

# war horse

Three impoundments, Wild Horse Lake, War Horse Lake and Yellow Water Reservoir, comprise the War Horse National Wildlife Refuge. These three bodies of water are located near Winnett, Montana. The refuge lands were transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1958 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, under provisions of the Coordination and Conservation Act of 1934.

The upland habitat around the lakes is sage-brush/grasslands. Each year hunters take advantage of concentrations of waterfowl on War Horse Lake. Upland game birds, antelope and coyotes also provide hunters with additional opportunities near this refuge. When the ice goes out in spring, migrating bald eagles often concentrate on War Horse Lake to feed. The lake, when stocked, provides fishing opportunities for northern pike and large-mouth bass. Wild Horse Lake is an improved natural depression which holds water seven out of ten years. When the 900-acre lake holds water, it has a high waterfowl population and a considerable production of dabbling ducks. Yellow Water Reservoir, south of Winnett, Montana, is widely known for its rainbow trout, stocked by the State of Montana Fish and Game Department.

There are primitive pit toilets and a primitive small boat launching site at War Horse Lake and Yellow Water Reservoir.

*Common wildlife at War Horse Lake and Yellow Water Reservoir include:* horned grebe, eared grebe, white pelican, double-crested cormorant, Canada goose, mallard, gadwall, pintail, green-winged teal, red-tailed hawk, ferruginous hawk, golden eagle, American kestrel, sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, greater yellowlegs, lesser yellowlegs, California gull, ring-billed gull, great-horned owl, white-tailed jackrabbit, raccoon, coyote, pronghorn and mule deer.

## REGULATIONS:

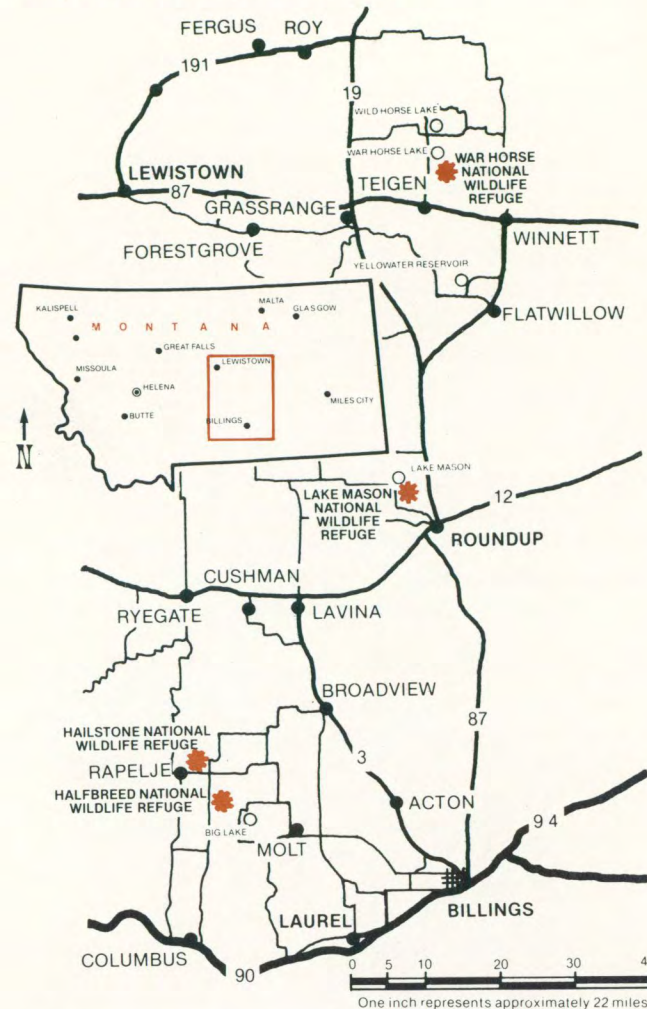
- *Help us keep costs down and keep these areas attractive - please take litter home.*
- *All plants and animals are protected — Molesting, disturbing, injuring, destroying or removing any plant or animal is prohibited (except legally taken game during established hunting or fishing seasons).*
- *Vehicle travel is restricted to established roads. Off-road travel is prohibited - it damages soil and destroys vegetation.*
- *Hunting and possession of firearms are prohibited except during prescribed seasons — ask for hunting information at refuge office.*
- *All other uses not expressly permitted are prohibited; when in doubt as to any regulation contact the refuge office.*

## Where to write:

Refuge Manager  
Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 110  
Lewiston, Montana 59457

With natural energy resources becoming more scarce, exercise good planning for your visit. Save gas now so that your children's children may visit these refuges and develop an understanding of these places of rest, food and cover for wildlife's sake!

