

General Provisions

Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 542 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. The harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to manage wildlife populations. Carefully managed hunts maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide wholesome recreational opportunities and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource.

Public hunting and fishing on Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge is currently permitted on approximately 8,000 acres. All refuge property is clearly marked on the outside boundary with yellow paint hash marks and boundary signs. Some landowners adjacent to the refuge may mark their boundary with blue paint hash marks and no trespassing signs.

General Hunt Regulations

All refuge specific regulations apply to hunting and fishing on the Clarks River NWR.

The regulations listed below include but are not limited to the federal regulations governing hunting and fishing on wildlife refuge areas set forth in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations, Kentucky State Regulations and Refuge specific regulations. The following regulations apply to all seasons and species.

To report a violation contact 270/703 2836 and leave a detailed message of the violation and location. Information may be reported anonymously or with a return telephone number.

Each hunter must have in possession a current signed copy of the Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge Hunting/ Fishing Permit while participating in refuge hunts. Permits are available 24 hours a day at the Refuge Headquarters.

The refuge is a day use area only with the exception of legal hunting/ fishing activities.

No person shall discharge a firearm within 100 feet of any public roadways running through or adjoining refuge property.

Target practice is prohibited on refuge property.

Firearms are not permitted unless used in authorized hunting activity. Firearms must be unloaded and cased or dismantled while being transported in a vehicle or boat within the boundaries of the refuge or along right-of-way for public or private roads within the refuge.

Hunters under age 16 must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older, and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. On small game hunts the adult may supervise no more than two youths, on big game hunts no more than one youth.

Hunter orange must be worn as required by state regulations. **Caution:** other non-hunting members of the public may be in the area and not wearing hunter orange during hunting seasons.

Mules and horses are prohibited on all refuge hunts. Recreational horseback riding is permitted on refuge property while conducting wildlife related activities such as wildlife viewing, photography or education.

To retrieve or track game from a posted closed area of the refuge the hunter must first notify the Refuge Manager at 270/527 5770 or the Refuge Law Enforcement Officer at 270/703 2836.

The use of flagging tape, reflective tacks, or other non-biodegradable devices/materials used to identify paths to and mark tree stands, blinds, or other areas are prohibited.

Licensed vehicles are permitted on open graveled roadways only. Abandoned railroad tracks are not considered a roadway. **Vehicles blocking refuge gates will be towed.**

Bicycles are permitted on open roads, gated roads, and portions of the abandoned railroad tracks that is owned by the Clarks River NWR.

The use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are prohibited on all refuge property. Clarks River NWR does offer an access trail for persons with disabilities. For information on the Blizzard Pond Access Trail contact the Refuge office at: 270/527 5770.

The Sharpe-Elva Water Management Unit is closed to all entry from November 1 through March 15, with the exception of drawn permit holders. During periods of high water or flood, unauthorized persons shall not enter upon the Sharpe-Elva Water Management Unit by boat for any purpose. High water or flood conditions do not affect or change the Water Management Area boundary which is marked with white “Area Beyond This Sign Closed” signs.

The possession or use of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances while hunting is prohibited.

No overnight camping is allowed.

Fires are prohibited on refuge property.

In accepting this brochure, the hunter concedes the right of inspection of game bags, hunting coats, etc., as provided by state law, to the Refuge Officers.

The following regulations are season or species specific.

Hunting of Migratory Game Birds

Hunting of migratory game birds (mourning doves, woodcock, common snipe, Canada geese, snow geese, coots and waterfowl listed in 50 Code of Federal Regulations part 10.13 under DUCKS) is permitted on designated areas of the refuge, subject to Kentucky State regulations and the following conditions:

Hunting of waterfowl will cease at 2:00pm each day of open season. This means decoys and equipment picked up, firearms unloaded and hunters out of the field.

Only portable or temporary blinds may be used.

Portable or temporary blinds and decoys must be removed from the refuge following each day’s hunt.

Hunters will possess and use, while in the field, only nontoxic shot while hunting waterfowl.

