

# Bowdoin

*National Wildlife  
Refuge*

---

*Public Use Regulations*



*Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge is an extraordinary place for wildlife and people. Because it is a wildlife refuge, the needs of wildlife and habitat must come first. Regulations have been established to provide wildlife and their habitats with adequate protection. Please observe these regulations so that the Refuge will continue to be an extraordinary place for both you and wildlife to enjoy.*

## **Welcome**



*This blue goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.*

Visitors to Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) are welcome to enjoy wildlife-oriented recreation, which includes wildlife observation and photography, sightseeing, hiking, and hunting. To learn more about the Refuge, take a drive on the self-guided auto tour route that begins near the Refuge headquarters. Be sure to pick up an auto tour guide before heading out.

## **Visitor Opportunities and Regulations**

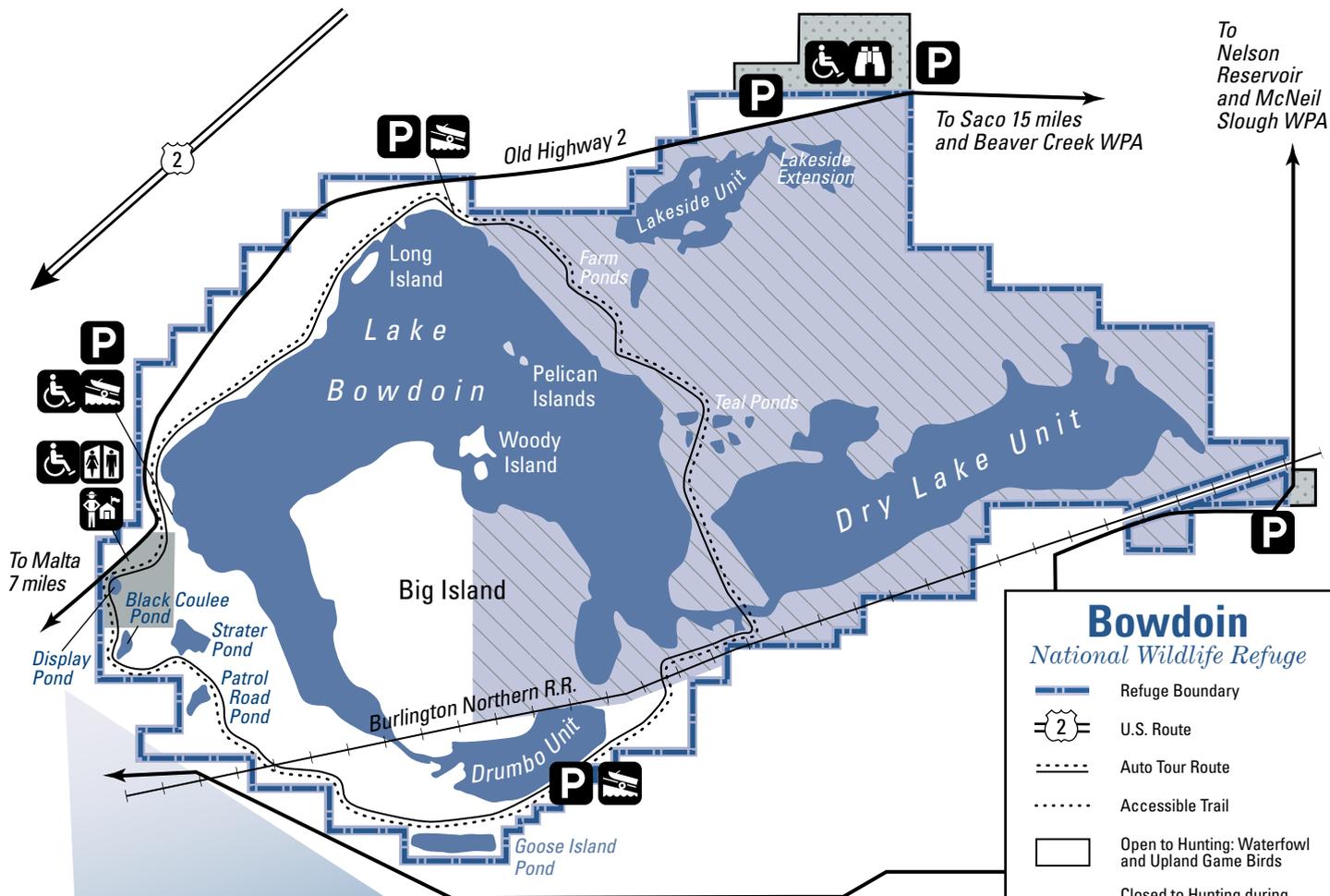
Except for the following Refuge-specific regulations, public use is permitted in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations.

