is a silt trap, constructed by the Corps of Engineers to remove silt from nearby rivers. This unique situation has created a public hunting spot especially noted for its abundant deer and waterfowl. One or two Boone and Crockett qualifying bucks are generally taken on the refuge each year during the general access muzzleloader hunt, solidifying the refuge's reputation as a deer hotspot. A general access archery hunt is also held. More duck hunters are also discovering that this refuge offers excellent opportunities in its flooded timber, open water and swamp habitats. There are areas accessible by both boat and foot, and hunters will find lots of puddle ducks. Many hunters visiting the nearby, better-known Morgan Brake NWR are now including a day or two at Hillside NWR as part of their trip.

Getting there:

Take Highway 49 east approximately 16 miles north of Yazoo City to the town of Thorton. Turn right (east) on Thorton Road and travel approximately 4 miles to the refuge.

Species Icons: WF, D, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Hunts require a \$15 annual Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex hunt permit, good for all refuges in the complex.

Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex

728 Yazoo Refuge Road

Hollandale, MS 38748

(662) 839-2638

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43684

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Holt Collier, one of the most legendary hunters in this country, roamed the swamps of Mississippi in single-minded pursuit of bear. Collier guided many famous hunters, including Theodore Roosevelt, who considered Collier the greatest hunter he ever met. An African-American who fought for the Confederacy, Collier was a complex man who thrived in wilderness, yet killed hundreds of bears, making the way for civilization. Today, the endless swamps and forests and wild country of Collier's day are gone. The Holt Collier NWR was created as a tribute to this famous hunter. The refuge will restore bottomland hardwood forest to an area where Collier hunted. It is hoped that some day a viable population of black bear will return here. In the meantime, hunters can hunt in the same area that Collier did and pursue rabbit – very common on the refuge – and deer during an annual archery hunt.

Getting there:

Holt Collier NWR is located in the Darlove area, about 29 miles southeast of Greenville, in the heart of the Mississippi Delta Region. From Greenville take Highway 82 east to Highway 61. Turn south (right) and proceed on Highway 61 to Avon Darlove Road. Turn east (left) and proceed on Avon Darlove Road to the town of Darlove.

Species Icons: D, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Hunts require a \$15 annual Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex hunt permit, good for all refuges in the complex.

Mathews Brake National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Morgan Brake National Wildlife Refuge

1562 Providence Road

Cruger, MS 38924

(662) 235-4989

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43681>

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 4:00, M – F

Located in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, hunters to Mathews Brake NWR find a mix of flooded timber, backwater sloughs, cypress brakes and bottomland hardwood forest. This rich mix of habitats provides great cover for a variety of game species, deer being the most popular. Hunters may choose from archery and muzzleloader seasons, both open to general access. Muzzleloader hunters in particular often have success and take several nice bucks each year. Waterfowl hunting is limited during dry years, but during wetter seasons hunters will find good numbers of wood duck, gadwall and mallard in the hunting area. Access is by foot or ATV only. Most duck hunting takes place in old sloughs, but two impoundments that flood standing crops are also maintained for duck hunters.

Getting there:

Traveling from Greenwood, take Highway 49 south approximately 9 miles to Sidon. Turn right (west) at Sidon and travel through town. After crossing the railroad tracks, take the second street to the left. Follow this paved road approximately 5 miles. After crossing the first bridge, travel approximately 100 yards and take the first paved road to the left (south). Travel approximately 0.5 miles and take the first gravel road to the right. This road will take you to the refuge kiosk and boat ramp.

Youth Hunts: The first two weekends of the January waterfowl hunt are typically open only to youth hunters.

Species Icons: D, WF, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: Hunts require a \$15 annual Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex hunt permit, good for all refuges in the complex.

Morgan Brake National Wildlife Refuge

1562 Providence Road

Cruger, MS 38924

(662) 235-4989

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43582

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 4:00, M – F

The 1,800-acre lake and its surroundings, now protected as Morgan Brake NWR, have a long and storied history as a waterfowl hunting area. Prior to becoming a refuge, the area was divided among private duck hunting clubs. Now, hunters can enjoy excellent public hunting here during a fall general access hunt. When other popular waterfowl hunting areas are dry due to drought, Morgan Brake NWR still offers excellent hunting. All access is by boat from a convenient parking area and paved boating ramp. Hunters should see high numbers of birds, whether hunting open water or flooded timber. The refuge is gaining a reputation across the nation as a prime waterfowling destination. In a typical year, hunters from a dozen or more states come to sample the excellent opportunities on the refuge.

Getting there:

Traveling Highway 49 east, proceed 2 miles north of Tchula and turn right onto Providence Road. Proceed approximately 2 miles to the refuge headquarters on the right.

Species Icons: WF, D, SG, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Hunts require a \$15 annual Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex hunt permit, good for all refuges in the complex.

Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge

2970 Bluff Lake Road

Brooksville, MS 39739

(662) 323-5548

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43620

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F; 10:00 – 4:00 Saturday, 1:00 – 5:00 Sunday (Weekends are staffed by volunteers.)

Exceptional hunting opportunities await sportsmen at Noxubee NWR, well known for a large deer population and good-sized bucks. Hunters can apply for archery, primitive weapon, early firearms and late firearms season permits. The late firearms season is held during the white-tailed deer rutting season, and this is known as the best time to tag one of the refuge's trophy bucks. The refuge's quota waterfowl hunt, held on Wednesday and Saturday mornings through the season, assigns hunters to 12 blind locations in flooded timber.

Getting there:

From Highway 25 going south from Starkville to Road Louisville, look for the green highway sign indicating Noxubee NWR just after crossing into Winston County. Turn left onto Loakfoma Road at the sign. Follow the road until it ends at a T-intersection. Turn left and proceed approximately 9 miles.

From Highway 25 going north from Louisville to Starkville, look for the green highway sign indicating Noxubee NWR. Pass the first sign. Continue to the next sign—approximately 7 miles—and turn right onto Loakfoma Road. Follow the road until it ends at a T-intersection. Turn left and proceed approximately 9 miles.

From Highway 45 at Brooksville, look for Noxubee NWR exit signs. Go through the town of Brooksville and follow the road until it turns to dirt (about 10 miles). Continue straight, go to the second four-way intersection and make a right. Follow the sign to the refuge.

From Starkville (Highway 25/12), look for a sign at the corner with the Hampton Inn (Spring Street). Follow signs south on Oktoc Road to the refuge, about 14 miles.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Four specially designed hunting blinds may be reserved to allow hunters with disabilities to experience the refuge's deer and turkey hunts. These special blinds include hydraulic lifts for wheelchairs and food plots planted in front of the blind. A helper is permitted to transport hunters to the blind. The blinds are also available during the spring turkey hunt.

Youth Hunts: General-access youth hunts are offered for deer, turkey and squirrel. A special youth waterfowl workshop is held in conjunction with Mississippi State University; participants are selected by lottery. The workshop concludes with a special hunt the first weekend of waterfowl season.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, UB, SG, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Hunts are issued by lottery for deer and waterfowl; tags cost \$12.50 for successful applicants. All other hunts require a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

13695 River Road

Yazoo City, MS 39194

(662) 746-5060

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43581

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Panther Swamp NWR contains one of the largest blocks (21,000 acres) of bottomland forest in the lower Mississippi River alluvial floodplain. Where there are trees, there are turkeys, so this refuge offers some of the best opportunities in this part of the state for spring turkey hunters. Turkey populations vary due to spring weather conditions, and in recent years turkey numbers had declined. However, the population is making a strong recovery, and refuge managers expect excellent hunting in the near future. Deer and duck hunting opportunities are also good on this refuge. Parts of the refuge are accessible only by boat, but there is also a walk-in area. Throughout the refuge, ATV trails allow hunters to access remote areas.

Getting there:

Panther Swamp NWR is located 10 miles southwest of Yazoo City. From Yazoo City, take MS Highway 149 west across the Yazoo River bridge, then take the first paved road to the left (River Road). Travel approximately 7 miles to a gravel road, where the refuge headquarters sign is located. Turn right on the gravel road and travel about 0.5 miles to the refuge office.

Youth hunts: A general-access youth waterfowl hunt is offered, usually in late December.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: The turkey hunt is issued by lottery and requires a \$12.50 fee. Occasionally, deer muzzleloader and firearms hunts are also issued by lottery. All other hunts require a \$15 annual Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex hunt permit, good for all refuges in the complex.

St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 117

Sibley, MS 39165

(601) 442-6696

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42640>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

With 25,000 acres of land open to deer hunting, St. Catherine Creek NWR is one of the largest and most successful public hunting areas in southwest Mississippi. Adjacent to the Mississippi River, the refuge has a good population of deer, which can be pursued during general-access archery and muzzleloader seasons. Feral hogs may be taken during any deer season. Hunters with disabilities may use two designated blinds during the archery and muzzleloader seasons, as well as during a special firearms hunt. The blinds are situated by plots planted with grasses to attract deer. Disabled and youth hunters may also participate in turkey hunts on the refuge. A general-access waterfowl hunt is held Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays during the state season. Hunters may hunt on Gilliard, Salt and Butler lakes until noon. Finding a good hunting spot can be difficult due to the area's popularity.

Getting there:

St. Catherine Creek NWR headquarters is located 13 miles south of Natchez. From Natchez, follow U.S. Highway 61 south approximately 10 miles to Sibley. Turn right and follow York Road 2 miles to the refuge entrance. Turn left on Pintail Lane. The headquarters is approximately 0.7 miles down Pintail Lane on the right. Refuge directional signs are located at each turn.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Hunters with disabilities may use two designated blinds during the archery and muzzleloader seasons, and may participate in a special firearms hunt. A turkey hunt for hunters with disabilities is also offered.

Youth Hunts: A youth turkey hunt is issued by lottery. Youth hunts are also held for deer (firearms) and waterfowl.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, SG, MB, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: Youth turkey hunts are issued by lottery. All other hunts require a St. Catherine NWR annual hunting and fishing permit. The permit is \$12.50 for hunters ages 16–65; hunters younger than 16 or older than 65 do not pay a fee for the permit.

Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge

c/o North Mississippi Refuges Complex

P.O. Box 1070, 2776 Sunset Drive

Grenada, MS 38901

(662) 226-8286

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43645

Refuge Headquarters: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

With the meandering Tippecanoe Bayou as its centerpiece, Tallahatchie NWR consists of a rich mix of habitats, ranging from cultivated farmland to reforested fields, from old oxbow lakes to bottomland hardwood forest. The old oxbows and low-lying fields along the bayou flood each winter and can hold large concentrations of waterfowl. Wood ducks abound, as do mallard, teal and other puddle duck species. Waterfowl hunters can pursue ducks until noon four days a week. The refuge also has a healthy deer herd, and seasons are held for archery, primitive weapons and firearms hunters. Small-game hunting is a popular local sport, and with the reforestation, squirrel populations are thriving. Gravel roads and two boat ramps offer convenient access. Other hunting opportunities in the area include Malmaison Wildlife Management Area, which is managed by the State of Mississippi and lies just south of Tallahatchie NWR.

Getting there:

The refuge is located on the north and south sides of Highway 8, 9 miles west of Holcomb.

Youth Hunts: The refuge is open for youth hunters during state youth-only seasons for squirrel, deer, and waterfowl.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, SG, UB, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: A \$12.50 annual refuge hunting and fishing permit, good for any refuge in the North Mississippi Refuges Complex, is required for all hunts. Additionally, raccoon and frog hunters require a Special Use Permit, issued by the refuge on an individual basis.

Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex

728 Yazoo Refuge Road

Hollandale, MS 38748

(662) 839-2638

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=43682

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

One of the best bowhunting areas in the state, Yazoo NWR has become a hotspot for traveling sportsmen looking to take deer with archery tackle. Deer are known to grow larger in the

Mississippi Delta and deer that qualify for the Pope and Young record book are taken on the refuge each year. To be able to take an eight-point or better buck, hunters must first take a “qualifying deer.” This could be a doe, a 2.5-year-old buck with seven or fewer points, or a 1.5-year-old buck with five points or fewer. Special youth and senior citizen deer hunts are held. Another popular opportunity on the refuge is for snow geese, which can be found in large numbers. However, as these birds come and go quite frequently, hunters are encouraged to call refuge headquarters in advance to find out if geese are on the refuge. A special use permit is required for geese.

Getting there:

Yazoo NWR is in the heart of Mississippi’s Delta Region, 28 miles south of Greenville and 61 miles north of Vicksburg. From Greenville, take Highway 1 south to the refuge sign. Turn east on Yazoo Refuge Road, and proceed to the headquarters sign. From Vicksburg, travel north on Highway 61. Turn west onto Highway 436 and proceed approximately 5.5 miles to the refuge sign at Beargarden Road. Turn right on Beargarden Road and follow the signs to refuge headquarters.

For Hunters with Disabilities: The senior citizen deer hunt is managed to accommodate hunters with disabilities.

Youth Hunts: A deer hunt for youth is issued by lottery.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: The refuge’s muzzleloader, youth and senior citizen deer hunts are issued by lottery and require a \$12.50 fee. Snow goose hunting is by special use permit. All other hunts require the annual \$15 Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex permit, good for hunting on all refuges in the complex.

Missouri

<http://mdc.mo.gov/hunt/>

Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

4200 New Haven Road

Columbia, MO 65201

(573) 876-1826

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/BigMuddy/>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Lands along the Missouri River floodplain have often been converted to agriculture, reducing available wildlife habitat. But the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge has restored floodplain habitat to 11,300 acres, and wildlife numbers are rapidly increasing. The eight tracts of land, in eight counties, that make up this refuge are open to all Missouri hunting seasons except for the Boone Crossing Unit that is open to archery only. Hunters will find good populations of deer on the refuge lands, including some nice bucks. Turkeys exist in decent numbers, but finding them in the thick habitat can be challenging. Waterfowl hunting can be phenomenal if the Mississippi floods during hunting season. Unfortunately, these floods happen

only every 10 years or so. The area has also become a popular spot for local callers, who have had success luring in coyotes, foxes and bobcats.

Getting there:

To reach the refuge headquarters in southeast Columbia, take the AC/Nifong exit off Highway 63. Turn east onto New Haven Road. Travel 1 mile to the UUGS Environmental and Contaminants Research Center. The refuge office is located down the third driveway on the right off New Haven Road.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Great River National Wildlife Refuge

County Road 206

Annada, MO 63330

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=33643

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

The forest, fields and wetlands of Clarence Cannon NWR all lie within the fertile bottomland flood plain of the Mississippi River. These productive habitats lead to an abundance of deer. To help control the deer herd and protect habitat, the refuge annually holds a managed antlerless deer hunt. The rifle hunt is generally held in January, and it has become very popular because it has one of the highest success rates in the state. Hunters know they can expect to see lots of animals and have an excellent chance of filling the freezer. Hunters must use designated parking areas, but are then free to roam throughout the refuge.

Getting there:

From St. Louis, take Interstate 70 west to the Highway 79 exit. Take Highway 79 north approximately 35 miles to the town of Annada. In Annada, take County Road 206 east 1 mile to the refuge office.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Deer hunting permits are issued by drawing through the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Great River National Wildlife Refuge

County Road 206

Annada, MO 63330

(573) 847-2333

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=33640

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Great River NWR offers a variety of hunting opportunities on its three refuge divisions. The Delair Division in Pike County, IL, is closed to the public all year, except during the annual managed deer hunt. The Delair division holds a large number of deer, and the control of public access allows them to flourish. The Long Island Division in Adams County, IL, consists primarily of a series of islands along the Mississippi River. This division is open to all public hunting without special permit, except that waterfowl blinds must be reserved through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Deer are the main draw for hunters on these islands, but turkey, rabbit and squirrel are also found in good numbers. The Fox Island Division in Clark County, MO, is open to spring turkey hunting, as well as all upland and small-game seasons outside of the peak waterfowl migration (October 15 through December 31, when the refuge is closed). Deer hunting is closed except during Missouri's special antlerless season. The Delair Division deer hunt is issued by drawing through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Getting there:

The headquarters for the Great River NWR is located on the Clarence Cannon NWR. From St. Louis, take Interstate 70 west to the exit for Highway 79 north. Take Highway 79 north approximately 35 miles to the town of Annada. Turn right on County Road 206 and proceed 1 mile to the refuge office.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, UB, SG (varies by division, check refuge Web site for details).
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Mingo National Wildlife Refuge

24279 State Highway 51

Puxico, MO 63960

(573) 222-3589

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=33540

Visitor Center: 8:00 - 4:00, M – F, year round; 9:00 - 4:00, Sat and 12:00 - 4:00, Sunday, April 1 – June 30 and Sept. 1 – Nov. 30.

At Mingo NWR, turkeys regularly traverse in water up to their chests and often roost in completely different areas each night. Their behavior may be unusual, but one thing is certain — there are a lot of them. The refuge is also a destination for deer hunters, particularly for the hard-to-draw muzzleloader hunt. Only about 10 percent of hunters who apply will draw a tag. While not a high-success hunt, hunters know the refuge harbors some very large deer. The muzzleloader hunt includes the wilderness unit on the 21,592-acre refuge, so hunters can expect to experience solitude in the largest remaining tract of bottomland hardwood forest in southeast Missouri.

Getting there:

Located approximately 150 miles south of St. Louis, the refuge is 25 miles northeast of Poplar Bluff. The visitor center is 1.5 miles north of Puxico on Highway 51.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: An entrance fee is required for all refuge access (a Federal Duck Stamp qualifies as a valid entrance permit). The Missouri Department of Conservation issues permits for the muzzleloader deer hunt. A daily draw for the flooded timber waterfowl hunt on the refuge is held by the Duck Creek Conservation Area.

Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Highway 159 South

Mound City, MO 64470

(660) 442-3187

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=33560>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

The mix of wetlands, grasslands and croplands on Squaw Creek NWR creates perfect habitat for a variety of waterfowl species. It is also perfect cover for a thriving deer population. That's why the refuge holds a special white-tailed deer hunt in January. While there are a limited number of permits available, those lucky enough to draw one can expect a very successful and enjoyable hunt. The muzzleloader hunt is consistently rated as one of the best-managed hunts in the state. Hunters may take antlerless deer only. The refuge has also been attracting as many as 300,000 snow geese each winter.

Getting there:

The refuge is located 5 miles south of Mound City and 30 miles north of St. Joseph, just off Interstate 29. Take exit 79 and then drive 3 miles west on Highway 159.

For Hunters with Disabilities: One pre-constructed blind for deer hunting is reserved for use by a wheelchair confined hunter.

Species Icons: D, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Hunters apply for the managed deer hunt through the Missouri Department of Conservation. The application period is July 1 – August 15.

Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge

16194 Swan Lake Avenue

Sumner, MO 64681

(660) 856-3323

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=33570

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Swan Lake NWR was created to protect habitat for ducks and prairie chickens. Geese were rare visitors until 1941 when 800 Canada geese wintered at the refuge. Over the years, the refuge gradually attracted more and more geese. Today, from 10,000 to 80,000 Canada geese can be found on the refuge annually. A goose-only hunt is held with specified blinds or blind sites assigned to hunters via a morning drawing. Up to four hunters may hunt in one group. Check

with refuge office for the latest regulations. A controlled muzzleloader deer hunt is also held on the refuge. Deer hunts are held for youth and disabled hunters.

Getting there:

From Kansas City (about 100 miles) go north on Interstate 35 to Route 36; go east on Route 36 to State Route 139. Travel south on Route 139 to Sumner, then drive south on Swan Lake Drive about 3 miles to the refuge.

From Mendon, go north on Route CC 1.5 miles to the east entrance gate of the refuge, then left into the refuge interior.

For Hunters with Disabilities: One goose blind is reserved for use by hunters with disabilities. A special hunt also occurs annually for hunters with disabilities. Hunters are provided with a guide, pre-constructed blind, lunch and other assistance as needed.

Species Icons: D, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Goose hunters participate in a daily drawing for blind sites.

Game Hunting, Big and Small

Some of the best big game hunting can be found in the Southwest. While these hunts are often associated with hefty price tags, the National Wildlife Refuge System offers a chance for any hunter to participate. Some of the best desert bighorn hunting in the country is found on national wildlife refuges, available to hunters by lottery.

Several southwestern refuges offer the chance to take even more exotic game. The oryx, an antelope native to the Kalahari Desert of Africa, may be hunted at Bosque del Apache NWR and San Andres NWR in New Mexico. The nilgai, an Indian antelope that can reach 800 pounds, is now more common in Texas than it is in its native land, where it cannot be hunted. Nilgai seasons are held at Laguna Atacosa NWR and Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR. Hunting keeps these species from damaging native habitat.

Some of the finest black bear and moose hunting is in the Northeast. The introduced sika elk that damages native vegetation offers a truly unique hunt at Chincoteague NWR in Virginia and Blackwater NWR in Maryland. Hunters can help control the population of these exotics while enjoying one of the few places in the world where this species may be hunted. St. Vincent NWR in Florida is the only place on the continent where hunters can pursue the sambar, an introduced deer species from Asia.

Elk

Two of the most famous and successful elk hunts are held on Rocky Mountain refuges – Charles M. Russell NWR in Montana and National Elk Refuge in Wyoming. Additionally, Nevada refuges offer trophy hunting opportunities for several species, including desert bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer and pronghorn antelope in the state's remote, high-desert country. Pronghorn can also be hunted in northeastern California, where healthy herds still roam the sagebrush-covered hills.

Hunters may be surprised at some of the opportunities in the Pacific Northwest. This region has some intriguing trophy hunting opportunities, including hunts for Roosevelt elk, desert and California bighorn and pronghorn. The high desert sagebrush expanses of Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon are some of the least inhabited places in the country, and some of the hunts there are true wilderness experiences.

Small Game

If you are a small game hunter, head to the Southeast or the Midwest. Unlike many regions of the country, hunting for species like squirrel, rabbit and raccoon remains very popular here. Many refuges are open to hunting these species, and usually these hunts are open access.

For raccoon hunters, the river corridors protected by refuges offer great places to run hounds without fear of crossing private property. Wheeler (AL) and Wapanocca (AR) NWRs are two refuges that allow raccoons to be pursued at night with hounds. Raccoon hunters are the only ones allowed to use horses on Wapanocca Refuge.

Squirrel

In mid-September, squirrel hunters gather at Crab Orchard NWR in Southern Illinois for 'squirrel camp', a tradition that dates back to the late 1800's when hunters convene to pursue squirrel. Another refuge known for squirrel hunting is Dahomey NWR in Mississippi. The refuge has the largest tree stand in the Mississippi Delta, prime habitat for squirrels

Squirrel hunting is also a great way for young people to become involved in the sport of hunting. A number of refuges offer youth squirrel hunts, including Dahomey and Noxubee NWR, also in Mississippi.

Due to the popularity of hunting in Southeast, refuge hunts are managed for a quality experience. Some regulations differ from state rules. Baiting, for instance, is not permitted, and ATVs are prohibited on many refuges. This book offers an overview of opportunities but is not a comprehensive list of regulations. Please check with refuge Web sites and hunting brochures for the most current regulations.

Montana

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/default.html>

Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge

922 Bootlegger Trail

Great Falls, MT 59404

(406) 727-7400

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=61510>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Despite being only 60 miles from the city of Great Falls, Benton Lake NWR receives relatively light hunting pressure. Avid waterfowl hunters, though, know the refuge can provide excellent hunting for a wide variety of waterfowl species. The shallow wetlands are good for wading hunters, who should be prepared for mucky areas. Boats without motors are allowed, but the water is often too shallow for them. Hunting with decoys is most effective, although some hunters find pass shooting productive along major flight paths. A youth hunt and a blind for hunters with disabilities are offered. A special opportunity is the chance to take a tundra swan, which is possible with a special lottery permit. Hunters fortunate enough to draw a tag have an excellent chance of taking one of these big game birds. Some hunters will set up for pass shooting along dikes found on the refuge, while others set up large white decoys (or even large white garbage bags) to lure the birds into range.

Getting there:

To get to the refuge, follow Highway 87 (Havre Highway) north out of Great Falls for about 1 mile and turn left onto Bootlegger Trail. Go about 9 miles to the well-marked refuge entrance on the left.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A waterfowl blind is available.

Youth Hunts: A youth waterfowl hunt is held each year.

Species Icons: WF, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Benton Lake Wetland Management District

c/o Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge

922 Bootlegger Trail

Great Falls, MT 59404

(406) 727-7400

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=61511>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Benton Lake WMD includes 22 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) spread out over a 10-county area the size of West Virginia. Twenty of these WPAs are open to hunting, and as might be expected, these offer a great variety of opportunities. A few are well-known as pheasant hotspots, and pressure on opening weekends can be heavy. Other areas can be productive for big-

game hunting. Elk occasionally move through the WPAs en route to winter range, and deer can be found on many of the areas year-round. In years with plentiful water, the WPAs also offer good waterfowl hunting. With the WPAs spread out over such a large area, savvy hunters research which ones are currently the best for hunting. A hunter willing to put in the time can have an excellent hunting trip. Many nonresident hunters focus on WPAs in this management district for their annual Montana hunting trip.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Hunters may be granted special access privileges. Check at the Refuge office or with a Refuge officer: 406-727-7400.

Getting there:

Driving directions to specific WPAs are available by contacting the refuge staff.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, D, BG, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Black Coulee National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge.

194 Bowdoin Auto Tour Road

Malta, MT 59538

(406) 654-2863

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=61580>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Black Coulee NWR was created to protect habitat around Black Coulee Reservoir, and like many refuges, the fall waterfowl hunting is highly dependent on the amount of water in the reservoir. However, even in low-water years there are still good hunting opportunities on the refuge. Hunters will find diving ducks like canvasback and redhead, and puddle ducks like mallard and wigeon. Hunters either walk in or use non-motorized boats to access their hunting spots. Refuge managers consider the refuge to be underused by hunters, and pressure is very light for all types of hunting. For hunters seeking solitude, this refuge is perfect. A portion of the land within the refuge boundary is private land; persons wishing to hunt the private land must gain permission from the landowner.

Getting there:

From Harlem, MT go north on Highway 2 for 21 miles to Turner Colony. Go south on the gravel road from Turner Colony 5 miles to reach Black Coulee NWR.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, BG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge

194 Bowdoin Auto Tour Road

Malta, MT 59538

(406) 654-2863

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=61580>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

The cattails and bulrushes around the wetlands of Bowdoin NWR provide nesting and cover for waterfowl, and in the fall they also provide perfect cover for pheasant. In years following mild winters, hunters can find excellent hunting for pheasant on the refuge that attracts both resident and nonresident hunters. Avid pheasant hunters know that the thicker the cover, the better the hunting. A good hunting dog can help flush birds. The refuge also has native prairie areas that can be a good bet for hunting sharp-tailed grouse, and occasionally gray partridge are also encountered. With healthy populations of these popular game birds, many hunters overlook the waterfowl hunting opportunities. However, good numbers of ducks use the wetlands in the fall, and hunting pressure is usually light.

Getting there:

Bowdoin NWR is located about 7 miles east of Malta. From U.S. Highway 2 on the east edge of Malta, turn southeast onto old U.S. Highway 2 at the brown and white refuge sign. Follow the paved road to the two stone pillars marking the entrance road to the refuge headquarters.

Species Icons: UB, WF, MB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No, but hunters must register each day upon arrival and departure.

Refuge hunting regulations may differ from general state regulations.

Bowdoin Wetland Management District

c/o Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge.

194 Bowdoin Auto Tour Road

Malta, MT 59538

(406) 654-2863

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=61580>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

The six waterfowl production areas (WPAs) open to hunting in the Bowdoin WMD are well-known by nonresident hunters as excellent places for waterfowl, upland bird and even big-game hunting. These units offer 6,720 acres of public hunting in Phillips county in northeastern Montana. Upland bird hunters will find the opportunity for great mixed-bag hunts, with pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse and gray partridge possible on the same hunt. Waterfowl hunting is dependent on precipitation, but there are usually good opportunities to take some birds. While the WPAs are all open to big-game hunting, one allows only short-range weapons. Savvy hunters research the WPAs and focus on the ones that offer the best habitat for the game they are pursuing.

Getting there:

Beaver Creek WPA: Follow directions to Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, instead of turning into the refuge continue on Old U.S. Highway 2 for 12 miles and you will come to Beaver Creek WPA.

Dyrdahl WPA: Take U.S. Highway 191 North/Highway 242 North from Malta to Loring. From Loring continue 1.5 miles north and turn left on the gravel road. Continue on the gravel road for 8 miles to Dyrdahl WPA.

Korsbeck WPA: From Dodson, MT on U.S. Highway 2, turn south on Highway 204 and travel 12 miles to Korsbeck WPA.

McNeil Slough WPA: Located 17 miles east of Malta along U.S. Highway 2 is the Sleeping Buffalo turnoff, State Route 243 East. Turn towards Sleeping Buffalo Resort and continue north on the gravel road which follows along the east side of Nelson Reservoir. Do not follow the turn for Route 243; instead, the gravel road will curl around the north end of Nelson Reservoir. The distance from U.S. Highway 2 to McNeil Slough WPA is 6 miles.

Pearce WPA: Follow directions to Bowdoin NWR; instead of turning into the refuge continue on Old U.S. Highway 2 for 7 miles and you will come to Pearce WPA.

Webb WPA: Follow the directions to Dyrdahl WPA and turn North on the gravel road that runs through Dyrdahl. Continue on the gravel road for 3 miles to reach Webb WPA.

Species Icons: D, BG, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 110

Lewistown, MT 59457

(406) 538-8706

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=61520>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

For avid elk hunters, it's no secret: Elk thrive in the Missouri Breaks country of Charles M. Russell NWR and UL Bend NWR (which lies within Charles M. Russell) and they grow large antlers. The habitat here is ideal for elk, and unlike elk elsewhere these animals don't migrate. This all adds up to one of the best big-game hunts in the nation. Most famous is the archery elk hunt held in the early fall. Another popular hunt is the annual youth elk season, held three days prior to the big-game opener. Youth hunters first attend a field day in which they are instructed in elk natural history, shooting range estimation, hunting ethics, field care of downed elk and shooting in field situations. During the hunt, youth have a phenomenal 60 percent success rate. The refuge is also well-known for other hunting opportunities, particularly big game. The refuge has a mule deer population ranging from four to 12 deer per square mile. Pronghorn and white-tailed deer hunting are also excellent. This big-game paradise is set in the rugged badlands and big country of the Missouri Breaks, making a hunt here a true adventure of a lifetime. Hunt regulations change from year to year; check <http://www.fws.gov/cmnr/> for the latest.

Getting there:

Charles M. Russell NWR is located about 150 miles northeast of Billings, Montana. The headquarters for the Refuge Complex is located in Lewistown. From Great Falls, follow U.S. Highway 87 east for 100 miles to Lewistown. Turn right onto Airport Road. From Billings, follow U.S. Highway 87 north to Grass Range and then west to Lewistown for 130 miles. Turn left onto Airport Road. The Refuge headquarters is located about 1 mile up the road to the left.

Three staffed field stations are located around the Refuge. Sand Creek Wildlife Station is located 2 miles south of the Missouri River on the east side of U.S. Highway 191. Jordan Wildlife Station is located south of Montana Highway 200 in the town of Jordan. Fort Peck Wildlife Station is located east of Montana Highway 24 in the town of Fort Peck.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A universally accessible hardened trail is available for archery and rifle elk hunting.

Youth Hunts: An annual youth elk season is held three days prior to the big-game opener.

Species Icons: D, BG, UB, WF, T, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. For information concerning state hunting and fishing regulations, contact Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks at (406) 444-2535. Hunting regulations and tag information can be found at <http://fwp.mt.gov/default.html>.

