

Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2017-2018

General Information

Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 556 National Wildlife Refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 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 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 9,500 acres located in Marshall, McCracken and Graves counties in western Kentucky. All refuge property is clearly marked on the outside boundary with yellow paint hash marks and blue goose boundary signs. Some landowners adjacent to the refuge may mark their boundary with blue paint hash marks and no trespassing signs. Trespassing on posted or unmarked private property is a violation of Kentucky State law.

Individuals utilizing the Refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, game bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by Federal or State Law Enforcement Officers.

Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge
91 US Highway 641 North
P.O. Box 89
Benton, KY 42025

270/527 5770
<http://southeast.fws.gov/clarksriver/>

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

July 2017

Volunteers

The refuge offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities. To receive more information, or an application, please contact the refuge headquarters at 270/527 5770.

Friends of Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge

The Friends of the Clarks River NWR is a nonprofit group formed to give assistance and support for refuge projects, land acquisition and educational programs. To obtain more information or a membership form, contact the refuge headquarters at 270/527 5770.

Accessibility Statement:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities of the Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge. Discrimination complaints should be filed with:

U.S. Department of Interior
Office of Equal Opportunity
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

or 1/800/344 WILD.

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

Prohibited Activities

- Littering
- Camping
- Fires
- Trapping
- The use or possession of any lead shot is prohibited on the Refuge with the exception of lead shot ammunition legal for the taking of turkey during statewide turkey seasons. This regulation does not apply to rim fire or center fire ammunition.

Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge Hunting/ Fishing Brochure 2017-2018

CRNWR Permits are required for anyone who is also required to have a Kentucky State hunting/ fishing license and is engaged in hunting/fishing activities on the Refuge. This permit is only valid when signed and must be carried on the hunter's person while engaged in hunting/fishing activities. Signing this permit is an indication that you have read, fully understand and will comply with the special regulations of the permit. Permits are available 24 hours a day at the Refuge Headquarters. **This permit is valid through June 1, 2018.**

Signature
(Valid only when signed)



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

- The use of nails, wire, screws or bolts to attach a stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter.
- Discarding any animal carcass on the refuge.
- Horses and mules are prohibited on the refuge during the muzzleloader and modern gun deer hunts. Horseback riding is permitted on refuge-graveled roads and the portions of the abandoned railroad tracks owned by the refuge for access purposes while engaged in wildlife related activities only. Horses and mules are not permitted off these secondary access routes for any purpose.
- The use of flagging tape not marked as biodegradable by the manufacturer, reflective tacks, or other non-biodegradable devices/ materials used to identify paths, mark tree stands, blinds, or other areas.
- Searching for or removal of any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.
- Target practice with any weapon or non-hunting discharge of firearms.
- The Clarks River Waterfowl Units are closed to all entry from November 1 through March 31, with the exception of drawn permit holders. During periods of high water or flood, unauthorized persons shall not enter upon the Clarks River Waterfowl Units 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.
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages.
- Taking of wildlife (outside legal hunting season) or plants (including cutting trees and brush) is prohibited.
- 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 right-of-way for public or private roads within the refuge.
- Hunting of any wildlife by the aid of or distributing any feed, salt or other minerals.

- We prohibit the use of any electronic call or other electronic device used for producing or projecting vocal sounds of any wildlife species with the exception of electronic calls used during the refuge coyote hunt starting at legal sunrise on the first Monday following the end of deer archery season and closing at legal sunset on Friday two weeks prior to the beginning of youth turkey season.

Weapons/Ammunition

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only discharge firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

No person shall discharge a firearm on or within 200 feet of any home, refuge graveled roads or portions of the abandoned railroad tracks.

Shotguns are limited to no larger than 10 gauge. All shotgun ammunition must meet legal shot size requirements for each species being hunted as defined by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Vehicles

The use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and/ or any unlicensed vehicle is prohibited on all refuge property.

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 while engaged in wildlife related activities on refuge graveled roads and portions of the abandoned railroad tracks that are owned by the Clarks River NWR.

Animals/Pets

The running or training 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 Headquarters at 270/527 5770.

Dog owners/handlers must have a collar on each dog with the owner's name, address and telephone number. We allow dogs for migratory birds, waterfowl, small game and fall turkey hunting. All dogs must be detained by leash or chain if not being legally used for hunting. Other pets must be confined or on a leash.

