

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Lake Andes

*National Wildlife
Refuge Complex*



Welcome



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

Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System which includes more than 565 refuges and 38 wetland management districts. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge System is a living heritage, conserving wildlife and habitat for people today and generations to come.

Location

The headquarters and visitor contact station is located approximately 5 miles northeast of Lake Andes, South Dakota.

Hours

The headquarters and visitor contact station is open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays and when staff are in the field.

Habitat for Wildlife

Lake Andes NWR Complex includes Lake Andes NWR, Karl E. Mundt NWR, and Lake Andes Wetland Management District (WMD). A variety of habitats occur on these lands, including grasslands, wetlands, and floodplain forest. These habitats are vitally important for migratory birds and other wildlife.

Lake Andes NWR

Lake Andes NWR has nearly 5,600 acres of habitat managed for migratory birds. The majority of the Refuge is comprised of Lake Andes, a large wetland with fluctuating water levels. Lake Andes, other shallow wetlands, and grasslands provide food and shelter for birds throughout the breeding season, during the nesting period, and while they raise their young. Large concentrations of birds stop here during their migration journeys.



A blue-winged teal hen and ducklings feed on aquatic insects in a small wetland.

*Karl E. Mundt
NWR*

Karl E. Mundt NWR is approximately 1,000 acres and is located along the Missouri River. The Refuge has forest habitat that provides critical winter roosting habitat for bald eagles. The eagles arrive in late-fall and their numbers



Two bald eagles perch high in the tree canopy.

peak during December and January. The open water below Fort Randall Dam provides an area for eagles to hunt for fish and waterfowl. At night, the eagles take shelter in the cottonwood trees near the river.

An interpretive overlook along County Road 73 provides information about the Refuge and its use by bald eagles.

*Lake Andes
WMD*

Lake Andes WMD is in the southern portion of the Prairie Pothole Region, an area that has thousands of shallow wetlands that dot the landscape. The water levels in the wetlands fluctuate with climatic conditions and provide breeding, nesting, brood-rearing, and migration habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds.



A duck nest hidden in the grasslands.

The WMD includes waterfowl production areas in Aurora, Brule, Charles Mix, Davison, and Douglas counties. These areas are open to hunting,

fishing, trapping, and wildlife observation.

Recreational Opportunities

We invite you to enjoy the following recreational opportunities on Lake Andes NWR and WMD.

Hiking

On Lake Andes NWR, Owens Bay Nature Trail meanders through restored grasslands, near wetlands, and along Owens Bay and the shore of Lake Andes. An abundance of grassland birds, ducks, and geese make this an excellent area for birdwatching.

Wildlife Viewing and Photography

Spring and fall migration provide excellent opportunities to view large concentrations of ducks, geese, and shorebirds. During late spring and summer, watch for grassland nesting birds such as blue-winged teal, bobolinks, dickcissels, and western meadowlarks. Winter may offer a chance for a glimpse at Lapland longspurs, northern shrikes, or rough-legged hawks.



Snow geese frequent this area during the spring and fall migrations.

Hunting and Fishing

A portion of Lake Andes NWR is open to hunting and fishing in accordance with Refuge-specific and State regulations. A hunting and fishing regulations brochure provides detailed information and a map.

Waterfowl production areas are open to hunting and fishing in accordance with State regulations.

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).

