

Two Rivers

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2021–2022



Welcome

Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1958 to protect and enhance habitat for migratory birds. Located between the Mississippi River and Illinois River, the refuge encompasses 9,225 acres of riverine and floodplain habitat. The Refuge headquarters and visitor center are located near Brussels, Illinois in Calhoun County. Two Rivers NWR manages six divisions - Calhoun (4820 acres), Gilbert Lake (735 acres), Batchtown (2300 acres), Portage Island (230 acres), Apple Creek (270 acres) and Clarksville Island (870 acres) – each with its own unique hunting and fishing regulations. Portions of the Refuge are closed to the public from October 16th to December 31st in order to provide sanctuary for migrating birds.

Safety

At any time, hunters may encounter other users of the refuge, and should use caution when in proximity to these users. Refuge areas open to hunting are also open to other authorized activities (i.e. hiking and wildlife viewing).

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

Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on public use roads and parking lots, Do not block gates. ATVs and UTVs are prohibited.

Boats

The Refuge allows boats in the Batchtown and Calhoun divisions, and non-motorized boats only are allowed in Gilbert Lake division. Gilbert Lake division, the Prairie Pond area of Batchtown division and the Swan Lake area of the Calhoun Division are closed to all boating October 16th through December 31st. All areas of the Refuge with an unobstructed direct connection to the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers are open to all boats year round.

Accessibility Information

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, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights>.

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. 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 will be in accordance with applicable States of Illinois and Missouri regulations subject to the conditions stated below. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge headquarters, or from the refuge website. Use and possession only of non-toxic shot is required on all divisions for all hunted species.

- Hunters may only access Refuge two hours before legal sunrise until two hours after legal sunset.
- Hunters must park in designated parking areas to access the Refuge.
- Waterfowl and firearms deer hunting are allowed only in the Apple Creek, Calhoun East, Clarksville Island and Portage Island divisions.

Youth Firearm Deer Hunting

In addition to Apple Creek, Calhoun East and Clarksville Island, youth firearm deer hunting is allowed on the Batchtown, Calhoun Yorkinut and Gilbert Lake divisions during the Illinois Youth Firearm three day deer season only, in accordance with Illinois regulations.

Dogs

Dogs maybe used to hunt upland game and waterfowl, and track a wounded deer as part of a legal deer hunt. Use of dogs will be in accordance with applicable state regulations and legal Refuge access times.

Fishing

Fishing and bow fishing are allowed during daylight only (30 minutes before legal sunrise to 30 minutes after legal sunset). The taking of frogs or turtles is prohibited.

Tree Stands

Portable stands and blinds may be used but they must be removed at the end of each day's hunt. No nails, screws, or other hardware may be used to climb or secure stands to the trees that penetrate the outer layer of bark..

Harvest Reporting

Harvest reporting for all species must be in accordance with applicable States of Illinois and Missouri regulations.

Prohibited Activities

- By law, recreational activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted.
- Possession of alcoholic beverages.
- Camping and fires.
- Searching for or removal of any natural items such as antlers, plants, historic, and archaeological features, are protected by Federal law. (Except mushroom and berry picking for personal consumption only, no commercial use.)
- Motorized boats are prohibited on Gilbert Lake
- Use of electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices.
- Marking or flagging any tree or other Refuge feature with reflectors, paint, or other substance.
- Permanent tree stands, nails, screw-in steps, or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree.
- Hunting is prohibited within 50 yards of any public use facility.
- Nighttime fishing prohibited.
- Target shooting or discharging of firearms in non-hunting activities.
- Taking of frogs and turtles.