Specific Hunting/Fishing Regulations

With the exception of hunting raccoon, opossum and bullfrog, access to the refuge is two hours before sunrise to two hours after sunset.

Deer and turkey harvested on the Refuge must be telechecked through the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources at 1/800/245 4263 with public land code for **Clarks River NWR**.

Hunters under the age of 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.

Ground blinds used for the purpose of hunting any species during the deer modern gun, muzzleloader and youth firearms seasons must display one square foot (144 square inches) of solid unbroken hunter orange visible from all sides. Ground blinds must be removed when not in use.

We allow the use of trail cameras. Cameras may be used year round. Cameras must have owner's name, address and phone number clearly displayed or may be confiscated.

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

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

Fishing on the Refuge is allowed under Kentucky statewide regulations with the exception of the Environmental Education and Recreation Area Pond.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Environmental Education Recreation Area (EERA)

The EERA is designated for educational activities, wildlife viewing and fishing opportunities located on Highway 408 near Benton, Kentucky.

EERA Area Specific Regulations

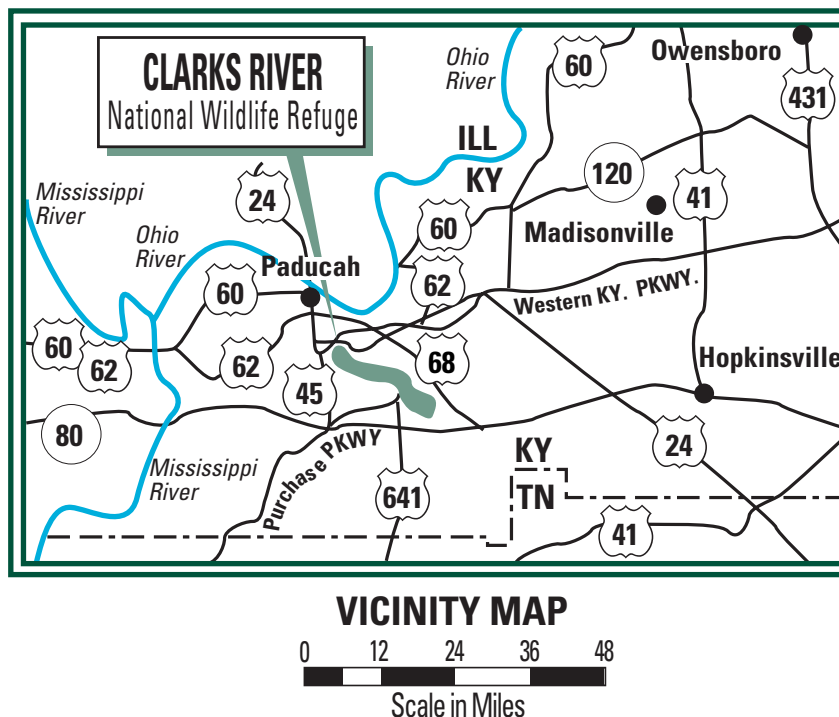
- Daylight use only.
- Portions of the EERA are closed to all entry from November 1 to March 31.
- Area is pole fishing only with limit of one pole per person.
- Use of any watercraft is prohibited.
- Horseback riding is prohibited.
- Use of live fish for bait is prohibited.
- Introduction or stocking of fish is prohibited.
- Swimming is prohibited.
- Hunting or harvesting of frogs is prohibited.
- Pets not on a leash are prohibited.

| Species | Size Limit | Creel Limit |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Bluegill | None | 10 |
| Channel Catfish | 12" | 5 combined (Channel Catfish and Largemouth Bass) |
| Largemouth Bass | 12" | |
| All other species | Follow statewide regulations | |

Waterfowl Quota Hunt

Waterfowl hunting will be allowed on the Clarks River Waterfowl Units by a quota draw hunt only. The Units will be closed to all entry with the exception of the drawn permit holder and their guests on drawn hunt days ONLY.

The Lindsey Unit is available for use by mobility impaired hunters. For more information or to utilize the Lindsey Unit contact the Refuge Headquarters at 270/527 5770.