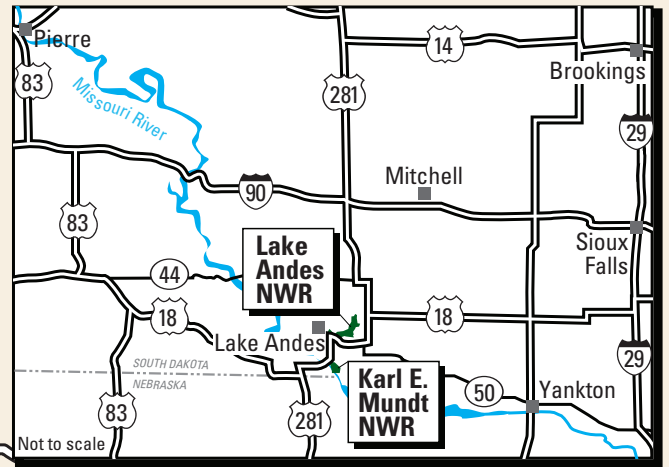
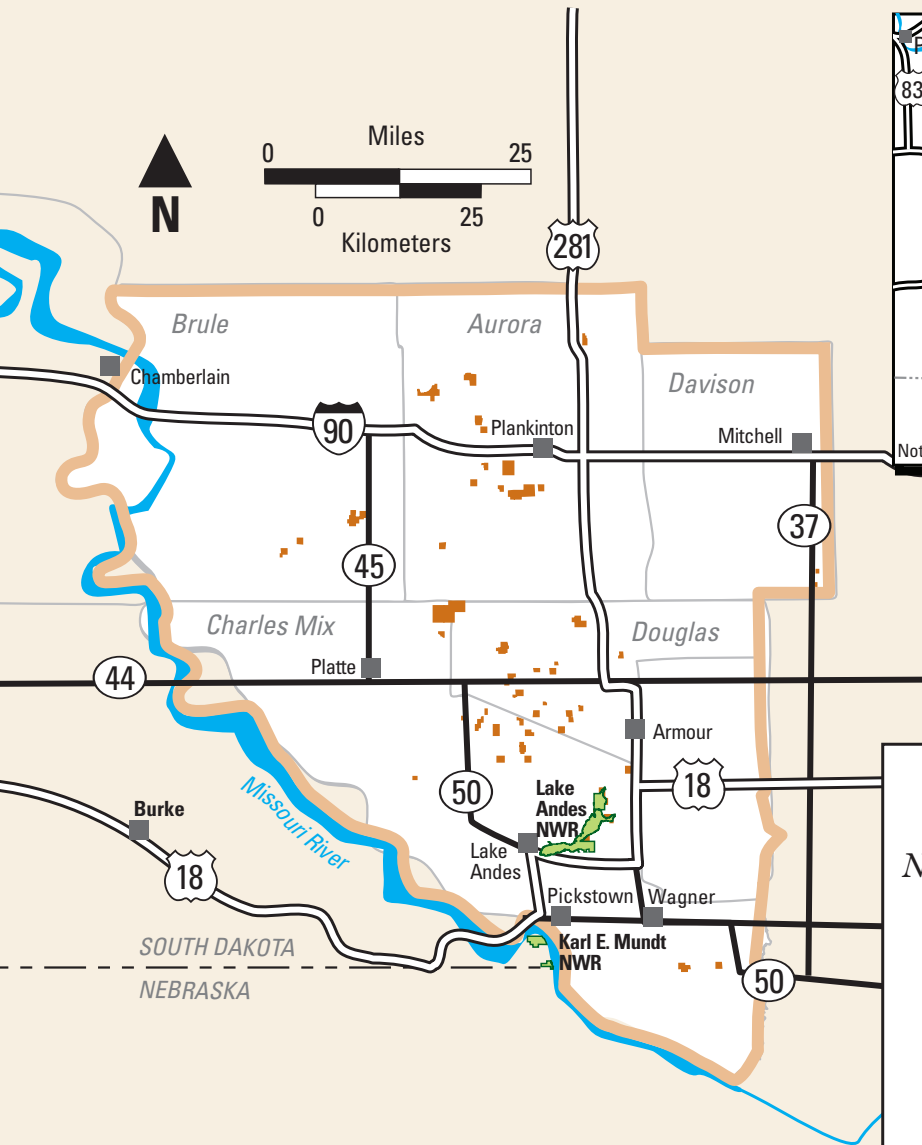
Tom Koerner / USFWS



