

Valentine National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting and Fishing Information



The Blue Goose is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.



Welcome

Valentine National Wildlife Refuge is located in the Sandhills of north-central Nebraska. The 71,516-acre Refuge was established in 1935 as a breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife.

General Information

We invite you to enjoy hunting and fishing opportunities on the Refuge. Please follow the regulations, which are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities and sustainable renewable resources.

Prohibited Activities

- Hunting any wildlife species not listed in this brochure.
- Driving off-road or on ice.
- Use of ATVs and UTVs.
- Shooting from a motor vehicle or roadway.
- Target shooting.
- Possession of toxic shot in the field.
- Running of furbearers during the State season.
- Tree marking and use of trail cameras.
- Flying drones over the Refuge.
- Camping and fires.
- Use of internal combustion boat motors.
- Boat travel at speeds over 5 miles per hour.
- Taking turtles, frogs, and minnows, with the exception of bull frogs.
- Possession or use of live or dead minnows, except for frozen smelt.
- Transporting fish from one body of water to another.
- Possession of any fish not taken from Refuge waters.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32.)

Vehicles

Only licensed motor vehicles (no ATVs/UTVs) are permitted on public use roads and trails. Four-wheel drive is recommended on some public use trails. See map for roads open to vehicles.

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting and fishing are permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Hunting and fishing are allowed on the Refuge in accordance with State regulations and the Refuge-specific regulations in this brochure.

Hunting

Hunting is allowed on the Refuge from **September 1 through March 31**.

All personal property must be removed from the Refuge at the end of the day.

Accommodations for hunters and anglers with disabilities are by Refuge special use permit only. Please inquire at Refuge headquarters.

Fishing

Angler access is allowed from 1 hour before sunrise to 1½ hours after sunset.

Fishing is allowed on nine lakes as shown on the map. Accessible boat docks are located at Watts, Dewey, Pelican, West Long, Duck, Clear, and Hackberry lakes. Consult State fishing guide for specific regulations on individual lakes.

Boats propelled with oars, paddles, or electric motors may be used on Refuge lakes.

Bull frogs may be harvested on Refuge lakes open to fishing.

Valentine National Wildlife Refuge
39679 Pony Lake Road
Valentine, NE 69201

402-376-1889 or 402-376-3398
fortniobrara@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/refuge/valentine

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov

For Refuge Information
1-800-344-WILD

September 2021



Accessibility

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, www.doi.gov/accessibility.

| Activity | Season Dates | Hunt Areas | Other Regulations |
|--|---|--|---|
| Big Game - deer, elk, pronghorn, turkey | Hunting seasons are according to State regulations with the exception that hunting on the Refuge is only open September 1 – March 31 . | Waterfowl West Unit (archery only) Waterfowl Central Unit (archery and shell hunting) Southwest and East Units (archery and firearm) | Hunter access is allowed from 2 hours before sunrise to 2 hours after sunset. Non-toxic shot is required for all shot shell hunting. Use of trail cameras is prohibited. All personal property must be removed from the Refuge at the end of the day. |
| Small Game and Furbearer - badger, bobcat, cottontail rabbit, coyote, dove, fox, greater prairie chicken, long-tailed weasel, opossum, partridge, pheasant, quail, raccoon, sharp-tailed grouse, striped skunk, squirrel | Hunting seasons are according to State regulations with the exception that hunting on the Refuge is only open September 1 – March 31 . | Waterfowl West Unit Waterfowl Central Unit Southwest and East Units | Hunter access is allowed from 2 hours before sunrise to 2 hours after sunset. Non-toxic shot is required for all shot shell hunting. The placement or distribution of bait to hunt coyotes is prohibited. Running of dogs to hunt coyotes is prohibited. |
| Waterfowl and Other Migratory Birds - coot, crow, dove, duck, goose, rail, snipe, woodcock | Hunting seasons are according to State regulations with the exception that hunting on the Refuge is only open September 1 – March 31 . | Waterfowl West Unit Waterfowl Central Unit | Hunter access is allowed from 2 hours before sunrise to 2 hours after sunset. Non-toxic shot is required for all shot shell hunting. All personal property must be removed from the Refuge at the end of the day. |