- The Refuge is open for public use from dawn to dusk, except during hunting seasons when hunters are allowed reasonable time to access hunting areas when arriving before dawn and when leaving after dusk.
- The Refuge headquarters is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, except Federal holidays.
- Foot travel is allowed on all portions of the Refuge except in the railroad right-of-way or where otherwise posted.
- Motor vehicles are restricted to the auto tour route and designated parking areas. Refuge roads, other than the auto tour route, are closed to access by privately-owned vehicles. All terrain vehicles (ATVs) must be street legal and remain on public roads.
- ATVs must abide by all vehicle regulations.

## Visitor Opportunities and Regulations (continued)

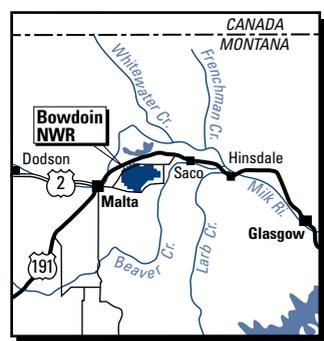
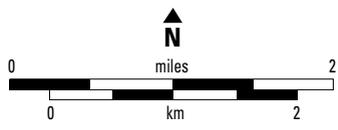
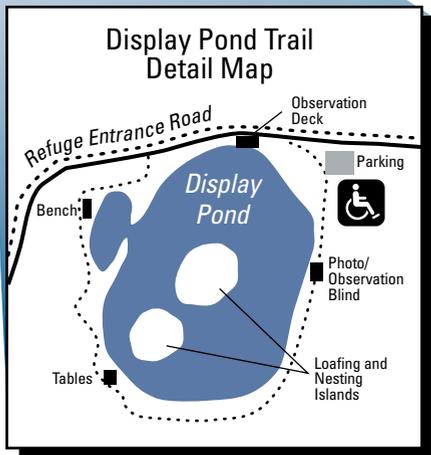
- To avoid blocking traffic, please park in a designated parking area, or pull off to the side of the auto tour route.
- Railroad lands within the Refuge boundaries are managed as part of the Refuge. For visitor safety, walking, hunting, or driving along the railroad tracks or berm is prohibited.
- Snowmobiles may not be operated on the Refuge.
- Boating is permitted only during waterfowl hunting season.
- 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).
- Title 18, U.S.C., Section 930 prohibits possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in Federal facilities.
- Be considerate of wildlife. Keep your distance when viewing or photographing them.
- To protect wildlife and their young, dogs must be kept on leash from April 15 through August 15. All other times of the year, dogs must be under owner's control when not on leash.
- Removal of animals, plants, natural objects, or historic artifacts is prohibited.
- Please do not litter. Carry out all trash, and dispose of it properly.
- Overnight camping (including self-contained camper units) is not allowed. Public camping areas are available in Malta and at Nelson Reservoir.
- If you observe a violation of Refuge regulations, please report it to a Refuge law enforcement officer, a Refuge staff member, or a State game warden.





### Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge

- Refuge Boundary
- U.S. Route
- Auto Tour Route
- Accessible Trail
- Open to Hunting: Waterfowl and Upland Game Birds
- Closed to Hunting during waterfowl season; Open to Upland Game Bird Hunting no sooner than Dec. 1
- Administrative Area: Closed to Hunting
- Waterfowl Production Area
- Refuge Headquarters
- Parking
- Accessible Restroom
- Accessible Hunting/Photo Blind
- Boat Ramp
- Accessible Boat Ramp