The Mallard Point Unit will be open on Saturdays and Sundays of the statewide waterfowl season, with the exception of the modern rifle or muzzleloader deer seasons, for the drawn permit holders. The Redhead and Wolfe Unit will be open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays of the statewide waterfowl season, with the exception of the modern rifle or muzzleloader deer seasons, for the drawn permit holders.

- a. To obtain a permit a person will be required to fill out a post card with their name, address, and telephone number and submit to Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, P. O. Box 89, Benton, Kentucky 42025. The postcard will be accepted starting September 1st and must be received no later than October 15th to be considered for the drawing.
- b. Only one entry may be submitted per person. Preferred dates and units may be requested on the card. If the dates or units have already been assigned then refuge personnel will select the first available date and unit remaining. Individuals drawn for the quota hunt will be notified within 2 weeks of the drawing by the U.S. Mail.
- c. 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.
- d. Permit holders will be allowed to hunt their assigned unit on the designated date.
- e. The individual drawn may bring up to four guests with them to the unit. Guests are not allowed in the unit 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. No watercraft is allowed in the Clarks River Waterfowl Units with the exception of drawn permit holders, which may use watercraft to access their assigned units and to retrieve waterfowl.
- h. Hunting will cease and hunters will be out of the field by 12 noon each day.

2017-2018 Season Dates and Regulations

The hunting of any species not listed below is considered closed.

All state bag limits, season lengths and weapon regulations apply unless otherwise specified.