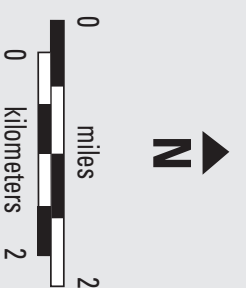
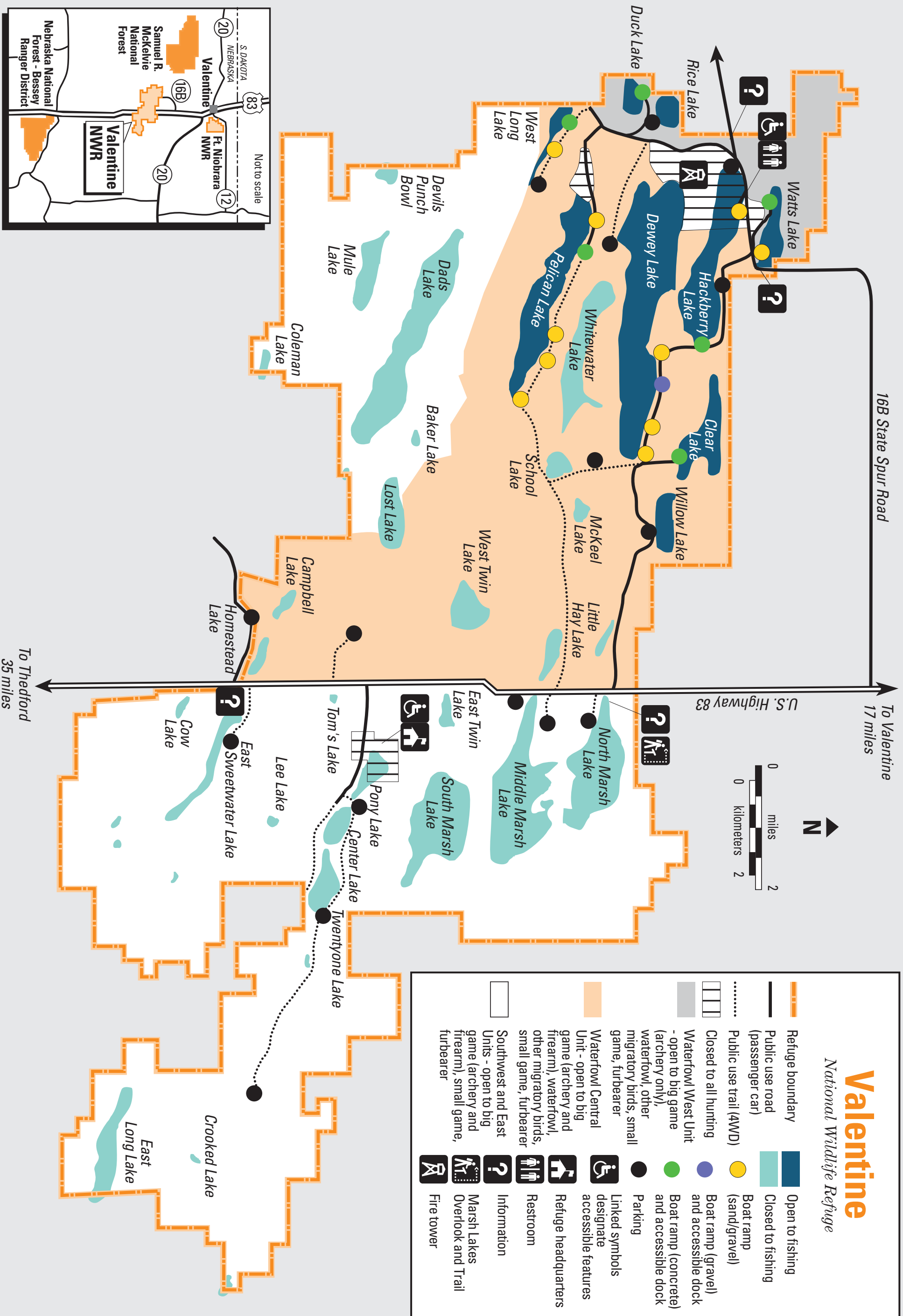
Please read the entire brochure for additional Refuge information and regulations.

Hunting is in accordance with State regulations. In addition, Refuge-specific regulations must be followed and are listed in the table below.

Valentine

National Wildlife Refuge

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| | Refuge boundary | | Open to fishing |
| | Public use road (passenger car) | | Closed to fishing |
| | Public use trail (AWVD) | | Boat ramp (sand/gravel) |
| | Closed to all hunting | | Boat ramp (gravel) and accessible dock |
| | Waterfowl West Unit - open to big game (archery only), waterfowl, other migratory birds, small game, furbearer | | Boat ramp (concrete) and accessible dock |
| | Waterfowl Central Unit - open to big game (archery and firearm), waterfowl, other migratory birds, small game, furbearer | | Parking |
| | Southwest and East Units - open to big game (archery and firearm), small game, furbearer | | Linked symbols designate accessible features |
| | Refuge headquarters | | Information |
| | Restroom | | Marsh Lakes Overlook and Trail |
| | Fire tower | | |



To Valentine 17 miles
 To Theford 35 miles