TTY Federal Relay System: 1-800-877-8339

364 Wildlife Conservation Road
Brussels, IL 62013

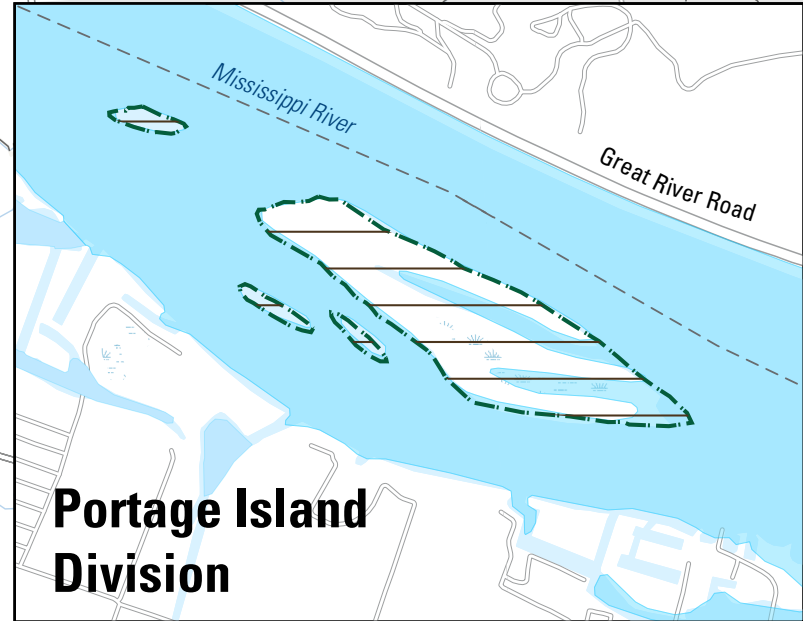
