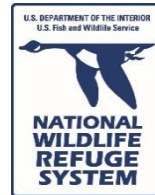




## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Horicon National Wildlife Refuge 2024-25 Trapping Information



### 1. Refuge Trapping Program

Furbearer trapping on Horicon National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is an important management tool in meeting refuge goals and objectives. Wetland habitats, dike maintenance, and migratory bird management are influenced by furbearer management. The primary targets of the refuge trapping program are muskrat and raccoon, but other species can be taken pursuant to State of Wisconsin Trapping laws.

The refuge will hold a joint public trapping auction with the WI Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)/ Horicon State Wildlife Area at the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, W4279 Headquarters Rd. Mayville, WI 53050 on Wednesday, October 9, 2024. Doors will open at 5 p.m. to allow trappers the opportunity to ask questions and review information. The auction will begin promptly at 6 p.m. FWS and DNR personnel will review trapping seasons and regulations, unit boundaries, special conditions and restrictions pertaining to each individual unit before bidding.

All NWR and DNR trapping units will be sold to the highest bidder with a limit of one unit per trapper. Bidders must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the auction. Trappers who are bidding must be present at the auction and will be required to make full payment at that time. The refuge will accept payments by check, money order, debit card, or credit card. No cash will be accepted. Trapping permits will be issued to the successful bidders following the auction.

Horicon NWR trapping units are comprised of the following:

#### **Wetland Units**

Eleven wetland trapping units will be auctioned off on the Horicon NWR for the 2024-25 trapping season. A trapper, which includes the helper, will only be allowed one trapping unit on the Horicon Marsh and may not have a unit on both the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and the Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area. Boats with electric motors and skiffs are allowed in all units and ATV's may be used as long as the ATV's have floatation devices when over ice.

#### **Senior/Disabled Trapping Unit**

Unit 7/Hiking Trails will be set aside for seniors and/or trappers with a disability. To be eligible for the drawing seniors must be age 62 + and trappers with disabilities must have a disabled permit from the DNR. Trappers must meet the age requirement prior to the start of the trapping season. A free permit will be issued to two trappers randomly drawn at the auction. Trappers do not have to be present at the drawing and can enter the drawing by emailing/calling a request to the Horicon NWR contact. The area will not be divided. Each trapper may have one helper who also must meet the age requirements.

#### **Youth Trapping Unit**

Any interested youth between the ages of 12 and 17 will be allowed to trap Unit 11/Frankfurth. No random drawing will be held, but the youth must obtain a free refuge permit. Adult

supervisors may accompany the youth trappers but will not be allowed to physically assist in trapping.

*\*\*No pre-staking will be allowed in the Youth and Senior/Disabled trapping units since the areas are shared.*

### **Upland Permits**

Upland trapping permits will be given free of charge to any person with a valid State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources trapping license and will be included with all wetland trapping permits. Upland trappers are restricted to the designated areas as outlined on the upland trapping map.

## 2. Trapping Species and Seasons

**Raccoon, fox, coyote, weasel, skunk, opossum (no fisher or bobcat trapping on the refuge):** Opens on Oct. 19, 2024 and closes on Feb. 15, 2025. Non-residents may not trap raccoons until Nov. 2, as per state trapping regulations. No open marsh trapping (>25 yards from the shoreline/dike toe) until Dec 1.

**Mink and muskrat:** Follows State of Wisconsin season dates for Central Zone. Opens on Oct. 26, 2024 and closes on Mar. 22, 2025. No open marsh trapping (>25 yards from the shoreline/dike toe) until Dec. 1.

**Beaver and otter:** Opens on Nov. 2, 2024 and closes on Mar. 22, 2025. No open marsh trapping (>25 yards from the shoreline/dike toe) until Dec. 1.

## 3. Scouting Information

Scouting on the refuge areas that will be open to trapping will be allowed on Tuesday, Oct. 8 and prior to the auction on Wednesday, Oct. 9; daylight hours only. Interested trappers must obtain a scouting permit before accessing the units. Scouting permits and unit maps may be picked up outdoors at the main entrance to the Horicon NWR Visitor Center on the scouting days. Scouting permits may also be requested via phone, email.

## 4. Other Pertinent Information

See attached Special Trapping Regulations

### **Horicon NWR Trapping Program Contact Information**

Sadie O'Dell, Wildlife Biologist

Mayville, WI 53050

920-948-4336

sadie\_odell@fws.gov

## **Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Trapping Regulations (2024-25 Season)**

*The following conditions are for the trapping of furbearers on the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and are attached to and become a part of the Special Use Permit.*

**1. State and Federal Laws** – Permittee must comply with all State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources trapping laws and regulations and may be further restricted by general and special conditions of the Refuge Special Use Permit for trapping.

**2. Trapping Permits** – Any person exercising the privilege of trapping furbearing animals on the refuge shall possess a valid trapping license issued by the State of Wisconsin and a valid Special Use Permit for trapping issued by the refuge.

The Refuge Manager may, at any time, modify trapping seasons on the refuge or any portion thereof.

Permits are not transferrable. No refunds of payment will be granted.

The permit shall not restrict the refuge from carrying out any management practices, such as but not limited to, prescribed burning and manipulations of water levels.

Conditions of permit may be modified as needed. Any changes will be made by addendum, which becomes part of the permit.

### Wetland Units

Trapping units will be sold to the highest bidder at the trapping auction, with a limit of one trapping unit on the Horicon Marsh, which includes both the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and the Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area.

