



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Des Lacs

National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Regulations

General Refuge Information

- The Refuge is open daily from 5:00 am to 10:00 pm.
- The Refuge office and visitor center is open from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays.
- Hunting hours follow those set in the North Dakota State hunting regulations.

General Hunting Regulations

- All Federal and State hunting regulations apply.
- Hunters must possess all applicable State and Federal licenses.
- All shotgun hunters **must** use non-toxic shot.
- Hunting on the Refuge is open only for deer, turkey, and upland game.
- Waterfowl hunting is **not** permitted on the Refuge. There is a 100-yard retrieval zone into the Refuge, except on the water. Hunters may **not** carry guns when retrieving waterfowl.
- See map for areas closed to hunting.
- Permanent tree stands are **not** allowed on the Refuge. Temporary tree stands are permitted on the Refuge, but they **cannot** be left up over night.
- Tree stands **cannot** injure the trees. Screw-in steps, bolts, nails, wire, or other objects that penetrate the bark of the tree **cannot** be used.
- Falconry is allowed on the Refuge only during the upland game season. State and Federal hunting regulations apply.
- Fishing is **not** allowed on the Refuge.
- Horses are **not** allowed on the Refuge for hunting.
- Baiting of any kind is **not** allowed on the Refuge.

Deer Hunting on the Refuge

Archery

- Archery hunting is permitted on the Refuge in accordance with State hunting regulations. Archery deer season generally opens the first Friday in September. Check State hunting regulations for exact dates.
- See map for areas closed to all hunting.

Rifle

- Rifle hunting is permitted on the Refuge in accordance with State hunting regulations. Rifle deer season generally opens the first Friday in November. Check State hunting regulations for exact dates.
- Rifle hunting on the Refuge is open in State units 3A2 and 3A3. Hunters must possess a State unit tag.
- Retrieval roads are open from 6 pm to 8 pm on opening day, and 11 am to 2 pm during the remainder of the season.
- Retrieval roads on the Refuge are posted and include Canada Goose Trail, the Boat Dock Road north to Hwy. 52, and the White-tailed Deer Trail from Brickyard Hill to Baden. All other Refuge roads and trails are closed to motor vehicles.
- See map for areas closed to deer gun hunting.

Muzzleloader

- Muzzleloader hunting is permitted on the Refuge in accordance with State regulations. Muzzleloader season generally opens the first Friday after the close of the rifle deer season. Check State hunting regulations for exact dates.
- Muzzleloader hunters are required to have a special State permit, which may be obtained from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.
- See map for areas closed to deer gun hunting.