Charles M. Russell Wetland Management District

Includes Hailstone, Lake Mason and War Horse National Wildlife Refuges

c/o Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 110

Lewistown, MT 59457

(406) 538-8706

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=61520>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

This WMD includes three NWRs—Hailstone, Lake Mason and War Horse—as well as three waterfowl production areas (WPAs), all located in eastern Montana. Waterfowl hunting can be excellent on the wetlands in these areas. But hunters should check carefully before planning a trip here. During drought—and the area has been in a prolonged one recently—the wetlands dry up in the fall, and the waterfowl hunting is nonexistent. These areas do offer public hunting for all species open during Montana seasons, so there are opportunities to hunt these refuges and WPAs even in dry years. The best bet is for sage grouse and sharp-tailed grouse that live in the grasslands along the wetlands. Hunters should plan on covering a lot of terrain to find these birds, which can be scattered over large areas. The use of well-trained dogs helps a great deal in covering the vast terrain in these areas.

Getting there:

Hailstone NWR: Open to hunting waterfowl, upland birds and big game. Take state highway 306 from Columbus to Rapelje. Turn east on the Molt-Rapelje Road for 4 miles to Hailstone Basin Road. Turn north and continue 1.5 miles to the refuge entrance.

Lake Mason NWR: Open to seasons for waterfowl, upland birds, deer and antelope

Lake Mason Unit: Northern end is closed. At the northside of Roundup, turn south from Highway 87 on 4th Street West. Go 1 block and turn west on Golf Course Road. Continue for 6.5 miles, then turn north and proceed three miles to the refuge boundary.

Willow Creek Unit: Go 11.8 miles north of Roundup on Highway 87. Turn west on the Snowy Mountain Road and drive 13.8 miles to the unit. The refuge boundary is not fenced or posted.

North Unit: Go 11.8 miles north of Roundup on Highway 87. Turn west on Snowy Mountain Road and drive 6.9 miles. Turn north on Graves Road and continue 7.2 miles. Turn west on Prairie Trail and continue 2.2 miles to the refuge entrance.

War Horse NWR:

Wild Horse Lake Unit: Go east from Grass Range on Highway 200 for 11 miles to the old town of Teigen. Turn north on Blakeslee Road. Go about 10 miles north until you come to a four way intersection. Turn east and drive 1.5 miles to the lake.

War Horse Lake Unit: Go east from Grass Range on Highway 200 for 11 miles to the old town of Teigen. Turn north on Blakeslee Road. Go about 6.5 miles north until you see the lake. At the cement bridge turn east on the dirt trail to the lake.

Yellow Water Reservoir Unit: From the junctions of highways 200 and 224 near the town of Winnett, drive south on Highway 244 for 7.2 miles to the Yellow Water Road. Turn west on this gravel road and continue 6 miles to the reservoir.

Clark's Fork WPA: From Bridger, drive north 0.5 miles on Highway 310. Turn east on a gravel road for 0.5 miles. This road jogs north and ends at the parking lot.

Spidel WPA: From Broadview, turn east on 21 Mile Road and proceed 0.5 miles. Turn north on the gravel road and continue 2.0 miles to the tract boundary.

Tew WPA: From Broadview, turn east on 21 Mile Road and proceed 7.5 miles. Turn north and drive 4 miles. Proceed 5 miles east to tract.

Species Icons: D, BG, T, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Hewitt Lake National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge

HC 65, Box 5700

Malta, MT 59538

(406) 654-2863

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=61580>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Hewitt Lake NWR is one of four unmanned satellite refuges managed out of the Bowdoin NWR headquarters. The refuge attracts few hunters, but that is more a testament to its remoteness than to the quality of the hunting. In fact, the refuge offers several excellent hunts for sportsmen willing to put some effort into finding the best areas. The seasonal wetland on Hewitt Lake offers good duck hunting each fall, and the area grasslands have decent populations of sharp-tailed and sage grouse. The refuge is not known for big-game hunting, but there can actually be quite a few mule deer using the area in the fall. A hunter willing to scout and take time to learn the best cover has a good chance of taking a deer. The real draw for a deer hunter is the opportunity to glass and stalk deer with almost no hunting pressure.

Getting there:

Hewitt Lake NWR lies within the Milk River Valley in Phillips County seven miles north of Bowdoin NWR. Go 17 miles east of Malta along U.S. Highway 2 to the Sleeping Buffalo turnoff/State Route 243 East. Turn towards Sleeping Buffalo Resort and continue north on the gravel road which follows along the east side of Nelson Reservoir. Do not follow the turn for

Route 243; instead, the gravel road will curl around the north end of Nelson Reservoir. Go 3 miles past the sign for McNeil Slough WPA to reach Hewitt Lake NWR.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D, BG
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 247

Stevensville, MT 59870

(406) 777-5552

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=61560>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

With the Bitterroot Mountains forming a dramatic backdrop worthy of postcards, Lee Metcalf NWR is certainly one of the most scenic refuges in the country. The beauty of the Bitterroot Valley is no secret, though, and more people are moving to the valley each year. The refuge preserves some riparian habitat in this increasingly urban setting. Refuge staff work closely with hunters to ensure that hunting here is a high-quality experience. These efforts are paying off: The white-tailed deer harvest has nearly doubled in just a few years. The refuge allows only archery big game hunting because of its proximity to homes in the valley. A high-quality waterfowl hunt is also held each fall, with established blinds available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The refuge staff is gathering data on hunter success by blind to ensure that the hunt remains a first-class experience for all participants.

Getting there:

Lee Metcalf NWR is located 25 miles south of Missoula and 2 miles north of Stevensville. From Interstate 90, take U.S. Highway 93 south about 30 miles to Stevensville. At the Stevensville cutoff road (269), turn east. Travel 1 mile to Eastside Highway 203. Turn east and travel 2.5 miles to Wildfowl Lane and turn north. The refuge is 2 miles from the intersection.

From Missoula, take U.S. 93 south about 30 miles to Stevensville. At the Stevensville cutoff road (269), turn east. Travel one mile to Eastside Highway (203) and again turn east. Travel a quarter-mile to Wildfowl Lane and turn north. The Refuge boundary is 2 miles from this intersection. Travel another 2 miles on this road to visit Refuge Offices and Visitor Center.

Species Icons: D, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Hunters are required to register when entering the refuge. Sign-in is available at each access point.

Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge

c/o National Bison Range

6295 Pleasant Valley Road

Marion, MT 59925

(406) 858-2216

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=61545>

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

The Pleasant Valley in Montana’s Flathead County has long been known for its picturesque mountain setting and abundant wildlife habitat. Wetlands here attract large numbers of waterfowl in the fall, and the surrounding areas provide perfect cover for big game. A private ranch was purchased in 1999 by the Montana Power Company as part of a mitigation project, and the 3,100 acres were conveyed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to manage as the Lost Trail NWR. Currently, portions of the refuge are open to hunting elk, deer, three species of mountain grouse and wild turkey in accordance with Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks regulations. Youth hunting is encouraged by limiting the first week of archery deer and elk season and the first week of the general deer and elk season to youths 12–14 years of age who are accompanied by an adult who is at least 21 years of age.

Getting there:

Lost Trail NWR can be reached via Highway 2 by traveling west from Kalispell approximately 20 miles to Marion. Turn north at Marion onto Pleasant Valley Road. After approximately 1.3 miles, take the right fork and continue on the blacktop until reaching the gravel road; continue on the gravel road for approximately 13 miles. The refuge headquarters is located north of the county road.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Hunters with disabilities, in possession of a MFWP permit to hunt from a vehicle, are provided with limited access to refuge management roads and trails.

Youth hunts: Youth hunting is encouraged by limiting the first week of archery deer and elk season and the first week of the general deer and elk season to youths 12–14 years of age accompanied by an adult and/or guardian who is at least 21 years of age.

Species Icons: D, BG, T, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge

223 North Shore Road

Medicine Lake, MT 59247

(406) 789-2305

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=61530>

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

The mix of shortgrass prairie and wetlands creates ideal habitat for a variety of game species on this northeastern Montana refuge. Located in the middle of a major agricultural area, gamebird species on the refuge also benefit from the no-till practices of area farmers. The stubble provides ample food while the refuge provides cover. Upland bird hunters will find excellent pheasant populations, provided spring weather is not too cold or wet. Sharp-tailed grouse populations remain stable, while gray partridge numbers seem to fluctuate greatly from year to year. While waterfowl hunting is dependent on water levels in the wetlands, there are usually always good spots with plentiful ducks and geese. However, cold weather can freeze water early and move

birds away from the refuge. Although it is a popular hunting area, ambitious sportsmen find they can walk away from the crowds. Medicine Lake is a wilderness area, so no motorized boats are allowed, and the 2,000-acre Sandhills Wilderness area is roadless, so hunting is walk-in only.

Getting there:

Medicine Lake NWR is located north of Culbertson. From U.S. 2, travel north on Montana Highway 16 for 25 miles to the refuge entrance. Turn east on North Shore Road and travel 2.3 miles over a gravel road to the headquarters.

Youth Hunts: A two-day waterfowl hunt is held.

Species Icons: WF, UB, MB, D, BG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No, except for predator (coyote, badger, fox, skunk, and raccoon) hunters, who are required to carry a free permit. It can be obtained along with a map and regulations from refuge headquarters.

Medicine Lake Wetland Management District

c/o Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge

223 North Shore Road

Medicine Lake, MT 59247

(406) 789-2305

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=61530>

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

Covering wetland areas in three northeastern counties of Montana, Medicine Lake WMD offers a wealth of hunting opportunities for a variety of game. The wetlands range from 400 to several thousand acres, and are important for many duck and goose species. While these attract many waterfowlers, the district may be best known for its excellent hunting for sandhill cranes and tundra swans. Cranes migrate through the area each year, and hunters either pass shoot them as they fly over wetlands or use large crane decoys to lure them into range. There are about 500 swan permits issued in Montana each year, and this district is extremely popular with those hunters lucky enough to draw a tag. Swans are hunted mainly by pass shooting. A true mixed-bag waterfowl hunt is often a possibility, with the opportunity to take swan, three goose species, and puddler and diving ducks in one hunt.

Getting there:

Medicine Lake WMD is comprised of 44 separate units in a three-county area of northeastern Montana near the North Dakota border. The WMD is managed out of the Medicine Lake NWR headquarters. Contact the refuge for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: WF, UB, MB, D, BG, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Northwest Montana Wetland Management District

c/o National Bison Range

For Lake County waterfowl production areas:

132 Bison Range Road

Moiese, MT 59824

(406) 644-2211

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

For Flathead County waterfowl production areas:

6295 Pleasant Valley Road

Marion, MT 59925

(406) 858-2216

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=61544>

Northwest Montana WMD includes 13 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) open to public hunting in the Flathead and Mission valleys. Ranging in size from 28 to 2,370 acres, these areas offer excellent waterfowl and upland bird hunting. The area is intermountain grassland thickly dotted with wetlands. These wetlands, created during the 100,000-year Wisconsin glaciation, are spread throughout the district. One WPA, known as Flathead, consists of seven miles of lake shoreline and upland along the northern end of Flathead Lake, including remnants of delta islands at the mouth of Flathead River. In the wetlands, hunters should encounter good numbers of ducks, including redhead, mallard, wigeon, green-winged and blue-winged teal, and shoveler. In the grasslands, upland bird hunters experience successful hunts for pheasant and gray partridge.

Getting there:

The Northwest Montana WMD units are scattered throughout a large area of Western Montana. Contact the appropriate office for directions to a particular WPA.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. A tribal license is required for all Lake County WPAs.

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

27820 Southside Centennial Road

Lima, MT 59739

(406) 276-3536

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=61570>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Red Rock Lakes NWR is located in the high elevation Centennial Valley, important for its wetlands and for the habitat it provides for species with large home ranges like grizzly bear and wolverine. The refuge was established in 1937 to provide habitat for endangered trumpeter swans and is still one of the most important areas for these birds. One of the few marshland wilderness areas in the country and a designated National Natural Landmark, the refuge has no trails and few facilities. Hunters may travel game paths in search of deer and elk, or canoe

wetlands to hunt waterfowl. For hunters lucky enough to draw one of the popular moose tags, the chance to take a bull are excellent. While the moose found on the refuge, called Shiras moose, are the smallest moose subspecies, these animals are still quite huge and require careful planning to pack meat out. Tags are difficult to draw. Moose hunting is restricted to the willow bog in the southeast corner of the refuge. Permit holders will be mailed a map showing the moose hunt area. Moose may not be taken in other areas of the refuge.

Getting there:

From Interstate 15 at Monida, the refuge headquarters is 28 miles east on an improved (partially gravel) dirt road. From West Yellowstone, follow U.S. 20 for about 12 miles west to the junction with Montana Highway 87. Travel northwest on Montana 87 for 5 miles, and turn south at the Sawtell historical marker. Follow the paved road around the west shore of Henry's Lake for approximately 5 miles onto Red Rock Pass Road (improved dirt road), following it west for about 25 miles to the refuge entrance. Fill your tank for the 100-mile round-trip to the refuge.

Species Icons: WF, D, BG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Check with Refuge Manager for changes in refuge hunting regulations.

Swan River National Wildlife Refuge

c/o National Bison Range

132 Bison Range Road

Moiese, MT 59824

(406) 644-2211

<http://www.fws.gov/bisonrange/Swan/>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

The Swan River NWR is on the edge of the Pacific Flyway, but each fall good numbers of ducks stop here and use the refuge's wetland habitat as a resting area. Waterfowl hunters can choose river or lake hunting on about 40 percent of the 15,000-acre refuge. Lake hunters may use a boat or hunt from cover along shore (only refuge vegetation may be used to construct temporary blinds). River hunters must use boats as the water can be quite deep. Most hunters visit the refuge in the early season, when the refuge waters aren't frozen and good numbers of gadwall, teal and wigeon can be found. Good hunting can still be found late in the season for mallard and Canada goose. Visiting the refuge in the late season can be an "extreme sport" due to frigid weather and rough lake waters. Hunters need to be extremely cautious while moving around the lake in a boat; a spotlight is advised for accessing hunting spots early in the morning.

Getting there:

Swan River NWR is 40 miles from Kalispell. Travel south from Kalispell on State Highway 35. At the town of Big Fork, travel south on State Highway 83. The refuge entrance is 1 mile south of the town of Swan Lake.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Portions of the refuge are open to hunting in accordance with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) regulations.

UL Bend National Wildlife Refuge – See Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge

Nebraska

<http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/hunting/hunting.asp>

Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge

3720 Rivers Way

Fort Calhoun, NE 68023

(402) 468-4313

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=64640>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

The section of Missouri River that flows through Nebraska once was rich in wetland wildlife habitat, but river channelization and wetland conversion have eliminated more than 500,000 acres of habitat. Boyer Chute NWR was established to restore wetlands for wildlife. The waterfowl have returned, and each fall a hunt is held per state regulations. Most refuge waterfowling areas are accessible only by boat, but select entrance points are offered for walk-in hunters. These hunters must keep their shotguns cased and unloaded until they are in the hunting area. The refuge also holds muzzleloader deer hunts. There are hunts administered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as well as later hunts issued by the refuge. Check with refuge headquarters for the latest hunting dates and information.

Getting there:

Boyer Chute NWR is located on the west side of the Missouri River, 3 miles east of the town of Fort Calhoun and 15 miles north of Omaha. From Omaha or Blair, follow Highway 75 to the southernmost street (Madison Street) within the Fort Calhoun city limits. Watch for the Boyer Chute NWR sign. Turn east and proceed to the stop sign at the T-intersection. Turn right onto County Road 34 and proceed approximately 3 miles to the refuge main gate.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Special accommodations can be made for permitted deer hunters with disabilities.

Species Icons: D, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: A refuge hunting permit is required for all deer hunts; inquire at refuge headquarters.

Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge

10630 Road 181

Ellsworth, NE 69361

(308) 762-4893

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=64510>

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

When many think of sand dunes, they imagine the beach, but it is hard to get much farther from the ocean than Crescent Lake NWR. Located in the Nebraska Panhandle, the refuge is part of the Nebraska Sandhills, the largest continuous sand dune area in North America. This area is not a desert; rather, the dunes are surrounded by and even covered with mixed grass prairie. Wetlands are interspersed throughout the refuge. Hunters may roam the prairie in search of pheasant, prairie grouse, rabbit, coyote, and both mule and white-tailed deer on portions of the refuge during state seasons. Additionally, waterfowl may be hunted in specified wetland areas. The Sandhills is a less-populated, and less explored, area of the Great Plains. Hunters here find a real sense of adventure set among one of the continent's most unique habitats.

Getting there:

To enter from the south, go north from Oshkosh on West Second Street for 28 miles following refuge signs all the way. From Alliance, go east on State Highway 2 to about 0.25 miles east of Antioch. Go south, following refuge signs. From Ellsworth, go west on Highway 2 about 8 miles; then go south, following refuge signs. Plan on driving about an hour after leaving highways from the north or south.

Species Icons: D, UB, WF, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge – See Iowa

North Platte National Wildlife Refuge

115 Railway Street

Scottsbluff, NE 69631

Phone Number: 308-635-7851

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=64511>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

Bowhunters at North Platte NWR on the Nebraska panhandle can expect to see vast panoramas of mostly untouched grasslands when they visit the refuge's Lake Alice unit, which is open for a brief archery deer season. They can also expect a solitary, unpressured hunt. Conditions vary from year to year depending on rainfall. Although Lake Alice is a Bureau of Reclamation water project, irrigation takes precedence over refuge water use. A youth hunt is held for squirrel, rabbit, pheasant, coyote, raccoon, opossum, long-tailed weasel, mink, fox, badger and striped skunk. The unit is closed from October 15 to January 14 during peak waterfowl and eagle use. Lake Alice has one of the oldest and most successful eagle nests in Nebraska. In years that the lake is dry the eagles feed their young prairie dogs.

Getting there:

From US Highway 26, travel north on Sugar Factory Road to County Road C (approximately 7 miles). Turn east on County Road C approximately 2 miles to the Lake Alice unit entrance. Stateline Island: From U.S. Highway 26 at Henry, Nebraska, travel south on Holloway Road approximately 1 mile to the entrance and parking area.

Youth Hunt: A youth hunt is held for small game, pheasant and raccoon.
Species Icons: D, SG, UB
Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Rainwater Basin Wetland Management District

P.O. Box 1686
2610 Avenue Q
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 236-5015

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/recEdMore.cfm?ID=64530>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Each spring, huge flocks of snow geese congregate in southeastern Nebraska, offering some of the best goose hunting in the United States. Some of the top spots are 61 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) that make up Rainwater Basin WMD. Covering an area of 14 southeastern counties, the WPAs protect more than 23,000 acres of prime waterfowl habitat. The name “Rainwater Basin” originates from the geologic formation of large, wind-blown shallow depressions, which become flooded after rain and snow melt. Waterfowl hunters can wade easily through these shallow basins. The spring snow goose season offers the district’s best opportunity at a time when most other hunting is closed. Fall waterfowl hunting can also be excellent, with hunters finding large concentrations of birds amid the aquatic vegetation. This refuge also provides habitat for one of the largest concentrations of ducks on the continent, with the numbers of birds numbering in the millions, making duck hunting another great experience.

Getting there:

The 61 WPAs in Rainwater Basin WMD are scattered throughout 14 counties in southeastern Nebraska, extending from Gosper County in the west to Seward County in the east. Please contact Rainwater Basin WMD staff for directions to a specific WPA.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, D, T, SG
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Valentine National Wildlife Refuge

HC 14 Box 67
Valentine, NE 69201
(402) 376-3789

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=64521>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Valentine NWR has become a destination for upland bird hunters who enjoy pursuing different species. This refuge is one of the few areas in the country where sharp-tailed grouse and prairie chickens can be hunted in the same place. Most of the 7,200-acre refuge is grasslands, offering perfect conditions for these birds. Hunters with pointing dogs cover a lot of country and find plenty of birds. Getting within shooting range can be a challenge, especially later in the season. Both species are known for flushing well out of shotgun range, but persistent hunters are usually rewarded with clean shots due to the number of birds. Hunters also have a decent chance of taking pheasant on the same hunt. Upland birds may get most of the attention, but the refuge also offers hunts for white-tailed and mule deer, coyote, waterfowl and mourning dove. Youth hunts are offered for deer and waterfowl.

Getting there:

Valentine NWR is located about 20 miles south of Valentine, off U.S. Highway 83. The refuge headquarters is located off Highway 83 along the 16B Spur. Directional signs are located along the route.

Youth Hunts: Offered for deer and waterfowl.

Species Icons: UB, WF, MB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Nevada

<http://www.ndow.org/hunt/index.shtm>

Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

610 Spring Meadows Road

Amargosa Valley, NV 89020

(775) 372-5435

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=14554

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

At Ash Meadows NWR, spring water bubbles up from underground in the Mojave Desert. These springs create small pools and pebbled streams throughout the refuge. This special habitat is home to 24 species found nowhere else on Earth, and it attracts waterfowl species in the fall. Quail and rabbit are common in the uplands. Hunters can pursue their quarry on most of the refuge during the fall seasons. Waterfowl hunters may hunt by foot or via non-motorized boat. Due to thick cover in places, a retriever can help to find downed birds. At quiet times, hunters should take a moment to peer into the spring pools, observing some of the fish, beetles and snails that rely on these waters for their survival.

Getting there:

From Amargosa Junction, travel 15 miles south on State Route 373. Then turn east onto Spring Meadow Road and drive 5 miles to the refuge headquarters.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Desert National Wildlife Range

Corn Creek Field Station and Visitor Center

16001 Corn Creek Road

Las Vegas, NV 89124

(702) 879-6110

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=14555>

Refuge Office: The Corn Creek Field Station is open 7:30 – 4:30, M – F; the refuge operates a weekend visitor center at the same location from 8:00 – 12:00, F, 8:00 – 4:00, Sat and 8:00 – 2:00, Sun.

The neon lights of Las Vegas may seem far indeed from wilderness, but just 20 miles away lie the rugged canyons and expansive vistas of Desert NWR. This 1.6 million-acre refuge was created to protect habitat for desert bighorn sheep, although a few hunting tags are awarded annually by lottery. Part of the refuge is located on the Nevada Test and Training Range, a military facility, where the hunting season is only two weeks long. Hunters should expect terrain to be rough and rugged. They should bring plenty of water and layers of clothes for fluctuating temperatures, and drive a well-maintained vehicle. While there are access roads in the refuge, the best sheep hunting is achieved by backpacking or horseback, making for a real adventure in a stunning wilderness setting.

Getting there:

The major access point is through the Corn Creek Field Station, which can be reached by traveling northwest on U.S. Highway 95 about 25 miles from Las Vegas. A brown sign on the east side of the highway near milepost 101 marks the 4-mile gravel road.

Species Icons: BG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Fallon National Wildlife Refuge

1000 Auction Road

Fallon, NV 89406

(775) 423-5128

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=14592>

Refuge Office: Fallon NWR has no facilities, but the Stillwater NWR office is open 7:00 – 5:00, M – F.

Fallon NWR is in the Lahontan Valley of western Nevada, at the terminus of the Carson River. The 15,000 acres of wetland and playa habitat draw large numbers of waterfowl and migratory birds when there are high water flows on the Carson River. During these times, there can be good waterfowl hunting on the refuge. However, due to diversion for irrigation, the Carson River does not have enough water to reach the refuge in most years, and hunting conditions have

suffered. But hunters can also come to the refuge to pursue upland birds. Fallon NWR has primitive roads that are passable only when dry.

Getting there:

To visit Fallon NWR, it is best to stop at the Stillwater NWR headquarters located at 1000 Auction Road in Fallon to obtain a map and directions. Fallon National Wildlife Refuge is located in the Lahontan Valley, near the community of Fallon, approximately seventy miles east of Reno.

Species Icons: WF, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 510

Alamo, NV 89001

(775) 725-3417

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=14551

Refuge Office: Contact the refuge for hours.

Pahranagat NWR is a refuge of wetland habitat in the Nevada desert, and this oasis attracts good numbers of waterfowl each season. Located one and a half hours from Las Vegas, this is the closest spot to Nevada's largest city for waterfowl hunting. It is popular with Vegas hunters, and the refuge is open for duck hunting select days each week through the season. While waterfowl hunting is always popular on the 5,380-acre refuge, hunters should not overlook other gamebird hunting opportunities. Migrating doves come to the refuge for water at impoundments and springs, and hunting can be excellent. The uplands portion of the refuge is home to a healthy Gambel's quail population, and hunters should be able to hear these birds calling in all suitable habitat. Quail hunting is best during wet years when birds have plenty of food and cover.

Getting there:

Travel North on U.S. Highway 93 from Interstate 15 approximately 70 miles. Follow signs to the refuge headquarters.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge

HC 60, Box 860

Ruby Valley, NV 89833

(775) 779-2237

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=14570

Refuge Office: 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, M – F

Ruby Lake NWR, which supports one of the largest populations of nesting canvasback ducks in the West, is a vital waterfowl nesting area. In the fall, it is also a prime spot for Nevada waterfowlers. Due to its 6,000-foot elevation, the marsh protected by the refuge can freeze early, so hunting is more reliable early in the season. Hunting pressure is typically light, and hunters can access the hunting area by foot or boat. Boating is only allowed until December 31. A wide variety of duck species and Canada geese are on the refuge in the early fall. Hunters are reminded that there is a population of trumpeter swans on the refuge. To protect them, shooting any white-colored birds (including snow geese) is prohibited. A few hunters also walk the marsh grass to flush snipe, which congregate along the edges in early fall. Shooting can be fast for these small, sporty game birds that very few hunters pursue. ATVs and snowmobiles are not permitted on the refuge

Getting there:

The refuge is 65 miles south and east of Elko via State Highway 228 and Harrison Pass (or 98 miles via State Highway 229 and Secret pass), and 97 miles north and west of Ely.

Directions from Elko: Travel 7 miles southeast on State Highway 227, to the intersection with State Highway 228. Take State Highway 228 and travel 21 miles south to Harrison Pass, which will go 15 miles to County Road 767. Take County Road 767 south approximately 10 miles to the refuge headquarters. Look for signs.

From Ely: Travel west on U.S. 50 for 29 miles. Take County Road 767, north 68 miles to the refuge.

From Eureka: Travel East on U.S. 50, 48 miles. Take County Road 767, north 68 miles to the refuge.

Visitors must travel 17 to 35 miles of gravel road to reach the refuge. In summer, visitors can travel 65 miles south of Elko on State Highway 228 (paved two-lane road) through Spring Creek and Jiggs to County Road 718. Part of County Road 718 over Harrison Pass is a steep, rough and winding gravel road that is not passable in winter and is never recommended for large trailers or motor homes. Visitors should check with refuge headquarters about road conditions, especially November through May, and write for a map.

Species Icons: WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Sheldon/Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex

P.O. Box 111, 18 South G

Lakeview, OR 97630

(541) 947-3315

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=14621

Refuge Office: Contact the refuge for hours.

The “Old West” lives on at Sheldon NWR, which includes rocky canyons, old homesteads and numerous species of wildlife found only in the Great Basin. Rolling hills covered with sagebrush and mountain mahogany stretch to the horizon. This remote and rugged refuge is also home to a rich variety of wildlife, including large herds of wintering pronghorn antelope and scattered bands of California bighorn sheep. A few lucky hunters each fall can draw the limited tags for mule deer, pronghorn and bighorn sheep on the refuge. While tags are few, hunting is usually highly successful. The 500,000-acre refuge is located in one of the most inaccessible and least inhabited areas in the contiguous United States, and hunters should be prepared with plenty of supplies and a reliable vehicle. Hunters who don’t draw a big game tag can still experience good hunting at this refuge for chukar and quail. A limited number of tags are offered annually for sage grouse hunting.

Getting there:

From Lakeview, travel 68 miles east on Highway 140, which provides access into the heart of Sheldon NWR.

From Denio, Nevada, travel 14 miles west on Highway 40.

Species Icons: D, BG, UB, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge

380 Triple E Lane

Fallon, NV 89406

(775) 423-5128

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=14590>

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 5:00, M – F

Stillwater NWR is a place where hunters have come to hunt waterfowl for thousands of years — and refuge management ensures that hunters will be able to hunt this wetland area for many years to come. Stillwater NWR used to be the terminus of the Carson River, but that river no longer flows here due to diversion of water. The refuge has reestablished the historic wetland, largely by use of an irrigation system that brings water to the area. Created in 1948, the refuge was closed to the public until it expanded in 1990. The restored wetlands offer an excellent refuge for waterfowl, and hunters have a wide range of hunting opportunities on the refuge. There are motorized and non-motorized boat access areas and free-roam, walk-in areas. Hunters can expect good numbers of mallard, gadwall, canvasback and other ducks that migrate along the Pacific Flyway.

Getting there:

From Fallon, take U.S. Highway 50 east approximately 5 miles. Turn left onto Stillwater Road and follow the "Watchable Wildlife" signs to the refuge entrance (approximately 15 miles).

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

New Hampshire

<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Hunting/hunting.htm>

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge

C/O Parker River NWR

6 Plum Island Turnpike

Newburyport, MA 01950

978-465-5753

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=53570

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

The New Hampshire coast is a mix of suburbia, fields and woodlands, and that seems to suit white-tailed deer. The coastal area has a much higher deer density than the big forests that cover much of the state. Great Bay NWR offers an annual two-day hunt limited to shotguns with slugs for hunters lucky enough to draw a tag. Hunters are not assigned areas and may take a deer of either sex. They may scout a week prior to the hunt. Refuge managers say that successful hunters focus on the edges between forest and grassland, found throughout the 1,089-acre refuge. In a state where deer hunting success can be as low as 10 percent, Great Bay hunters typically have a 50-percent success rate.

Getting there:

Take exit 1 off Route 16 (Spaulding Turnpike) and turn onto Pease Boulevard heading into Pease International Tradeport. Go through one stoplight to a stop sign and turn right on Arboretum Drive. Follow refuge signs for 3 miles to the refuge parking lot, office and trails.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. The deer hunt is issued by lottery.

Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 240, 2756 Dam Road

Errol, NH 03579

(603) 482-3415

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=53580

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Covering 20,500 acres in New Hampshire and Maine, Lake Umbagog NWR offers first-rate opportunities for all forest game — grouse, white-tailed deer, black bear and moose — and is open for all general hunting seasons in the two states. Pointing or flushing dogs are invaluable for finding grouse in this big country. (Spruce grouse, found in the low, wetland areas of the refuge, may not be hunted.) Moose permits are difficult to draw in the New Hampshire and Maine state lottery systems, but Lake Umbagog NWR has some of the best moose habitat in the country, and success rates are often 90 percent on moose hunts in the area. Because hunters have

to haul this large animal out of the woods (New Hampshire requires that the moose be taken out whole), the refuge permits hunters to use all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Deer hunting is popular, but the white-tail population is not dense. Snow, always a possibility, aids in learning and tracking deer movements. Bear baiting is prohibited, but hound hunting is legal and popular among local hunters. The adjacent timber company lands are also open to hunting, offering a large block of terrain for hunters to pursue their quarry.

Getting there:

The refuge office is located approximately 5.5 miles north of the town of Errol on State Route 16 north. Errol is 30 miles north of Berlin.

Species Icons: D, BG, SG, WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Hunters may be asked to participate in hunter surveys in conjunction with state agencies. This helps the refuge assess and manage its hunting programs.

Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge – See Massachusetts

New Jersey

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/hunting.htm>

Cape May National Wildlife Refuge

24 Kimbles Beach Road

Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

(609) 463-0994

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=52515

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Cape May, internationally famous as a birding destination, is also a popular place for area hunters. The refuge opens two large divisions (Great Cedar Swamp and Delaware Beach) for all of New Jersey's seasons for white-tailed deer, including archery, firearm and muzzleloader. Deer hunters, who are encouraged to use portable deer stands, will find 11,000 acres of flat terrain, both forested and open marshland. Although deer hunting will likely always remain the biggest draw for hunters on Cape May NWR, managers are looking at ways to improve woodcock hunting opportunities. Managers are creating a habitat management plan that addresses fields that may be too overgrown for migrating woodcock. Hunters may use dogs to pursue woodcock — the only time dogs may be unleashed on the refuge — and must use steel shot. Cape May NWR is adjacent to state wildlife management areas and state forests, creating a large block of public land open to hunting.