**A FINAL REMINDER:** *The map provided is a guide. Stop locally and inquire about directions and road conditions. Roads are often impossible during winter months. We recommend that visitors to these refuges carry shovels, tire chains, emergency food and water, first aid kit and insect repellent. Due to the often intermingled Federal and private land patterns, BE SURE TO SECURE LANDOWNER'S PERMISSION BEFORE CROSSING PRIVATE LAND. Landowners are sensitive to use of their land. Leave gates as they are found and exercise courtesy.*



**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**  
Department of the Interior



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I 49.44/2: H 12/2  
hail-stone  
PAM FILE  
PAMPHLET FILE

half-breed

lake mason

war horse

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES**

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# hail-stone

This refuge is located in the Hailstone Basin approximately 35 miles west of Billings, Montana, and consists of 1,913 acres of Federal and 767 acres of private lands. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, by an Executive Order in 1942, created this refuge primarily as a breeding ground for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Hailstone Creek and its tributaries furnish the entire water supply for the 660-acre Hailstone Lake. The upland areas of the refuge are vegetated with sagebrush, greasewood and native grasses. Each year some cropland is planted with grasses to provide dense nesting cover. The refuge is closed to hunting and there are no public recreation facilities. Because of occasional dry spells there are no fish in the lake.

*Common wildlife species include:* horned grebe, eared grebe, white pelican, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, mallard, gadwall, green-winged teal, redhead, canvas-back, golden eagle, killdeer, American avocet, northern phalarope, Wilson's phalarope, California gull, ring-billed gull, black-tailed prairie dog and pronghorn.

# half-breed

The southernmost of the four refuges, Half-breed National Wildlife Refuge was also established by Executive Order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1942. It is approximately five miles south of Hailstone National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge was established primarily as a breeding and nesting area for migratory birds, but serves equally well for the protection of resident wildlife.

The refuge includes an excellent marsh and parts of two shallow lakes. Upland areas of the refuge are generally vegetated with sage-brush, greasewood, salt grass, western wheat-grass and foxtail barley.

The entire 3,096 acres of this perpetual easement refuge is under private ownership. **LANDOWNER'S PERMISSION MUST BE SECURED BEFORE ENTERING THE REFUGE.** The refuge is closed to hunting and there are no public recreation facilities. This refuge periodically affords opportunities to observe activities of the black-necked stilt.

*Common wildlife species include:* horned grebe, eared grebe, Canada goose, mallard, gadwall, blue-winged teal, sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, Gray partridge, spotted sandpiper, solitary sandpiper, greater yellowlegs, lesser yellowlegs, Baird's sandpiper, long-eared owl, short-eared owl, coyote and pronghorn.

# lake mason

The Lake Mason National Wildlife Refuge consists of Lake Mason, Lake Miller and several thousand acres of scattered lands along Flat Willow Creek. The 18,600-acre refuge was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt by Executive Order in 1941. The refuge is located approximately six miles northwest of Roundup, Montana.

Lake Mason is of great importance to waterfowl and upland birds as a production area and as a high quality migration rest stop. It has an excellent interspersed of emergent vegetation and marsh lands. Native shortgrass prairie uplands surround the lake. Along Flat Willow Creek riparian habitat predominates.

There are no public use facilities on the refuge. Of special interest at Lake Mason, are the upland areas north of the lake that are set aside for long-billed curlews. Black rails occasionally visit the area. The refuge is open to hunting and provides an excellent opportunity for photography with the scenic Snowy and Crazy Mountains as a backdrop.

*Common wildlife species include:* horned grebe, eared grebe, white pelican, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, mallard, gadwall, pintail, blue-winged teal, cinnamon teal, American wigeon, northern shoveler, redhead, canvasback, lesser scaup, ruddy duck, red-tailed hawk, marsh hawk, golden eagle, sage grouse, spotted sandpiper, willet, Baird's sandpiper, American avocet, California gull, ring-billed gull, short-eared owl, muskrat, mule deer and pronghorn.

As the sun slowly warms the earth on its annual journey northward, the shortgrass prairies of Central Montana come to life. The melodious song of the meadowlark, thumping ritual of the sage grouse and wingbeats of thousands of waterfowl fill the air. Set aside for wildlife habitat and stop-over staging areas, four refuges help provide for the needs of waterfowl and other wildlife in the short-grass region of Central Montana. These refuges are part of a system of over 390 National Wildlife Refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Because of intermingled Federal and private land-ownership, visitors to these refuges should be certain to obtain landowner's permission before crossing private land.