WELCOME

Welcome to North Platte National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). During your visit, you are invited to participate in several seasonal recreational activities; however, certain regulations are necessary to protect wildlife and to preserve the beauty of the area. Please take a moment to review the map and regulations contained in this leaflet. Your understanding of Refuge regulations will make your visit a safe and enjoyable one.

To provide undisturbed habitat during critical migration periods, units of the Refuge will be closed to all public entry as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>CLOSED TO PUBLIC ENTRY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Minatare</td>
<td>October 1 through January 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winters Creek</td>
<td>October 1 through January 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Alice</td>
<td>October 1 through May 15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

GENERAL INFORMATION

Wildlife observation, sight-seeing, hiking, and photography are permitted and encouraged, as are special group trips (school, scouts, etc.). Guided group tours may be arranged in advance.

Motor vehicles may be operated on designated roads only. Off road/trail vehicle use is prohibited to protect wildlife habitat.

All firearms, including bow and arrow, must be unloaded and cased or dismantled. Pets must be confined.

Any public access or activity not specifically described in this leaflet is not permitted. Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to: • open fires • littering • hunting

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Crescent Lake NWR
HC 68, Box 21
Ellsworth, NE 69340
308/762-4893
HISTORY & ENVIRONMENT

The North Platte NWR is located eight miles north-east of Scottsbluff in the Nebraska Panhandle. A satellite of Crescent Lake NWR, located 120 miles to the east, the 5,047 acre Refuge is superimposed over three Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs and consists of three units: Lake Minatare, Winters Creek, and Lake Alice.

The North Platte NWR was established by Executive Order under President Wilson on August 21, 1916. This Executive Order set aside the area as “a preserve and breeding ground for native birds.”

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife species using the Refuge are varied. As many as 20 bald eagles and over 200,000 waterfowl may concentrate on the Refuge during fall migration. A list of nearly 200 bird species observed on the Refuge since 1975 is available through the Refuge Manager. Mammals common to all Units include: raccoon, striped skunk, blacktail prairie dog, eastern fox squirrel, whitetailed deer, and eastern cottontail. Some of the fish species found in Refuge lakes include: walleye, crappie, yellow perch, goldeye, northern pike, white bass, catfish, and carp.

The Refuge is used primarily as a resting and feeding area for waterfowl and shore birds and, to a lesser extent, for waterfowl production. Other important uses include providing habitat for bald eagles and nesting waterbirds and offering a recreational program with activities compatible with the management of Refuge wildlife.
LAKE ALICE

The public is invited to participate in a number of outdoor activities between May 16 and September 30, during daylight hours only. From October 1 through May 15, the Unit is closed to all public entry in order to provide an undisturbed sanctuary during the critical migration and much of the breeding period.

ACCESS ZONING

Zone A (RED): The west half (see map), will remain closed to all public entry to provide undisturbed sanctuary of land and water for a variety of wildlife species.

Zone B (YELLOW): The north shore of the east half will be open to walk-in use. Motorized vehicles will not be permitted.

Zone C (GREEN): The remaining portion of the east half will be open to licensed motorized vehicles on authorized trails only.

All canals, canal roads, and other Bureau of Reclamation facilities are closed to public use.

The following recreational activities are allowed:

- Nature Observation
- Photography
- Hiking
- Bicycling
- Horseback Riding
- Picnicking
- Fishing
- Sailing
- Windsurfing
- Canoeing
- Rowboating (internal combustion engines prohibited)

Overnight camping and open fires are prohibited. Portable stoves and/or grills are permitted.

LAKE MINATARE

Lake Minatare is managed under a lease agreement with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as a State recreation area.

The public is invited to participate in a number of outdoor activities from January 16 through September 30. From October 1 through January 15, the Unit is closed to all public entry so as to provide an undisturbed sanctuary during the fall migration period.

Use of the facilities is allowed with the purchase of a park entry permit from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Fees are also collected for camping.

For further information concerning this area, contact: Lake Minatare State Recreation Area, Box 188, Minatare, NE 69356, or phone 308/783-2911.