Getting there:

From the Garden State Parkway, take Exit 10 west into the town of Cape May Court House. At Highway 9 turn south (left), then turn west (right) onto Hand Avenue. At Highway 47 turn south (left) and then west (right) onto Kimbles Beach Road. The refuge headquarters is ahead about 0.25 miles on the left.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB
Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge

Great Creek Road
Oceanville, NJ 08231
(609) 652-1665

www.fws.gov/refuges/northeast/forsythe

Refuge Office: 10:00 – 3:00, M – F

Waterfowl hunters pursue rails, ducks, Canada geese, snow geese and migratory birds excluding woodcock. Waterfowl hunt units are accessed mostly by boat. About 50 percent of the refuge's 47,000 acres is open to deer and waterfowl hunting. Deer hunting is by state permit, and seasons are in place for bows, muzzleloaders and shotguns.

Getting there:

The refuge's headquarters and main public use area are located at its Brigantine Division on the mainland at Oceanville. From U.S. 9, visitors may enter the refuge via Great Creek Road, which ends at the refuge's gate.

The Barnegat Platform is located in Barnegat on Bay Shore Drive off U.S. 9 between Ridgeway and Edison Avenues.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. A refuge hunting permit is required for all hunts. Seasonal waterfowl and deer hunting are permitted in designated areas of both the Brigantine and Barnegat divisions, under Federal and State regulations.

Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

241 Pleasant Plains Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
(973) 425-1222

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=52530

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Just 25 miles from New York City, Great Swamp NWR attracts 155,000 visitors a year to its 7,725 acres. The refuge hosts a four-day muzzleloader and shotgun deer hunt, and a one-day youth hunt each year, during which the refuge is closed to all other uses. The hunts provide recreation and also help protect habitat for species such as forest-nesting birds. Most of the hunters use portable tree stands, while some hunt from the ground, and a few groups conduct deer drives. The limit is two deer, only one of which may be a buck. Muzzleloader hunters may take a buck as their first deer but shotgun hunters must take an antlerless deer first. About 50 percent of the bucks on the refuge are three years or older. The hunt takes place in an area known

for its scenic beauty. The mix of forests and wetlands makes it hard to believe that Great Swamp NWR is located so close to one of the world's largest cities and nothing complements this striking setting more than seeing a mature buck amble across an open area - a sight once rare but now experienced by many refuge hunters and other refuge visitors.

Getting there:

Great Swamp is 7 miles south of Morristown, NJ.

From Interstate 287 (southbound and northbound), take exit 30A (Basking Ridge/North Maple Avenue) and bear right onto North Maple Avenue. Go through the traffic light at Madisonville Road (ignore refuge directional sign pointing left at Madisonville Road) and continue on North Maple Avenue. After 1 mile, North Maple will bear left and become South Maple Avenue. Continue on South Maple Avenue for 1 mile and turn left onto Lord Stirling Road. After 1.3 miles you will pass over a bridge on the Passaic River. Continue straight on White Bridge Road for 1 mile and turn left onto Pleasant Plains Road. Follow refuge directional signs to refuge headquarters.

From Interstate 78 (westbound), take exit 40 and turn right on Hillcrest Road (County Road 531). Go 1 mile to a stop sign and cross Mountain Avenue, staying on Hillcrest Road (County Road 531). (Hillcrest Road becomes Mountain Avenue after passing over the Passaic River Bridge.) Go straight through the traffic light at the intersection of County Road 512 (Valley Road) and continue on Mountain Avenue (now County Road 638). Go 1.3 miles to the top of the hill and cross over Long Hill Road onto Meyersville Road. Go down Meyersville Road 0.8 miles to the circle, turn left on New Vernon Road and follow refuge directional signs.

From Interstate 78 (eastbound), take exit 40 and turn left onto Hillcrest Road. Then follow westbound directions.

Youth Hunts: The refuge hosts a one-day youth hunt

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes

Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

C/O Cape May National Wildlife Refuge

24 Kimbles Beach Road

Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

(609) 463-0994

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=52571>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Some of the best deer hunting at Supawna Meadows NWR is right in the middle of open fields. Elevated hunting blinds are placed in fields for hunters to use. While this may seem like an unusual vantage point, the blinds help hunters and they create a safe zone of fire in this urban area. The refuge is located just south of the Delaware Memorial Bridge with houses very close

to the refuge borders. Hunters are selected by a state-administered lottery, which permits 35 hunters per day throughout the archery and shotgun seasons. About 2,500 acres are open to hunting, and each hunter is assigned a hunting blind. The hunt has become very popular, as almost all of the other land in the area is privately owned.

Getting there:

Supawna Meadows NWR is approximately 35 miles south of Philadelphia and approximately 10 miles south of Wilmington, Delaware. From Interstate 295, take exit 1C, Salem County Route 551. Follow Route 551 south to its end at New Jersey Route 49. Turn left onto Route 49 east. Go approximately 1 mile on Route 49E to the first road on the right, Lighthouse Road. Turn right onto Lighthouse Road. Turn left at the sign for the refuge office. A number of directional signs are located along the route.

Youth hunts: A deer hunt for youth hunters is issued by lottery.

Species Icons: D, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: A \$20 permit must be purchased through the refuge. Prospective hunters must attend an orientation session at the refuge.

Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge

1547 County Route 565

Sussex, NJ 07461

(973) 702-7266

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=52610

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge offers three seasons of hunting opportunities in beautiful northern New Jersey. Habitat includes hardwood forest, grassland, shrubland and wetland. Applications for each hunting season require a \$20 fee paid by check or money order only. Refuge permits for youth hunters (16 and under) are free. The refuge is open for the youth hunt days in accordance with state seasons. A special access area is available only to disabled hunters who possess a New Jersey Permit to Shoot or Hunt from a Stationary Vehicle. Hunters often remark what a great hunt experience Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge provides. The number of refuge permits are unlimited, yet with 23 different parking areas to choose from, hunters can enjoy a safe and peaceful, quality hunt. White-tailed deer hunting is available during standard state archery, shotgun and muzzle-loader seasons. Hunters must possess a Zone 2 state permit to participate in the extended seasons. Migratory bird season, which includes the popular woodcock, Canada goose and duck hunting, is also available. Hunters possessing a state permit for Zone 5 can obtain the refuge wild turkey spring and fall permit. Hunting seasons and bag limits conform to state regulations.

Getting there:

From South Jersey, take Interstate 95 north (NJ Turnpike) to I-287 north. Then take State Route 23 north through Hamburg, and turn right onto County Route 565 north (Glenwood Road) by the Chase Bank in Wantage. The refuge headquarters is 1.5 miles on the left.

Traveling east on Interstate 84 from Pennsylvania, travel across the Delaware River to New York State. Take New York State exit 1 (Sussex) and travel south on State Route 23. Continue on State Route 23 through the borough of Sussex. Turn left on County Route 565 north (Glenwood Road). The refuge headquarters is 1.5 miles on the left.

Traveling west on Interstate 84 in New York State, take exit 3W (Middletown), and after turning right off the exit ramp, immediately get in the left turning lane and turn left onto Route 6W. Travel 3.5 miles to Slate Hill. Turn left onto Route 284 south. Travel 9.1 miles to Unionville, NY. Turn left onto State Line Road. After 1.3 miles, you will pass over the Wallkill River (State Line Road turns into Oil City Road). Continue another 1.3 miles to the stop sign. Turn right onto Liberty Corners Road, which will become Lake Wallkill Road when you cross into New Jersey. Travel 1.4 miles to a fork in the road; stay left on Lake Wallkill Road/Route 667. Travel 5.6 miles to Route 565. Turn right on Route 565 south. The refuge headquarters is 1 mile on the right.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Special accommodations, including the use of all-terrain vehicles, are available for hunters possessing a New Jersey Permit to Shoot or Hunt from a Stationary Vehicle.

Youth Hunts: The refuge offers hunting, issued by lottery, on state youth-only turkey and waterfowl hunt days.

Species: D, T, WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Hunters are required to purchase a \$20 refuge permit. Youth hunters under 16 may hunt free.

New Mexico

<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/recreation/hunting/index.htm>

Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge

4065 Bitter Lake Road

Roswell, NM 88201

(505) 622-6755

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=22510

Visitor Center: 9:00 – 3:00, Tu – Sat

While many come to Roswell looking for UFOs, hunters will be more likely to notice other flying objects in the area, namely, thousands of snow geese, sandhill cranes and other waterfowl species. These birds are flying to Bitter Lake NWR, one of the most important waterfowl habitats in the Southwest. As many as 40,000 sandhill cranes can be found at the refuge in the fall, creating a truly impressive wildlife spectacle. Hunters can experience this waterfowling hotspot at two hunting areas on the refuge: one that is open during state authorized seasons, and one in which hunting is allowed during limited days and times each week. Hunters should consult refuge headquarters for the latest regulations. Portable blinds are permitted, and hunters can expect to see thousands of snow geese, up to 20 duck species and large numbers of sandhill cranes, which may be hunted provided a hunter has the necessary federal crane permit.

Getting there:

From Roswell, take U.S. 380 (Second Street) east about 3 miles to a refuge sign at Red Bridge Road. Or, take U.S. 285 (Main Street) north to Pine Lodge Road, turn right (east). From the turnoff, it is 8 miles to refuge headquarters, following directional signs.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, D, EX, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 1246

Socorro, NM 87801

(505) 835-1828

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=22520>

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F, and 8:00 – 4:30, Sat – Sun

Oryx, a beautiful antelope native to the Kalahari Desert of Africa, does not always roam across Bosque del Apache NWR. But during the hunting season, this introduced species often moves across the refuge due to hunting pressure in other areas. While the hunt for oryx on the refuge is not easy, each year some dedicated hunters are successful in finding them. The season for oryx on the refuge is typically long, but hunters are issued permits good for 30 days. The hunter needs an “off-range permit” and may hunt oryx on the refuge during the concurrent deer season. Most oryx are taken later in the season, when they have been moved off nearby White Sands Missile Range during its hunting season. Wary animals, they require careful, quiet stalking and long shots. While some bowhunters take up the challenge, the open terrain usually makes a close-range approach extremely difficult.

Getting there:

To reach the refuge from Socorro, drive 8 miles south on Interstate 25 to exit 139, then continue east about 0.25 miles on U.S. 380 to the flashing signal at San Antonio. Turn right onto Old Highway 1 and continue south 9 miles to the visitor center.

From Las Cruces, drive north on Interstate 25 to exit 124 (San Maracial), then north on Old Highway 1 to the visitor center.

Species Icons: D, EX, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No, except a special permit is required to hunt waterfowl.

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge

Route 1, Box 399

Las Vegas, NM 87701

(505) 425-3581

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=22580

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Waterfowl looking for a resting place in New Mexico need reliable water. That's why the Las Vegas NWR has created permanent lakes, ponds and marshes throughout its lands. These wetland areas, located where shallow depression wetlands have traditionally occurred, are managed for water depth and size to provide a mix of habitats for waterfowl and other birds. Irrigated agricultural fields on the refuge also provide food for ducks, geese and cranes. Permit hunts for doves and Canada geese allow hunters to experience this refuge. It is the Canada goose hunt that is most popular, as it has a reputation for a high-quality, high-success hunting experience. The hunt typically occurs in late November through December. Hunters who win a tag may pursue geese for one day during the season. The refuge provides two dozen goose decoys for each hunter to use in the designated pit blinds, overlooking fields.

Getting there:

Las Vegas NWR is located about 7 miles southeast of the town of Las Vegas, New Mexico. Follow Interstate 25 to Las Vegas. Take exit 345 off I-25 at the second Las Vegas exit. Drive east on NM State Highway 104 for 1.5 miles, then turn south on NM State Highway 281. Drive approximately 4.5 miles to the refuge office.

Species Icons: WF, MB MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Dove and goose hunts are issued by lottery.

San Andres National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 756

Las Cruces, NM 88004

(505) 382-5047

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=22521

Refuge Office: Call the refuge directly for hours. The refuge is not open to the general public due to security restrictions. It is surrounded by federal lands belonging to the White Sands Missile Range.

The entire boundary of this refuge lies within the White Sands Missile Range, making it off limits to the public for almost every use. However, the range happens to be home to an introduced population of oryx, an animal native to the Kalahari Desert of Africa. Because these non-native animals cause damage to habitat and could transmit disease to desert bighorn sheep and mule deer, the refuge holds a depredation hunt each year. People allowed onto the refuge for the depredation hunts are drawn from a depredation hunter list established by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Hunters take about 50 oryx a year during hunts held from November through April. While it is a depredation hunt, it is very attractive to hunters. It offers the chance to take one of the world's most striking trophies, to see a refuge off limits to the public, and to help the refuge protect native animals.

Getting there:

The refuge office is located about 9 miles east of Interstate 25 on U.S. Highway 70. It is on the north side of Highway 70 at the intersection of Highway 70 and Santa Gertrudis (5686 Santa Gertrudis).

Species Icons: EX
Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 1248
Socorro, NM 87801
(505) 864-4021

www.fws.gov/refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=22522

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:30, M – F; 9:00 – 3:00, Sat

The original owner of the property that now makes up this national wildlife refuge wanted to ensure that it was managed naturally. The property was donated to The Nature Conservancy and then transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a refuge. Since then, management activities have included restoring waterfowl habitat, which provides a resting area for ducks, as well as a hunting opportunity. This is an “off-the-beaten-path” destination for hunters looking for a waterfowl opportunity in New Mexico. While the refuge may not have the huge numbers of ducks that many other refuges have, it offers a great opportunity for puddle ducks. Hunters may hunt two 100-acre impoundments, managed specifically for waterfowl habitat. Temporary blinds are permitted, and hunters can safely wade throughout both impoundments, as the water levels are never higher than chest waders.

Getting there:

From Albuquerque, take Interstate 25 south to exit 169. The entrance road to the refuge headquarters is located on the west side of I-25.

Species Icons: WF, MB
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Overcoming Challenges: Hunting with a Disability

Bobby Harrell doesn't remember how many deer he has harvested since an accident left him with a disability in 1993, but he does know how much he enjoys "seeing people get back into doing stuff that they used to do but didn't think they could." Harrell participates in an annual hunt for people with mobility impairments at Ernest F. Hollings Ace Basin National Wildlife Refuge in South Carolina. The hunt has become so popular that 15 tags are issued by lottery.

Disabled hunters will find numerous opportunities at national wildlife refuges, many of them long standing. Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin has offered special weekday and weekend waterfowl hunting since 1989. At Trempealeau NWR, each hunter may bring one able-bodied assistant who is also permitted to hunt. Hunters may also be partnered with volunteers who assist them throughout the day. Trempealeau NWR Park Ranger Jennifer Lilla says the event is a "unique, quality hunting experience that is accessible, manageable and available."

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware has invited hunters with disabilities to an annual waterfowl hunt since 2003. A 71-year old father came to the first hunt with his 35-year old son who was confined to a wheelchair by an accident. It was their first waterfowl hunt together.

Professional waterfowl guides, Bombay Hook NWR personnel and volunteers from the National Wild Turkey Federation assist more than a dozen hunters during the hunt which is held in late December or early January. The volunteers are the result of a national partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wild Turkey Federation's Wheelin' Sportsmen division (<http://www.wheelinsportsmen.org/>) that has enabled refuges to create more opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy the outdoors.

In general, special hunts for hunters with disabilities are usually limited to about fifteen hunters; random drawings are held if more hunters apply. Hunting is often restricted to a specific area of a refuge. All special hunt participants must have valid hunting licenses, and the required state and federal stamps and/or permits; they must also follow the same bag limits as all other hunters.

Hunters with disabilities should be aware that state regulations vary widely. Some states issue free licenses to people with certain disabilities. Some require a physician's statement of disability before a license is issued. There are often modified rules about discharging a firearm from a vehicle, since this may be the only way a hunter with a disability can hunt. It is critical that hunters obtain information on specific regulations from the appropriate state department or other licensing agency where they intend to hunt. Hunters should also get specific information from the national wildlife refuge where they intend to hunt.

Adaptive equipment and adapted hunting techniques help hunters perform in spite of their disabilities. There are accessible boats, wheelchair-accessible lifts to reach hunting blinds and self-elevating aerial hunting platforms that require no trees.

Rifles, handguns, shotguns, muzzleloaders and even bows can be adapted to accommodate individual disabilities. There are locking devices for compound bows, converted crossbows for people without upper body function and red-dot sighting systems for use with bows and guns. Shooting rests can be mounted on a wheelchair or a tripod to secure a rifle or a bow. Guns can be positioned and aimed with joystick controls. Hunters with limited or no use of their arms can learn to shoot with a special mouthpiece or a “sip and puff tube,” in which the trigger is activated by sipping or puffing air through a tube. There are even wheelchairs built like all-terrain vehicles, with big tires and the ability to negotiate sand, mud, rocks and uneven terrain. There are also outfitters offering training clinics specifically for hunters with disabilities.

The former executive director of Paralyzed Veterans of America says events for hunters with disabilities, like the one he attended at Bombay Hook NWR, can be an unforgettable experience. “Events like this renew people’s self-esteem,” says Wayne Carter. “The world comes alive when you get out into the woods, sit in a marsh to see the sun rise, and have the camaraderie of others who are in wheelchairs.”

New York

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/hunting.html>

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

1101 Casey Road
Basom, NY 14013
(585) 948-5445

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=52540

Visitor Contact Station/Headquarters: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F; 9:00 – 5:00, weekends in spring and fall

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge affords hunters the opportunity to pursue nearly every game species available in New York. In the fall, hunters at Iroquois NWR can pursue white tailed deer, waterfowl, pheasant, ruffed grouse, woodcock, snipe, rail, cottontail rabbit, gray squirrel, woodchuck, fox, coyote, raccoon, opossum and skunk. With the exception of waterfowl hunts — which are limited to a lottery drawing on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays — all other hunting is open as state seasons allow. Deer hunting is available during standard state archery, shotgun and muzzle-loader seasons. When spring arrives, large flocks of turkeys roam Iroquois NWR, and many hunters see them or signs of them. With spring being the only season to hunt turkey on the refuge, taking a nice gobbler is far from a sure thing. Hunters drawn for the month-long hunt can expect wary birds scattered throughout the 10,828-acre refuge. The wet May weather makes this hunt even more difficult. For any season, hunting is never crowded on the refuge.

Getting there:

From the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90), take exit 48A (Pembroke/Medina). Go north on Route 77 approximately 8 miles. At the four-way stoplight in Alabama Center, continue straight for 1 more mile to Casey Road. Turn left on Casey Road. The headquarters building is 1 mile west.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Hunters with a state disabled hunting license, Golden Access Passport or America the Beautiful Access Pass may qualify for special accommodations. Contact the refuge office for details.

Youth Hunts: The refuge offers turkey hunting for youth only on the first Sunday of spring turkey season. To participate, youths ages 12–17 must preregister and attend a half-day orientation on the Saturday before the youth hunt day. The refuge also offers waterfowl hunting for youth only on the first Sunday of waterfowl season. To participate, youths ages 12–17 must preregister and attend an all day orientation.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, UB, SG, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: All deer and upland game hunters must register and carry a special daily refuge hunting permit while hunting. These permits can be obtained from several self-service kiosks on the refuge; locations are on the refuge's Web site. Turkey hunts are issued by lottery a month in advance of the season. Drawings for waterfowl tags are held in advance for special reserved days and on-site for other hunt days. Waterfowlers must also have completed a

waterfowl identification class. All hunters must check in and report on their hunting at the end of the day.

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge

3395 Route 5 and 20 East

Seneca Falls, NY 13148

(315) 568-5987

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=52550>

Visitor Center: 1:00 – 3:00, M – F ; 10:00 – 4:00, weekends, April 1 – November 30

The area known as the Montezuma Marshes once drew thousands of waterfowl making their annual fall migration. However, the development of the Erie Canal led to the construction of smaller canals that enabled farmers to drain the marshes. The marshes were almost completely drained, and the ducks were gone. In 1938, the Montezuma NWR was formed to restore the wetland habitat with impoundments. Today, the refuge consists of 10,000 acres, and the ducks — mallard, black duck, green-winged and blue-winged teal, gadwall, wood duck, shoveler, wigeon, merganser — are back. Hunters must use a non-motorized boat to access the impoundment. Hunting is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Hunters must call and make a reservation the day before their desired date. Hunting parties are limited to two persons, and no more than 20 parties are on the impoundment on any given day. The small number of hunters makes for an uncrowded experience. Most duck hunts in this part of the state are on large lakes that require big boats and big decoy spreads. The hunt at Montezuma NWR is a completely different experience: It is a quiet hunt on calm waters, ideal for a canoeing hunter with a small spread of decoys.

Getting there:

The refuge entrance is located on NY 5 and U.S. 20 between Seneca Falls and Auburn, and it is just minutes from exit 41 on the New York State Thruway. From exit 41, turn right onto NY 414. At the first stoplight, turn left onto NY 318 and follow it for approximately 5 miles to the end. Turn left onto NY 5/U.S. 20 and follow it for 1.25 miles; turn left into the refuge entrance.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Special accommodations may be available for hunters with a state disabled hunting license or Golden Access Passport; advance notice is required.

Species: WF, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Refuge hunting permits and a \$10 fee are required for all hunts. Completion of a waterfowl identification course is also mandatory for all waterfowl hunters.

Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge

360 Smith Road

Shirley, NY 11967

(631) 286-0485

<http://www.fws.gov/Refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=52561>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

Long Island deer hunting is becoming rare due to an ever-increasing human population and sprawling development. Since 2005, Wertheim NWR has given hunters a new opportunity as part of its program to control the refuge's white-tailed deer population. The refuge offers three three-day archery hunts and one two-day shotgun hunt. Hunters may apply individually or as a member of a two-person hunt party, and they are selected by refuge lottery. Lottery winners are required to take a refuge-specific orientation test before they are issued hunt permits. A universally accessible unit is available for disabled hunters. Located on Long Island's south shore, the 2,550-acre refuge protects one of the last undeveloped estuary systems remaining on Long Island for use by migratory waterfowl.

Getting there:

To reach the refuge, take Exit 68 off the Long Island Expressway or Exit 58 off Route 27 (Sunrise Highway) and go south on Route 46, William Floyd Parkway until you reach Route 27A / CR80 (Montauk Highway). Go west (right) on 27A / CR80 about one-half mile to the first traffic light at Smith Road. Go south (left) on Smith Road about a half-mile. Look for the refuge entrance on the right after you cross over the railroad tracks.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A hunt unit that meets Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements is available for hunters with a state disability permit who are selected in the refuge lottery.

Species Code: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Hunters must apply for the permits, which are assigned by lottery. A \$10 application fee is required.

North Carolina

http://www.ncwildlife.org/fs_index_04_hunting.htm

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 1969

Manteo, NC 27954

(252) 473-1131

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41630>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

First-time visitors are often surprised by the impenetrable vegetation and remoteness of Alligator River NWR. Most of the 152,000-acre refuge is open to hunting, offering a great adventure for hunters willing to explore the wild country here. A variety of species may be hunted, but most hunters pursue white-tailed deer. Alligator River is the only national wildlife refuge that allows the use of chase dogs to hunt deer. Waterfowl hunting is permitted, but waterfowling is better on the sounds and rivers surrounding the refuge. The refuge can be difficult to access; although there are 150 miles of logging roads, these are difficult to negotiate even in four-wheel-drive vehicles. The use of ATVs is prohibited. Visitors exploring this beautiful refuge should also keep an eye out for one of the refuge's most notable creatures, the red wolf. This highly endangered

species, confined to captive populations for years, was first reintroduced in the wild at Alligator River NWR in 1987. It has since been released at other refuges and natural areas.

Getting there:

Alligator River NWR is located on the mainland of Dare and Hyde Counties, 15 miles west of Manteo. The refuge's administrative office is on Roanoke Island (in Manteo) on U.S. Highway 64. To reach the refuge, take U.S. Highway 64 west from Manteo, cross the Croatan Sound onto mainland Dare County, and continue west to the refuge entrance. Signs direct visitors to the refuge field headquarters.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts.

Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge

C/O Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge

38 Mattamuskeet Rd

Swanquarter, NC 27885

(252) 926-4021

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42531>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Ducks are constantly moving back and forth from Cedar Island NWR (5 miles from the Atlantic Ocean) to other waterfowl wintering areas on Pamlico Sound. This means that some days hunters on the refuge will see flocks of thousands of birds, and some days they won't see any. It all depends on the weather, and persistent hunters know the ducks will return sooner or later. When ducks are on the refuge, hunters can expect excellent gunning for scaup, bufflehead, black duck, pintail and other species. Two boat launches provide access to the public hunting area — about 400 acres of marsh. Hunters may hunt along 14 miles of shoreline and 100 yards into the marsh. Most hunters use boat blinds and large decoy spreads. Hunters are reminded that they must keep their shotguns cased while boating through “no hunting” areas.

Getting there:

The refuge lies about 5 miles northeast of the community of Atlantic and about 40 miles northeast of Beaufort. Access to the refuge is via U.S. 70 and NC Highway 12 from Morehead City. Cedar Island can also be accessed by ferry from Ocracoke Island.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Currituck National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 39

Knotts Island, NC 27950

(252) 429-3100

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41631

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

For avid waterfowlers, Currituck Sound holds a special place in the lore of the Atlantic Flyway. Rich waterfowling traditions and huge flights of ducks have characterized this area for centuries. Many of the duck hunting opportunities in this area, however, are private ones. Fortunately, hunters can experience this traditional hotspot through two public hunts, one for ducks and one for snow geese, held on Currituck NWR. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission issues both hunts by lottery. Hunters are assigned blinds located on open water at the edge of the marsh. They are accessible only by boat, which must be able to negotiate shallow water. While some waterfowl migration paths have changed recently, hunters still experience excellent hunting on one of the Flyway's most storied waters.

Getting there:

Currituck NWR consists of six separate units all located between Corolla and the NC/VA state line. To access the refuge, follow NC Route 12 north until it ends in Corolla. At this point all traffic is diverted to the beach (four-wheel drive is required). The first refuge tract is located about 0.75 miles north of this point. Currituck NWR is managed by the staff at Mackay Island NWR; therefore, no building or other facilities exist on the refuge.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Hunters with disabilities may hunt from their boats at the blind sites.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Hunts, issued by lottery, are administered by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 39

Knotts Island, NC 27950

(252) 429-3100

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41660>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Firearms hunters looking for an early start to their season should consider hunting Mackay Island NWR, where the first deer season begins in September. Hunters may use shotguns or muzzleloaders as well as bows. The refuge holds four hunts during the fall, each lasting three days. The hunts do not require drawing a tag, so hunters can participate throughout the season. The 8,000-acre refuge is mainly wetland, but the upland areas scattered throughout do hold good deer populations. Access to the best hunting areas is often limited due to the marshy habitat. When the deer are pressured early in the season, they move deeper into the refuge, so hunts later in the season typically attract fewer hunters. Hunters may use a boat to access hunting areas, but there are plenty of good hunting spots accessible by foot.

Getting there:

Mackay Island NWR is near Knotts Island. From Princess Anne Road in Virginia Beach, Virginia, travel south. Once in North Carolina, this road is called NC Highway 615 south. The road to the refuge office is located on the right about 1 mile south of the state line. The refuge may also be reached by taking the free ferry from Currituck. Once on Knotts Island, you can reach the entrance road to the office by traveling 9.2 miles on NC Highway 615 north. The ferry has a 45-minute crossing time, and leaves Currituck at 6 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 5:30 p.m., seven days a week.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Hunting opportunities are available. Call the refuge office.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts. Mackay Island straddles two states with different quotas and requirements.

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge

38 Mattamuskeet Road

Swanquarter, NC 27885

(252) 926-4021

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42530

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

The majority of the continent's wintering tundra swans can be found in this area of North Carolina, and hunters lucky enough to draw a tag have an excellent chance at getting one of these trophy birds on Mattamuskeet NWR. Hunters also find a great variety of ducks on the refuge, including green-winged teal, gadwall, black duck, ring-necked duck and ruddy duck. About 40,000 acres of the 50,000-acre refuge are encompassed by Lake Mattamuskeet, the largest lake in North Carolina, which draws waterfowl each fall. The waterfowl hunt is issued by lottery, and hunters are assigned a blind. Prior to the general waterfowl season, hunters can participate in a first-come, first-serve resident Canada goose season. The resident geese have become extremely numerous on the refuge and this hunt was created to help control the population.

Getting there:

The refuge is on the Albemarle-Pamlico peninsula in eastern North Carolina, approximately 8 miles east of Swanquarter.

From the east or west, take Highway 264 to the intersection with Highway 94 north. The entrance to the refuge is 1.7 miles north on Highway 94. Turn right off Highway 94 onto a gravel road and travel 2.3 miles to the refuge headquarters.

From the north, enter Hyde County via Highway 45 south and then travel east on Highway 264 (and continue as above), or enter on Highway 94 south at Columbia, through Fairfield, turning left at the refuge entrance (and continue as above).

For Hunters with Disabilities: Universally accessible blinds are available for hunters with disabilities during the quota duck hunt. Hunters with disabilities are also accommodated during the quota deer hunt.

Species Icons: WF, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Waterfowl and deer hunts are issued by lottery and require a fee.

Resident Canada goose hunt permits are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge

5770 U.S. Highway 52 North

Wadesboro, NC 28170

(704) 694-4424

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42550

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Hunting quail with pointing dogs once was one of the most popular sporting opportunities in the South. Today, quail populations have declined substantially, and public opportunities are limited. Pee Dee NWR has a good quail population due to the substantial habitat restoration on the refuge. To limit hunting pressure, the refuge offers only seven quail hunting days per year, spread out throughout the season. Quail hunting is just one of the great hunting opportunities here. The deer hunts, issued via lottery, offer a great alternative to increasingly common high-priced leases. Raccoon hunters, who need long lengths of creek to run their dogs, also find the refuge to be an ideal hunting location. The hardwood bottomland forest offers an unbroken block of public land in which to chase raccoons without fear of crossing into private hunting clubs or posted land.

Getting there:

From Charlotte, take Highway 74 east to Wadesboro. Turn left on Highway 52 north and continue 6 miles. The refuge office is on the right.

From Wadesboro, take Highway 52 north for 6 miles. Turn right into the refuge office facility.

For Hunters with Disabilities: The National Wild Turkey Federation, in partnership with the refuge, offers its “Wheelin’ Sportsman” program on the refuge. This program includes deer hunts for sportsmen with disabilities paired with mentors.

Species Icons: D, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Deer and turkey hunts are issued via lottery; other hunting requires a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 329, 205 South Ludington Drive

Columbia, NC 27925

(252) 796-3004

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42535

Refuge Office: 9:00 – 3:00, M – F

The 110,000-acre Pocosin Lakes NWR preserves a unique type of wetland habitat, known as “pocosin,” from a Native American word meaning “swamp on a hill.” Before the refuge was established, many acres of this wetland were drained, greatly increasing the risk of fire. The refuge restores this terrain, providing habitat for endangered red wolf and red-cockaded woodpecker, as well as hunting opportunities for deer and many other species. State season and bag limits apply with the exception of the Pungo Unit. Archery hunting for deer on the Pungo Unit opens during state seasons and closes at the end of November. The only gun hunting for deer allowed on the Pungo Unit is quota hunts, usually consisting of five two-day hunts falling on the weekends during the month of October. Archery hunting is closed during the month of October.

Getting there:

The refuge is located 6 miles south of Columbia off Highway 94 and 18 miles south of Plymouth off Highway 45. There are several access points. The Pungo Unit is accessible from Highway 45. The refuge field office can be reached by taking Highway 64 to Roper, turning onto Newland Road and then right onto Shore Drive. The Walter B. Jones Sr. Center for the Sounds, refuge visitor center and headquarters complex are located on Highway 64 in Columbia, next to the Tyrrell County Visitor Center.