Waterfowl hunting will be allowed on the Sharpe-Elva Water Management Unit by draw hunt. The area will be closed to all entry with the exception of Saturdays and Sundays of the statewide waterfowl season for drawn permit holders and their guests only. Kentucky State regulations and the following conditions apply:

- To obtain a permit a person will be required to fill out a card with their name, address, and telephone number (only one entry per person) and submit it at a drawing that will be held on October 15 at 6:00 pm (CST) each year. The drawing will be held at the Refuge Headquarters located at 91 U.S. Highway 641 North, Benton, Kentucky.
- Those unable to attend the drawing may submit a postcard with their name, address, and telephone number to Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, P. O. Box 89, Benton, Kentucky 42025. The postcard must be received at the office by October 14 to be considered for the drawing. Only one entry may be submitted per person.
- To be considered eligible for the drawing the individuals must be at least 16 years of age and possess valid and current state and federal licenses and stamps for hunting waterfowl. Hunters under 16 years of age may submit a postcard for the youth hunt weekend drawing.
- Permit holders will be allowed to hunt their assigned provided blind on the designated date.
- The individual drawn may bring up to three guests with them to the blind. Guest are not allowed in the blind without the attendance of the permit holder (no exceptions).

f. No person may sell, trade or barter their permit. The permit is the sole property of the permit holder and is non-transferable. If a person cannot make it to the blind on the dates they are drawn for, the blind will be considered closed for those dates.

g. Decoys may be placed out Saturday morning at the beginning of the hunt, and may remain in place until Sunday at the close of the hunt.

h. No water craft is allowed in Sharpe-Elva Water Management Unit.

Upland Game Hunting

Hunting of upland game (squirrel, rabbit, quail, raccoon, opossum, crow, red fox, gray fox, bobcat and coyote) is permitted on designated areas of the refuge subject to Kentucky State regulations and the following conditions:

Trapping is not permitted on the refuge.

Hunters may not kill or cripple a wild animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal and include it in the person’s daily bag limit.

Shotguns are limited to no larger than 10 gauge. All shotgun ammunition must meet legal shot size requirements for each species being hunted. The use of rifles and pistols on upland game is limited to rimfire only, including bobcat.

Only rimfire **rifles** and shotguns may be used to hunt coyotes.

The use of dogs to hunt upland game is permitted in accordance with Kentucky statewide seasons and regulations. The running of dogs outside the hunting season for a particular species is permitted by special use permits only. For information on obtaining a special use permit for running dogs call the Refuge office at 270/527 5770.

Big Game Hunting

Hunting of white-tailed deer and turkey is permitted on designated areas of the refuge subject to Kentucky State regulations and the following conditions:

The use of or construction of any permanent tree stand is prohibited. Only climbing and/or portable stands may be used.

It is unlawful to damage a tree or to hunt from a tree in which a metal object has been inserted (regardless of who inserted it).

Tree stands may be placed in the field no earlier than two weeks prior to the opening of deer season and must be removed from the field within one week after the season closes. All stands left in the field must be identified by hunter’s name and address.

Safety belts are required at all times with the use of tree stands.

Hunters may not hunt by organized deer drives of two or more hunters. The definition of drive is: the act of chasing, pursuing, disturbing or otherwise directing deer so as to make animals more susceptible to harvest.

Hunters may not kill or cripple a wild animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal and include it in the person’s daily bag limit.

No unauthorized person shall use or direct the rays of a spotlight or other artificial light, or automotive headlights for the purpose of spotting, locating or taking any animal within the boundaries of the refuge or along a right-of-way for public or private roads within the refuge.

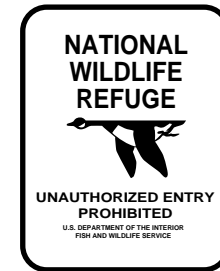
Hunting of deer or any other wildlife by the aid of or distributing any feed, salt or other minerals is prohibited.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing is permitted on designated areas of the refuge subject to Kentucky State regulations and the above general regulations.

Please respect the following signs

Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wild lands. Signs help control recreational activities and respect private property while protecting natural resources on the refuge.