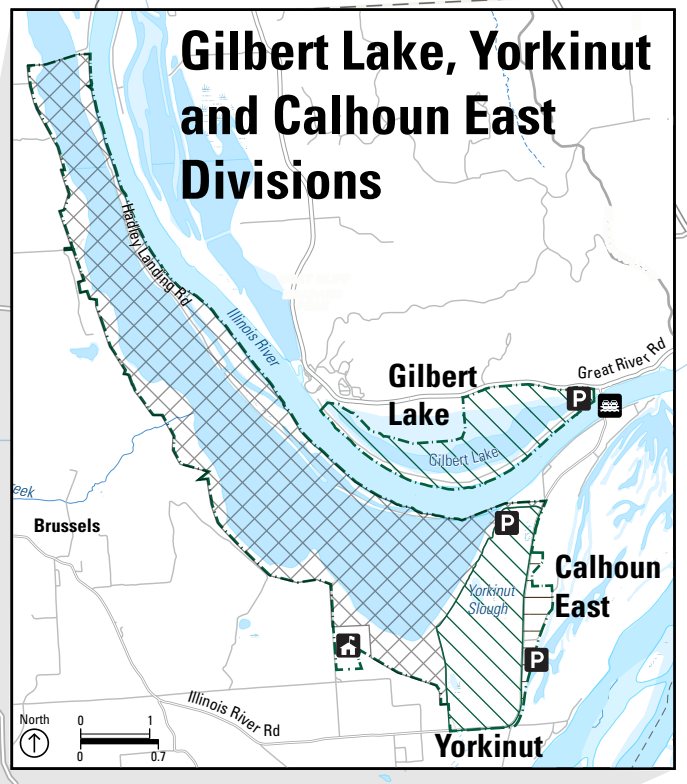
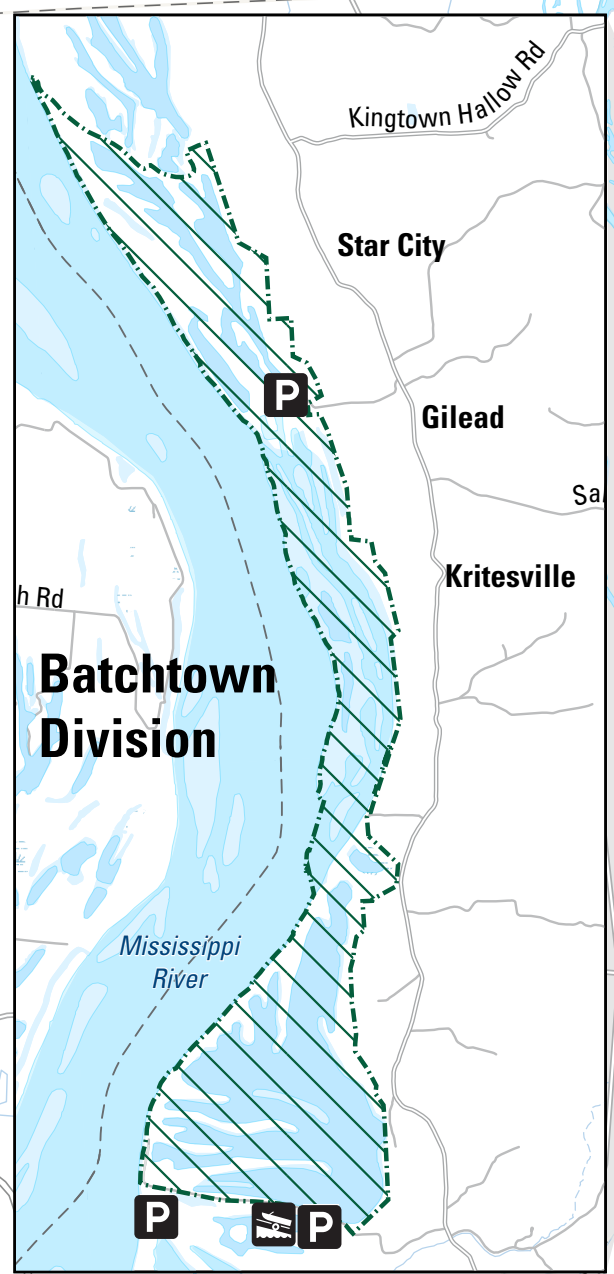