Species Icons: D, MB, UB, WF, T, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: Permits issued by lottery are required for the Pungo Unit gun hunt and spring turkey hunt. Feral hog hunters need a free special hog hunting permit, and nighttime raccoon and opossum hunters must have a special nighttime hunting permit. All other hunts require a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 430

Windsor, NC 27983

(252) 794-3808

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42630

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Spread out along the river whose name it bears, Roanoke River NWR consists of many separate tracts that protect the river’s bottomland hardwood forest. Several of these tracts are open to hunts for a variety of game, with all permits issued by lottery by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. With its mix of upland ridges and the bottomland forest, the refuge is especially good for turkey hunting. Turkeys are plentiful throughout the refuge, and the spring hunt can be highly successful. The three-day hunt is managed to limit hunting pressure, so hunters have an excellent chance of working gobblers and having a quality hunt. Other lottery-issued hunts are held for deer, rabbit and waterfowl.

Getting there:

The refuge office/visitor contact station is located at 114 W. Water Street in Windsor, off U.S. Highway 17. Refuge tracts are most easily accessed by boat. Due to the intermittent swales and ridges found within the vast floodplain, limited access by vehicle is available only from U.S. Highways 13 and 17, 10 miles south of Windsor.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A universally accessible trail on the refuge is reserved for hunters with disabilities.

Species Icons: D, T, SG, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. All permits are issued by lottery through the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Permits cost \$5. Information on available hunts can be found in the “Special Hunt Opportunities” booklet put out by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge

38 Mattamuskeet Road

Swanquarter, NC 27885

(252) 926-4021

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42532>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Hunters who enjoy the challenges of hunting fast-flying sea and diving ducks have a great public opportunity at Swanquarter NWR, where species like scaup, bufflehead and scoter are common late in the fall. This general-access hunt covers 6,000 acres of the 16,000-acre refuge. Hunters access the area by boat. Hunters may hunt only in the marsh, and all boats have to be touching the marsh because open-water hunting is not permitted. Hunting can be good, particularly later in the season. When area lakes freeze, more birds move onto the refuge. Large decoy spreads are a must to lure in diving ducks. Good numbers of puddle ducks, especially black duck and wigeon, can also be found on the refuge.

Getting there:

The refuge lies about 60 miles east of Washington, south of the village of Swanquarter. A 2-mile-long gravel road south of Highway 264 leads into the upland portion of the refuge and to the site of the 1,000-foot-long Bell Island fishing pier. All other access to the refuge is via boat only.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

North Dakota

<http://gf.nd.gov/hunting/>

Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge

7745 11th Street SE
Pingree, ND 58476
(701) 285-3341
<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62510>
Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Located along the James River in east central North Dakota, Arrowwood NWR's 16,000 acres are made up of lakes, marshes, prairie grasslands, wooded coulees and cultivated fields. Like many refuges in North Dakota, this one is best known for its important wetland habitat for waterfowl. Arrowwood NWR also has expanses of grassland habitat, important to waterfowl and a wide variety of wildlife species. Here, many game species thrive, including white-tailed deer, red fox, pheasant and sharp-tailed grouse. All may be hunted on the refuge. Deer may be hunted during state archery and firearms seasons, with bird seasons following the last deer season. Fox may be taken during any of these open seasons, but raccoon and coyote may not be hunted.

Getting there:

The refuge headquarters is located 26 miles north of Jamestown and about 23 miles south of Carrington. From Jamestown, travel north on Highway 281 to Edmunds. At Edmunds, go east on County Road 44 for 5.5 miles and turn north on the headquarters road. From Carrington, travel south on Highway 281 to Edmunds. Turn east on County Road 44 and drive 5.5 miles, then turn north on the headquarters road. There are signs on Highway 281 and County Road 44 directing visitors to the headquarters.

Species Icons: D, UB
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Arrowwood Wetland Management District

c/o Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge
745 11th Street SE
Pingree, ND 58476
(701) 285-3341
<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62530>
Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

The Arrowwood WMD currently includes 28 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) totaling 6,162 acres across Foster and Eddy counties in east-central North Dakota. This district not only protects incredibly important habitat for waterfowl, but also provides a wealth of public recreation opportunities. All 28 WPAs are open to public hunting and trapping per North Dakota seasons. Waterfowl hunting is especially popular, and hunters come to the WPAs expecting a mixed bag. Giant Canada goose, mallard, pintail, teal, gadwall, shoveler and redhead are common local species. Fall migrations bring other waterfowl such as snow geese, white-fronted geese, and sandhill cranes. Upland game birds commonly hunted are pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse and gray partridge. White-tailed deer are common throughout the district and hunters enjoy a very high success rate. A variety of management techniques ensure that wildlife habitat

remains excellent on the WPAs. Prescribed burning and grazing are used to improve the conditions of the native grasses.

Getting there:

The district headquarters is located at Arrowwood NWR, 26 miles north of Jamestown and about 23 miles south of Carrington. From Jamestown, travel north on Highway 281 approximately 26 miles to Edmunds, then turn east and travel 5.5 miles on County Road 44 to the headquarters road. Turn north to the headquarters. From Carrington, travel south on Highway 281 to Edmunds. Turn east onto County Road 44 and travel 5.5 miles, then turn north onto the headquarters road. There are signs on Highway 281 and County Road 44 directing visitors to the headquarters. Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D, PR

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Audubon National Wildlife Refuge

3275 11th Street NW

Coleharbor, ND 58531

(701) 442-5474

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62540>

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

The first day of pheasant season on Audubon NWR is a social event. Groups of families and friends get together each year to push through the cover around Lake Audubon. While this lake encompasses 10,000 acres of the 14,500-acre refuge, there is still plenty of land for hunters to pursue upland birds and deer. Hunters typically find good numbers of pheasant as well as fair numbers of sharp-tailed grouse and gray partridge. The refuge also hosts archery, muzzleloader and firearms seasons for deer. Hunting is walk-in only, but roads are open for retrieval of downed deer. The firearms hunt offers an excellent chance to fill the freezer, with about 70 percent of hunters taking a deer. All hunts are held after migrating waterfowl have left the refuge to reduce disturbance to the birds' resting areas.

Getting there:

The Audubon NWR office and visitor center is located 3 miles north of Coleharbor on U.S. Highway 83 and 1 mile east.

Species Icons: D, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Audubon Wetland Management District

c/o Audubon National Wildlife Refuge

3275 11th Street NW

Coleharbor, ND 58531

(701) 442-5474

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62540>

Refuge Office and Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

On any given day, it's hard to predict what waterfowl species a hunter will encounter on the waterfowl production areas (WPAs) of Audubon WMD. This district offers a wealth of opportunities, with 120 WPAs and wildlife development areas (WDAs) spread over McLean, Ward and Sheridan counties in west-central North Dakota. The 31,000 acres of public land have become a destination due to the number and variety of birds. Giant Canada geese might be there one day, with flocks of sandhill cranes flying over the next. A huge variety of puddle and diving ducks is usually present in the fall. Hunters willing to scout the various WPAs can also find good deer, pheasant and sharptail grouse hunting in the cover around the wetlands. Many hunters overlook the coyote and red fox hunting, but these are both common on the WPAs and open to hunting during state seasons.

Getting there:

District WPAs and WDAs are found in a four-county area in north-central North Dakota. Contact the Audubon NWR office for directions.

Hunters with Disabilities: Please call the refuge.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge

5924 19th Street SE

Woodworth, ND 58496

(701) 752-4218

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62514>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

One of the nation's oldest refuges, Chase Lake NWR was established in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt. Located in the "prairie pothole" region, the refuge contains excellent wildlife habitat, including native prairie, dense nesting cover and an amazing diversity of wetlands. It was designated as a wilderness area in 1975. To protect resting migratory birds, no hunting is allowed until after the peak migration period. As the birds move south, deer hunting is permitted during the state firearms deer season. Archery hunting is also permitted during this season. Due to the wilderness designation, access is walk-in only, creating a quality hunt with little pressure. However, the prohibition on motorized vehicles does present some challenges for refuge managers. Currently, the refuge is using insects to control invasive weeds and prescribed burns to manage other habitat.

Getting there:

Chase Lake NWR is located 10 miles north and 7 miles west of Medina. From Jamestown, travel west on Interstate 94 to the Medina exit. Turn north and go 11 miles on County Highway 68. Turn west on the gravel road and drive 7 miles. Turn south and go 1 mile. The last five miles are

“prairie trail” road—a minimum-maintenance road that can be difficult to travel during wet conditions.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Chase Lake Prairie Project Wetland Management District

5924 19th Street SE

Woodworth, ND 58496

(701) 752-4218

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62514>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

The Chase Lake Prairie Project WMD covers Stutsman and Wells counties in south-central North Dakota. Hunting is open on 133 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) totaling 38,500 acres and five wildlife development areas (WDAs) totaling 3,401 acres. Waterfowl hunting is very popular in the district. Giant Canada geese, mallard, pintail, teal, gadwall, shoveler and redhead are common varieties of local nesting birds. Fall migrations bring other species of waterfowl that do not nest locally. Upland game birds commonly hunted are pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, and gray partridge. The harsh winters of 1993 and 1997 drastically reduced populations of upland game birds. Sharp-tailed grouse bounced back quickly, but pheasant and partridge are recovering at a slower pace. White-tailed deer are common throughout the district and hunters enjoy a high success rate.

Getting there:

The Chase Lake Prairie Project WMD headquarters is located 3 miles east of Woodworth. Chase Lake NWR is located 10 miles north and 7 miles west of Medina, North Dakota. From Jamestown, travel west on I-94 to the Medina exit. Turn north and go 11 miles on County Highway 68. Turn west on the gravel road and drive 7 miles. Turn south and go 1 mile. The last 5 miles are "prairie trail" road. This is a minimum maintenance road that can be difficult to travel during wet conditions. However, this very scenic drive provides visitors a glimpse of how this country appeared during pre-settlement times. Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs and WDAs.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Crosby Wetland Management District

10100 Hwy 42 NW

P.O. Box 148

Crosby, ND 58730

(701) 965-6488

<http://www.fws.gov/lostwood/crb.htm>

Wetland Management District Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Located in the heart of “prairie pothole” country, hunters can experience world-class waterfowl hunting on the 96 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) that make up Crosby WMD. These WPAs provide 18,730 acres of public hunting opportunities in three counties in the northwestern corner of North Dakota, along the Canada border. All WPAs in this district have large wetlands, creating ideal conditions for duck hunting. This area is well-known to traveling duck hunters, and each year many nonresident hunters return to the district for their annual waterfowl hunt. With so many WPAs from which to choose, hunters can nearly always find a wetland that harbors good numbers of puddle and diving ducks. As with other WPAs, other hunting is legal as well, and the cover around the wetlands can harbor good numbers of pheasant and white-tailed deer.

Getting there:

The Crosby WMD office is located at 206 Main Street in Crosby. Crosby is 130 miles northwest of Minot on State Highway 5. Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 578, 1 Mile West of Kenmare, County Road 1A

Kenmare, ND 58746

(701) 385-4046

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62570>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

In the spring, nearly every wooded coulee on Des Lacs NWR echoes with the gobbles of wild turkeys. The refuge is known for its high turkey population, and hunters know that nice gobblers are found in suitable habitat throughout the refuge. The spring hunt can be highly successful for a hunter competent in calling and scouting. The refuge is also open for fall turkey hunting, but it can be much more difficult to find birds at this time of year due to the turkeys congregating in large flocks. Many hunters take them as incidental game during refuge deer hunts, which include seasons for archery, rifle and muzzleloader hunters, as well as a special youth hunt. The hunting is very good for white-tailed deer, and a few mule deer can also be found on the refuge. No waterfowl hunting is permitted on the refuge, but ample opportunities exist on adjacent private ground.

Getting there:

The Des Lacs NWR headquarters is located 1 mile west of Kenmare, off Ward County Road 1. A large entrance sign is situated at the junction of County Roads 1 and 1A. Kenmare is 50 miles northwest of Minot on U.S. Highway 52.

Youth Hunts: A youth gun deer hunting season is set by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

Species Icons: D, T, UB, SG
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Devils Lake Wetland Management District

P.O. Box 908, 221 2nd Street West
Devils Lake, ND 58301
(701) 662-8611

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62580>

Wetland Management District Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Hunters in northeastern North Dakota don't have to search hard for public hunting areas, thanks to the 209 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) open to hunting in Devils Lake WMD. Spread over an eight-county area, the WPAs offer more than 48,000 acres of public hunting. Vast numbers of snow geese land here, creating excellent hunting for these wary birds. Giant Canada geese have been reintroduced to the area. Duck hunters will most likely encounter blue-winged teal, mallard and gadwall, while upland game bird hunters can expect pheasant, gray partridge and turkey. Lake Alice NWR, also managed as part of the district, offers hunting for deer, red fox, waterfowl and upland game birds. Tens of thousands of snow and Canada geese, as well as ducks, use this refuge during the fall.

Getting there:

The Devils Lake WMD office is located in the city of Devils Lake, at 221 Second Street West. Devils Lake is located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 2 and North Dakota Highway 20, approximately 90 miles west of Grand Forks. Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, UB, SG
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge

681 Salyer Road
Upham, ND 58789
(701) 768-2548

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62620>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

It's easy to see why there are so many white-tailed deer on J. Clark Salyer NWR. The marshes, hardwood river bottoms and sandhill prairies offer some of the best and most diverse habitat to be found in the area. Hunters find plenty of deer—and not much competition—on this 59,000-acre refuge. Hunters, who know the area have learned where deer feed and rest, and enjoy stalking through the varied habitat. The refuge is open for firearms and archery seasons. A refuge permit is required for antlered deer. These buck licenses are much sought after by hunters, and drawing one can be difficult. The refuge also offers a variety of other great hunting opportunities, including hunts for turkey and waterfowl, and late-season opportunities for pheasant and red fox. The refuge was named for J. Clark Salyer II, a biology teacher in Minot,

North Dakota, who went on to become the Chief of Refuges for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. During Salyer's tenure, the National Wildlife Refuge System grew to 14 million acres, playing a critical role in protecting the nation's wildlife resources—and hunting opportunities—for future generations.

Getting there:

The refuge headquarters is 2 miles north of Upham. Turn off U.S. Highway 2 at Towner and proceed 26 miles north on State Highway 14.

For Hunters with Disabilities: The refuge office issues Special Use Permits to hunters with disabilities.

Species Icons: D, T, UB, WF, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: A refuge hunting permit is required for antlered deer hunting.

J. Clark Salyer Wetland Management District

c/o J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge

681 Salyer Road

Upham, ND 58789

(701) 768-2548

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62629>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

With 127 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) offering 27,000 acres of public hunting, J. Clark Salyer WMD offers a diversity of opportunities in a five-county area of north-central North Dakota. Wetlands range in size from five to several hundred acres, and, while any hunting is allowed per state regulations, waterfowl hunting is the most popular. A few years ago, this meant snow goose hunting, with thousand-bird decoy spreads set out to lure in huge flocks of migrating birds. The snow goose migration paths have changed, though, so fewer birds are passing through these wetlands. Many hunters have switched to less labor-intensive Canada goose hunting. There are also excellent numbers of puddle ducks in the fall. Blue-winged teal account for 30 percent of the duck population on the WPAs, but hunters will also see plenty of mallard, gadwall and wigeon.

Getting there:

Waterfowl production areas are scattered around the five-county district, but Pierce, Rolette and southern McHenry counties have the highest density. Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs. The district office is located at the J. Clark Salyer NWR Complex headquarters, 2 miles north of Upham, and can be reached by turning off U.S. Highway 2 at Towner and proceeding 26 miles north on State Highway 14.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Kulm Wetland Management District

1 First Street SW

Kulm, ND 58456

(701) 647-2866

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62630>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Located in south-central North Dakota, Kulm WMD currently manages 201 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) totaling 45,683 acres, all open to public hunting. In many parts of Kulm WMD, the abundance of wetlands attracts waterfowl breeding pair densities in the spring of over 100 pairs per square mile. In the fall, many birds remain and other migrants use the area on their journey south. This pattern creates excellent waterfowl hunting opportunities for Canada geese and a variety of duck species. The native prairie still found on the WPAs harbors good numbers of pheasant, gray partridge and sharp-tailed grouse, although the pheasant and gray partridge populations are still recovering from recent harsh winters. The WPAs are also known for their excellent deer habitat, and hunters experience high success rates.

Getting there:

Contact the Kulm WMD office for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, D, T, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Lake Alice National Wildlife Refuge – see Devil’s Lake Wetland Management District

Lake Nettie National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Audubon National Wildlife Refuge

3275 11th Street NW

Coleharbor, ND 58531

(701) 442-5474

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62540>

Refuge Office and Visitor Center: 8:30 – 4:00, M – F

Tall grasses still wave in the breeze at Lake Nettie NWR, with few trees to break up the view. It might look like open country, but the grassland cover is high enough to hide deer. Hunters come here each fall to participate in archery, muzzleloader and firearms seasons, and a youth hunt is also held. Hunting is walk-in only, so many deer are undisturbed on the prairie. The most effective method is to glass the area and then stalk the deer when the right one is found. Some hunters slowly walk through the refuge hoping to get a shot when they flush a deer. A popular spot for local hunters, Lake Nettie NWR offers excellent success rates during all its seasons.

Getting there:

Lake Nettie NWR is in west-central North Dakota. Take Highway 41 out of Turtle Lake and travel 8 miles north. Then turn left (west) on County Road 8 and go 4.5 miles.

Youth Hunts: The refuge is open for the state youth deer hunting season.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Lake Zahl National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Crosby Wetland Management District

P.O. Box 148, 10100 Hwy 42 NW

Crosby, ND 58730

(701) 965-6488

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62561>

Wetland Management District Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

From a distance, the cattails that grow throughout Lake Zahl look idyllic and easy to negotiate. However, hunters know that this cover is like walking through a jungle. This landscape provides great hiding spots for pheasant and even deer despite the fact that very few trees grow on this 3,700 acre wetland refuge. As the saying goes, the thicker the cover, the better the hunting. A dog is a considerable help, and multiple hunters can help move birds. Deer hunters can choose from archery, muzzleloader and rifle seasons. A youth gun deer season is held. No waterfowl hunting is permitted on the refuge.

Getting there:

The refuge is divided by State Highway 50, 0.5 miles west of its juncture with State Highway 85, 30 miles north of Williston. The refuge is accessible from State Highway 50 and county and township roads that border the unit.

Youth Hunts: A youth gun deer season is held.

Species Icons: UB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge

12000 353rd Street SE

Moffit, ND 58560

(701) 387-4397

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62531>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Whether deer hunters are looking for an animal to fill the freezer or a large buck, Long Lake NWR offers a long season and plenty of opportunities to fill a tag. The 23,000-acre refuge offers archery, muzzleloader, modern firearms and youth seasons. The archery season is particularly long, running from late August through early January. Hunters have an excellent chance of taking a deer. Hunters will find grassland areas with very few patches of woodlands, so they

should expect spot-and-stalk type hunting. Access is by foot, so hunters should be prepared for long drags to get deer to vehicles.

Getting there:

Long Lake NWR is located about 3 miles southeast of Moffit. From U.S. Highway 94 at Sterling, turn south on U.S. Highway 83. Proceed 12 miles south to Moffit. Turn east on 128th Avenue SE and follow the signs to the refuge headquarters.

Youth Hunts: A youth season is offered.

Species Icons: D, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Long Lake Wetland Management District

c/o Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge

12000 353rd Street SE

Moffit, ND 58560

(701) 387-4397

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62531>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Scattered over three counties in south-central North Dakota the Long Lake WMD is in an area known for its wealth of waterfowl-producing potholes and prairie grasslands. Hunting begins promptly September 1, when the season for dove opens. Excellent dove hunting opportunities can be found on most of 77 Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) that make up the district. Most of the WPA's also offer excellent sharp-tailed grouse and waterfowl hunting. The larger, deeper wetlands are more favorable for diving ducks, while the shallow, smaller ones are better for dabbling ducks. Many of the WPAs have 'passes' where hunters sit in wait of passing ducks. These areas also provide hunting opportunities for jump shooters and for the more traditional decoy and boat/dog type waterfowl hunting. Several units are large enough to attract and hold sandhill cranes; others offer excellent goose hunting opportunities. Most, if not all, WPAs provide excellent hunting opportunities for white-tailed deer. During the winter months, hunting for coyote and fox is offered.

Getting there:

Contact the refuge for directions to individual WPAs.

Species Code: WF, MB, UB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. State and federal rules apply.

Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge

8315 Highway 8

Kenmare, ND 58746

(701) 848-2722

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62572>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

In many areas large expanses of prairie have been lost forever, but Lostwood NWR is about 70 percent virgin prairie. A hunter visiting here will see rolling hills covered in grasses stretching out across the countryside. In the draws and taller grasses, good numbers of white-tailed deer hide. Archery and rifle deer hunting are permitted during regular state seasons. A late upland game season starts annually in late November through the end of the state's season for sharp-tailed grouse, pheasant and partridge. Hunters prepared to cover a lot of ground should have good success, particularly if they use a dog. No waterfowl hunting is allowed on the refuge, but ample opportunities to hunt duck and geese exist on adjacent private land.

Getting there:

The Lostwood NWR headquarters is located 22 miles north of Stanley, along State Highway 8. Stanley is 55 miles west of Minot on State Highway 2.

Species Icons: D, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Lostwood Wetland Management District

c/o Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge

8315 Highway 8

Kenmare, ND 58746

(701) 848- 2466

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62572>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

The 56 Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) within the Lostwood WWMD are scattered over the rolling hills and scattered wetlands that characterize the coteau prairie in two northwestern North Dakota counties. Open to all state seasons, the WPAs have different personalities and offer a variety of hunting opportunities. The largest, the 2700 acre Coteau Prairie WPA, has habitat ideal for sharp tailed grouse. North Dakota #2 WPA contains a large island which in wet years functions as a “mallard motel.” But better options for waterfowl hunting may be the Sikes and Moen WPAs which are more likely to have water in dry years. The WPAs are open to foot traffic only.

Getting there:

Contact Lostwood NWR for directions to various WPAs.

The Lostwood NWR headquarters is located 22 miles north of Stanley, along State Highway 8. Stanley is 55 miles west of Minot on State Highway 2.

Species Icons: D, BG, UB, WF, MB, SG, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Sibley Lake National Wildlife Refuge – see Valley City Wildlife Management District

Slade National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge

12000 353rd Street SE

Moffit, ND 58560

(701) 387-4397

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62524>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Many hunters love the conditions at Slade NWR, where they can stalk deer on the grasslands and never have to worry about road hunters ruining their hunt. This 3,000-acre refuge offers only walk-in hunting during archery, muzzleloader, modern firearms and youth seasons. There is not a lot of hunting pressure on the refuge, and hunting success runs as high as 75 percent. The most common and effective hunting method is spotting deer at long distance and then stalking them. Archery hunters often set up portable blinds or hide along a well-used deer trail. Some hunters also conduct small deer drives. Whatever method they choose, hunters find a quality hunt where deer are plentiful and other hunters are few.

Getting there:

Slade NWR is located approximately 2 miles south of Dawson. From Interstate 94, travel south on Highway 3 for 3 miles, then turn east on the gravel road and continue 0.5 miles to the refuge gate.

Youth Hunts: A youth hunt is offered.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge

9754 143-1/2 Avenue SE

Cayuga, ND 58013

(701) 724-3598

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62660>

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

White-tailed deer find a diversity of suitable habitat at Tewaukon NWR, which means good numbers of deer; however, hunting conditions are challenging. Early in the archery season, deer are scattered among farm fields, planted shelter belts, planted woodlands and wetland edges. It takes skill, patience and some luck to find the perfect spot. Later in the season, the deer begin to congregate in certain areas and use particular deer trails to get there. Dedicated hunters wait along these trails—often during intense cold spells—and are often rewarded with a shot. There is also a rifle season on the refuge, with a limited number of buck tags and unlimited antlerless tags. After the first weekend of the rifle season, hunters will often have the refuge to themselves. After the deer season, a late pheasant season opens. This hunt is a popular option, as it provides

an opportunity for birds that have not been hunted yet, at a time when most roosters in other nearby areas have become extremely wary due to hunting pressure.

Getting there:

To reach the Tewaukon NWR office, take the Hankinson exit (Highway 11) from Highway I-29. Travel west on Highway 11 for 23 miles to Cayuga, then head south on County Road 12 for 5 miles to the refuge office.

Species Icons: D, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Tewaukon Wetland Management District

c/o Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge

9754 143-1/2 Avenue SE

Cayuga, ND 58013

(701) 724-3598

<http://www.fws.gov/tewaukon/>

Refuge office and Visitor center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Hunters looking for good waterfowl hunting in the southeast corner of North Dakota have a wealth of opportunities within the waterfowl production areas (WPAs) of Tewaukon WMD. About 100 WPAs clustered in 50 units offer a variety of public opportunities in Sargent, Richland and Ransom counties. These WPAs are open to all hunting allowed by North Dakota regulations, but it is waterfowl hunting that draws most hunters. Good populations of Canada goose, mallard, gadwall, wigeon and other species can often be found on the marshes here during the season. There are larger marshes here that are perfect for hunters with boats, as well as smaller marshes suited for hunters with waders. Pheasant and white-tailed deer hunting in the cover on the edge of the wetlands are other popular hunting options.

Getting there:

Contact Tewaukon NWR for directions to WPAs. The NWR is located about 5 miles south of Cayuga. From North Dakota Highway 11, turn south on Sargent County Road 12. The visitor center is on the east side of the road.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge

17705 212th Avenue NW

Berthold, ND 58718

(701) 468-5467

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62680>

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

While deer and upland game bird hunting can be quite good near Minot, one of North Dakota's largest cities, opportunities on public lands can be hard to find. Upper Souris NWR offers hunters the chance for quality hunting, particularly for the area's abundant white-tailed deer. The upland grasslands, bottomland hardwood stands and coulees provide some of the best deer habitat in the area. The refuge is known for the mature bucks that live there. The buck season is a lottery hunt administered through the state, while the doe season is a general access hunt. Success rates are usually 40 to 50 percent for refuge hunts. The refuge can only be accessed by foot. Although the refuge is relatively narrow, hunters should still be prepared for a long drag to get their deer out. While deer get most of the attention, upland bird hunters can find pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse and gray partridge with very little hunting pressure.

Getting there:

The refuge office and visitor center are located southeast of Lake Darling Dam. Drive northwest of Minot on State Highway 52 to 1 mile north of Foxholm. Turn right and follow County Road 11 north 7 miles. Follow directional signs to the refuge. An alternate route is to drive 18 miles north of Minot on State Highway 83, turn west and drive 12 miles on County Road 6.

Species Icons: D, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. A special permit, administered by the state, is required for the antlered deer season.

Valley City Wetland Management District

11515 River Road

Valley City, ND 58072

(701) 845-3466

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62532>

Headquarters: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Valley City WMD offers a variety of hunting opportunities in five counties of east-central North Dakota, with 82 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) totaling 17,000 acres open to hunting. Shallow seasonal wetlands are dependent on precipitation, but there are deeper, permanent wetland areas that host good numbers of waterfowl in the fall. Several duck and goose species, as well as large numbers of tundra swans, use these lands during the fall migration. Hunters should mix up their decoy spread to be ready for the many different types of waterfowl that might decoy in. Upland game species found on many WPAs include ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge, mourning doves and sharp-tailed grouse. The sprawling grasslands and dense shelterbelts found on many WPAs also provide secure cover for white-tailed deer, rabbit, fox and coyote. Valley City also manages Sibley Lake National Wildlife Refuge, which is open to deer hunting in accordance with state seasons and regulations. The 1,077 acre refuge contains a fresh water marsh that provides excellent migratory bird habitat.

Getting there:

Contact the WMD for directions to individual WPAs.

The Valley City WMD headquarters is located 2 miles northwest of Valley City along the Sheyenne River. From Interstate 94, take Valley City exit 292 to the north. You will be on Eighth Avenue. Continue north, and take a right onto Main Street, heading east. Proceed approximately seven blocks and take a left onto Central Avenue, heading north. Proceed approximately 11 blocks and take a right onto 12th Street, heading east. At the four-way stop, go left heading north approximately 0.75 miles. Take the first left after crossing the railroad tracks, heading northwest. Continue for approximately 1 mile and watch for the signs, turn south across the railroad tracks, and watch for a quick right to the headquarters.

Sibley Lake NWR is located in Griggs County, and is 10 miles west and 3 miles north of Cooperstown.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Ohio

http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/hunting_trapping/HuntingandTrappingSub

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

14000 West State Route 2

Oak Harbor, OH 43449

(419) 898-0014

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=31540

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Located along a major flight path for puddle ducks and Canada geese, Ottawa NWR draws these waterfowl with shallow wetland impoundments along Lake Erie. Hunters participating in refuge day hunts — administered by mail in lottery four days a week — know they can expect good flights of birds throughout the season. With only 12 blinds, pressure is light for hunters who draw a permit. Day hunts for deer are also issued via lottery, with opportunities for youth, archery and shotgun hunters available. Typically, the refuge offers 10 hunting units, and hunters may apply in groups of three. One in the group may take a buck or doe, while the other two are restricted to antlerless deer only. Although they can be difficult to bag, the refuge does have some trophy bucks hiding in the cover along the marshes.

Getting there:

The refuge entrance is located 15 miles east of Toledo and 16 miles west of Port Clinton on State Route 2.

From Interstate 80/90 westbound, take exit 91. Follow 53 South to County Road 89. Turn right on State Route 19 north to State Route 2. Follow State Route 2 west 3 miles to the entrance road on the right.

From Interstate 80/90 eastbound, take exit 81. Take State Route 51 through Elmore. Take State Route 105 east to State Route 590. Follow State Route 590 north to State Route 2. Follow State

Route 2 east 2 miles to the entrance road on the left. The half-mile entrance road is located on the north side of State Route 2.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Two deer hunting units are reserved. Universally accessible blinds are also available for waterfowl hunters with disabilities.

Youth Hunts: A deer hunt for youth hunters is issued by lottery.

Species Icons: D, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Hunts permits are issued via lottery by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Applications are available online in June with a July 31st deadline.

Oklahoma

<http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting.htm>

Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge

111 West 4th Street

Room 318

Okmulgee, OK 74447

(918) 756-0815

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21592

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

The forested wetlands of Deep Fork NWR are a remnant of a habitat that once covered 2.2 million acres of Oklahoma. This habitat provides important cover, food and breeding areas for migrating waterfowl, as well as for mammals like cottontail and swamp rabbits, beavers, raccoons and white-tailed deer. To maintain natural conditions, portions of the refuge are naturally flooded at least once a year, resulting in an area well used by mallard, blue-winged teal, shoveler, pintail and wood duck. Duck hunters (goose hunting is not permitted on the refuge) can experience classic decoy hunting for these puddle ducks in the flooded timber and oxbow lakes of the refuge. Hunting is typically allowed late in the season on designated mornings. This refuge is known as a hotspot for bowhunting white-tailed deer and bob white quail. A good population of turkey can also be found. Many hunters enjoy hunting these forested areas for squirrel, rabbit and the largest population of raccoons in the state. A waterfowl sanctuary area on the northern end of the refuge is closed to all entry October 1 – March 31.

Getting there:

The refuge is located in Okmulgee County, 35 miles south of Tulsa and approximately 100 miles east of Oklahoma City. Call the refuge for detailed directions.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A muzzleloader hunt for hunters with disabilities is issued by lottery by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Youth Hunts: A muzzleloader hunt for youth hunters is issued by lottery by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Species Icons: D, SG, WF, T, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts. Deer hunts are issued by lottery by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Little River National Wildlife Refuge

635 South Park

Broken Bow, OK 74728

(580) 584-6211

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21680

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Located in an area now largely cleared of its forests and wetlands, Little River NWR still contains the old oxbow lakes, sloughs and flooded timber that once typified this part of the state. The forested wetlands draw in large flocks of mallard as well as gadwall, wigeon and teal each fall. Hunters here can access hunting areas by boat or wading, and set up decoys in the timber. Ducks come into view suddenly as they dart around the trees to land in the decoys. Hunters should not overlook upland game hunting, which can be done in the afternoon following a morning waterfowl hunt. Upland game hunters can pursue gray and fox squirrels, cottontail and swamp rabbits, and beaver on the refuge. A hunter, moving quietly through the forest, will find all of these species in abundance.

