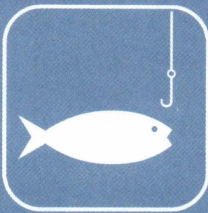


Valentine

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

*Hunting and
Fishing Regulations*



General Regulations

State of Nebraska Regulations
State hunting and fishing regulations, seasons, bag limits, and license requirements apply. Additional refuge-specific regulations are outlined in this brochure.

Hours

Hunting hours are the same as those set in State regulations. Fishing is permitted from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Sportsmen are allowed a reasonable time before and after hours to enter and exit the Refuge.

Access

Motor vehicles are permitted only on public use trails as shown on the map. Driving on the ice or off-road is prohibited. Four-wheel drive is recommended.

Camping and Fires

Camping and fires are both prohibited on the Refuge. Camping is available at Alkali Fish Camp, Ballards Marsh, and Merritt Reservoir.

Alcohol

Consuming or possessing alcohol on the Refuge is prohibited.

Fishing Regulations

Northern Pike

On all Refuge fishing lakes, keep only northern pike 28 inches or shorter. All pike longer than 28 inches must be released.

Catch and Release

All muskies and bass caught on Watts Lake must be released.

Boats

The use of internal combustion motors is prohibited on all Refuge lakes. Boats propelled with oars, paddles, or electric motors may be used.

Bait

The possession or use of live or dead minnows and the possession of any fish not taken from Refuge waters is prohibited. Frozen or dead smelt may be used as bait.

Turtles, Frogs, and Minnows

These animals may not be taken on the the Refuge.

Hunting Regulations

Non-toxic shot

Steel or other non-toxic shot is required for all bird hunting on the Refuge. Possession of lead shot in the field is prohibited.

Firearms - Deer

The entire Refuge is open for firearm deer hunting, except the waterfowl hunting area and closed areas shown on the map.

Archery - Deer

The entire Refuge is open for archery deer hunting, except for closed areas shown on the map.

Prairie Grouse, Pheasant, and Dove

The entire Refuge is open for hunting prairie grouse, pheasants, and doves, except in the closed areas shown on the map.

Duck, Goose, and Coot

Hunting ducks, geese, and coots is allowed only on Watts, Rice, and Duck Lakes in the waterfowl hunting area shown on the map.

Coyote

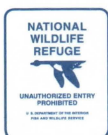
A free permit is required to hunt coyotes on the Refuge. Permits are available from the Refuge Headquarters. The use of dogs for hunting coyotes is not permitted.

Other animals

The Refuge is closed to hunting of all other birds and animals.

Refuge Signs and Their Meaning

These signs allow or restrict certain activities, providing maximum freedom for visitors while protecting Refuge wildlife from undue harm.



Refuge Boundary

- Areas are open to permitted activities only.
- Regulations and further information are available at Refuge Headquarters.



No Hunting

- Areas around offices and residences are closed to hunting.



Sanctuary Area

- Off-limits to the public unless otherwise specified.

General Information

Welcome to Valentine National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The Refuge was established in 1935 to protect a portion of the Sandhills and their wildlife. The unique nature of the Refuge was recognized in 1976 when the Sandhills prairie was designated as a National Natural Landmark.

Valentine NWR is one of over 500 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System - a network of lands set aside specifically for wildlife. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge System is a living heritage, preserving wildlife and habitat for people today and for generations to come.

The financial base for the Refuge System was firmly established in 1934 through the passage of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, more commonly known as the "Duck Stamp" Act. This Act requires waterfowl hunters to annually purchase a migratory bird or duck stamp. Funds collected from duck stamp sales have been used to purchase numerous refuges that provide habitats necessary to sustain a variety of wildlife for both hunters and non-hunters to enjoy.