Youth Deer

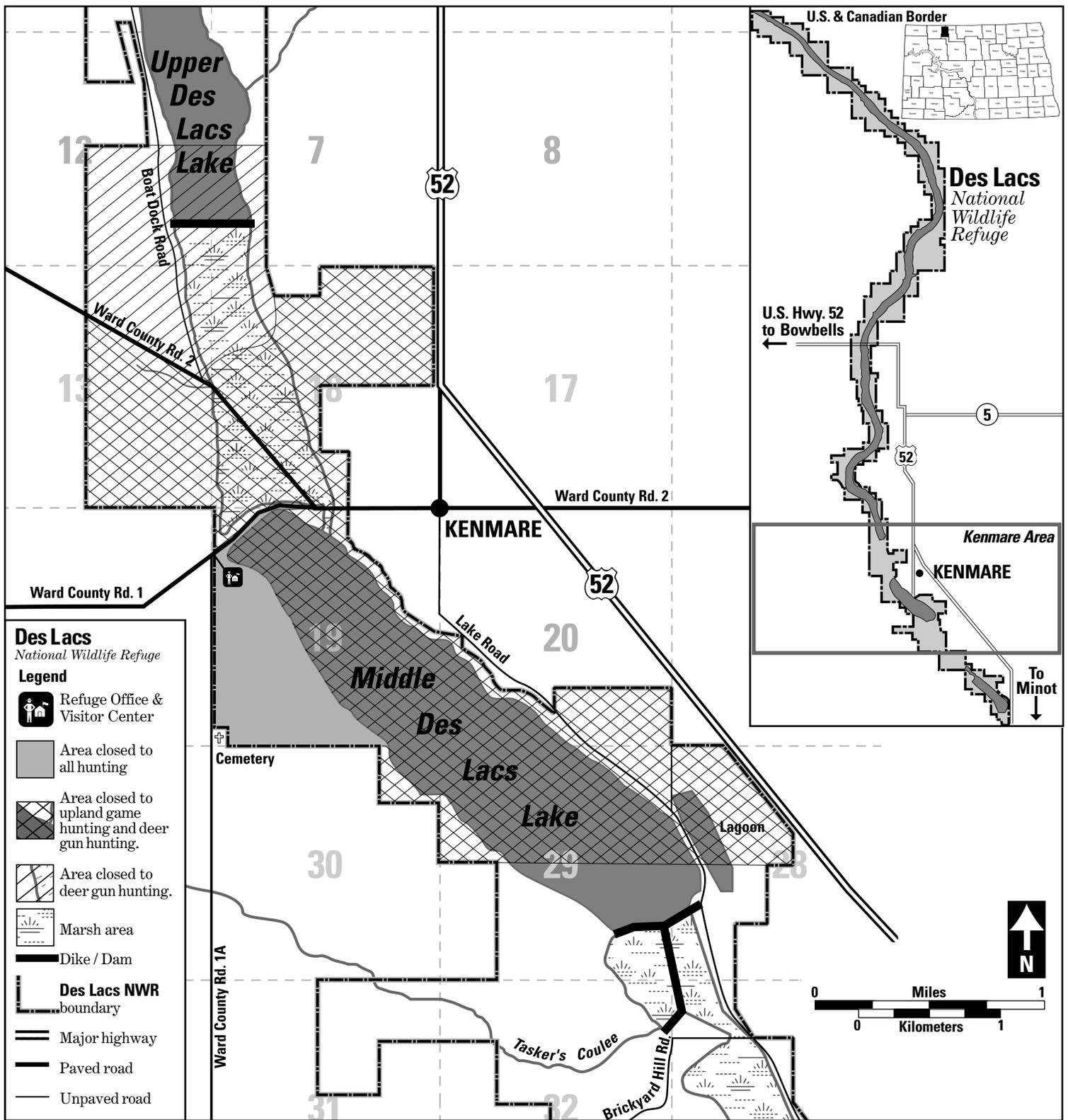
- Dates for youth gun deer hunting on the Refuge are set by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. The Refuge youth deer season closes the day before the State waterfowl season opens.
- Youth hunters must follow all State hunting regulations.
- Youth hunters must check into the Refuge office and visitor center before hunting on the Refuge.
- See map for areas closed to deer gun hunting.

Turkey Hunting on the Refuge

- Turkey hunting is permitted on the Refuge in accordance with State hunting regulations. Check State hunting regulations for exact dates.
- Turkey hunters must possess a State unit tag.
- Hunting on the Refuge with shotguns, muzzleloaders, and archery equipment is permitted.
- See map for areas closed to upland game hunting.

Upland Game Hunting on the Refuge

- Special late season upland game hunting opens on the first Monday following the close of State rifle deer season. Upland game hunting is permitted on the Refuge in accordance with State hunting regulations. Check State hunting regulations for exact dates.
- Pheasant, gray partridge, and sharp-tailed grouse may be hunted on the Refuge until the end of the State season.
- Cottontail rabbit, jackrabbit, snowshoe hare, and fox hunting seasons on the Refuge are open until March 31.
- Dogs are allowed for upland game hunting.
- See map for areas closed to upland game hunting.



Accessibility Information

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeks to provide persons with disabilities full accessibility or reasonable accommodation. Contact the staff at the Refuge office and visitor center for information or to address accessibility needs. For visitors using TTY, contact the North Dakota Relay Service at 1 800 / 366 6888.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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For Refuge Information 1 800 / 344 WILD
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