Getting there:

Refuge maps can be obtained at the office at 635 South Park in Broken Bow or on the Web site.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Contact refuge staff for special use access or for a map of accessible hunting areas.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts. Firearm deer and turkey hunts are issued by lottery. Night hunting for raccoons requires a Special Use Permit.

Optima National Wildlife Refuge

20834 East 940 Road

Butler, OK 73625

(580) 664-2205

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21661

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Optima NWR is known for the healthy mixed grass prairie on its 4,200 acres, where there are often abundant quail populations. At this refuge, hunters will find bobwhite quail, a popular species still found in good numbers in Oklahoma, as well as scaled quail, which can only be

hunted in a few locations in the state. Many hunters come here to pursue this unusual game species, more often associated with the desert habitat of Arizona and New Mexico. The refuge also is home to a good pheasant population that can be hunted during quail season. It is recommended to hunt with pointing dogs as finding a game bird in the prairie is challenging.

Getting there:

From Hardesty, follow Highway 3 north for 2 miles. The refuge is located 2 miles north of Hardesty and approximately 19 miles east of Guymon on State Highway 3/Highway 412 in Texas County, Oklahoma.

Species Icons: D, UB, MB, T, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge

Route 1, Box 76

Jet, OK 73749

(580) 626-4794

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21630

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F, year-round; 10:00 – 5:00, Sat – Sun,
April 1 – October 15

The largest salt flat in mid-America was once used by Native Americans and settlers as a place to gather salt for use in preserving food. The area, described by one early explorer as resembling a “great glistening field of snow,” also attracts large numbers of migrating birds. Each year, many visitors still come to collect the beautiful selenite crystals that are common on the salt flats. This area also attracts migrating waterfowl in the fall, and hunters are allowed to pursue duck, goose, sandhill crane, dove, pheasant and bobwhite quail in an excellent 1,200-acre public hunting area. The area is only open during the state hunting season and closes at noon. A wide variety of duck species can be found in area wetlands, but mallard, gadwall and other puddle ducks are usually the most common. Waterfowl hunting is most effective with portable blinds and decoys, although jump shooting is legal in the public hunting area.

Getting there:

From the junction of State Highways 11 and 38, go south 2 miles on Highway 38, then travel 1 mile west to headquarters.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Several gun and muzzleloader deer hunts for hunters with disabilities are issued by lottery by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Youth Hunts: Rifle deer hunts for youth hunters are issued by lottery by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Waterfowl, upland bird and other migratory bird hunters must sign in before hunting. Deer hunting permits are issued by lottery by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge

Route 1, Box 18A

Vian, OK 74962

(918) 773-5251

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21640

Refuge Headquarters: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

In the late 1800s, the hardwood forests and rivers that now make up Sequoyah NWR made the perfect hideout for many of that century's famous outlaws, including Frank and Jesse James, Belle Star and the Daltons. Today, the refuge retains much of that remote and wild character. Hunters will find a variety of game in the bottomland habitat, but it is the waterfowl that draws the most sportsmen. The largest snow geese flocks in Oklahoma can be found on this refuge. The refuge is a resting point along the Central Flyway for thousands of mallard, as well as wigeon, wood duck, pintail and a variety of other species. Hunters are reminded of irregular water depths throughout the refuge, which can make wading difficult.

Getting there:

The refuge headquarters and Sandtown Bottom unit are located approximately 150 miles east of Oklahoma City and 35 miles west of Fort Smith, Arkansas, off Interstate 40. Travel three miles south of Vian, OK to exit 297.

Youth Hunts: A rifle hunt for youth hunters is issued by lottery by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts. Deer hunts are issued by lottery by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge

12000 South Refuge Road

Tishomingo, OK 73460

(580) 371-2402

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21650

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

At Tishomingo NWR, agricultural fields are planted to support wintering and migrating waterfowl. These fields are also a major draw for white-tailed deer, a fact well known to those who drive by the refuge. Each evening, as many 150 deer can be seen feeding in the fields. To keep this deer population in balance, the refuge offers three lottery hunts each year—a general hunt, a youth hunt and a hunt for nonambulatory hunters. All tags are issued by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife. The one-day hunts are for antlerless deer, although youth hunters may take a buck after taking a doe. This is a popular hunt with local hunters who know the area, and

enjoy participating in a hunt that fills their freezers. Hunting success rates are consistently high. A general-access archery hunt is also held in accordance with state seasons. Feral hogs may be hunted all year with archery tackle. They may also be hunted with shotguns and non-toxic shot during other hunting seasons, except deer archery season.

Getting there:

From downtown Tishomingo, follow Highway 78 to the eastern edge of town. Turn south on Refuge Road (watch for sign) at the high school. Follow the road 3 miles to headquarters.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A deer hunt is offered each year, issued by lottery.

Youth Hunts: A deer hunt for youth is offered each year, issued by lottery.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, UB, MB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Hunters must sign in before they begin hunting. Waterfowl blinds are issued on a first-come basis. All deer hunts except the archery hunt are issued by a lottery held by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Washita National Wildlife Refuge

20834 East 940 Road

Butler, OK 73625

(580) 664-2205

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21660

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Sitting in field blinds on Washita NWR, hunters eagerly wait for dawn as thousands of geese lift off nearby Foss Lake. Each fall, from 50,000 to 100,000 geese can be found on the refuge. About 80 percent of them are Canada geese. The rest include snow, white-fronted and Ross' geese, all of which may be hunted during refuge hunts, held on weekends and selected Wednesdays. Hunters apply through the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for blinds for weekend hunts, and may phone the refuge for blind availability on weekdays. The hunt is locally popular since the blinds are spread well apart on two farm fields. It is recommended that hunters use calling and decoys to successfully lure the geese into range. Sandhill cranes, which also use the refuge, may be hunted during goose hunting season. The refuge also offers quail and rabbit hunting in season, and deer hunts by state drawing.

Getting there:

The refuge rests on the northwest portion of Foss Reservoir between the towns of Butler and Hammon in Custer County. The headquarters and office are located 5 miles west of Butler on State Highway 33 (watch for refuge signs), then 1 mile north and 1/2 mile west.

Youth Hunts: Two deer hunts for youth hunters are issued by lottery by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Species Icons: D, WF, UB, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: No, but a state permit for blinds is required to participate in goose/sandhill crane hunts.

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

32 Refuge Headquarters

Indiahoma, OK 73552

(580) 429-3222

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21670

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

In September, the bugling of bull elk echo throughout the rocky hills of the Wichita Mountains. Once eliminated from Oklahoma, elk were reintroduced in 1911 and today are thriving. A herd of 800 animals roams the refuge and surrounding lands. Each fall, hunters may apply through the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's controlled hunt program for a chance to hunt elk as well as white-tailed deer on the refuge. Refuge managers here say that the elk hunt is one of the best big game hunts in the country. Success is high, and the hunt takes place among the striking hills of one of the oldest mountain ranges on earth. Hunters will be hunting in a land where the buffalo (as well as Texas longhorns) still roam. The hunt keeps the elk herd at a level the habitat can support, and it is managed in a way to maintain a healthy ratio of bull and cow elk. This means hunters should see a large number of bulls, including mature animals. Wichita Mountains NWR was set aside as a sanctuary for endangered big game in 1901, before the National Wildlife Refuge System was established. Today, it is one of the most popular refuges in the country, and the excellent elk and deer hunting is testament to the refuge's success as a haven for large animals.

Getting there:

From Interstate 44, take Highway 49 (exit 45). Go west 10 miles to the refuge gate. Or, from Highway 62, take Highway 115 (Cache exit) north to the refuge gate.

Species Icons: D, BG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Oregon

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/>

Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 99, Riverside Dr, west of U.S. Hwy 101

Bandon, OR 97411

Refuge Office: (541) 347-1470 / (541) 867-4550

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13596

Coastal wetlands in southwest Oregon can provide a diversity of duck and goose hunting opportunities, but these areas are often difficult for hunters to access. Bandon Marsh NWR offers a public hunting opportunity on a small coastal wetland. The mud flats and salt-tolerant plants, influenced by tides, provide open marsh habitat that is ideal for waterfowl, as well as other

migratory and resident birds. The hunting area, outside of Bandon's city limits, is available on a first-come, first-serve basis, for waterfowl hunting during the fall hunting season. The tidal channels can be hunted with decoys, and the entire hunt area is open for pass shooting. Waterfowl hunters are required to use temporary blinds that are to be removed daily or use the large clumps of woody debris and old stumps as cover for pass shooting. Hunkered against an old log, a hunter can expect good shooting for a variety of duck species, with mallard and wigeon being most common. Check the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Waterfowl/Game Bird Hunting Regulations for restrictions, bag limits, season dates and hunt times.

Getting there:

Bandon Marsh NWR is located near the mouth of the Coquille River in the town of Bandon. The National Wildlife Refuge's observation deck can be reached from U.S. Highway 101 by turning west onto Riverside Drive, which is located just north of the town center. The Public Use Waterfowl Hunting Area is located northwest of the observation deck and outside of Bandon's city limits.

Species Icons: WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Bear Valley National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Klamath Basin Refuges

4009 Hill Road

Tulelake, CA 96134

(530) 667-2231

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11666

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F; 10:00 – 4:00 weekends

Bear Valley NWR is usually closed to the public to prevent disturbance of wintering bald eagles and other migratory birds. In fact, the refuge is only open during its annual mule deer season, held before the arrival of winter migrants. Tags are issued by lottery and drawing one can be difficult. Rifle and archery hunting seasons are offered. Deer hunting is generally quite good, although the deer are not always easy to find on this forested refuge. Hunting access is walk-in to ensure low disturbance of birds. However, several roads allow hunters to walk easily into their preferred areas. The terrain is mountainous but the hiking conditions are not particularly steep. Deer hunters not only have a good chance of getting a deer but also will enjoy spending time in an area few will ever see.

Getting there:

From Klamath Falls, travel south on Interstate 97 to Worden, Oregon. Turn west onto the Keno-Worden Road just south of Worden. A short distance after the railroad crossing, turn left onto a dirt road. Continue on this dirt road for 0.5 miles and park along the shoulder.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Cold Springs National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Mid-Columbia River Refuges

P.O. Box 1447, 3250 Port of Benton Boulevard

Richland, WA 99352

(509) 371-1801

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13581

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

Located very near the town of Hermiston, Oregon, Cold Springs NWR protects wildlife habitat around a Bureau of Reclamation reservoir. Each year, thousands of wintering waterfowl are attracted to the open waters and marshes of the refuge. The refuge has two units: one with hunting blinds available on a first-come, first-serve basis and one with free-roam hunting. The parking lot contains parking spaces marked with numbered poles that correspond to available blind sites. Hunters just park in the spot for the numbered blind site they desire. In the free-roam area, hunters can use existing vegetation for concealment, or bring portable blinds made of natural material. Hunters can find large flocks of mallard with a good mix of dabbling and diving ducks. The refuge is extremely popular with hunters from Hermiston but is otherwise relatively unknown as a hunting destination.

Getting there:

From Highway 395 in Hermiston, take Highland Hills Road east, which turns into Loop Road. The refuge is approximately 6 miles from Hermiston.

Species Icons: WF, UB, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge – see Idaho

Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge

c/o Sheldon/Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex

P.O. Box 111, 18 South G

Lakeview, OR 97630

(541) 947 - 3315

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=14622

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 5:00, M – F

In eastern Oregon, sagebrush still stretches to the horizon, and the night skies still shine without interference from city lights. Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge is located within this sparsely populated area, known by some as the “Oregon Outback.” Created to protect dwindling populations of Oregon’s pronghorn antelope, Hart Mountain contains thriving herds as well as other big game species. In the rugged, rocky ridges on the refuge, hunters can pursue California bighorn sheep, a subspecies that prefers high desert canyons. On the sagebrush flats, mule deer

and pronghorn hunting can be excellent. A limited number of tags for all species are offered by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. For lucky hunters, the experience can be an adventure of a lifetime. For hunters that do not draw a permit, chukar hunting is also allowed along the west slope of the refuge. The sagebrush habitat of eastern Oregon remains relatively unknown to most of the country, so hunters will venture into an area few other tourists or outdoor enthusiasts will ever see. An off-highway vehicle is recommended to handle the roads, and hunters should carry food, water, and other supplies due to the extreme remoteness of the refuge. During the winter and spring, most roads are impassable because of snow or wet conditions. Please avoid driving on muddy roads for your own safety and the protection of fragile resources. Emergency services and roadside assistance are not readily available. The refuge staff is not able to provide or sell gas, towing or auto repair service. Hunters are likely to see interesting wildlife and may encounter Native American petroglyphs on rocks.

Getting there:

Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge is 65 miles northeast of Lakeview, off Highway 140. Most refuge roads are not maintained for passenger vehicles. High clearance and four-wheel drive are needed in case it is necessary to travel off the Frenchglen, Blue Sky or Hotsprings roads. Small amounts of precipitation can make very muddy roads.

Species Icons: D, BG, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge – see Washington

Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge

HC 63, Box 303

Chiloquin, OR 97624

(541) 783-3380

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11662

Refuge Office: Call the refuge directly for hours.

The Cascade Mountains form a dramatic backdrop for the large natural wetlands of Klamath Marsh NWR. The 40,000-acre refuge offers important resting, nesting and feeding areas for migratory waterfowl at different times of the year. Depending on water conditions, hunting can range from excellent to nonexistent during the Oregon waterfowl seasons. Some areas are only accessible by non-motorized boat during years of good water conditions, but the north portion of the hunting unit is accessible on foot. Canada goose hunting can be good in meadows and grasslands. Successful hunters use willows for cover. In some years, white-fronted geese appear early in the season, providing good hunting. During years with moderate or high water levels, hunting both puddle and diving ducks can also be good. A canoe or other non-motorized boat can give hunters access to more places.

Getting there:

From Klamath Falls, travel north on Highway 97 approximately 45 miles. Turn right onto Silver Lake Road and travel east 9.5 miles to Forest Service Road 690. Travel south 4 miles on this gravel road to the canoe launch. To travel to the refuge headquarters, stay on the Silver Lake Road until Milepost 17.

Species Icons: WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge – see Washington

Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge – see California

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

36391 Sodhouse Lane

Princeton, OR 97721

(541) 493-2612

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13588

Office Hours: 7:00 – 4:30, M – Th, and 7:00 – 3:30, F

The sagebrush country of southeast Oregon seems to stretch unbroken as far as the eye can see, but in the midst of this dry environment is a vast wetland area—more than 187,000-acres on Malheur NWR. This refuge is no secret to birders, who come here each spring to tick off some of the highest species counts in the Northwest. In the fall, hunters come to the refuge principally to hunt upland birds. Valley quail live in the brushy habitat along the wetlands. Chukar and gray partridge can be found in the upland habitat. Pheasant hunting is another popular hunt as these species have become a common permanent resident on Malheur. There is also limited waterfowl hunting in the Malheur Lake area. In addition to good hunting, hunters can expect to see a variety of other wildlife, particularly migratory birds. It is easy to see why this refuge is a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

Getting there:

From Burns, follow State Highway 78 east for 2 miles. Then head south on State Highway 205 for 24 miles. Head east on Sodhouse Lane (Harney County Road 405) for 6 miles. Turn left at the top of the hill into the headquarters area.

Species Icons: WF, UB, SG, MB, BG, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

McKay Creek National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Mid-Columbia River Refuges

64 Maple Street

Burbank, WA 99323

(509) 546-8300

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13582

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

The lack of other wetland habitat near McKay Creek NWR, nestled between the plains and the Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon, makes this refuge a magnet for migratory birds. The waterfowl hunt here can be very good, but is highly dependent on water levels in the refuge's reservoir. If the water levels are low, hunters can have a difficult time finding a place to hide. A boat launch is available; however, many hunters prefer walking. Hunting is primarily for mallard, which make up about 80 percent of the fall duck population. There are also pheasant on the refuge, particularly early in the season. The opening weekend for pheasant is highly popular with area hunters, who requested that the refuge limit hunter numbers to keep the opener a high-quality experience. This hunt is now administered by lottery.

Getting there:

From Pendleton, take Highway 395 south toward the town of Pilot Rock. The refuge entrance is approximately 8 miles from Pendleton.

Species Icons: WF, UB, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No (except for the opening weekend pheasant hunt).

McNary National Wildlife Refuge – see Washington

Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge – see Nevada

Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Mid-Columbia River Refuges

64 Maple Street

Burbank, WA 99323

(509) 546-8300

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13583

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

The Umatilla NWR, located within the Pacific Flyway, provides vital habitat to migrating waterfowl, bald eagles, colonial nesting birds, and other migratory and resident wildlife. The refuge is divided into six units: two in Oregon, three in Washington and one in the middle of the Columbia River. A variety of waterfowling opportunities is offered on both the Oregon and Washington sides of the Columbia River. The most popular area is undoubtedly McCormack Slough, a fee permit area open several days a week to hunting on the Oregon side. It includes established blinds in rivers and in fields. There are also two blinds reserved for hunters with disabilities, and a youth hunt is held annually. The Washington side offers a variety of opportunities in three units. Check with refuge managers as each has different open days and regulations. Hunters can find rugged conditions on the Patterson and Ridge units, or they can

hunt an organic farm field for goose on Whitcomb Island. In addition to these great opportunities, there is also a limited mule deer hunt to help contain deer damage to nearby farm fields, and a hunt for pheasant and valley quail that can be productive early in the season.

Getting there:

Much of the refuge is remote. The refuge is located along the Columbia River in the vicinity of Irrigon, OR and Paterson, WA. There are several access routes. Write for map or visit the Web site.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Two blinds are reserved.

Youth Hunts: A youth hunt is held annually.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes (in some units).

Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge

4009 Hill Road

Tulelake, CA 96134

(530) 667-2231

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=11665

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F; 10:00 – 4:00 weekends

More than 80 percent of the wetlands in the Klamath Basin have been lost, making refuges like Upper Klamath NWR vital for migrating waterfowl. A large percentage of the ducks in the Pacific Flyway use this refuge during the annual migration. This refuge provides a real opportunity for hunters to get away from other hunters and hunt a deep marsh. Small marsh potholes and the marsh edge along the lake can provide good hunting for both dabbling and diving ducks. Early in the season, hunting for Canada and white-fronted goose can also be good. Access is via boats, and decoys and retrievers are highly recommended for hunting success. The Hanks Marsh Unit on the east side of the lake, while small, can provide good goose and duck hunting, particularly late in the season. Hunters should check on lake conditions early in the season, because water levels can be so low as to make hunting access impossible.

Getting there:

From Klamath Falls take Highway 140 to the Rocky Point Junction. Then travel north approximately 2 miles to the Rocky Point boat launch or another 3.5 miles to the Malone Springs boat launch.

Species Icons: WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge

26208 Finley Refuge Road

Corvallis, OR 97333

(541) 757-7236

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13589>

Refuge Headquarters: Call the refuge.

The beautiful oak woodlands and rolling hills of eastern Oregon provide a scenic backdrop to an annual black-tailed deer hunt on William L. Finley NWR. Hunters are permitted during the archery and shotgun season, and may hunt 4,000 acres of the 5,350-acre refuge. The deer population has been in decline in recent years due to hair loss syndrome and competition from an increasing elk herd. Success on the hunt is typically quite low. But there are deer on the refuge, and hunting pressure is also low. Hunters looking for a quiet hunt without other hunters may want to consider trying this refuge.

Getting there:

On Highway 99 west, travel 10 miles south from Corvallis, or 7.5 miles north from Monroe, to Milepost 93. Watch for the refuge entrance sign on the west side of the road. Follow refuge signs for 2 miles to the refuge headquarters.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes

Pennsylvania

<http://www.pgc.state.pa.us/pgc/cwp/browse.asp?a=460&bc=0&c=69880&pgcNav=>

Erie National Wildlife Refuge

11296 Wood Duck Lane

Guys Mills, PA 16327

(814) 789-3585

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=52520

Refuge Headquarters: 8:30 – 4:30, M – F. Note that due to limited staffing and field work, the Headquarters may be closed. Visitors should call ahead to insure that the office will be open or make an appointment.

Hunters are seeing more and bigger deer on Erie NWR just a few years after Pennsylvania enacted area hunting regulations requiring that only bucks with four points on an antler may be taken. Some hunters have reported sighting 10 or more bucks per day on the refuge. The biggest ones are in the bottomland swamps on this 8,800-acre refuge. Erie NWR is also a hotspot for other game. Waterfowl are plentiful because a big portion of the refuge is wetlands, creeks and impoundments. Some areas require a non-motorized boat, but many others are accessible to jump shooters pursuing the refuge's abundant wood ducks. A wooden boardwalk on the refuge provides an opportunity for mobility-impaired hunters. The boardwalk is a great place to hunt deer, turkey and squirrel. All hunters should pick up a brochure from the refuge, which details the seven hunting areas and special regulations. Erie NWR has a lot of game, but it often requires hunting in thick, boggy habitat.

Getting there:

From Interstate 79 north, take exit 141; follow attraction signs along Route 285 east to Route 173 north to the refuge.

From Interstate 79 south, take exit 154; follow attraction signs along Route 198 to the refuge.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A wooden boardwalk on the refuge provides an opportunity for mobility-impaired hunters to enjoy the varied hunting opportunities on this refuge.

Species Icons: D, BG, T, WF, UB, MB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. The permit and a survey form can be obtained from refuge headquarters. The survey must be completed for hunters to be eligible for the next year's permit.

Rhode Island

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/index.htm>

Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge

1040 Matunuck Schoolhouse Road

South Kingstown, RI 02879

(401) 364-9124

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/recEdMore.cfm?ID=53545>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

Rhode Island may be the smallest state but it has a large population of resident Canada geese, some 4,000 birds. These may be hunted during state seasons on a section of Trustom Pond NWR called Field 1 by the state of Rhode Island. Field 1 is an upland terrain covered with short form grasses that are maintained by the refuge for the benefit of migratory songbirds. The surrounding landscape is agricultural, with neighboring state-managed fields planted with corn, making them a magnet for Canada geese. The hunt is administered by the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife (RIDF&W), which maintains a pit blind on Field 1. Hunters must first obtain a permit from the RIDF&W and register by telephone, (401) 789- 0964, no earlier than seven days prior to the hunt. Special youth hunting days are held in October.

Getting there:

The refuge is located in the town of South Kingstown, RI. From Providence, head south on Interstate 95 and exit onto Route 4 south. Route 4 will merge into U.S. Route 1 south. Continue on Route 1 south and take the Moonstone Beach Road exit. Continue for 1 mile, then turn left onto Matunuck Schoolhouse Road at the four-way stop sign. Continue east on Schoolhouse Road for 1 mile, and Field 1 will be on the right.

Youth Hunts: State youth hunting days are observed by the refuge.

Species Icons: WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

Hunting Waterfowl

The sound of a marsh filled with thousands of ducks and geese is part of the natural heritage along the Pacific Flyway. Threatened by development, critical wetland habitat all along the flyway has been protected and restored by the National Wildlife Refuge System. The result is a network of protected wetlands, impoundments and bays that echo with the sounds of tens of thousands of waterfowl each year.

With such plentiful waterfowl habitat, it is no surprise that waterfowling remains an important tradition along the flyway.

In central California, the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex is something of a flyway bottleneck. In December and January, more than six million ducks and geese – almost half of Flyway traffic – come to rest on refuge lands and surrounding rice fields. This abundance may help explain why California has more duck hunters than any other state and why they enjoy more success than waterfowlers in other states. Hunting on many California refuges (though not all) is administered by lottery through the California Department of Fish and Game. Please check with refuge offices before planning any hunt.

Washington and Oregon offer both coastal and inland refuges with a variety of duck species. While Idaho is often overlooked in a discussion of Pacific Flyway duck hunting, the state provides some great (and uncrowded) opportunities.

Atlantic Flyway

On the east coast, the Refuge System also has a long tradition of protecting the feeding, resting and nesting areas for waterfowl after commercial hunting, along with the loss of wetlands, took a tremendous toll on ducks and geese in the Atlantic Flyway.

Today, there are numerous waterfowl along the flyway and hunting options are varied. Classic duck hunting for mallard and other puddlers is offered at many refuges. The recent population explosion of resident Canada geese and greater snow geese offers expanded field hunting opportunities at refuges, such as Trustom Pond NWR in Rhode Island and Bombay Hook NWR in Delaware. Specialist waterfowl hunters may focus on brant in the saltwater marshes of Edwin B. Forsyth NWR in New Jersey or eiders at the Petit Manon NWR off the rocky coast of Maine.

Prairie Potholes

Known as the “duck factory,” the prairie potholes of the Dakotas, Nebraska and eastern Montana are some of the most important waterfowl habitat on the continent. The National Wildlife Refuge System protects many of them in both refuges and wetland management districts.

The districts shelter small wetlands called Waterfowl Production Areas. By law, WPAs are open to all state hunting and trapping seasons, unless they are specifically declared ‘closed’. These wetlands have become important destinations for traveling waterfowl hunters, who know just how good the hunting is there. Puddle ducks, diving ducks, Canada geese and snow geese can all be found in tremendous numbers. Some hunters come to this region to pursue tundra swans which are common.

Hunters should note that in South Dakota, drawing a nonresident waterfowl hunting permit can be extremely difficult.

Other Highlights:

- The Mississippi Flyway offers a good variety for duck hunters, including huge flocks of canvasback and other diving ducks, a healthy Canada goose population and decent numbers of puddle ducks.
- Southeastern refuges offer incredible opportunities for hunting mallard in flooded timber. This is a cherished tradition for local hunters and a dream hunt for many traveling sportsmen. The sight of mallard setting their wings as they come down through trees is common on many refuges. Depending on migration patterns, the shooting can be some of the best anywhere.
- In the Southwest, refuges protect important river habitat in often arid areas, including riparian habitat along the Colorado River, forested wetlands in Texas and Oklahoma, and key waterfowl migration resting areas throughout the region. The importance of these pockets of habitat is apparent to any visiting hunter. They serve as magnets for ducks, geese, sandhill cranes and doves – and the hunting can be fantastic.

South Carolina

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/hunting.html>

Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge

5801 Highway 17 North

Awendaw, SC 29429

(843) 928-3264

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42510

Visitor Center: 9:00 – 5:00, T – S

Rails — small migratory birds that congregate in marshes — were once a favorite quarry of coastal gunners. Rail hunting is no longer as popular, but some tradition-minded shotgunners still enjoy walking marshes for these sporty game birds. Shooting can be fast and limits generous. Cape Romain NWR offers a great opportunity for hunters to try this hunting, with a season held in accordance with state regulations. Two six-day archery deer hunts occur on Bull Island in November and December. Hunters camp on the island during the hunt. Bull Island is one part of a 64,000-acre refuge that encompasses a 20-mile segment of the Atlantic coast and includes barrier islands, salt marshes, coastal waterways, fresh and brackish water impoundments, and maritime forests. 28,000 land acres are preserved as wilderness.

Getting there:

The refuge headquarters and Sewee Center are located about 20 miles north of Charleston, on U.S. Highway 17. Garris Landing is about 17 miles north of Charleston, just off U.S. Highway 17. From U.S. 17, turn right onto Sewee Road. Follow Sewee Road for 3 miles, turn right onto Bull Island Road and go 1.5 miles.

Species Icons: D, MB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts. Deer hunters must sign a register at the Bull Island campsite before hunting.

Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge

23734 U.S. Highway 1

Mcbee, SC 29101

(843) 335-8401

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42520>

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

The longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem common on Carolina Sandhills NWR once covered 90 million acres in the Southeast, but today fewer than 2 million acres remain. The refuge remains one of the best places to see the beauty of this habitat, which supports many endangered species. The refuge also provides a home for many game species, offering a variety of opportunities for hunters. General-access deer hunts are held each fall for archery, primitive weapons and firearms hunters. Young hunters, ages 10 to 15, can participate in a youth hunt with parental or guardian supervision. There is also a season for youth turkey hunters. Turkeys are numerous in longleaf pine forests and a lottery-issued hunt is held each spring on portions of the refuge for gobblers.

Getting there:

From Columbia, take Interstate 20 east to exit 98 and turn left onto Highway 521. Follow Highway 521 into Camden, to the intersection of U.S. Highways 1 and 521. Turn right, going north on Highway 1. Follow Highway 1 for approximately 35 miles, going through Camden, Bethune and McBee. The entrance to the refuge is 3.5 miles north of McBee.

From Florence, take Highway 52 west to SC Highway 151 west in Darlington. Follow Highway 151 approximately 20 miles, to the intersection of Highways 1 and 151 in McBee. Turn right, following Highway 1 north for 3.5 miles to the refuge entrance.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Hunters with disabilities may obtain a Special Use Permit to use ATVs on refuge roads.

Youth Hunts: A deer hunt is offered each fall for 10- to 15-year-olds with parental or guardian supervision. There is also a season for youth turkey hunters.

Species Icons: D, T, MB, UB, SG, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: The turkey hunt permit is issued by lottery. All other hunts require a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 848, 8675 Willtown Road

Hollywood, SC 29449

(843) 889-3084

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42511

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

ACE Basin NWR has been a favorite spot for local hunters, who return year after year to pursue deer on this 12,000-acre refuge. Two hunt units offer a total of seven hunts for archery and muzzleloader hunters throughout the season. Since the refuge began restricting hunters to taking bucks with three or more points, hunters have seen a substantial increase in quality hunts on the refuge. The deer management program also encourages hunters to take does, keeping the herd in better balance. Feral hogs may also be taken during the deer hunts. While impoundments on the refuge are not open to hunting, the marsh and tidal creeks offer opportunities for waterfowl hunters.

Getting there:

From Highway 17, take SC 174 (sign will read “To Edisto Beach”). Stay on SC 174 through the town of Adams Run. At the intersection with a flashing light, turn right onto Willtown Road. The entrance road to the refuge is approximately 2 miles on the left.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A special hunt for mobility-impaired hunters, with 15 blinds, is held on the refuge. Tags are issued via lottery. Rifles may be used on this hunt.

Species Icons: D, EX, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Deer hunts are issued via lottery; waterfowl hunting requires a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Savannah Coastal Refuges

1000 Business Center Drive, Suite 10

Savannah, GA 31405

(912) 652-4415

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41629

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Hunters may take as many as five deer during the annual one-day deer hunt at Pinckney Island NWR. This coastal island, adjacent to Hilton Head, has a moderate deer population that is kept in check by this annual lottery hunt. Local hunters love this opportunity, and many return year after year, averaging 1 to 1.5 deer. Deer can be found all over the hunting area, which includes 1,000 acres of uplands. Good bucks are often taken. Hunters access their stands by walking or biking; motorized access is not permitted. Hunters are allowed to scout the area the week before the hunt.

Getting there:

The refuge is in Beaufort County and is 0.5 miles west of Hilton Head Island, off U.S. Highway 278. The island is bounded by Skull Creek (the Intracoastal Waterway) on the east and Mackay Creek on the west, and the island's northern tip faces Port Royal Sound. From Interstate 95, take SC exit 8 east toward Hilton Head Island and drive approximately 16 miles to the entrance gate on the left.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Hunters apply for the deer hunt by lottery; successful applicants pay a \$12.50 fee.

Santee National Wildlife Refuge

2125 Fort Watson Road

Summerton, SC 29148

(803) 478-2217

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42570

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:00, Tu – Sun

Santee NWR was established to alleviate the loss of natural waterfowl and wildlife habitat caused by the construction of hydroelectric projects on the Santee and Cooper rivers. Stretching for 18 miles along the northern shore of Lake Marion, the refuge protects more than 15,000 acres of upper coastal plain. Hunters can pursue deer, dove, raccoon and opossum on the refuge. General access, primitive weapons and archery hunts are held on the Cuddo Unit. A hunt for youths ages 10 to 17 is held on the Bluffs Unit. Youth hunters may use shotguns only, and must be accompanied by a nonhunting adult. Fixed, two-person ladder stands are provided for this

hunt. The two deer hunting units have different regulations, so check the refuge Web site for details. There is no bag limit for deer and the refuge provides antlerless tags for hunters.