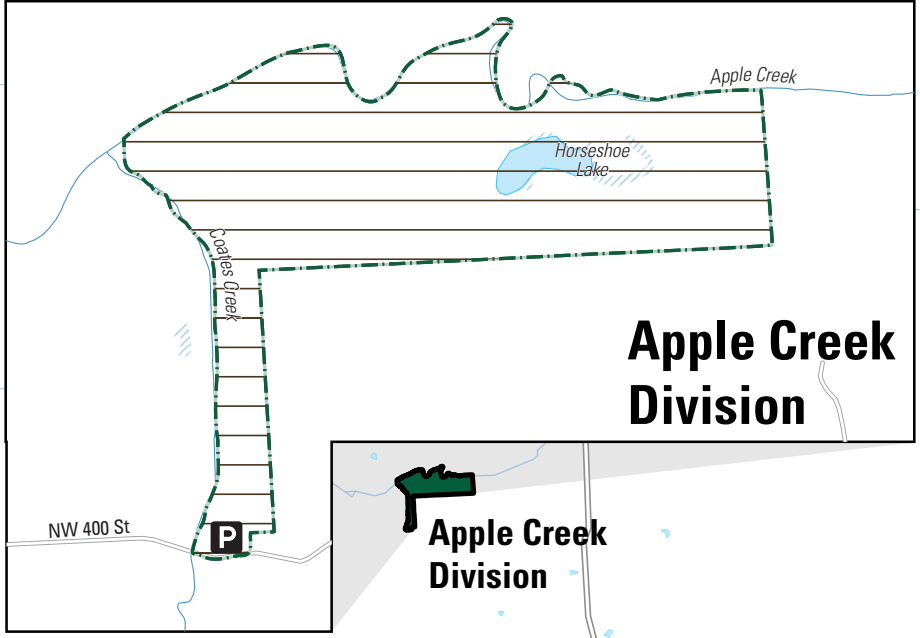
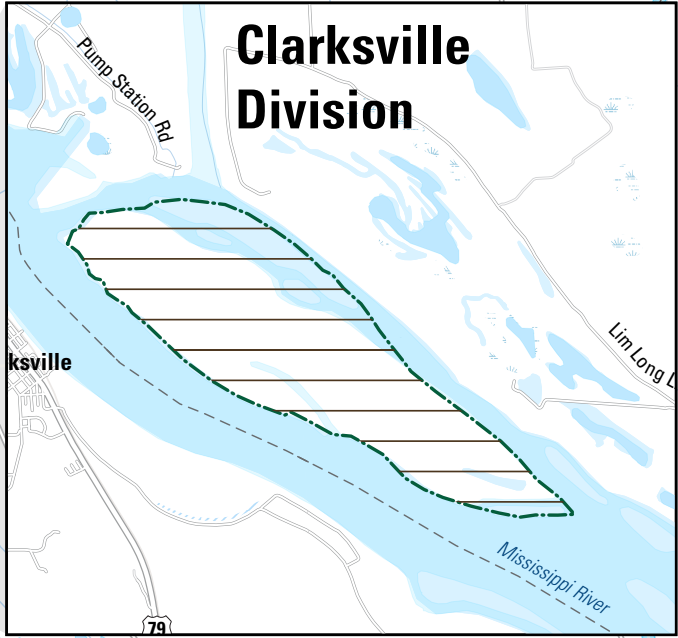
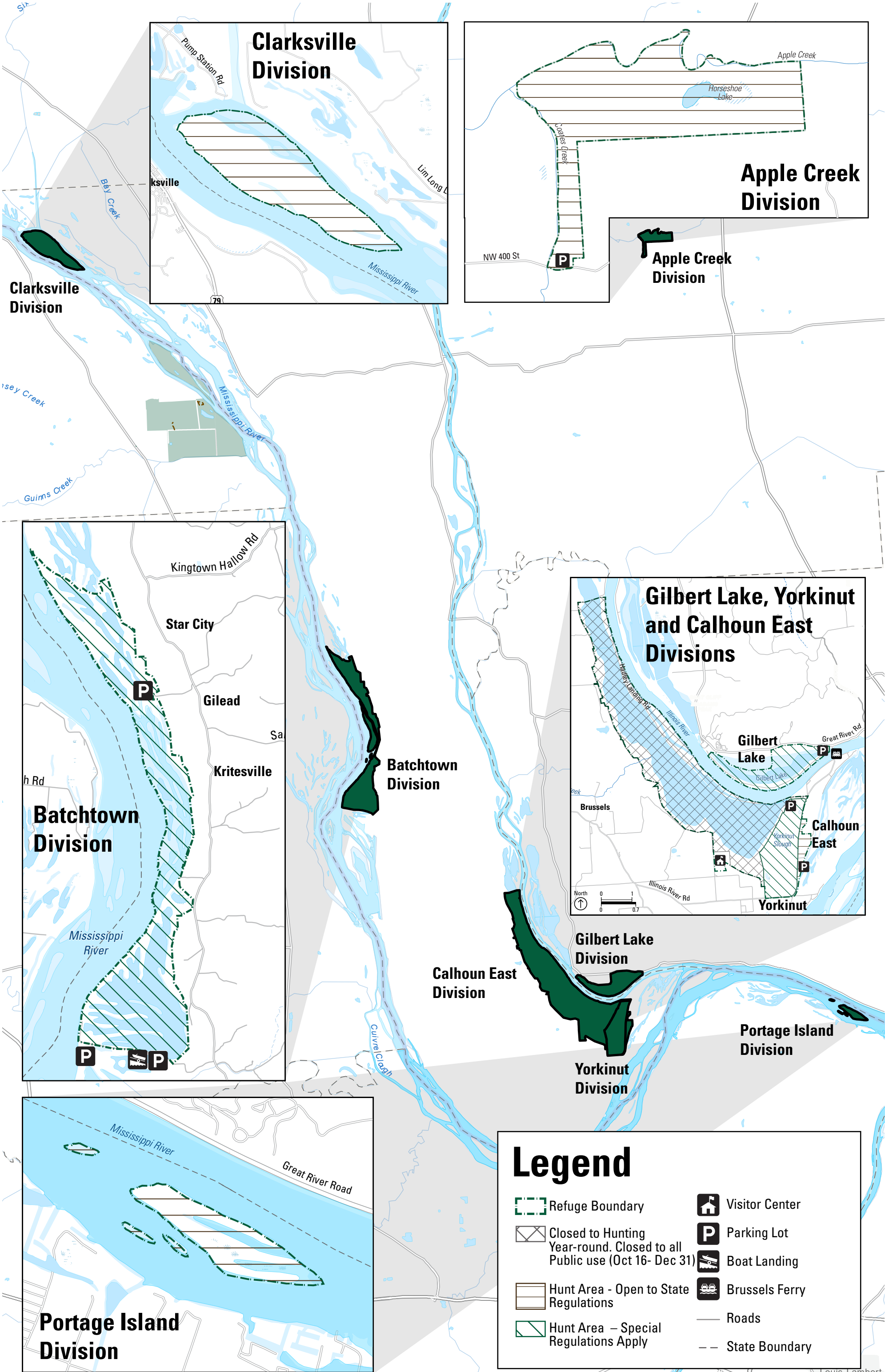
618-883-2524