Green-winged teal

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Lake Andes

National Wildlife Refuge Complex

 Wetland Management District

 National Wildlife Refuge

 Waterfowl Production Area

 Interstate highway

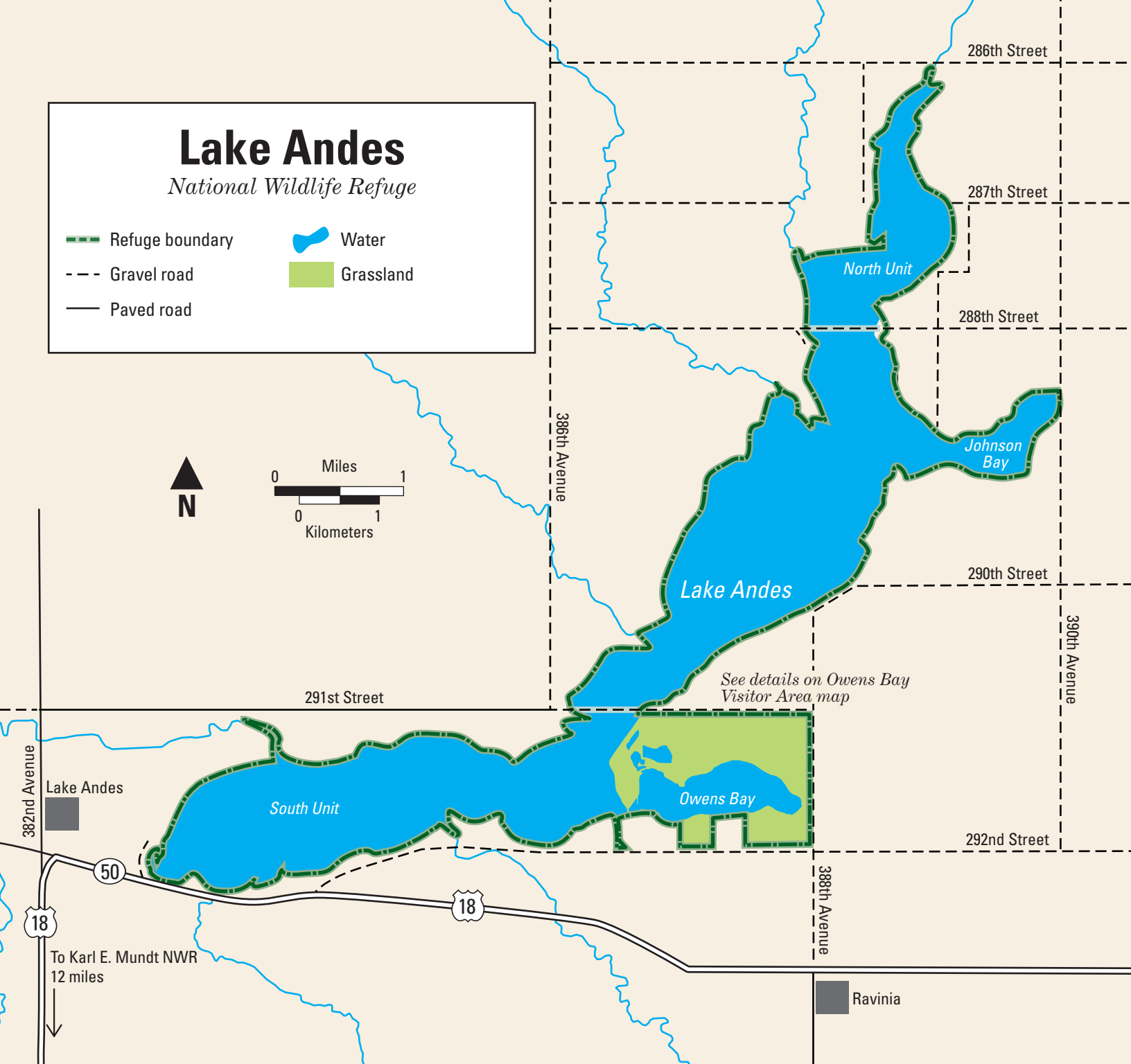
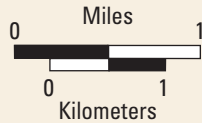
 Federal highway

 State highway

Lake Andes

National Wildlife Refuge

- Refuge boundary
- Gravel road
- Paved road
- Water
- Grassland



Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge

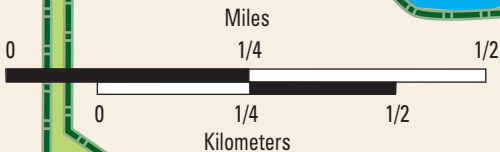
Owens Bay Visitor Area

291st Street

388th Avenue

Lake Andes

Owens Bay



292nd Street

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Refuge boundary | Gravel nature trail | Headquarters and visitor contact station | Linked symbols designate accessible features |
| Gravel road | Water | Information | Parking |
| Concrete nature trail | Grassland | Restroom | |
| Mowed nature trail | Area closed to the public | | |



Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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Lake Andes, SD 57356
605 / 487 7603

www.fws.gov/refuge/lake-andes

Telecommunications Relay Service
TTY / Voice: 711

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

Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

October 2023



Northern pintails
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