Getting there:

The office/visitor center is just off U.S. Highway 301/15, 7 miles south of Summerton. Visitors should take exit 102 from Interstate 95 and follow the signs.

Youth Hunts: A hunt for youths ages 10 to 17 is held on the Bluffs Unit. Youth hunters may use shotguns only, and must be accompanied by a nonhunting adult.

Species Icons: D, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: The youth deer hunt is issued by lottery. All other hunts require a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Savannah National Wildlife Refuge – see Georgia

Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge

1601 N. Fraser Street
Georgetown, SC 29440
(843) 527-8069

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42512>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

At present hunting at Waccamaw is a real wilderness experience since this relatively new refuge has not yet developed foot or canoe trails. Planning for these is underway, but hunters can expect to rough it through diverse habitats within this coastal river ecosystem. The refuge offers waterfowl hunting until 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays during the state season in Unit 1 tracts along the Pee wee River. Unit 1 tracts on the Waccamaw River are closed to hunting. Archery, muzzleloader and modern weapons seasons are held for deer in Unit 1 and feral hog may be taken during any deer hunt. Additionally deer and hog may be hunted with modern weapons in Unit 3. Deer and feral hog must be hunted from an elevated tree stand. Hunters may set up portable stands three days prior to a specific deer hunt and must remove them no more than three days after a hunt. The refuge is closed to the general public during deer, hog and turkey hunts. Seasons are observed for squirrel, snipe and raccoon. Hunting deer or upland game from a boat is prohibited.

Getting there:

Contact the refuge for directions to the various tracts where hunting is allowed.

Youth Hunts: Youth hunts are held for turkey, deer, feral hog and upland game.

Species Icons: D, T, EX, SG, MB, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: A signed refuge brochure must be carried by hunters at all times.

South Dakota

<http://www.sdgap.info/wildlife/hunting/Index.htm>

Huron Wetland Management District

Federal Building

200 4th St SW, Room 309

Huron, SD 57350

(605) 352-5894

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=64110>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

The waterfowl production areas (WPAs) of Huron WMD attract over 100,000 visitors a year, making this the most visited WMD in the nation. Hunters are among these visitors, drawn here by the large flocks of ducks that use the wetlands in the fall. While larger numbers of ducks use these areas in the spring for nesting, hunters will still encounter a variety of duck species and can expect a quality hunt. Pheasant, deer and other game may also be hunted along the grasslands that surround the wetlands. As with all WPAs, these lands are open to hunting per state regulations. Huron WMD covers eight South Dakota counties and includes 11,000 acres of land open to hunting, located in the heart of the state's prairie pothole country.

Getting there:

The Huron WMD office is headquartered in Huron, which is in the east-central portion of South Dakota. From Interstate 90, follow Highway 37 north to Huron (approximately 50 miles).

Highway 37 changes into Dakota Avenue once you are in the Huron city limits. Follow Dakota Avenue to Fourth Street SW and turn west. The district office is located in the Federal Building on the south side of the street. Please contact the district staff for directions to individual WPAs.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

HC 5, Box 114

Martin, SD 57551

(605) 685-6508

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=64540>

Visitor Center: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

There are plenty of game birds at Lacreek NWR, but finding them is a different story. The big, open country on the refuge can be daunting for a first-time hunter, but learning the area and using a good dog can help find wily rooster pheasant and flocks of sharp-tailed grouse. The pheasant tend to be in the thickest cover near the wetlands, while the sharp-tails can be found in the grasslands. The grouse congregate in large flocks as the weather gets colder. Successful hunters cover a lot of terrain in a day. One part of this refuge, the Little White River Recreation Area, is open to all South Dakota hunting seasons with general access. On the rest of the refuge, about half is open to hunting for upland birds and deer. Drawing a deer tag for the refuge's October and November hunts can be tough, with most hunters drawing tags once every seven

years. However, hunters fortunate enough to draw a tag have a good chance of taking a mature buck, particularly in November when deer are most active.

Getting there:

Lacreek NWR is 12 miles southeast of Martin. From Martin, drive south on Highway 73 for about 4 miles. Turn left onto a gravel road and go east 1 mile, south for 1 mile, then east 7 miles to the refuge headquarters. Directional signs are located along this route.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Hunters with disabilities will be accommodated on a case-by-case basis.

Species Icons: D, UB,

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Deer tags are issued by lottery by the South Dakota Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge

38672 291st Street

Lake Andes, SD 57356

(605) 487-7603

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=64550>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Dikes separate Lake Andes into three separate units, but a lack of a permanent water supply limits the lake's optimal habitat for waterfowl. Only the Owen's Bay marsh, fed primarily by the waters from a free-flowing well, permits effective manipulation of water levels to provide a dependable habitat for ducks and geese. In the 1970s, a waterfowl disease called viral enteritis killed 40,000 ducks and geese on the bay, leading to a change in management practices. Crop fields planted for waterfowl feed were replaced with native prairies, and well waters were redirected during winter months. Today, waterfowl populations are thriving. The center unit of the refuge is currently open to hunting. Duck and goose hunters find multitudes of waterfowl in the marshy habitat, while pheasant and deer hunters pursue their quarry along the brushy perimeter of the lake in low water years.

Getting there:

The Lake Andes NWR Complex headquarters is located on the east shore of Lake Andes. From Ravinia, South Dakota, travel 2 miles north on the county gravel road and 1.5 miles west to reach the Refuge headquarters. From the community of Lake Andes, travel north 0.5 miles, then east 3.5 miles on a hard-surfaced county road, crossing the Lake from west to east before reaching the office and visitor center nestled under the cottonwoods.

Species Icons: WF, UB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Lake Andes Wetland Management District

c/o Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge
38672 291st Street
Lake Andes, SD 57356
(605) 487-7603
Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M - F

Lake Andes WMD provides important feeding, nesting and resting habitat for waterfowl in the southern portion of the prairie pothole region. The waterfowl production areas (WPAs) in this district, all open to public hunting, include more than 19,000 acres of protected wetlands and grasslands. Hunting is popular here, with thousands of ducks and geese using the wetlands each fall. Blue-winged teal, mallard, gadwall and wigeon can be found in large numbers, as can diving ducks like redhead and ruddy. Grasslands, which provide spring nesting cover for ducks, also hold good numbers of upland birds. Many local hunters know that these grassland areas can contain white-tailed deer. Most hunters don't consider WPAs for turkeys, but the hunting can be good on units where there is some wooded cover.

Getting there:

The Lake Andes NWR Complex headquarters is located on the east shore of Lake Andes. From Ravinia, travel 2 miles north on the county gravel road and 1.5 miles east to reach the refuge headquarters. From the community of Lake Andes, travel north 0.5 miles, then east 3.5 miles on a hard-surfaced county road, crossing the lake from west to east before reaching the office and visitor center nestled under the cottonwoods. Contact headquarters for directions to individual WPAs.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D, T
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Madison Wetland Management District

23520 SD Highway 19
Madison, SD 57042
(605) 256-2974
<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=64560>
Refuge Office : 8 :00 – 4 :30, M – F

South Dakota has long been known as the pheasant capital of the nation, but waterfowl and deer hunting opportunities also abound on the 38,500 acres of uplands and wetlands in the Madison WMD. In the spring and fall, thousands of migrating snow geese make stops at district wetlands called Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs). And reintroduced to the area in the late 1960's giant Canada geese are common nesters in every part of the District. The WPAs are open to all state seasons and are popular local hunting spots for hunters on foot. No vehicles are allowed. The northeast portion of the WMD (Deuel County) lies within the "Coteau des Prairie" or tall grass prairie region of South Dakota.

Getting there :

Contact the district headquarters for directions to individual WPAs. The office is located 2 miles east of the town of Madison, South Dakota, and 3/4 miles south of the junction of Highway 34 and Highway 19.

Species Icons: D, BG, UB, WF, MB, SG
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge

39650 Sand Lake Drive

Columbia, SD 57433

(605) 885-6320

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=64570>

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Sand Lake NWR is consistently ranked as one of the top 15 birding locations in the nation. The huge concentrations of waterfowl each fall also make it a top draw for duck and goose hunters. The carefully managed hunt allows birds to remain undisturbed on the wetland while providing quality gunning opportunities. The two waterfowl hunting areas provide different hunting experiences. The “spaced blind area” includes more than 200 blinds around the perimeter of the refuge, available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Hunters must hunt from the blinds, and decoying is the method of choice. The other waterfowl hunting is permitted along the perimeter road right-of-way, except in the spaced blind area. This hunting opportunity is for those who pass shoot birds flying off the refuge. No decoys are permitted in this area. With hunters restricted to the refuge perimeter, ducks and geese can return to their habitat each day. This protects waterfowl populations and also ensures continued quality hunting on the refuge.

Getting there:

Sand Lake NWR is located in the northeast corner of South Dakota, 27 miles northeast of Aberdeen. To get to Sand Lake from Aberdeen, take State Highway 12 east 6 miles to Brown County Highway 16 at Bath Corner. Turn north onto Highway 16 and follow brown directional signs. The refuge headquarters and visitor center are located on Highway 16 approximately 9 miles north of Columbia.

For Hunters with Disabilities: An accessible hunting blind is available.

Youth Hunts: The refuge is open for a youth waterfowl hunt.

Species Icons: WF, UB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: A refuge permit is required for hunters who wish to participate in the deer firearms season.

Sand Lake Wetland Management District

c/o Sand Lake NWR

39650 Sand Lake Drive

Columbia, SD 57433

(605) 885-6320

<http://www.fws.gov/sandlake/wmd.htm>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Including portions of eight counties, Sand Lake WMD covers more area than any other WMD in the country. Hunters can access 162 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) totaling 45,000 acres in northeast South Dakota. This important public land offers good hunting for many species, but it is best known for the spectacular fall flights of ducks. Thousands of birds—including a tremendous variety of puddle and diving ducks as well as geese—can be found on the wetlands in the fall. While WPAs have become a popular destination for traveling waterfowlers, northeastern South Dakota still attracts relatively few hunters compared to western parts of the state. With planning, a hunter can have the hunt of a lifetime here, visiting new WPAs each day and experiencing huge flights of ducks.

Getting there:

Please contact the Sand Lake NWR office for more information on WPA locations.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: Contact Refuge Manager for information.

Waubay National Wildlife Refuge

44401 134A Street

Waubay, SD 57273

(605) 947-4521

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=64590>

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Visitors to Waubay NWR find a lot of woodlands, an unusual habitat in eastern South Dakota. These woods provide good habitat for white-tailed deer, but too many deer can literally strip the forest bare. The refuge offers an annual deer hunt to help control the numbers and to provide an interesting opportunity for hunters. An archery season is offered as a general hunt, while two muzzleloader hunts and a rifle hunt are issued by drawing. Tags can be hard to draw for the first muzzleloader season, but the other two hunts offer much better drawing odds. Three islands on the refuge—ranging in size from 100 to 600 acres—offer the best hunting. These islands can be reached only with non-motorized boats. Hunters have about a 40 percent success rate on the three lottery hunts.

Getting there:

From I-29 take SD 12 west toward Aberdeen for 13 miles (one mile east of Waubay). Take Day Co. 1 (not well marked - watch for a brown highway information sign on HWY 12) north 7 miles and continue west on the gravel road into the Refuge - look for brown Refuge signs. The road leads 1 ½ miles to the visitor center.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Permits are issued through the South Dakota lottery for special seasons.

Waubay Wetland Management District

c/o Waubay National Wildlife Refuge

44401 134A Street

Waubay, SD 57273

(605) 947-4521

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=64591>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Waubay WMD is very popular with local pheasant and deer hunters, but many overlook the many waterfowl opportunities found here. About 200 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) provide 40,000 acres of public hunting in six counties located in the northeast corner of South Dakota. White-tailed deer and pheasant can often be found in the thick cattail cover around the marshes, while good numbers of ducks and geese use the wetland areas. Most nonresident hunters head for the Missouri River area for their South Dakota waterfowl hunt, ignoring the eastern part of the state. Hunters who choose Waubay WMD will find a good mix of puddle ducks as well as Canada geese, without the hunting pressure that can characterize the western part of the state.

Getting there:

WPAs are found at various locations throughout the six counties that make up Waubay WMD: Clark, Codington, Day, Grant, Marshall and Roberts. The WPAs are posted with green and white signs. Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Tennessee

<http://www.state.tn.us/twra/wildlife.html>

Chickasaw National Wildlife Refuge

1505 Sand Bluff Road

Ripley, TN 38063

(731) 635-7621

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42526

Refuge Office: 7:45 – 4:15, M –F

The largest bottomland hardwood forest in Tennessee, Chickasaw NWR has become an important wintering and stopover area for huge numbers of waterfowl. Located in the Mississippi River floodplain, the forest floods periodically, creating ideal conditions for ducks. During optimum years, waterfowl numbers may exceed 250,000, including black duck, gadwall, pintail, wigeon and many other species. Waterfowl hunters can experience these impressive fall flights during a season that follows state hunting dates; refuge hunting ends at noon. The refuge offers a

variety of other hunting opportunities, mostly in line with state seasons. The three-day turkey hunts, offered in April, are issued by quota. Deer hunters can choose from archery, muzzleloader and firearms seasons, as well as a special season for young hunters.

Getting there:

From Ripley and Highway 51, proceed approximately 6 miles north on Edith-Central Road (becomes Edith-Nankipoo after passing through four-way stop at Edith). Turn left on Hobe Webb road and proceed approximately 1.5 miles to the first road on the right. Turn right on Sand Bluff Road and proceed to the bottom of bluff. Refuge headquarters will be on the left.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Hunters with disabilities may obtain a Special Use Permit allowing them to use ATVs on the refuge.

Youth Hunts: A youth deer hunt is offered. The refuge is also open during the state youth-only waterfowl hunt.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, SG, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Turkey hunt permits are issued by lottery. All other hunts require a free hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge

643 Wildlife Road

Dover, TN 37058

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42515

(931) 232-7477

Visitor Center: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

Located 75 miles from Nashville, Cross Creeks NWR offers a great public hunting opportunity along 12.5 river miles of the Cumberland River. The refuge's woodland habitat holds sizable numbers of popular game species, including turkey, deer and squirrel. Turkeys may be hunted in the spring or fall seasons during general-access hunts. Deer hunters can choose from both general-access and quota hunts. Quota hunts, issued by lottery, include two firearms hunts in October and November. The state season archery hunt and youth deer hunt are general-access opportunities until the refuge closes to the public on November 15. During the quota hunts, hunters must take an antlerless deer before being allowed to take a buck. While the refuge can draw thousands of ducks, it is preserved as a winter refuge for waterfowl. However, a season for resident Canada geese is held in September.

Getting there:

Cross Creeks NWR is located 75 miles northwest of Nashville. Take Interstate 24 approximately 45 miles, then U.S. Highway 79 from Clarksville to Dover. In Dover, turn on TN Highway 49 south and travel 2 miles. Turn left on Wildlife Road and follow the signs to the office and visitor center complex.

Youth Hunts: A youth deer hunt is offered; archery, muzzleloader and firearms are all legal.

Youth hunters can take up to three deer with only one buck. The deer are counted as bonus deer.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Some deer hunt permits are issued by lottery. All hunts require a \$12.50 annual refuge hunting permit that is also valid for Tennessee NWR. Quota deer hunt permits are drawn by lottery and do not require an additional fee.

Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge

6772 Highway 76 South

Stanton, TN 38069

(731) 772-0501

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42525>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

The bottomland hardwood forest and cropland of Hatchie NWR offer the best wildlife habitat in the area, and local hunters know this refuge holds good numbers of game species in its thick cover. The 11,500-acre refuge was created as a migratory bird refuge, and waterfowlers may hunt right along the Hatchie River in an area accessible only by boat. There can be a lot of mallard and wood ducks in this area, but low water can make access difficult. Deer and turkey hunting can offer more consistent hunting opportunities. Deer hunters can participate in a 16-day general-access archery hunt, or apply for one of two quota firearms hunts. The good cover and cropland hold deer on the refuge even when there is hunting pressure. Turkeys can be found throughout the refuge, but hunting success varies depending on spring weather.

Getting there:

The Hatchie NWR office is located at Oneal Lake on Highway 76, immediately south of Interstate 40's exit 52. From Memphis, take I-40 east about one hour to exit 52. Exit left or north onto Highway 76, then go 1.5 miles to the refuge office on the right. From Nashville, take I-40 west to exit 56. Exit left (south) onto Highway 76 and go 3 miles to the refuge office on the left.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Special accommodations will be made for hunters with disabilities who draw quota hunt permits.

Youth Hunts: Turkey and duck hunts for youth hunters are offered in concordance with state youth-only seasons.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Firearms deer hunts are issued by lottery and require a fee. All other hunts require a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Lake Isom National Wildlife Refuge

4343 Highway 157

Union City, TN 38261

(901) 538-2481

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42576

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F; weekends in winter months

The oldest national wildlife refuge in Tennessee, Lake Isom NWR is protected as a sanctuary for waterfowl. The proximity of Lake Isom to the Mississippi River has always made the area a major stopover and wintering ground for migratory waterfowl, which can number in the thousands during fall and winter. The refuge includes 1,850 acres of waterfowl habitat around Lake Isom, and the refuge is managed to minimize disturbance to migratory birds. Before the birds begin using the refuge in late fall, it is open to limited hunting opportunities for popular game species. A squirrel season begins in August, and an archery deer hunt is held in October. Raccoon hunting is also permitted during nights in October, only with the aid of hounds.

Getting there:

The refuge headquarters is located approximately 15 miles southwest of Union City. From Union City, take Highway 22 north approximately 15 miles and turn right onto Highway 157. The refuge headquarters is exactly 1 mile on the left. Lake Isom is approximately 3 miles south of Reelfoot Lake.

Species Icons: D, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts.

Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge

234 Fort Prudhomme Drive

Henning, TN 38041

(731) 738-2296

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42527

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 4:00, M – F

Lower Hatchie NWR sits along the lower 17 miles of the Hatchie River in western Tennessee. Unlike most Mississippi River tributaries that have been straightened and engineered with levees for flood control, the Hatchie remains the longest continuous stretch of naturally meandering river in the lower Mississippi River Valley. As a result, wildlife thrives in this almost-pristine habitat. Hunting can be excellent, with a variety of seasons offered. Deer hunting is popular. General-access seasons for archery, muzzleloader and firearms hunters are held, as well as a season for young hunters. General-access waterfowl hunting is also permitted during state seasons; hunters may hunt until noon. Spring turkey hunts are issued by quota. The Sunk Lake Natural Area, a separate parcel managed by the refuge, is divided into two units. Hunting is prohibited in the South Unit, but permitted per refuge regulations in the North Unit.

Getting there:

Lower Hatchie NWR is north of Memphis between Covington and Ripley, west of Highway 51 north on Highway 87 west. The refuge headquarters is approximately 18 miles down Highway 87W on the left just before the Mississippi River.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Hunters with disabilities may obtain a Special Use Permit to use ATVs on the refuge.

Youth Hunts: The refuge is open during the state youth-only waterfowl season. A non-quota youth deer hunt is also offered.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Turkey hunt permits are issued by lottery and cost \$12.50. All other hunts require a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge

4343 Highway 157

Union City, TN 38261

(731) 538-2481

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42575

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F; weekends in winter months

Reelfoot Lake has become one of Tennessee's favorite destinations for outdoor enthusiasts, and readers of outdoor magazines are familiar with the many hunting and fishing opportunities offered on parts of the lake. Reelfoot NWR was created to provide a sanctuary for waterfowl on the northern third of the lake, ensuring that this area remains important waterfowl habitat. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited on the refuge but is common on other parts of the lake. The refuge does offer hunting opportunities for deer, turkey, squirrel and raccoon, with seasons held to minimize disturbance to migrating birds. The archery deer hunt is general access and is held in October. The two-day firearms deer hunt, issued by quota, is held on two units of the refuge. A quota turkey hunt is held in the spring.

Getting there:

The refuge headquarters is located approximately 15 miles southwest of Union City. From Union City, take Highway 22 north approximately 15 miles and turn right on Highway 157. The refuge headquarters is exactly 1 mile on the left.

Species Icons: D, T, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Firearms deer and spring turkey hunt permits are issued by lottery and require a fee. All other hunts require a free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person.

Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge

3006 Dinkins Lane

Paris, TN 38242

(731) 642-2091

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42620

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

The Tennessee NWR encompasses over 50,000 acres on and around Kentucky Lake in northwest Tennessee. The refuge's three units, Big Sandy, Duck River and Busseltown, stretch for 65 miles

along the Tennessee River. Hunters will find a rich variety of river habitat, creating many hunting opportunities. Deer hunters are offered a general-access archery hunt as well as several quota firearms deer hunts. Most quota hunts allow three deer to be taken, with “Earn a Buck” rules in place: hunters must take an antlerless deer before being allowed to take a buck. A general access primitive weapons hunt is offered. Hunters are required to use a long bow, recurve bow or side hammered muzzleloaders with iron sites only. This hunt allows three deer to be taken with only one deer being a buck. Turkey hunting can be good along the river, and the spring hunt is general access. Fall turkeys may be hunted with bows during the archery deer hunt. Hunters may hunt squirrel, raccoon and resident Canada goose during appropriate seasons on the refuge.

Getting there:

The refuge headquarters office is in Paris, at 3006 Dinkins Lane just off Highway 79 north. The Duck River Unit is in Humphreys and Benton counties at the confluence of the Duck and Tennessee rivers. The subheadquarters of this unit is 1.5 miles southeast of Hustburg. The Big Sandy Unit is 12 miles north of the town of Big Sandy and is at the confluence of the Big Sandy and Tennessee rivers. The Busseltown Unit is in Decatur County; the entrance is 5 miles northeast of Parsons.

Youth Hunts: A youth deer hunt is offered; archery, muzzleloader and firearms are all legal. Youth hunters can take up to three deer with only one buck. The deer are counted as bonus deer.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: A \$12.50 annual refuge hunting permit is required for all hunts. This permit is also valid on Cross Creeks NWR. Quota deer hunt permits are drawn by lottery and do not require an additional fee.

Texas

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/>

Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 278

Anahuac, TX 77514

(409) 267-3337

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21521

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

The meandering bayous of Anahuac NWR cut through ancient flood plains, creating expanses of coastal marsh and prairie along Galveston Bay in southeast Texas. These coastal marshes and prairies are host or home to an abundance of wildlife, from migratory birds to alligators to bobcats and more. For waterfowl hunters, blue- and green-winged teal, mottled duck, gadwall, pintail and shoveler are a few of the species hunted among the different hunt units. Hunters have access to 40 percent of the refuge, with both free and fee zones available. Hunters are reminded to be aware of boggy conditions, as well as potential threats from alligators, venomous snakes

and fire ants. Hunters prepared for the conditions find some of the best waterfowl hunting opportunities in southeast Texas.

Getting there:

From Houston, take Interstate 10 east to exit 812 (TX 61 or Anahuac/Hankamer exit). Go south on 61 for nearly 4 miles to the stop sign where the road becomes Highway 562. Continue for approximately 8.5 miles to the fork in the road, which is FM 1985. At the fork, turn left and go for an additional 12 miles, through the main gate of the refuge. At a small 'East Unit' sign, go right through a gate to the hunting check station.

From Beaumont, take Interstate 10 west to exit 829 (Highway 73/124 or Winnie/Galveston exit). Head south on Highway 124 for approximately 11 miles to FM 1985. Turn right onto FM 1985 and head west for nearly 11 miles to the main entrance of the refuge. From the main gate of the refuge continue for an additional 8 miles. At a small 'East Unit' sign, go right through a gate to the hunting check station.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. All hunters must have a free refuge hunting permit. The "spaced hunt area" also requires a permit costing \$10 per day or \$40 per season.

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 100

Austewell, TX 77950

(361) 286-3559

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21532

Visitor Center: 8:30 – 4:30, daily, except Thanksgiving and Christmas

Aransas NWR appeals to deer hunters looking for a challenge. This coastal refuge harbors good numbers of deer and feral hogs, but finding them in the thick, brushy habitat is often difficult. Hunters have to walk in from gravel roads, and, once in the hunting area, can expect swarming mosquitoes. In some areas, they may even need to wear waders. The hunts include a first-come, first-serve archery hunt and a lottery rifle hunt. Bag limits typically allow hunters to take both antlered and antlerless deer, as well as unlimited hogs. Refuge managers say that hunters could conceivably take home many hogs, but it requires a knowledge of the hogs' habits and a good strategy to find them in their resting areas. Hogs often move only at night. Most hunters choose to hunt from tripod stands that they bring with them. These allow greater visibility in the brushy areas. Many hunters return year after year for the challenge and the social atmosphere. The refuge maintains a walk-in cooler that hunters may use for hanging, skinning and quartering game.

Getting there:

From Rockport, take Highway 35 north approximately 20 miles. Turn right on FM 774 and go approximately 9 miles to FM 2040. Turn right and follow FM 2040 for about 7 miles to the refuge entrance.

Youth Hunts: Two rifle hunts, for white-tailed deer and feral hogs, are held each year. Permits are issued by lottery.

Species Icons: D, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Refuge hunt permits are issued on a first-come basis in mid-summer. Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) administers public hunts for white-tailed deer, feral hogs, mourning dove and waterfowl on Matagorda Island.

Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge

24518 FM 1431

Marble Falls, TX 78654

(512) 339-9432

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/balcones/index.htm>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Few people get to see Balcones Canyonlands NWR due to restricted public access, but each year hunters are able to explore this beautiful part of Texas Hill Country during seasons for big game and dove. All hunts are by drawing and provide an excellent public opportunity in an area dominated by expensive private leases. The big hunts are conducted over several weekends. They include a free youth hunt for hunters, ages 12–16, and a special hunt for hunters with disabilities. Hunters may take a white-tailed deer, a bearded turkey and unlimited feral hogs during the hunt. Hunters are assigned a unit and can move around within that unit. Temporary blinds are permitted. Two hunting methods popular in this part of Texas, baiting and hound hunting, are illegal. The deer hunting improves every year, and hunters who take advantage of the scouting weekend prior to the hunt can have good success. Feral hogs are very common and are destroying habitat on the refuge. Hunters are encouraged to take any hogs they see.

Getting there:

The refuge is 30 minutes from Austin. Take U.S. Highway 183 north from Austin, then go west on FM 1431 to Lago Vista. Continue west on FM 1431. The refuge office and hunter check station are 5 miles past the intersection with Bar-K Road. All hunters must report to the check station that opens at 4:30 a.m. before going to their hunting units.

Coming west on FM 1431, the office will be one mile from Cow Creek Road on the north side of the highway.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A special hunt is held each year.

Youth Hunts: A free hunt is offered for hunters ages 12–16.

Species Icons: D, T, EX, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Hunts require a Special Use Permit, requiring a \$10 application fee and \$50 permit fee.

Big Boggy National Wildlife Refuge

6801 County Road 306

Brazoria, TX 77422

(979) 964-3639

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21542

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 5:30, M – Th; F hours vary, call ahead

Big Boggy NWR offers two waterfowl hunting areas, each providing a different type of hunt. One is located along a flight path ducks use as they leave their resting area in the morning and head to fields. While the pass shooting can be quite successful at times, many birds quickly learn to avoid the area. The other zone is for walk-in hunters, in a part of the refuge suited for hunting over decoys. The walk can be 1 or 2 miles, and hunters should take precautions against heat stroke. Once in the marsh, hunting can be excellent, but location is the key. Learning which areas ducks use will help hunters plan a successful outing. Early in the year, many hunters hope to take the unusual mottled duck, but green-winged teal, pintail, gadwall and wigeon are common species. The refuge also takes part in the extended light goose conservation hunt, and snow geese are often found on the refuge.

Getting there:

The refuge borders Matagorda Bay, about 7 miles south of Wadsworth and 20 miles from Bay City. From Brazoria, drive west on FM 521 to Chinquapin Road. Turn left (south) and drive by Big Boggy NWR to Chinquapin Landing.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge

4430 Trammel Street

Freeport, TX 77541

(979) 233-5338

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21543

Refuge Office: Contact the refuge office, or call 979-849-7771

This popular hunting area offers several great opportunities throughout the waterfowl season. It all begins early in the season with a teal hunt, and hunters will find a lot of teal using the refuge. Through the rest of the waterfowl season, 15,000 to 20,000 ducks and 10,000 to 15,000 snow geese will be found on the refuge. Hunters can access one area by boat, and another area by foot. The boat access area, Christmas Point, is known for its excellent hunting due to the mixture of fresh and brackish marshes. The walk-in area, Middle Bayou, can be sporadic, but is offered as a place to hunt for those who don't have boats. Pass shooting for geese can be productive, depending on the daily flight patterns the geese take to area rice fields. Aerial photos of the refuge are available, and studying these photos can help hunters pinpoint the best areas.

Getting there:

From the intersection of Highway 288 and FM 523 in Angleton, take FM 523 to the Highway 2004 intersection. Continue on FM 523 for 5.5 miles to County Road 227. Turn left on CR 227 and proceed 1.7 miles to the refuge entrance. The refuge office is in Demi-John, which is 3 miles east of the refuge entrance.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge

6465 Refuge Road

Sherman, TX 75092

(903) 786-2826

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21580

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Located along a portion of Lake Texoma on the Texas/Oklahoma border, Hagerman NWR was created to provide feeding and resting areas for migrating waterfowl, pelicans and other birds. The refuge includes numerous agricultural fields that provide ample feed for thousands of birds each year. The fields also attract an abundant deer population and some feral hogs. To keep these populations in check, the refuge holds an archery hunt each fall. Three general units, where hunters are allowed to take one buck and two antlerless deer, and an antlerless only unit, cover about 4,500 acres of the refuge. The hunts are administered by lottery. Refuge managers will give hunters a receipt exempting them from the next year's lottery if they kill an antlerless deer. To qualify, the animal must have been shot cleanly in the heart/lung/liver region. The refuge has earned a reputation for large white-tailed deer with several record book animals harvested on the refuge. Hunters may also encounter feral hogs, and they are encouraged to take as many of these non-native animals as they can.

Getting there:

From Dallas, go north on Highway 75 to the Sherman FM 1417 exit, then north 13 miles on FM 1417 to the refuge sign, and left 6 miles to the entrance. From U.S. 82, turn north on Southmayd Road (4 miles east of Sadler and 7.5 miles west of Sherman). Follow signs to the office and visitor center.

Species Icons: D, EX, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. A free refuge hunting brochure, signed and carried on person, is required for all hunts. Deer hunts are issued by lottery, with a \$3 application fee and \$50 permit fee.

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 450

Rio Hondo, TX 78583

(956) 748-3607

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/laguna.html>

Visitor Center: 10:00 – 4:00, daily from October through April; 10:00 – 4:00, weekends only in May; closed June – September

Located in an agricultural valley, Laguna Atascosa NWR offers an excellent public hunting opportunity for trophy deer and exotic game. Hunters can choose between archery and muzzleloader deer hunts, and an exotics firearms hunt. During deer hunts, hunters may take two deer, one of which can be a buck. During all hunts, including the deer hunts, hunters may take unlimited numbers of feral hogs and nilgai, an introduced antelope from India that can reach 800 pounds. Both species have established populations on the refuge. There are no assigned hunting areas. Paved roads are open to vehicles, but interior roads are restricted to foot and bicycle access. Many hunters have developed creative bike rigs to aid in packing game out of the hunting area.

Getting there:

From Harlingen, go east on Highway 106 14 miles past Rio Hondo. Take a left at the T-intersection and drive 3 miles to the visitor center.

From South Padre Island, take Highway 100 out of Port Isabel and exit right on Farm Road 510 at Laguna Vista. Continue 5.4 miles to the Cameron County Airport road. Take a right and continue approximately 7 miles to the visitor center.

From Brownsville, go north on Paredes Line Road (1847) through Los Fresnos to Highway 106. Take a right and go approximately 10 miles to the T-intersection. Take a left and drive 3 miles to the visitor center.

Species Icons: D, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Hunts are issued by lottery.