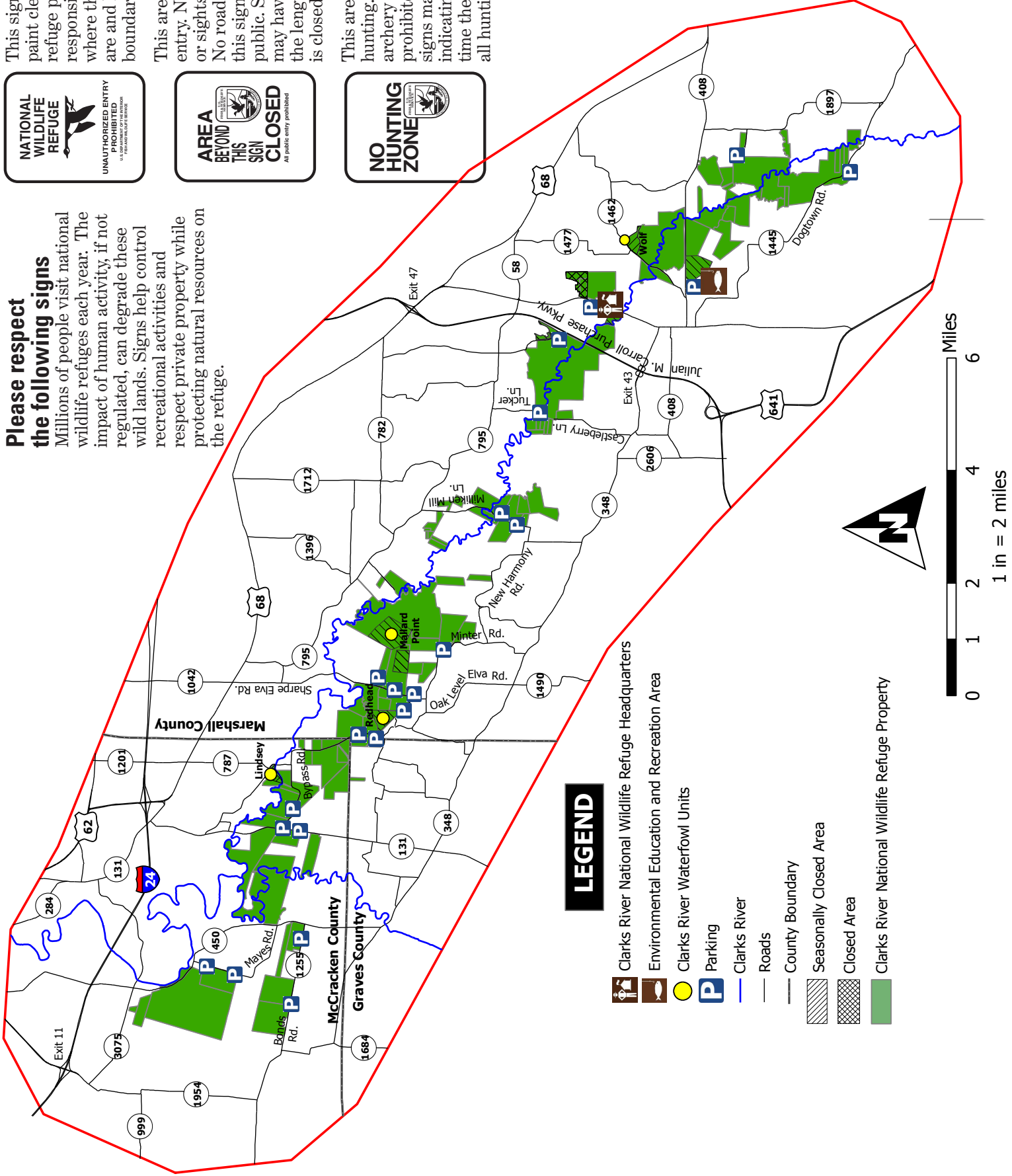
| Type | Season dates/Bag limits | Refuge specific regulations |
|--|---|--|
| Duck, Goose and Coot | Same as State Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits | Hunting will cease and hunters will be out of the field by 12 noon each day. Only portable and temporary blinds are permitted. Decoys and blinds must be removed each day. Only nontoxic shot permitted.*Waterfowl hunting on Clarks River Waterfowl Units by Quota Permit only. |
| Dove, Woodcock, Snipe and Crow | Same as State Seasons and Bag Limits. Closed during all refuge modern gun and muzzleloader deer seasons. | Only nontoxic shot permitted. Center fire weapons prohibited. |
| Squirrel | Same as State Season and Bag Limits. Closed during all refuge modern gun and muzzleloader deer seasons. | Only nontoxic shot permitted (does not apply to rimfire or pellets fired from .177, .20 or .22 caliber airguns) Center fire weapons prohibited. |
| Rabbit and Quail | Same as State Season and Bag Limits. Closed during all refuge modern gun and muzzleloader deer seasons. | Only nontoxic shot permitted (does not apply to rimfire) Center fire weapons prohibited. |
| Raccoon and Opossum | Same as State Season and Bag Limits. | Use of dogs outside hunting season is by special use permit only. |
| Coyote | Starting at legal sunrise on the first Monday following the end of deer archery season and closing at legal sunset on Friday two weeks prior to the beginning of youth turkey season. (Season dates will be posted at Refuge Headquarters.) No Bag Limit | You may hunt coyote under statewide regulations during this timeframe with the following exceptions: Only nontoxic shot permitted (does not apply to centerfire or rimfire). Use of dogs is not permitted. |
| Coyote – incidental take | Coyote may be taken during any daytime refuge hunt for other wildlife species. No Bag Limit | Must use weapons, ammunition, and equipment legal for the species being hunted only. |
| Deer Archery, Crossbow, Muzzleloader and Modern Gun | Same as State Season and Bag Limits for Zone 1 | Deer taken on Refuge will be telechecked through State 1-800-245-4263 with public land code for Clarks River NWR. Construction or use of any permanent tree stand is prohibited. Only climbing and/or portable stands may be used. Tree stands may be placed in the field no earlier than two weeks prior to the opening of 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, address and phone number. If stand does not contain information it will be confiscated. Safety belts are required at all times with use of tree stand. Hunters may not hunt by organized deer drives of two or more hunters. Hunting of deer by the aid of or distributing any feed, salt, minerals or other ingestible attractants is prohibited |
| Turkey-Spring, Archery | Same as State Seasons and Bag Limits | Turkey taken on Refuge will be telechecked through State 1-800-245-4263 with public land code for Clarks River NWR. |
| Fishing | Same as State Seasons and Creel Limits | Refuge specific regulations for EERA |
| Bobcat, River Otter, Beaver, Fox, Sandhill Crane and Groundhog | Closed | Closed |

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 sightseeing is permitted. No roads or trails beyond this sign are open to the public. Some of these signs may have dates indicating the length of time the area is closed.

This area is closed to all hunting. Firearms and archery equipment are prohibited. Some of these signs may have dates indicating the length of time the area is closed to all hunting.



LEGEND

- Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters
- Environmental Education and Recreation Area
- Clarks River Waterfowl Units
- Parking
- Clarks River
- Roads
- County Boundary
- Seasonally Closed Area
- Closed Area
- Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge Property