Accessible Opportunities

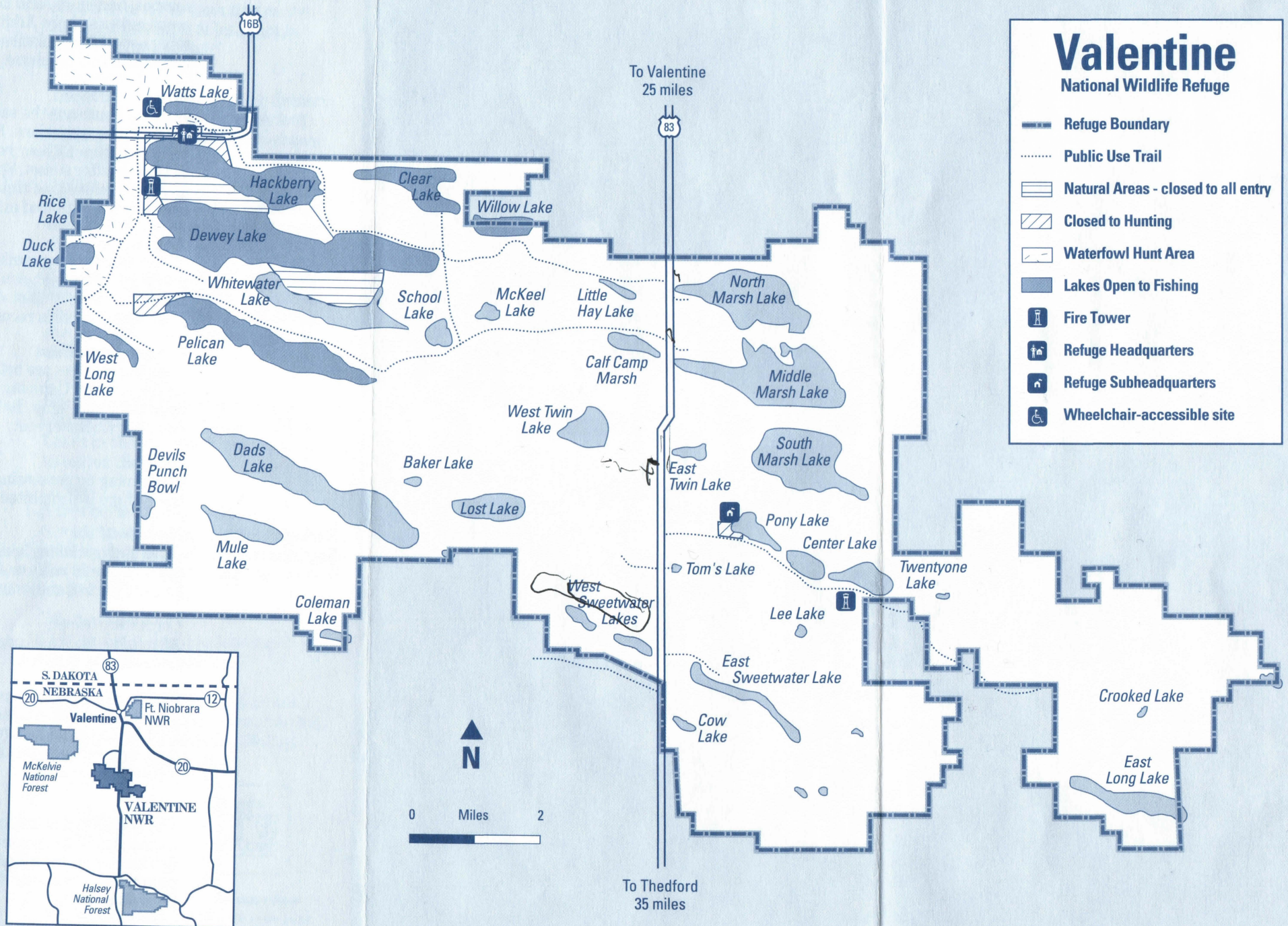
A wheelchair-accessible boat dock is located at Watts Lake. People with a special Nebraska Game and Parks Commission permit may shoot game from a vehicle on Refuge public use trails in areas open to public driving.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeks to provide persons with disabilities full accessibility or reasonable accommodation. Contact Refuge staff for information or to address accessibility needs. For visitors using TTY, contact the Nebraska Relay Service at 1 800 / 833 7352.

Valentine

National Wildlife Refuge

-  Refuge Boundary
-  Public Use Trail
-  Natural Areas - closed to all entry
-  Closed to Hunting
-  Waterfowl Hunt Area
-  Lakes Open to Fishing
-  Fire Tower
-  Refuge Headquarters
-  Refuge Subheadquarters
-  Wheelchair-accessible site



Valentine National Wildlife Refuge
HC 14 Box 67
Valentine, NE 69201
402 / 376 3789
402 / 376 3217 fax
fw6_ft_niobrara_nwr@fws.gov

Nebraska Relay Service
1 800 / 833 7352

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

For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

August 2001