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Route 2, Box 202A

Alamo, TX 78516

(956) 784-7500

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21552

Visitor Center: 8:00 to 4:00 daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day

The Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR provides habitat for rare species like ocelot and jaguarundi, animals that many people don't associate with the United States. Much easier to spot are two species that are indeed not native to the U.S. but which roam the refuge in large numbers: feral hog and nilgai. These two species, along with white-tailed deer, are hunted during the refuge's big game hunts that are issued by lottery in the categories of archery, firearms and youth. Hunters are allowed to take two deer, one of which may be a buck, as well as unlimited exotics. Hunters are given a lot of freedom about where they hunt, and public roads run through the property. The hunts can be extremely successful, with the archery hunt often having a 30 percent success rate for white-tailed deer. The exotic species can be difficult to take with a bow, and

hunting has yet to put a dent in those populations. This is an excellent public hunting opportunity for those who want to avoid the cost of a hunting lease.

Getting there:

Headquarters for Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR is at the Santa Ana NWR Visitor Center, 7 miles south of Alamo on FM 907 and 1/4 mile east on U.S. Highway 281.

Youth Hunts: Issued by lottery

Species Icons: D, EX, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. All hunts are issued by lottery.

McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 609

Sabine Pass, TX 77655

(409) 971-2909

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21525

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Bayous weave through seemingly endless expanses of cordgrass on this 55,000-acre refuge, which protects the largest freshwater marsh on the Texas coast. The plentiful food and cover of the refuge draw more than 100,000 ducks each fall, making waterfowl hunting opportunities plentiful. Much of the refuge is open to free public hunting, while some areas have a fee. Check with refuge headquarters for current regulations and hunt zones. Much of the water is shallow and navigable only by canoe or by wading, but there are some areas where motorized boats are permitted. There is also a section reserved for hunters with disabilities. The marshy habitat requires some caution, as alligators, poisonous snakes and biting insects are all common. Hunters who learn the area will find excellent hunting for teal, shoveler, gadwall, scaup and mottled duck.

Getting there:

McFaddin NWR is located along Highway 87 at the southeastern tip of Texas, near the Louisiana border. McFaddin NWR lies 12 miles west of Sabine Pass. The headquarters is located along Clam Lake Road.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A “spaced blind” hunting area is reserved for hunters with disabilities.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. A free refuge hunting permit is required for all hunts. Hunts in some areas require a \$10 fee.

San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge

6801 County Road 306

Brazoria, TX 77422

(979) 964-3639

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/recEdMore.cfm?ID=21541

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 5:30, M – Th; F hours vary, call ahead

San Bernard NWR is known for the variety of birds that use this refuge throughout the year, from nesting terns and herons in the spring to migrating warblers in the fall. Among these birds is a large population of waterfowl, including puddle ducks and snow geese. San Bernard NWR offers both general and special permit hunts for waterfowlers who come to hunt these birds. The general hunt areas can be accessed only by boat, while the permit hunt is walk-in. Because many hunters don't want to carry decoys, they often hunt by pass shooting. For hunters who have taken the time to learn the refuge, pass shooting can be an extremely effective tactic. Each fall, there can be a lot of ducks and geese using the refuge, but the hunting is highly dependent on their daily flight patterns. There are nearly always lots of snow geese, but they can be extremely wary. They are most often taken incidentally by hunters hunting the many puddle duck species on the refuge.

Getting there:

From Lake Jackson, take FM 2004 southwest for 7 miles. Then take FM 2611 south 4 miles to FM 2918. Drive 1 mile south on FM 2918 to CR 306, then left on CR 306 to the refuge office.

Youth Hunts: The Sargent Permit Waterfowl Hunt area is open during the first Saturday of the state youth-only waterfowl hunt.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. The Sargent Permit Waterfowl Hunt area requires a refuge hunting permit, issued by reservation only. The general hunt does not require a special refuge hunting permit.

Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 609

Sabine Pass, TX 77655

(409) 971-2909

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21526>

Refuge Office located at McFadden NWR: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Hunters will find both freshwater and saltwater marshes on this 8,900-acre refuge, managed as part of the same complex as nearby McFadden NWR. The refuge has both free and fee areas, and can be accessed by foot and by boat. There are numerous open units; consult refuge headquarters for maps and regulations. Hunters should prepare for extremely boggy areas, alligators and poisonous snakes. Taking time to scout the refuge and learn its terrain not only minimizes risk, but also makes for more successful outings. The rich mix of marshy habitats, managed by

prescribed fire and grazing, draws in thousands of ducks and geese each year. Mottled ducks are year-round residents, while other duck species use the area during fall migration.

Getting there:

Approximately 15 miles south of Port Arthur and 90 miles east of Houston, the best way to get to the Texas Point NWR is through Sabine Pass. Highway 87, washed out by coastal erosion, no longer connects High Island with the refuge. The refuge is located west of Sabine Pass on Highway 87.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A “spaced blind” hunting area is reserved for hunters with disabilities.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. A free refuge hunting permit is required for all hunts. Hunts in some areas require a \$10 fee.

Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge

1351 North Main, P.O. Box 10015

Liberty, TX 77575

(936) 336-9786

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21526>

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Flocks of ducks circling overhead, white-tailed bucks sneaking through thick cover, and alligators lurking at water’s edge: Trinity River NWR offers the perfect place for outdoor adventure. The bottomland hardwood forest along the Trinity River provides ideal habitat for game species like duck, white-tailed deer, rabbit and squirrel. Best of all, this is a hunting experience hunters can enjoy with their families. A hunter selected in the lottery for any of the hunts — deer, waterfowl and upland game — may bring two youths (or one youth and one observer). This provides a perfect opportunity to introduce youngsters to the sport without high lease fees. New and seasoned hunters will find classic hunting experiences here, including duck hunting in flooded timber and stand hunting for good-sized bucks in the thick forest.

Getting there:

Liberty is located 48 miles east of Houston and 44 miles west of Beaumont on Highway 90. The refuge office is 1 mile north of Highway 90 on Main Street (traffic light at McDonald’s) when coming from the south. Coming from the north, the office is about 1 mile south of Wal-Mart (Highway 146). It is across the street from King Sudz car wash.

Youth Hunts: A hunter selected in the lottery may bring two youths (or one youth and one observer).

Species Icons: WF, SG, D, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Deer and waterfowl hunts are issued by lottery; upland game hunts are issued on a first-come basis prior to the season.

Utah

<http://wildlife.utah.gov/hunting/>

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

2155 West Forest Street
Brigham City, UT 84302
(435) 734 - 6427

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=65530>

Refuge Office: 8:00 - 4:30, M – F

Every junior high student learns that the Great Salt Lake is saltier than the sea, and this leads many to believe that this giant inland waterway thus holds little value for wildlife. Duck hunters know better, and the wetlands around the lake offer some of the best waterfowl hunting in the West. Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge protects 74,000 acres of open water, marsh and mud flats on the northern tip of Great Salt Lake. Two sections of the refuge are open to hunting, and they are popular hunting spots. Waterfowlers enter the area by foot or in small boats. Temporary blinds may be constructed, but all blinds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Up to 500,000 ducks use the refuge each fall, and hunters can expect a wide variety of species in the decoys. As many as 30,000 tundra swans also spend the fall on the refuge, and hunters who draw a special permit may pursue these birds.

Getting there:

The refuge is located approximately 50 miles north of Salt Lake City. It can be reached from Interstate 15 by taking the Forest Street exit at Brigham City and driving west 13 miles.

Hunters with Disabilities: A universally accessible hunting blind is available to hunters with a special use permit.

Species Icons: WF, UB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Hunters with disabilities must obtain a special use permit from the refuge office.

Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 568
Dugway, UT 84034
(435) 831-5353

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=65540>

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:30, M – F

On the southern edge of the Great Salt Lake Desert is Fish Springs NWR, covered with beautiful, lush wetlands fed by springs. The water is brackish and warm, creating a unique habitat for a rare native fish, the Utah chub. The springs and impoundments also attract a variety of duck species. About 6,000 of the refuge's 18,000 acres are open to duck hunting in conjunction with Utah

waterfowl seasons. Hunters may walk in or use small, non-motorized boats. As winter approaches, many of the impoundments freeze, making hunting difficult. Wigeon and mallard can be found on the refuge throughout the season and account for most of the daily bag. Recent studies have shown that Northern shoveler and goldeneye contain high mercury levels, so these species should not be eaten. Fish Springs NWR is a popular public hunting area, so hunters should be particularly respectful of others sharing the area. The refuge is along the famed “Pony Express” route of the mid-1800s, and many history buffs retrace this route each year. The road remains rough, and traveling by off-highway vehicle or horse is recommended.

Getting there:

From Salt Lake City, follow Interstate 80 west to the junction of Utah Highway 36 at exit 99. Take Utah Highway 36 south for approximately 40 miles to the intersection of Pony Express Road, just east of Faust. Turn right and follow the gravel road for approximately 61 miles to the refuge entrance.

From Delta, take U.S. Highway 6 north to the intersection with Utah Highway 174. Turn left on Utah Highway 174 and follow it approximately 42 miles to the end of the paved road. Continue straight on the gravel road for approximately 15 miles to the junction with Pony Express Road. Turn left and proceed approximately 0.75 miles to the refuge entrance. The refuge headquarters is approximately 7 miles from the east entrance.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A special blind area is available for use by the mobility impaired.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: All hunters must register individually at the visitor information station before entering the open hunting areas and prior to exiting the refuge.

Ouray National Wildlife Refuge

HC 69, Box 232

Randlett, UT 84063

(435) 545-2522

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=65570>

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

While Ouray NWR is located between major waterfowl flyways, hunters here can have surprisingly good hunting early in the fall. An area called Leota Bottom, a wetlands complex consisting of 10 impoundments, is open to duck and goose hunting each fall. Hunters use cattails and sometimes willows for cover while waiting for ducks to land in decoys. Before cold weather freezes the impoundments, hunters average about four birds a day. While the impoundments are mainly shallow, hunters should be aware that there are a few deep spots. Pheasant hunting is another popular option on the refuge, with opening day attracting a lot of hunting pressure. Mule deer hunting is open, but the hunting is different from usual hunts for this big-game animal. The deer roam the river bottoms and move quite frequently. Successful hunters often use a tree stand and patiently wait for deer to move by on trails.

Getting there:

To reach Ouray NWR, take U.S. Highway 40, 14 miles west of the city of Vernal. Turn south on State Highway 88 and travel 14 miles to the refuge entrance. The refuge office is located 1 mile down the entrance road.

Species Icons: WF, UB, D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Vermont

<http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/>

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge

29 Tabor Road

Swanton, VT 05488

(802) 868-4781

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=53520

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Located on the northeastern shore of Lake Champlain, Missisquoi NWR has marshes dense with wild rice and other native plants that attract lots of ducks. In the spring and summer, the refuge provides important nesting areas for species like wood duck, mallard, goldeneye and hooded merganser. It is in the fall, though, that the refuge teems with waterfowl. This refuge is one of the most important stopping points for ducks in the northern part of the Atlantic Flyway. Each fall, up to 25,000 ducks of various species, geese, woodcock and snipe stop at the refuge before continuing on their southward migration. Six areas are open to hunting, three for general use and three for controlled hunting. Some allow jump shooting, while others allow hunting only from a blind. A small number of units can be accessed by foot, but for the majority, a boat is required. The refuge strongly encourages all waterfowl hunters to use retrieving dogs; three units require hunters to bring a retrieving dog to aid in recovering ducks. Missisquoi NWR is the northernmost inland refuge on the Atlantic Flyway. Although most hunters think the best duck hunting is along the coast, Missisquoi offers first-rate hunting in a striking lakeside setting along the Canadian border.

Getting there:

Missisquoi NWR headquarters is located about 6 miles northwest of Swanton on Tabor Road. From Interstate 89, take exit 21 and turn west on Route 78. Follow Route 78W for another 7 miles and look for Tabor Road on the left. A large refuge entrance sign is located on the left just before Tabor Road. The refuge headquarters is located one-quarter mile down Tabor Road on the left.

From the west, take exit 42 off Interstate 87. Turn right onto U.S. Route 11 and follow it for about 6 miles. Turn right onto U.S. Route 2/Bridge Road and drive about 7 miles. Turn left onto Vermont Route 78 and go 5 miles. Look for Tabor Road on the right. The refuge headquarters is located on Tabor Road about one-quarter mile on the left.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Arrangements may be made for hunters with disabilities.
Youth Hunts: The refuge is open during State-designated youth-only waterfowl and deer hunt weekends. Eleven blind sites are available exclusively to waterfowl hunters ages 12–15 as part of the Junior Waterfowl Hunter Training Program on the first four Saturdays and Sundays of the duck season.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Permits are required for all controlled waterfowl hunts. They are issued by lottery for the first two weeks of the season and on a first-come, first-served basis for the remainder of the season. Lottery winners pay a \$10 fee. Deer and upland game hunters are also required to get annual permits that cost \$10. All hunters must complete hunting reports.

Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge – See Massachusetts

Teaching Young People to be Good Hunters – and More

“It was nice to get back into a blind after 20 years away from it. For my son it was his first experience duck hunting, and I think he’s hooked.” Bruce Therrien expressed his appreciation for the junior waterfowl program at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge in Vermont. “Beyond shooting a few ducks,” added Therrien, “it was nice to see my son gain a firsthand understanding of why a refuge has value to people and waterfowl.”

Since 1979, hunters from 12 to 15 years old have come to the refuge to learn more about the sport of waterfowl hunting and experience a high-quality waterfowl hunt. Like many refuges, Missisquoi NWR partners with other organizations – including state wildlife agencies, local chapters of Ducks Unlimited and local sportsman’s clubs – in offering its training programs. The day-long programs instruct beginning hunters and their adult mentors in the knowledge and skills needed to become responsible, respected hunters. They learn to identify various species of waterfowl and the bag limits for each species. They learn about firearms safety, hunter ethics, blind design and wildlife conservation.

These hunter-trainees learn to estimate how far away a bird is so they know when to take a shot. They also learn how to respect both the habitat and other hunters. When junior hunters complete their training at Missisquoi NWR, they have exclusive use of premier hunting areas at the refuge for the first four weekends of waterfowl hunting season. A lottery is held to distribute blind sites. In some cases, a hunter and a mentor learn to construct their own temporary blind or use a boat. An adult mentor accompanies each young person, but only the junior hunter may shoot. Missisquoi offers hunting opportunities on other days exclusively for the mentors.

Some junior hunters from the early years now return to Missisquoi NWR as mentors to their own children. “We end up with educated hunters who will pass on the tradition,” says Missisquoi NWR Outdoor Recreation Planner Eileen Nuñez. “They are aware of the importance of the refuge for all wildlife because the education they receive is broader than just how to hunt. Sometimes they don’t harvest anything — they just talk about the beautiful habitat and seeing the birds.”

Throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System, there are special youth hunts for both guns and bows, and for multiple species:

- Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma have partnered with the National Wild Turkey Federation to host special spring turkey hunts, again pairing youngsters with adult mentors. Five of six youngsters harvested a turkey during the first year of the hunt at Deep Fork Refuge.
- The North Mississippi Refuges Complex, including Coldwater River, Dahomey and Tallahatchee National Wildlife Refuges, host special youth hunt days for deer, squirrel, turkey and waterfowl. During these hunts, only youth hunters and their adult supervisors are allowed on refuge lands. Youth hunters aged 12 through 15 must possess a hunter safety course certificate, a signed refuge permit and be supervised by a licensed and permitted adult 21 years or older. An adult may supervise no more than two young hunters.

- Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge in Montana limits the first week of archery deer and elk season and the first week of the general deer and elk season to youths 12 to 14 years of age accompanied by an adult. Twenty youths are permitted to attend a youth deer hunt on Rydell National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota. Again, each young person must be accompanied by a non-hunting mentor.

The night before the Youth Waterfowl Expo at Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge in remote Nevada, the refuge biologist rounds up live ducks. The next day each of the 25 young expo participants holds a duck and helps to band it. The biologist instructs everyone in species identification and then each youngster releases his or her duck. The junior hunters learn how to handle firearms while getting in and out of a boat, how to use duck calls and set decoys, and how to use dogs as retrievers. Teenage hunters practice shooting shotguns at clay pigeons provided by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Younger children practice with air rifles.

While the point of the expo is to teach young people how to be good hunters, Ruby Lake Refuge Manager Marti Collins hopes they will also learn something else: “The junior hunting program helps make the younger generation aware of refuges and the resources we have. Some high school kids want to come and work here during the summer, and I hope they become interested in the Fish and Wildlife Service as a career.”

Virginia

<http://www.dgif.state.va.us/>

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge

4005 Sandpiper Road

Virginia Beach, VA 23456

(757) 721-2412

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51510

Visitor Center: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F; 9:00 – 4:00 weekends (Closed Saturday from November through March. Closed holidays, except Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day.)

Since 1985, the refuge has hosted an annual white-tailed deer hunt to keep the population of this native species in balance. Hunters are selected by state lottery in early September and assigned a one-day hunt in one of eight hunting zones. Registration and a hunter safety orientation will be held prior to transporting hunters to their selected zones. Selected hunters are encouraged to scout hunt zones prior to the hunt. Hunters must check in and out at the Refuge Visitor Contact Station and must wear a blaze orange hat and body covering to help us identify scouting activities. No weapons are allowed during the scouting trips. When visiting the hunt zones to scout, parking is available at either Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge or Little Island City Park. Parking fees apply. Biking is recommended. Zone 5 is reserved for hunters with disabilities; hunters must provide their own transportation to the hunting area. Hunters may use shotgun 20-gauge or larger loaded with only buckshot or slugs. Crossbows, bow and arrow, and muzzle loader are not permitted. The feral hog and white-tailed deer hunt held in October for seven days is a split hunt and dates may. Visit the refuge Web site for information. Hunters are limited to two deer per day. Using state Deer Management Assistance Program tags, hunters will be allowed to take antlerless deer (does and fawns, buttons on males must be below the fur) without using big-game tags. If you take bucks with buttons or antlers above the fur, big-game tags will be required. There is no limit on feral hogs which may be taken during any scheduled hunt.

Getting there:

From Interstate 64, exit onto Interstate 264 east. Take exit 21A /First Colonial Road and go right to First Colonial Road. First Colonial Road will bend left and become Oceana Boulevard. Travel Oceana Boulevard 3.8 miles and turn right onto General Booth Boulevard for 2.7 miles. Turn left onto Princess Anne Road and travel 0.8 miles. Stay in the center lane and proceed straight through the light onto Sandbridge Road. Travel 5.2 miles and turn right onto Sandpiper Road. Travel 3.9 miles to the entrance of Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Species Icons: D, EX

Refuge Hunting Permit: No. Hunts are issued by lottery through the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 62, 8231 Beach Road
Chincoteague Island, VA 23336
(757) 336-6122

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51570

Visitor Center: 9:00 – 4:00, daily in off season; 9:00 – 5:00, daily in the summer

Each summer, hundreds of thousands of visitors flock to Chincoteague NWR, located on Assateague Island, to experience its well-known wild ponies, sandy beaches and entertaining wildlife driving tours. But few realize that this 14,000-acre refuge is also a world-class hunting destination. Every fall, huge flocks of waterfowl stop at the refuge along their migrational route. The area is one of the best places to bag the beautiful Atlantic brant, a small goose species that feeds on the eelgrass of the estuary flats. Nearly two dozen species of duck may be seen during a hunt, from puddlers like mallard and black duck, to divers like scaup and bufflehead, to sea ducks like oldsquaw. Snow geese and a growing population of resident Canada geese use the refuge. There is a limited tag hunt for tundra swans administered by the Commonwealth of Virginia. As fantastic as the waterfowl hunting may be, it is often the big game that attract hunters. In 1915, Boy Scouts released a small herd of sika elk on the island after using them for a summer petting zoo. The elk quickly adapted to the marshy environments of the refuge. Today, to keep the population of this non-native species in balance, refuge managers count on hunters to control the herd. In many years, a limited white-tailed deer hunt is also offered. The hunt lottery includes a bow season and a modern firearms season. Bow hunts, typically three days, allow hunters to set up in most parts of the island. The firearms season assigns groups of up to five hunters to 13 different zones for two-day hunts. Some zones allow centerfire rifles, while others are restricted to shotguns. The hunting season, which typically runs from December through January, begins with a hunt orientation at refuge headquarters. Hunters can spend the rest of the day scouting their areas.

Getting there:

From Dover, Delaware, take Route 13 south to Route 175 (about 5 miles past Pocomoke City, Maryland). Go east on Route 175 to Chincoteague Island, then east on Maddox Boulevard to Assateague Island National Seashore and Chincoteague NWR signs.

From Washington, D.C., take Interstate 95 to Route 301, following signs to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, to Route 50. Take Route 50 to Route 13 south (in Salisbury, Maryland). From Route 13S, follow the directions above.

From Baltimore, take Interstate 97 to Route 301 and follow the directions above.

From Virginia Beach, take Interstate 64 to Route 13 north (follow signs to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel). Travel on Route 13N to Route 175 east to Chincoteague Island, then go east on Maddox Boulevard to Assateague Island National Seashore and Chincoteague NWR signs.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Zone 2 sika and white-tailed deer hunts, issued by lottery, are reserved for hunters with disabilities.

Species Icons: D, EX, WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Sika elk and white-tailed deer hunts are issued by lottery.

Waterfowl and rail hunters require written permission from refuge headquarters. All hunters pay a \$20 fee, and state rules apply.

Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge

5003 Hallett Circle

Cape Charles, VA 23310

(757) 331-2760

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51650>

Visitor Center: 9:00 – 4:00 daily from April to November; 10:00 – 2:00 daily December and March; 10:00 – 2:00 Friday thru Sunday, in January and February

The Eastern Shore is well known for its abundant wildlife. At the southernmost tip of the Delmarva Peninsula, the Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR is one of the best places to see the migrating waterfowl, songbirds and raptors that stop here before continuing south. More than 260 species have been recorded. Thousands of monarch butterflies pass through the area. The habitat also draws a large white-tailed deer population. A lottery firearms hunt and archery hunt, each typically two weeks long, are held annually. Scouting is permitted the week before the archery season and the day prior to the firearms hunt. The refuge previously was used as a military facility. Large bunkers — one now used as wildlife viewing platform — are still found on the refuge. They were originally built to protect ships in Norfolk and Virginia Beach during World War II. Today, the refuge has returned to its natural state, and visitors each fall see amazing numbers of migrating species.

Getting there:

From the Hampton Roads area, take U.S. 13 north across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel and take the first road to the right onto Seaside Road (Route 600). The next two roads to the right are refuge entrances.

From points north, take U.S. 13 south to the bottom of the Delmarva Peninsula, and take the last left before the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel onto Seaside Road (Route 600). The next two roads to the right are refuge entrances.

Species: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Firearms and archery hunt permits are issued by lottery.

Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge

C/O Potomac River NWR Complex

14344 Jefferson Davis Highway

Woodbridge, VA 22191

(703) 490-4979

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51610

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

The annual white-tailed deer hunt is run in cooperation with the Mason Neck State Park. The hunter success rate coupled with the overall popularity of the large-scale hunt within Northern Virginia is a huge factor in drawing hunters back each year. Individuals interested in participating in this hunt must fill out an application due in early September and be selected through a lottery prior to purchasing a hunt permit. All hunters are required to have a state hunting license, and each must show proficiency with firearms by qualifying at a firing range. In addition, each hunter must attend an orientation session in mid to late-October, that defines the rules of the hunt as well as the management objectives. Although around 80 hunters are selected for each of the days of the hunt, all hunters selected through the lottery have the option to participate on all days of the hunt if open slots are available. This hunt qualifies through the state's Deer Management Assistance Program system.

Getting there:

Mason Neck NWR is located about 18 miles south of Washington, D.C. From the north, take Interstate 95 south to exit 163 (Lorton). Turn left on Lorton, right on Armistead Road, then right (south) on Route 1. Go to the light at the top of the hill, turn left on Gunston Road (242) and go about 4 miles. The refuge shares a common entrance (High Point Road) with the Mason Neck State Park. From the south, take I-95 north to exit 161 (Route 1, Fort Belvoir), go north on Route 1, turn right on Gunston Road and go about 4 miles to the refuge entrance.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes, selected by lottery.

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

3100 Desert Road

Suffolk, VA 23434

(757) 986-3705

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51580

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

The Great Dismal Swamp, a place steeped in history and legend, has captured the imaginations of Americans for centuries. George Washington once owned a portion of it. Runaway African-American slaves used the extensive wilderness as an escape route, and poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow described the swamp in verse. The 110,000 acres of forested wetlands that make up the national wildlife refuge retain their wild and mysterious character. A wide variety of wildlife species, including black bear, gray fox, otter and bobcat, roam the refuge, which straddles Virginia and North Carolina. Hunters have the chance to pursue white-tailed deer and black bear on the refuge each fall. The deer hunt is a shotgun/archery hunt held in October and November. The bear hunt is a lottery hunt, with shotgun only, and is held in late November or early December. The Great Dismal Swamp NWR is a wild area, and hunters should be prepared for a rugged hunt. Rain may make some roads impassable, and refuge staff may close certain areas when roads are impassable. All hunters are required to have a compass. The rewards for hunting in this place go well beyond the chance to take a white-tailed deer; it is an opportunity to experience a place rich in history, with its wild character still intact.

Getting there:

The refuge has up to four trailheads open for the deer hunt located in Suffolk and Chesapeake, VA, and Gates County, NC. Two entrances are open for the bear hunt, located in Suffolk. These entrances can be found by visiting the refuge Web site. To get to the refuge headquarters from Interstate 664, take exit 13A toward Suffolk. Follow Route 58 west to the downtown Suffolk exit. Follow Business 58W to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Route 337 (East Washington Street). Follow Route 337 to the White Marsh Road intersection. Turn left onto White Marsh Road. Follow White Marsh Road to the intersection with Desert Road. Turn left and follow Desert Road approximately 1.6 miles to the refuge headquarters on the left.

Species Icon: D, BG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes.

James River National Wildlife Refuge

Eastern Virginia Rivers NWR Complex Satellite Office

11116 Kimages Road

Charles City, VA 23030-2844

(804) 829-9020

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51621

Refuge Office: Office hours are irregular.

Areas open to public hunting in this part of Virginia are hard to find, which is why James River NWR is so popular. It draws deer hunters for its archery, muzzleloader and shotgun seasons. The refuge — consisting of mixed hardwood forests on rolling hills that stretch to the James River and Powells Creek — was created to protect American bald eagles. About 3,000 acres are open to hunting, which helps protect the wildlife habitat by maintaining a steady population of deer, the only quarry hunted on the refuge. The archery hunt is issued by lottery, and it is the best option for hunters looking to maximize their hunting time. Successful applicants receive a pass for the roughly three-week archery season. Other hunts require permits that are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis at the refuge check station. Hunters use specific stand areas established by refuge staff; each hunter may choose a preferred stand when checking into the refuge.

Getting there:

From Hopewell, VA, follow Route 10-E for approximately 7.5 miles. Follow signs for Flowerdew Hundred Plantation. Turn left on Route 639. Proceed for approximately 1 mile. Take the first left, next to the old house. The road leads directly to the refuge check station.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Muzzleloader and shotgun hunters receive permits at the refuge on hunt day on a first-come, first-serve basis. The cost is \$10 per day. Archery hunters are chosen by state lottery for season passes that cost \$50.

Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge

C/O Potomac River NWR Complex

14344 Jefferson Davis Highway

Woodbridge, VA 22191

(703) 490-4979

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51611

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

At Occoquan Bay NWR, young hunters are provided an opportunity to learn the basics of white-tailed deer hunting through classroom instruction as well as through a managed in-the-field hunt. Run in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 22 youths, each with an adult mentor or parent, are trained by state biologists and hunting specialists through a morning classroom program before being sent into the field to a designated hunt stand. The high success rate, the strict regulation and coordination of the hunt, and the uniqueness of this 644-acre refuge make this one of the most popular youth outdoor experiences in the state. This is a state designated Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) site. The Service offers two to four additional days of hunting at the Occoquan Bay Refuge between December 1 and late January. Adults and youth interested in participating in these hunts must fill out an application due in early September and be selected through a lottery. Selected hunters must attend an orientation session, held in mid to late October, and show proficiency with firearms prior to being eligible to purchase one of the limited hunt permits. Each participant is assigned to a hunt stand they must occupy for the duration of the day-long hunt.

Getting there:

The refuge is in Woodbridge, VA, 20 miles south of Washington, D.C. From the north, take Interstate 95 south to exit 161 (Woodbridge), follow Route 1 south, cross the Occoquan River, and turn left at the light onto Dawson Beach Road. Follow the road to the end. From the south, take I-95 north to exit 156 (Rippon Boulevard). Continue to Route 1 and turn left. Go north on Route 1 several miles and turn right onto Dawson Beach Road. Follow the road to the end.

Youth Hunts: The youth deer hunting program includes hunter education and an afternoon deer hunt.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. General hunt permits are issued via lottery. Permits for the youth hunt are issued by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge

Eastern Virginia Rivers NWR Complex Satellite Office

11116 Kimages Road

Charles City, VA 23030-2844

(804) 829-9020

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51512

Refuge Office: Office hours are irregular.

As the sun rises at Plum Tree Island NWR, hunters are treated to the spectacular sight of ducks and geese lifting off a pristine salt marsh. The picturesque setting is what draws waterfowlers to this Chesapeake Bay refuge. Decoys will draw a variety of species, including mallard, teal, black duck, scoter, and snow and Canada geese. The Cow Island unit is the only part of the refuge open to hunting. The island is accessible via boat only, and hunters can launch from the public launch at Rens Road or a private launch at a nearby marina. Hunting is permitted only on certain days of the week; contact the refuge office for details. Hunters may use temporary blinds and must obtain a Special Use Permit from the refuge office.

Getting there:

Access is by boat only, via the Rens Road public boat launch or private launches in the area.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Hunters must obtain a Special Use Permit from refuge headquarters; there are no limits on the number of hunters.

Presquile National Wildlife Refuge

Eastern Virginia Rivers NWR Complex Satellite Office

11116 Kimages Road

Charles City, VA 23030

(804) 829-9020

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51623

Refuge Office: Office hours are irregular.

Presquile is an island in the middle of the James River only about 15 miles from Richmond, one of Virginia's major metropolitan areas. Despite its proximity to urban life, Presquile remains a wild and pristine place due to its limited access. Deer hunting season provides hunters with the opportunity to both visit this interesting river island and bag a nice doe. The hunt allows the refuge to maintain a healthier deer herd on an island that can support only so many animals. The lottery hunt runs two days and often enjoys a high success rate. Hunters ride a refuge pontoon boat to the island, and the boat makes several round-trips throughout the day to pick up hunters and their deer. Hunters are assigned to specific stands, well marked with numbers on trees.

Getting there:

From Richmond, take Interstate 295 south to Route 10. Take Route 10 south/east toward Hopewell. Take a left on Route 827. Stay on Route 827, toward Bermuda Hundred, until you see the refuge entrance. The gate will be locked unless prior arrangements have been made with the refuge complex headquarters.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Hunt permits are issued via lottery.

Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge

C/O Eastern Virginia Rivers NWR Complex

336 Wilna Road
Warsaw, VA 22572
(804) 333-1470
www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51622
Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Created in 1996, Rappahannock River Valley NWR is one of the newest refuges in the nation. That's good news for both wildlife and outdoors enthusiasts. Rappahannock River Valley NWR offers bow, muzzleloader and shotgun seasons for white-tailed deer each year. Hunt permits are issued via lottery, and hunters are assigned to a specific area to avoid crowding. Scouting the refuge is permitted on designated days; contact refuge staff for details. Hunting with dogs is not allowed on the refuge. Hunters may take two deer, either sex, per day. Like the refuge, the hunting program is very new. Refuge staff have been tweaking the program after each season to make it more enjoyable for hunters. This will ensure the refuge continues to offer the finest public hunting opportunity in the area for years to come.