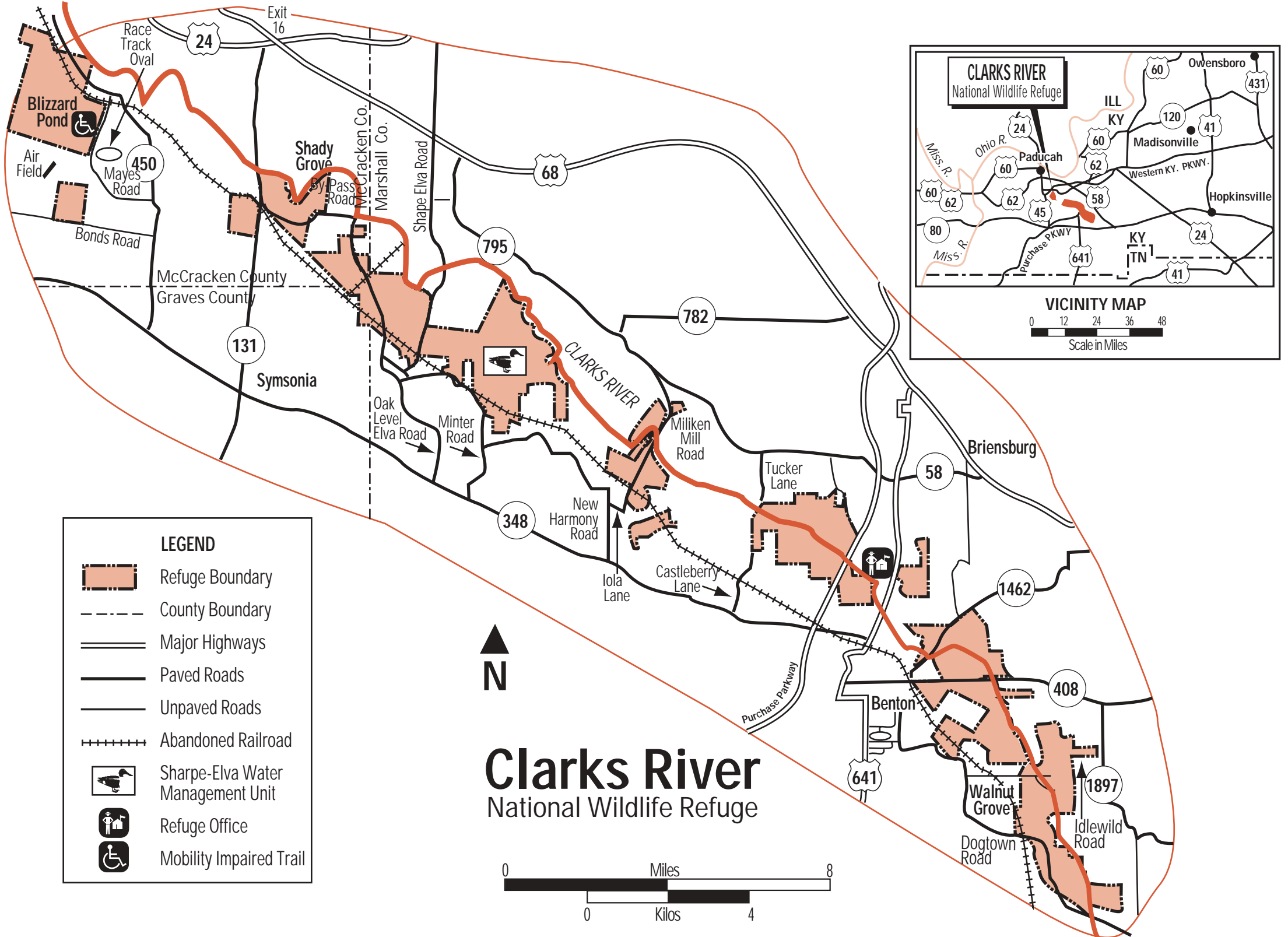
This sign and yellow paint clearly marks all refuge property. It is your responsibility to know where the property lines are and hunt within the boundaries.



This area is closed to all entry. No entering, hunting or sight-seeing is permitted. No roads or trails beyond this sign are open to the public.

Clarks River

National Wildlife Refuge
Hunting and Fishing
Regulations 2004-2005



Clarks River
National Wildlife Refuge
91 US Hwy 641 North
P.O. Box 89
Benton, Kentucky 42025
270/527 5770
<http://southeast.fws.gov/clarksriver>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

May 2004



Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge Hunting/ Fishing Brochure 2004-2005

Keep this signed brochure or signed permit card with you while hunting or fishing on refuge property. This brochure does not authorize you to hunt or fish on private land adjacent to refuge property.

When signed and in your possession, this portion of the brochure will serve as your permit, and an indication that you have read, fully understand and will comply with the special regulations of the permit. **This permit is valid thru June 1, 2005.**

Signature
(Valid only when signed)