A trapping permittee is allowed one helper who must also possess a valid trapping license issued by the State. The helper must be listed on the permit and obtain a permit card.

### Senior/Disabled Marsh Unit

A free permit will be issued to two trappers randomly drawn at the trapping auction. To be eligible for the drawing, trappers must be 62 years of age or older prior to the start of the trapping season and trappers with disabilities must have a disabled permit from the State to enter the drawing. Senior helpers must also meet age requirements.

### Youth Units

Youth must be between the ages of 12 and 17 during the trapping season and obtain a free refuge permit. Adult supervisors may accompany the youth trappers to provide guidance but may not physically assist in trapping.

\*No pre-staking will be allowed in the youth and senior/disabled trapping areas since these areas are shared with other trappers.

### Upland Units

Permits will be given free of charge to persons with a valid State trapping license and are included with the marsh units. Upland trappers are restricted to the designated upland trapping areas.

**3. Trapping Seasons- Raccoon, fox, coyote, weasel, skunk, opossum:** Opens on Oct. 19, 2024, and closes on Feb. 15, 2025. Non-residents may not trap raccoons until Nov. 2, 2024, as per state trapping regulations. No open marsh trapping (>25 yards from the shoreline/dike toe) until Dec. 1.

**Mink and muskrat:** Follows state season dates for Central Zone. Opens on Oct. 26, 2024, and closes on Mar. 22, 2025. No open marsh trapping (>25 yards from the shoreline/dike toe) until December 1.

**Beaver and otter:** Opens on Nov. 2, 2024, and closes on Mar. 22, 2025. No open marsh trapping (>25 yards from the shoreline/dike toe) until December 1. Registration of harvested river otter shall follow state regulations.

**4. Approved Traps; Trap Inspection and Removal; Plant Life** –All State regulations apply to the type and use of traps.

Traps set in water or on dry land are required to be checked daily and traps set under the ice are required to be checked every 3 days. Water sets are allowed on the upland area in water pockets/ditches.

Traps shall only be tended between one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

Permittee shall not cut any vegetation on the Refuge, except willow with a diameter of 2 ½ inches or smaller for use as trap stakes.

**5. Fur Catch Report** – Permittee and helpers shall report all animals taken each month using the attached daily trapping log to the Wildlife Biologist (via in person drop off, mail, or e-mail) permittees and helpers submit a monthly record of trapping activity including all animals taken; both target and non-target species, the number of traps used each day within their unit, and time and effort spent setting traps and submit this report via mail, or email.

Failure to accurately complete and submit monthly reports shall be sufficient cause for refusal of future permits.

**6. Access** – Only the permittee plus helper named in the permit application are authorized admittance to the refuge during the trapping season.

Any rights and access behind gated areas granted under the trapping permit are to be used for trapping purposes only. No other rights or access is allowed.

The permittee shall know and restrict all trapping to within the assigned trapping unit boundaries. Entry upon other areas of the refuge not designated by the permit map constitutes trespassing.

Vehicle and ATV travel is allowed only on gravel roads and mowed dikes when conditions are suitable for driving. No snowmobiles are allowed.

ATVs are allowed in marsh units if the ATVs have flotations when over the ice. ATVs are not allowed to make trails through cattails or any other wetland vegetation without prior permission from the refuge manager. ATVs are not allowed in upland units.

Vehicles and ATVs will not be allowed to remain on the refuge overnight.

Boats with electric motors are allowed. Permittees can use more than one boat while trapping, but only one boat per marsh trapper will be allowed to stay overnight on the refuge. The refuge is not liable for missing damaged trapping equipment left overnight on the refuge.

Any lost, stolen, or misplaced traps must be reported, and all stakes, traps, flags and equipment must be removed from the refuge by the end of the season.

The entire refuge is open for general public access from Dec. 1 to Mar. 15. Trappers should be aware, courteous, and respectful of other refuge visitors including hunters and hikers.

**7. Prohibited Methods; Other Restrictions-It Is Unlawful To:** Disturb or molest any muskrat house, mink or otter den, or beaver house or dam; Dispose of carcasses or animal parts on the refuge; Use exposed flesh or carcass baits, including fish; Tend, disturb, or molest another person's traps, fur catch, or trapline.

**8. Possession of Firearms** – Permittees are allowed to dispatch animals caught in traps with a firearm in accordance with state law, except in No Hunting Zones.

**9. Disposition of Unauthorized Animals** – All non-target species trapped and found in satisfactory condition shall be released immediately. Non-target species found injured, or dead must be reported to the Horicon NWR staff and included in the daily trapping log.

**10. Penalties** – Failure of a permittee or partner to comply with any of the trapping regulations relating to trapping on Horicon National Wildlife Refuge or with applicable Federal or State law or refuge regulations may be sufficient cause for one or more of the following actions:

- a. Revocation of existing permits.
- b. Refusal of future trapping special use permits.
- c. Refusal of other refuge privileges requiring a permit.

All traps and equipment used as instruments of any violation, and all animals or furs illegally taken, shall be subject to immediate seizure, and subsequent forfeiture.

**11. Refuge Contact Numbers -**

Sadie O'Dell, Wildlife Biologist (920) 948-9448

Dave Bolin, Deputy Project Leader (920) 241-6564

Adrian Potwin, Law Enforcement (920) 948-2579

**To report wildlife violations:**

**1-844-FWS-TIPS (1-844-397-8477)**

**1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367)**



# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Horicon National Wildlife Refuge

## Trapping Map

Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties, Wisconsin