## **Hunting Regulations for Bowdoin NWR**

- Migratory and upland game bird hunting are permitted on those portions of Bowdoin NWR indicated on the map. Steel, bismuth, tungsten, or other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved nontoxic shot is required for all bird hunting on the Refuge.
- A late season hunt for upland game birds on the eastern portion of the Refuge begins after the Refuge wetlands have frozen and ends at the end of the State season. The first two days of the hunt are for youth only. Contact the Refuge Manager for exact dates and for further information regarding this late season hunt.
- ALL hunters must register EACH day upon arriving at the Refuge and when leaving. The hunter check station is located in the parking lot at the Refuge headquarters. Harvest information and hunter use data are critical to the continuation of a quality hunting program at Bowdoin NWR.
- Big game hunting is NOT permitted on the Refuge. Further, the Refuge may not be used to access adjoining land for big game hunting. Possession of a big game animal on the Refuge, other than while in transport on a public road, is a violation. Using the Refuge to access adjoining land to retrieve a wounded big game animal is not allowed unless approved and accompanied by a Refuge employee or State game warden.
- All Refuge wildlife are protected, except those species for which hunting is specifically authorized.
- Firearms are prohibited in closed areas. If you must retrieve a dead or injured game bird from a closed area, do not carry your firearm with you.
- Shooting from roads is prohibited.
- Upland game bird hunters must wear at least one item of blaze-orange clothing visible above the waist.
- Boating is allowed during waterfowl hunting season only. Boat motors are limited to a maximum of 25 horsepower to preserve aquatic vegetation and reduce damage to motors. A special use permit for using a larger motor must be obtained from the Refuge Manager.
- Hunters may not use air thrust boats.
- Decoys and boats may not be left unattended.
- Please dispose of all waste when cleaning birds. Not all Refuge visitors are hunters, and feather litter could be offensive to some.
- Predator hunting on the Refuge requires a Special Use Permit approved by the Refuge Manager. Hunters must follow all State predator hunting rules and regulations. Consult the Refuge Manager for current regulations.
- Commercial outfitting is not permitted on Bowdoin NWR, Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs), or satellite refuges.

## Hunting Regulations for WPAs and Satellite Refuges

For specific regulations pertaining to WPAs and satellite refuges managed by Bowdoin NWR, please refer to the Bowdoin Wetland Management District Public Use Regulations brochure available at the Refuge headquarters.

## Accessibility Information

An accessible boat dock/pier is located at the west boat launch on Bowdoin Lake. A 0.4-mile accessible loop trail is located at the Display Pond near the Refuge headquarters. The trail features a photo blind, an overlook, and tables for conducting environmental education activities.

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. Dial 711 for a free connection to the State relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from the speech and hearing impaired. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 406 / 654 2863, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

## Refuge Signs

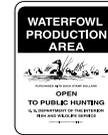
Please observe these signs and understand their meanings.



Refuge Boundary



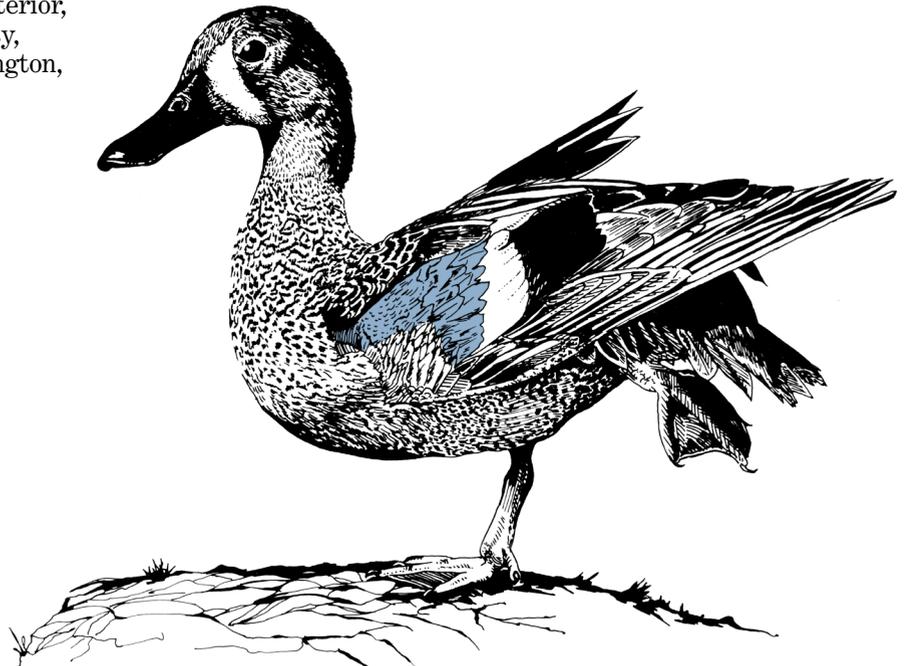
No Hunting Zone – No hunting is allowed in this area



Waterfowl Production Area



Management Trail



**Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge**  
**194 Bowdoin Auto Tour Road**  
**Malta, MT 59538**  
**406 / 654 2863**  
**406 / 654 2866 fax**  
**bowdoin@fws.gov**  
**<http://www.fws.gov/bowdoin>**

**For State relay service**  
**TTY / Voice: 711**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**<http://www.fws.gov>**

**For Refuge Information**  
**1 800 / 344 WILD**

**April 2011**