Getting there:

From Tappahannock, take U.S. 360 east (across the Rappahannock River, toward Warsaw). Follow U.S. 360E for 4.1 miles, then turn left onto Route 624/Newland Road. Follow Newland Road for 4.2 miles, then turn left onto Strangeway/Route 636. Follow Strangeway for 0.25 mile, then turn right onto Sandy Lane/Route 640. Follow Sandy Lane for 1.1 miles, then turn left into Rappahannock River Valley NWR.

Species: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes, issued via lottery.

Wallops Island

c/o Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 62, 8231 Beach Road
Chincoteague Island, VA 23336
(757) 336-6122

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51571

Chincoteague NWR Visitor Center: 9:00 – 4:00, daily in off season; 9:00 – 5:00, daily in the summer

Wallops Island, near the better-known Chincoteague Island, is most famous for its NASA-operated aeronautic flight facility, one of the first such facilities in the world. The Wallops Island NWR hunting program is conducted on the NASA installation's surplus land. The wooded land, which borders a salt marsh, offers perfect habitat for deer — maybe too perfect, since the hunt was established to reduce overbrowsing by deer on refuge lands and the number of deer hit by cars on nearby roads. Five three-day sessions can accommodate five hunters each. Hunters have access to 387 acres of the refuge. Hunters with an interest in the history of the island may want to visit the NASA visitor center, which tells of the facility's past and current aeronautics program. Located very near the hunting area, it offers a unique way to round out a day afield.

Getting there:

From the Chesapeake Bay Bridge & Tunnel near Norfolk, VA, take U.S. 13 North to State Route 175 East approximately 5 miles. The refuge will be on your right.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes, via lottery.

Washington

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/>

Columbia National Wildlife Refuge

735 E Main Street

Othello, WA 99344

(509) 488-2668

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13510

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 4:30, M – Th; 7:00 – 3:30, F

Located in the spectacular Columbia Basin of eastern Washington, the 23,000-acre Columbia NWR is a scenic mixture of rugged cliffs, canyons, lakes and sagebrush. Great glacial floods once scoured this area, known as the Scablands, creating the rocky buttes and channels that form a dramatic backdrop for hunters. This area was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1986. Many small and medium-sized lakes are found in the area due to an artificially high water table from nearby Potholes Reservoir. While deer and upland birds can be hunted at Columbia NWR, most hunters focus on the ducks and geese. Nearly 100,000 ducks, mostly mallard, land on the small lakes located on the refuge. Hunting in specified areas can be excellent throughout the season. Working with a number of conservation organizations, refuge managers are continuing to manage wetland habitat by cleaning out water delivery channels, clearing overgrown cattail areas, eliminating noxious weeds and properly manipulating water levels. The results should ensure that waterfowl hunting remains excellent for future generations.

Getting there:

From Othello, Washington, drive 5 miles northwest on McManamon Road, then turn north on Morgan Lake Road. This is the major north/south public road through the heart of the refuge. It starts paved and turns to gravel in approximately 1.5 miles. This road will take you past the McManamon Lake, Crab Creek, Frog Lake and Upper Crab Creek trailheads and parking areas. Continuing north take the right spur road to Soda Lake Dam boat launch.

Species Icons: WF, UB, D, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No, except for waterfowl hunting pit blinds in Farm Unit 226-227. Go to www.fws.gov/columbiarefuge/HuntandFish/waterfowl.html for application information

Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge

21 Pumphouse Road

U.S. Highway South
Toppenish, WA 98948
(509) 865-2405

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13522

Refuge Headquarters: Call ahead as the office is infrequently staffed.

In the 1800s, pioneers drained the shallow Conboy Lake to provide farmland in the area. Today, some of the habitat in the Conboy Lake NWR has been restored and in the spring many waterfowl species nest here. The refuge is open to waterfowl hunting in the fall, but the quality of the hunting depends highly on precipitation and early snowfall levels. Hunting is walk-in only, but hunters may construct blinds in the hunting area. About 40 percent of the 6,000-acre refuge is open to hunting. Early in the season, the hunting can be spotty at best, and often there are very few opportunities. Hunting improves later in the season. As many as 10,000 ducks can be on the refuge in December and January, but if the lake freezes, it can also impact hunting. Due to the inconsistent hunting conditions, hunters are advised to scout the area regularly throughout the season.

Getting there:

The Conboy Lake NWR headquarters is located 5 miles southwest of Glenwood, off the Glenwood-Troutdale Highway.

Species Icons: D, WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Hanford Reach National Monument

c/o Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex

64 Maple Street

Burbank, WA 99323

(509) 546-8300

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13701

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:00, M – F

The Hanford Reach National Monument includes one of the largest areas of undisturbed sagebrush habitat in the Columbia River Basin and is home to a rich variety of wildlife. Due to WWII and Cold War era plutonium production and later environmental clean-up activities, this area was off limits to public access for 50 years. In 2000, President Bill Clinton proclaimed it a national monument, and the public can now enjoy its undisturbed wildlife habitat, rich history, and scenic vistas. Hunters can hunt the Wahluke unit of the monument each fall. As the area is a mix of public and private lands, hunters should be sure to know refuge boundaries and have permission to hunt on any private lands. There is a good population of mule deer, and an occasional Rocky Mountain elk moves through the area. In the upland habitats, hunters can also expect to find populations of quail and chukar. Waterfowl hunting is good along the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River.

Getting there:

Much of the refuge is remote. There are several access routes. Write or call for map or visit the Web site.

Species Icons: D, BG, UB, WF, MB
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbian White-tailed Deer

PO Box 566, 46 Steamboat Slough Road
Cathlamet, WA 98612
(360) 795-3915

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13554

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F; refuge personnel are not always in the office.

On many refuges across the country, white-tailed deer hunting is important to help protect habitat and keep deer populations in check. However, Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbian White-tailed Deer protects an endangered subspecies of the white-tail. The Columbia white-tail, unlike other white-tails, occupies only a fraction of its historic range. Today, about 300 of these deer live on the refuge, with another 300 to 400 living on private lands in the area. The refuge includes more than 4,700 acres of diked Columbia River floodplain and undiked islands. The habitat is also important for waterfowl, especially wintering populations of wigeon, mallard, pintail and Canada goose. Waterfowl hunting is permitted along the shoreline on the refuge portion of Hunting and Wallace Island in accordance with Washington and Oregon regulations. Temporary blinds may be constructed, but they must be available to everyone on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Getting there:

From Cathlamet, proceed west on State Highway 4 for 2 miles to Steamboat Slough Road (just west of Elochoman River bridge) and refuge entrance on left. Follow Steamboat Slough Road through the refuge. Islands are accessible by boat only.

Species Icons: WF, MB, BG
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 566, 46 Steamboat Slough Road
Cathlamet, WA 98612
(360) 795-3915

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13555>

Refuge Office: Visit the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbian White-tailed Deer office, 7:30 – 4:00, M – F; refuge personnel are not always in the office.

The Lewis and Clark NWR, a compilation of small islands, is located near the mouth of the Columbia River before it spills into the Pacific Ocean. The refuge offers visitors a chance to see an abundance and variety of wildlife that is reminiscent of what Lewis and Clark saw when they

first visited the area. The islands in the Columbia River estuary are accessible only by boat. Juvenile salmon become acclimated to saltwater here; bald eagles soar overhead. Sea lions and harbor seals swim the estuary waters, but for waterfowl hunters, it is the large concentration of ducks that is the main attraction. Each winter, as many as 30,000 ducks and 5,000 geese can be found here. Most of the refuge is open to hunting for goose, duck, coot and snipe in accordance with Oregon and federal regulations.

Getting there:

Lewis and Clark NWR is administered from the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbian White-tailed Deer office. To reach the office, exit Interstate 5 to Longview. Proceed west on Highway 4 to Cathlamet. Continue on Highway 4 about 1 mile past Cathlamet. Turn left on Steamboat Slough Road. The refuge headquarters is about 0.25 miles to the right. The refuge itself is accessible only by boat. Boat launch facilities are located at various points in Washington and Oregon along the lower Columbia River, including Skamokawa in Washington and John Day Point and Aldrich Point in Oregon.

Some of the islands along the Columbia River are visible from Highway 30, on the Oregon side of the Columbia River, 5 miles east of Astoria. From Interstate 5, take the Longview, Washington, exit. Proceed about 1 mile across a bridge over the Columbia River to Rainer, Oregon. Take Highway 30 west toward Astoria.

Species Icons: WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge

1310 Bear Creek Road

Colville, WA 99114

(509) 684-8384

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13561

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Little Pend Oreille NWR is a popular destination for Northwest white-tailed deer hunters. The Refuge provides important winter range for white-tails which migrate to the area in late fall and early winter as snow depth increases at the higher elevations. A late-season archery hunt from late November to early December provides additional hunting opportunities. Little Pend Oreille is an admired destination for other hunters as well. Turkeys can be seen on many parts of the refuge, and upland bird hunters have a chance of taking three forest grouse species—blue, spruce and ruffed—on one hunt. A variety of big game, including a small but growing moose and elk population, draws more hunters each year. Several seasonally opened roads give hunters access to favorite hunting areas. The natural beauty and variety of game make this a desirable and appreciated refuge among hunters from the region.

Getting there:

From the intersection of Highway 395 and Highway 20 (Main and Third) in Colville, go 6 miles east on Highway 20 to Artman-Gibson Road. Turn right on Artman-Gibson Road and go 1.7

miles. At the intersection, turn left onto Kitt-Narcisse Road. Go 2.2 miles until the pavement ends and the road forks into two gravel roads. Bear right onto Bear Creek Road; go 3.3 miles to the refuge office, a log building on the right.

Species Icons: D, BG, T, UB, WF, SG
Refuge Hunting Permit: No

McNary National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex
64 Maple Street
Burbank, WA 99323
(509) 546-8300
www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13520
Office Hours: 8:00 – 4:00, M-F

In November and December, the backwaters of McNary NWR echo with the quacks of mallard and the honks of Canada goose. Created to protect the sloughs along the Columbia River, this refuge offers a number of hunting options, such as waterfowl, ring-necked pheasant and several other wildlife species. Waterfowl hunting is the most popular. It is offered in a variety of areas, including spots that can be accessed by foot or boat. Most hunts are open to any hunter, but some must be applied for via lottery. A youth hunt is offered and blinds are reserved for hunters with disabilities. Much of the best hunting is on refuge ponds, but these can freeze up in the latter part of the season. When this happens, the birds will be spread throughout open water areas. Some hunters even set up decoys on the ice. The refuge offers a wealth of possibilities for the waterfowl hunter on the Columbia River.

Getting there:

From Portland, take Highway 84 east to Highway 730. Turn north on Highway 12 and make a right on Maple St. Refuge visitor facilities are 0.25 miles from Highway 12.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Two reserved blinds are available.

Youth Hunts: Offered in December; apply by mail by early September.

Species Icons: WF, UB, D, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: No, although permits are required for lottery waterfowl hunts.

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 457, 28908 NW Main Avenue
Ridgefield, WA 98642
(360) 887-4106, hunter hotline: 360-571-2015
www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13551
Refuge Headquarters: 7:00 – 4:00, M – F

Ridgefield NWR offers good duck and goose hunting within 20 miles of the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. Located on the shore of the Lower Columbia River, the 5,300-acre refuge contains intensively managed seasonal and permanent wetlands as well as grass and crop lands. Waterfowl hunting of duck and goose only is permitted on approximately 760 acres of spaced blind hunting area on Ridgefield NWR in accordance with state and federal regulations. Waterfowl hunters can obtain advance reservations to select one of the 21 spaced blinds on the Refuge. Standby hunters may occupy blinds left vacant by reservation holders. A variety of blind options are offered, including pit and box blinds and two accessible blind locations for hunters with disabilities. Northern shoveler account for a large percentage of bagged birds, but hunters also take good numbers of green-winged teal, mallard, wigeon, gadwall, and pintail. Hunters interested in history should also visit the Cathlapotle Plankhouse on the Refuge. The Plankhouse interprets the Village of Cathlapotle, one of the best-preserved Native American archeological sites in the region. A site visited by Lewis and Clark in 1806.

Getting there:

To reach the Carty and River “S” Units of the refuge, take the Ridgefield exit from Interstate 5 approximately 15 miles north of Vancouver, Washington. Drive 3 miles west to Ridgefield, where you will see signs directing you to these units. Hunting is only allowed on portions of the River ‘S’ Unit.

To reach the Ridgeport Dairy Unit, take Interstate 5 at the south side of Vancouver to the exit for Fourth Plain Boulevard. On Fourth Plain Boulevard, travel west, then north, turning west at Vancouver Lake Park. The road turns into Lower River Road; follow it to a turnaround at the north end of the road.

For Hunters with Disabilities: Two hunting blinds with wheelchair access are available.
For Youth Hunters: A youth hunt day is planned each year.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes

Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge

21 Pumphouse Road

U.S. Highway South

Toppenish, WA 98948

(509) 865-2405

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13521

Refuge Office: Call ahead as the office is infrequently staffed.

When Toppenish Creek — the waterway that gives this refuge its name — overflows, it fills little ponds along its length. These ponds in turn attract mallard and other ducks. Toppenish NWR offers waterfowl hunters established blinds, available on a first-come, first-serve basis, along these ponds. In wetter years, there are many ponds and hunting can be excellent. Although dry years can limit the number of ponds, there are usually a few productive hunting blinds available. The refuge has instituted an innovative method to let hunters know what sites are

available. Parking spots each have a numbered pole that corresponds to the location of blind sites, so if someone is in a parking space, that blind is occupied. Refuge staff also put a burlap sack over the pole if a particular blind site is too dry to hunt. Hunters are thus alerted to which ponds are productive before they hike into an area.

Getting there:

From the town of Toppenish, take Highway 97 south approximately 10 miles. The refuge entrance is on the west side of Highway 97.

Species Icons: WF, UB, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Willapa National Wildlife Refuge

3888 State Route 101

Ilwaco, WA 98624

(360) 484-3482

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=13552

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Located on Willapa Bay, Willapa NWR is one of the most pristine estuaries in the United States. It is a true natural spectacle, used by spawning salmon, thousands of shorebirds and harbor seals that come to have their pups. The refuge offers many opportunities for waterfowl hunting, including assigned blinds and free-roam hunting. And the hunting here is not limited to waterfowl usually associated with Pacific Flyway wetlands. In addition to estuary habitat, the refuge also includes several forested areas. Old-growth forest covers one island on the refuge, Long Island. On this island, hunters can bowhunt for the black bear, elk, deer and grouse that roam the forests. No gun hunting is permitted on the island.

Getting there:

The refuge office is located 13 miles north of Ilwaco on U.S. Highway 101. Long Island is accessible only by boat at higher tide. Other refuge units are separated by up to 25 miles of driving. Write for map.

For Hunters with Disabilities: One barrier-free blind is available.

Species Icons: D, BG, UB, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes

West Virginia

<http://www.wvdnr.gov/HUNTING/HUNTING.SHTM>

Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge

HC 70, Box 200

Davis, WV 26260

(304) 866-3858

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51630

Visitor Center: 10:00 – 4:00, Friday and Saturday

For generations, hunters have returned to Canaan Valley to pursue the abundant and varied game in an area known for its beautiful scenery. Before the 15,000 acres adjacent to the Monongahela National Forest became a national wildlife refuge, most of them were owned by Allegheny Power Systems, which permitted public hunting. Hunters made annual Thanksgiving-week pilgrimages here for deer season; they took their hounds out to chase raccoons; they followed fine-bred pointers after woodcocks. They still do. Canaan Valley NWR is committed to continuing the long and varied hunting traditions on this refuge. The highest-elevation valley east of the Rockies and the largest wetland complex in the state, Canaan Valley NWR offers a huge expanse of land for hunters to pursue white-tailed deer, bear, turkey, squirrel, grouse, pheasant, waterfowl, woodcock, fox, raccoon, bobcat, cottontail and snowshoe hare. The hunting season follows state schedules from September through the end of February (with a spring turkey season). The October archery deer hunt is most popular, but perhaps the best hunting on the refuge is for woodcock. The refuge is big enough that hunters don't feel crowded.

Getting there:

The refuge office and visitor center are located on Highway 32, 9 miles north of Harman and 6 miles south of Davis. Refuge access points are on Freeland Road, Cortland Road, Old Timberline Road, Camp 70 Road and A-frame Road.

Species Icons: D, BG, T, WF, UB, MB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. A free refuge hunting permit is required for all hunting. Raccoon hunters need a Special Use Permit to hunt during the night.

Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge

3982 Waverly Road

Williamstown, WV 26187

304-375-2923

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=51660

Refuge Office: 8:00 – 4:30, M – F

Many islands on the Ohio River were once small farms and have long since been abandoned. Today, the former agricultural fields sprout tree saplings and brush, providing perfect habitat for white-tailed deer. The Ohio River Islands NWR offers hunters long seasons to pursue deer on 20 of the 22 islands that make up the refuge. Two islands are in Pennsylvania, two are in Kentucky and the rest are in West Virginia; respective state regulations apply. Most of the islands are open to hunting. A refuge hunting brochure explains island-specific regulations. The islands range in size from 8 to 240 acres, and the larger islands offer the best chance for a deer. With the exception of one island, access is by boat. There are no trails on the islands, so getting through the thick cover can be a challenge. But this thick cover also provides perfect places for white-tailed bucks to mature, and the chances of finding a large buck are good.

Getting there:

To get to the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge headquarters:

From I-77 take exit #185; follow WV-14 (Highland Ave.) 1.3 miles; turn right onto Waverly Road (E. 4th St.); continue 1.9 miles to site.

From Marietta, OH, cross Williamstown Bridge, take first left after DaVinci's Restaurant onto Waverly Road (E. 4th St.); continue 1.9 miles to site.

From Vienna, WV, take WV-14 N to Williamstown, turn right onto Highland Ave; take first left onto Waverly Road (E. 4th St.): continue 1.9 miles to site

Most refuge property is accessible only by boat, however, Middle Island adjacent to St. Marys, WV, has bridge access from the mainland. From State Route 2 in St. Marys, turn onto George Street and continue two blocks to the island's bridge. Contact the refuge for information about locating other refuge properties.

Species Icons: D, UG, WF, MB

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. The refuge's free hunting permit must be carried by all hunters.

Wisconsin

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/hunt/>

Fox River National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Horicon National Wildlife Refuge

W4279 Headquarters Road

Mayville, WI 53050

(920) 387-2658

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=32524

Office/Visitor Center: 7:30 - 4:00, M – F, year-round; some weekends in spring and fall

Fox River NWR preserves the oak savanna upland and sedge meadow wetland habitats historically found in extensive areas along the Fox River. The 1,054-acre refuge is used by a variety of wildlife species dependent on marsh habitat, including greater sandhill cranes, which stage here for their migration each fall. The refuge is closed to the public with the exception of licensed deer hunters during designated time periods of the deer archery and gun seasons. The hunt allows the refuge to control increasing deer numbers, which can negatively impact other wildlife habitat.

Getting there:

From Portage, take Highway 33 east to County Highway F north. From Montello, take Highway 22 south to County Highway F south. The refuge is on the west side of County Highway F, across from John Muir County Park.

Species Icons: D

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge

W4279 Headquarters Road

Mayville, WI 53050

(920) 387-2658

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=32520

Office/Visitor Center: 7:30 - 4:00, M – F, year-round; some weekends in spring and fall

One of the greatest wildlife spectacles in the Upper Midwest takes place every fall on Horicon NWR — the migration of thousands of geese, redhead ducks and other waterfowl species. The largest cattail marsh on the continent provides rich habitat for a variety of birds and wildlife. Horicon NWR, the northern two-thirds of the Horicon Marsh, is a refuge for migrating birds and no waterfowl hunting is permitted other than a supervised youth duck hunt. However, there are many opportunities available for waterfowl hunting including on the southern one third of the Horicon Marsh which is managed by the WI Department of Natural Resources. There is also hunting on private lands surrounding the marsh. Horicon NWR is open for deer, upland game and upland birds. Hunting on the refuge ends with the last day of deer season. Hunters will find abundant game, particularly deer, and experience a beautiful setting alive with the sights and sounds of the fall migration. Opportunities are available for hunters with disabilities.

Getting there:

State Highway 49 crosses the northern portion of the refuge. The visitor center is located on the east side of the marsh, 3.5 miles south of Hwy. 49 on County Hwy. Z. County Z may not be marked on state maps. It is the first road to intersect Hwy. 49 on the northeast corner of the marsh. Look for brown and white directional signs on U.S. Highway 151, State Highway 49, and other state and county highways near the marsh.

From Milwaukee take Highway 45/41 north. Follow the signs for Highway 41 north. Exit at the State Highway 49 (Scan). Turn left at the end of the exit ramp. Follow Highway 49 (about eight miles) to Horicon Marsh.

From Madison take Highway 151 north to the Highway 49 exit (Waupun). Turn right at the end of the exit ramp and stay on Highway 49 which crosses the northern portion of the refuge.

Species Icons: D, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Leopold Wetland Management District

W10040 Cascade Mountain Road

Portage, WI 53901

(608) 742-7100

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=32525

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Named after great conservationist and writer Aldo Leopold, the Leopold WMD protects habitat in some of the most important wetland areas in Wisconsin. Covering 17 southeastern Wisconsin counties, the district includes 53 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) totaling 12,000 acres. Most are open to public hunting per Wisconsin regulations. The WPAs include small wetlands surrounded by grasslands and wooded areas. Various species of ducks and geese use the areas on their fall migrations, and if weather conditions are favorable, hunting can be good. Deer and turkey are also common on many of the WPAs. Hunters can get maps of open areas from the district office.

Getting there:

The district office is located just south of the city of Portage, near the junction of Interstate 39 and Interstate 90/94. From Portage, take Highway 33 west for 2 miles to the junction of Cascade Mountain Road. Proceed south on Cascade Mountain Road for 2 miles to the district office.

Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs.

For Hunters with Disabilities: The district offers waterfowl blinds on three WPAs.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Necedah National Wildlife Refuge

W7996 20th Street West

Necedah, WI 54646

(608) 565-2551

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=32530

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

The largest public hunting area near Madison and Milwaukee, Necedah NWR has become a popular destination for many Wisconsin deer hunters. As many as 2,000 deer hunters visit the 45,000-acre refuge on opening day, with many returning year after year. While turkey hunting is not nearly as popular, the refuge has a healthy population of birds that appears to be increasing. The spring season is a particularly good time to catch a gobbler. Necedah offers a wide range of hunting opportunities on limited parts of the refuge. Nearly the entire refuge is opened for the deer firearms season.

Getting there:

Located in central Wisconsin, Necedah NWR is 180 miles southeast of Minneapolis and 150 miles northwest of Milwaukee. The refuge lies north of Highway 21 and west of Highway 80, with all but a few acres in Juneau County.

To reach the main entrance and office complex, travel 15 miles east on Highway 21 from Interstate 94 at Tomah, or travel about 3 miles west on Highway 21 from Necedah. Turn north onto Headquarters Road and travel about 2 miles to the headquarters.

For Hunters with Disabilities: An access permit is available to allow hunters with disabilities to use closed roads.

Youth Hunts: A 2-day deer hunt is held. At least one adult must be present for every two youth hunters.

Species Icons: D, T, WF, MB, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No.

St. Croix Wetland Management District

1764 95th Street

New Richmond, WI 54017

(715) 246-7784

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=32577

Refuge Office: 7:00 – 3:30, M – F

Lying along the eastern edge of the tallgrass prairie in west-central Wisconsin, the St. Croix WMD offers 41 waterfowl production areas (WPAs) open to public hunting, totaling 7,700 acres. The district includes eight counties, centered in St. Croix County. The pothole and prairie habitats contain good numbers of waterfowl, pheasant, turkey and deer – and the WPAs can be popular hunting spots. The district is adjacent to the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area, and St. Croix County is one of the fastest-growing counties in Wisconsin. The WPAs provide an excellent public hunting opportunity to local sportsmen, but the growing human population does present some management challenges for district staff. Currently, hunters willing to research the area can still find quality hunting opportunities.

Getting there:

The district office is located midway between New Richmond and Somerset, 0.5 miles south of Highway 64 on 95th Street. At the entry road, you will be greeted by a St. Croix WMD sign.

Contact WMD staff for directions to specific WPAs.

Species Icons: WF, MB, D, T, UB, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge

W28488 Refuge Road

Trempealeau, WI 54661

(608) 539-2311

refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=32578

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Hunters with disabilities have a special opportunity to enjoy a duck hunt on the backwaters and large wetlands of Trempealeau NWR. The hunt is a weekend event, usually held in October, that allows hunters with disabilities access via special boats or portable blinds set up along dikes. Currently, this is the only waterfowl hunt on the refuge. Special registration is required. A limited deer hunt, with permits issued by lottery, is held during the state firearms season in November. The 6,200-acre refuge is located in an area with one of the highest deer densities in Wisconsin, but hunting success rates here are often low. Many hunters focus on the 700-acre upland part of the refuge, yet most of the deer are found in the thick, marshy backwaters. Hunters, who are willing to wade and hunt this difficult terrain, have an excellent chance for a successful hunt.

Getting there:

From Winona, Minnesota, take Route 43 across the Mississippi River into Wisconsin. Turn right onto Route 54 east. Travel 5.7 miles to West Prairie Road. The refuge entrance is on the right after about 1 mile.

From LaCrosse, Wisconsin, take Route 53 north to Route 54 west. Follow 54 west to Centerville and continue 3.1 miles to West Prairie Road. Turn left on West Prairie Road and drive 1 mile to the refuge entrance.

For Hunters with Disabilities: A weekend duck hunt is offered that allows hunters with disabilities access via special boats or portable blinds set up along dikes.

Species Icons: D, WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: Hunt permits for the refuge are issued by a lottery held by the refuge office.

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge – La Crosse District

555 Lester Avenue
Onalaska, WI 54650
(608) 783-8405

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/lacrosse/>

District Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

The stunning bluffs covered in hardwood forests provide a striking backdrop to the Mississippi River as it flows through the La Crosse District. The river here draws huge flocks of diving ducks, especially canvasbacks, during the fall migration. Hunters, equipped with a boat and a large spread of decoys, can have good hunting for both diving and puddle ducks, and Canada geese. Hunters are asked to respect “voluntary avoidance areas” that are marked with signs and buoys to reduce disturbance to resting and feeding waterfowl. Numerous forested islands also offer excellent hunting opportunities to deer. Many hunters enjoy the solitude and abundant wildlife on this refuge, considered one of the most scenic stretches along the entire Mississippi River.

Getting there:

To find the district office, take Interstate 90 through La Crosse, then take Highway 157 south. Go left on County Road PH, then left on Lester Avenue.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, SG, D, T

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge

29270 County Highway G

Ashland, WI 54806

(715) 685-2678

www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=32620

Refuge Office: 7:30 – 4:00, M – F

Whittlesey Creek NWR protects wetlands along Lake Superior as well as a beautiful trout stream that provides habitat for spawning fish from the lake. For hunters, the refuge offers a good waterfowl hunting opportunity along the coastal wetlands of the lake east of Highway 2. While Lake Superior is best known by waterfowlers for diving duck hunting, the refuge offers the chance for a good puddle duck hunt along the shores. A boat makes access easier, but some hunters do hike in. Hunting pressure is very light throughout the season.

Getting there:

The refuge is located along Wisconsin State Highway 13, just north of the junction with U.S. Highway 2, in northern Wisconsin. It is easiest to access the refuge from the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, which is at the intersection of U.S. Highway 2 and County Road G. Signs off Highway 2 direct travelers to the visitor center. Maps of the refuge are available at the visitor center.

Species Icons: WF

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Wyoming

<http://gf.state.wy.us/wildlife/hunting/index.asp>

National Elk Refuge

P.O. Box 510, 532 North Cache Street

Jackson, WY 83001

(307) 733-9212

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=61550>

Visitor Center: open daily, times vary

Each year, the largest elk migration in the continental United States ends on the National Elk Refuge where 5,000 or more animals spend the winter. This wildlife spectacle draws a million visitors each year, and is a huge conservation success story. The Jackson elk herd, protected by

the refuge, has been used to help reintroduce elk across the country. Elk numbers need to be managed, and each year hunts are held from October through the end of November for elk migrating into the refuge. This high-success hunt is extremely popular and thus has numerous regulations to ensure a quality hunt. Hunts are issued by lottery to hunters holding a state tag for Unit 77. Drawings are held at the Teton County Fairgrounds just prior to the hunt. Permits are limited and are divided into several hunt periods. During the first week of the season, permits are issued to youth hunters, and an area is reserved for hunters with disabilities. This is a rifle-only hunt. Archery hunting is permitted during the south end limited range weapon hunt. In 2007 the refuge initiated a bison season from mid-September to mid-December in response to the rapid growth of the bison herd and the need to manage it. Hunters should apply for the hunt through the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The refuge has carts and sleds to make hauling out elk/bison easier, and commercial operators in the area will haul out harvested animals for a fee.

Getting there:

The National Elk Refuge is located just northeast of the town of Jackson, and directly south of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. U.S. Highways 26 and 191 pass directly through Jackson and 6 miles of refuge lands. The visitor center is on the north side of Jackson at 532 North Cache Street, and the refuge administrative headquarters is on Broadway Street, 1 mile east of the Jackson town square.

For Hunters with Disabilities: An accessible hunting area is available on the refuge. Disabled hunters are also allowed to use motorized vehicles.

Youth Hunts: During the first hunt period of the first week of elk season, 70 ‘any elk’ permits are issued to youth hunters, who must be accompanied by an experienced non-hunting adult.

Species Icons: BG

Refuge Hunting Permit: Yes. Elk hunters may obtain their refuge permits after drawings at the Teton County Fairgrounds. Refuge bison licenses are issued along with state licenses. Both elk/bison hunters must have applicable state licenses, hunter safety cards and Wyoming Conservation Stamps. Elk hunters are also required to have an Elk Special Management Stamp.

Pathfinder National Wildlife Refuge

c/o Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge

953 Jackson County #32

Walden, CO 80480

(970) 723-8202

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=65523>

Visitor Center: 7:00 – 4:30, M-F

Pathfinder NWR protects habitat around a Bureau of Reclamation reservoir located in a remote area of Wyoming, about 50 miles from the city of Casper. The refuge consists of four units around the reservoir, totaling over 16,000 acres that are all open to hunting. The refuge is an important waterfowl migration stopover on the western edge of the Central Flyway. Since the reservoir fluctuates by as much as 50 feet each year, it can be difficult to manage for waterfowl habitat, but hunters will find good hunting in created wetland areas. The refuge also includes

sagebrush and grassland habitats, providing good food and cover for mule deer, pronghorn, rabbits and sage grouse. All of these species may be hunted according to Wyoming regulations.

Getting there:

To reach the Sweetwater Arm of Pathfinder NWR, travel southwest from Alcova 20 miles along State Highway 220.

Species Icons: WF, UB, SG, D, BG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No

Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 700, 37 Miles North on Highway 372

Green River, WY 82935

(307) 875-2187

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=65580>

Visitor Center: 7:30 – 4:30, M – F

Seedskadee NWR was created to protect riparian habitat, but hunters know that the sagebrush habitat along the river is home to a healthy herd of pronghorn antelope. While duck hunting along the river is popular among local hunters, the pronghorn hunting remains the most successful and consistent sporting opportunity. Southwest Wyoming has one of the healthiest pronghorn populations in the country, and hunters can expect to see animals every day. The pronghorns move on and off the refuge, so most hunters check out all the public land in the area during their hunt. While there are not many antelope in this popular hunting area, hunters can expect to get a decent buck or a doe during their hunts. Along the river, a few thousand mallard, goldeneye and other ducks can be found early in the season. Hunters can have a good hunt by decoying, but the birds become educated to hunting pressure very quickly.

Getting there:

From Green River, travel west on Interstate 80 about 6 miles to the La Barge Road (Highway 372) exit. Continue north about 27 miles on Highway 372 to the main entrance sign for the refuge. Turn right onto the gravel entrance road and travel 2.5 miles to the refuge headquarters.

Species Icons: WF, MB, UB, D, BG, SG

Refuge Hunting Permit: No