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

August 2021



Activity	Season	Division	Special Regulations
Archery Deer and Turkey Hunting	Applicable state seasons	Apple Creek, Batchtown, Calhoun (Yorkinut, Calhoun East), Clarksville Island, Gilbert Lake, Portage Island	State regulations apply.
Firearm Deer Hunting	Applicable state seasons	Apple Creek, Calhoun East, Clarksville Island, Portage Island	State regulations apply.
Youth Deer Firearm	IL Youth 3 Day Season Only	Apple Creek, Batchtown, Calhoun (Yorkinut, Calhoun East), Clarksville Island, Gilbert Lake, Portage Island	State regulations apply.
Waterfowl Hunting - (Ducks, Geese, and Coot)	Applicable state seasons	Apple Creek, Calhoun East, Clarksville Island, Portage Island	State regulations apply. Hunters must possess and use only non-toxic shot shells.
Firearm Turkey Hunting	Applicable state seasons	Apple Creek, Batchtown, Calhoun (Yorkinut, Calhoun East), Clarksville Island, Gilbert Lake, Portage Island	State regulations apply. Hunters must possess and use only non-toxic shot shells
Migratory Bird Hunting (All non-waterfowl species)	Applicable state seasons	Apple Creek, Batchtown, Calhoun (Yorkinut, Calhoun East), Clarksville Island, Gilbert Lake, Portage Island	State regulations apply. Hunters must possess and use only non-toxic shot shells.
Upland Game Hunting	Applicable state seasons	Apple Creek, Batchtown, Calhoun (Yorkinut, Calhoun East), Clarksville Island, Gilbert Lake, Portage Island	State regulations apply. Hunters must possess and use only non-toxic shot shells. *Furbearer hunting allowed from 30 minutes before legal sunrise to 30 minutes after legal sunset
Fishing and Bow Fishing	Applicable state seasons	Apple Creek, Batchtown, Calhoun (Yorkinut, East), Clarksville Island, Gilbert Lake, Portage Island, Swan lake	State regulations apply. Nighttime fishing prohibited. Taking of frogs and turtles prohibited. Swan Lake Closed Oct 16 – Dec 31
State regulations apply for bag limits.			



Legend

Refuge Boundary	Visitor Center
Closed to Hunting Year-round. Closed to all Public use (Oct 16- Dec 31)	Parking Lot
Hunt Area - Open to State Regulations	Boat Landing
Hunt Area - Special Regulations Apply	Brussels Ferry
	Roads
	State Boundary