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# NORTH PLATTE

National  
Wildlife  
Refuge



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Wood ducks

## 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:

UNIT	CLOSED TO PUBLIC ENTRY
Lake Minatare	October 1 through January 15
Winters Creek	October 1 through January 15
Lake Alice	October 1 through May 15

## 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.

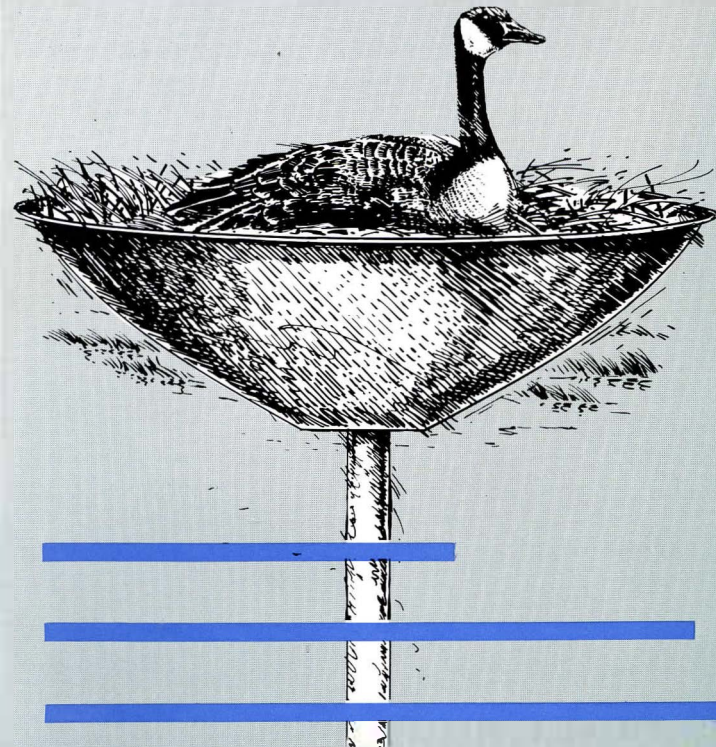
Motor vehicles may be operated on designated roads only. Off road/trail vehicle use is prohibited to protect wildlife habitat.

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

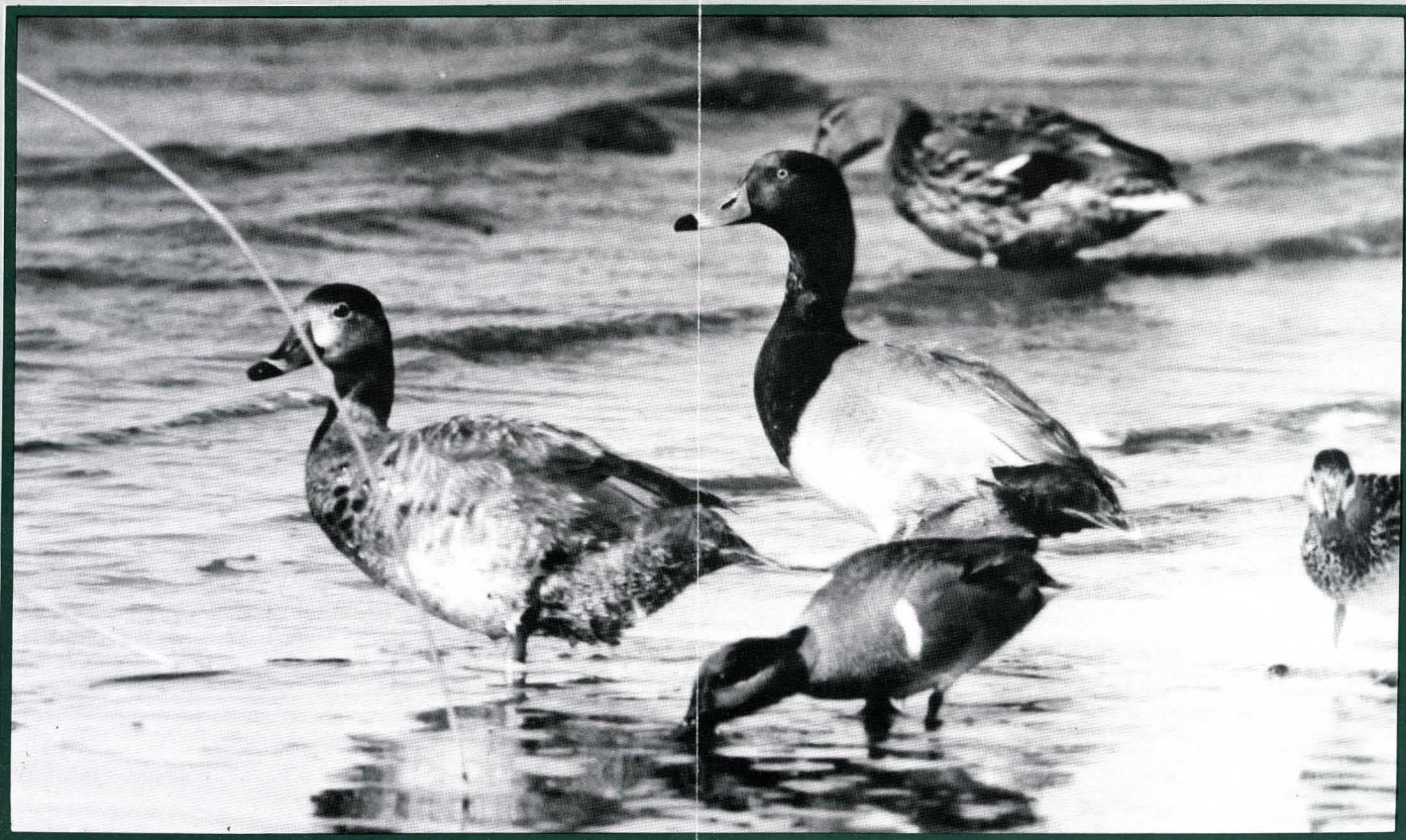
Any public access or activity not specifically described in this leaflet is not permitted. Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to: • open fires • littering • hunting

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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



Canada goose in nesting basket - a common sight on the Refuge



Spring migrants, a pair of redhead ducks. Photo by Kent Olson.

## 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, white-tailed 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.

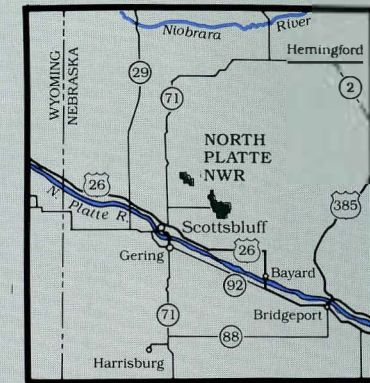
The Refuge is used primarily as a resting and feeding area for waterfowl and shore birds and, to a lesser extent, for waterfowl production. Other important uses include providing habitat for bald eagles and nesting waterbirds and offering a recreational program with activities compatible with the management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

# NORTH PLATTE National Wildlife Refuge

## Scottsbluff, Nebraska

### LEGEND

-  Refuge Units Boundaries
-  Public Roads
-  Canals



### WINTERS CREEK LAKE

The northeastern upland sites, along with the north portion of the Lake (shown in red on map), will remain closed to all public entry to provide an undisturbed sanctuary of land and water for a variety of wildlife species. The remaining portion of the Unit will be open for the following activities from January 16 through September 30 during daylight hours:

- Nature Observation • Photography • Hiking • Fishing • Canoeing • Rowboating (internal combustion engines prohibited)

Overnight camping and open fires are prohibited.

### 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.

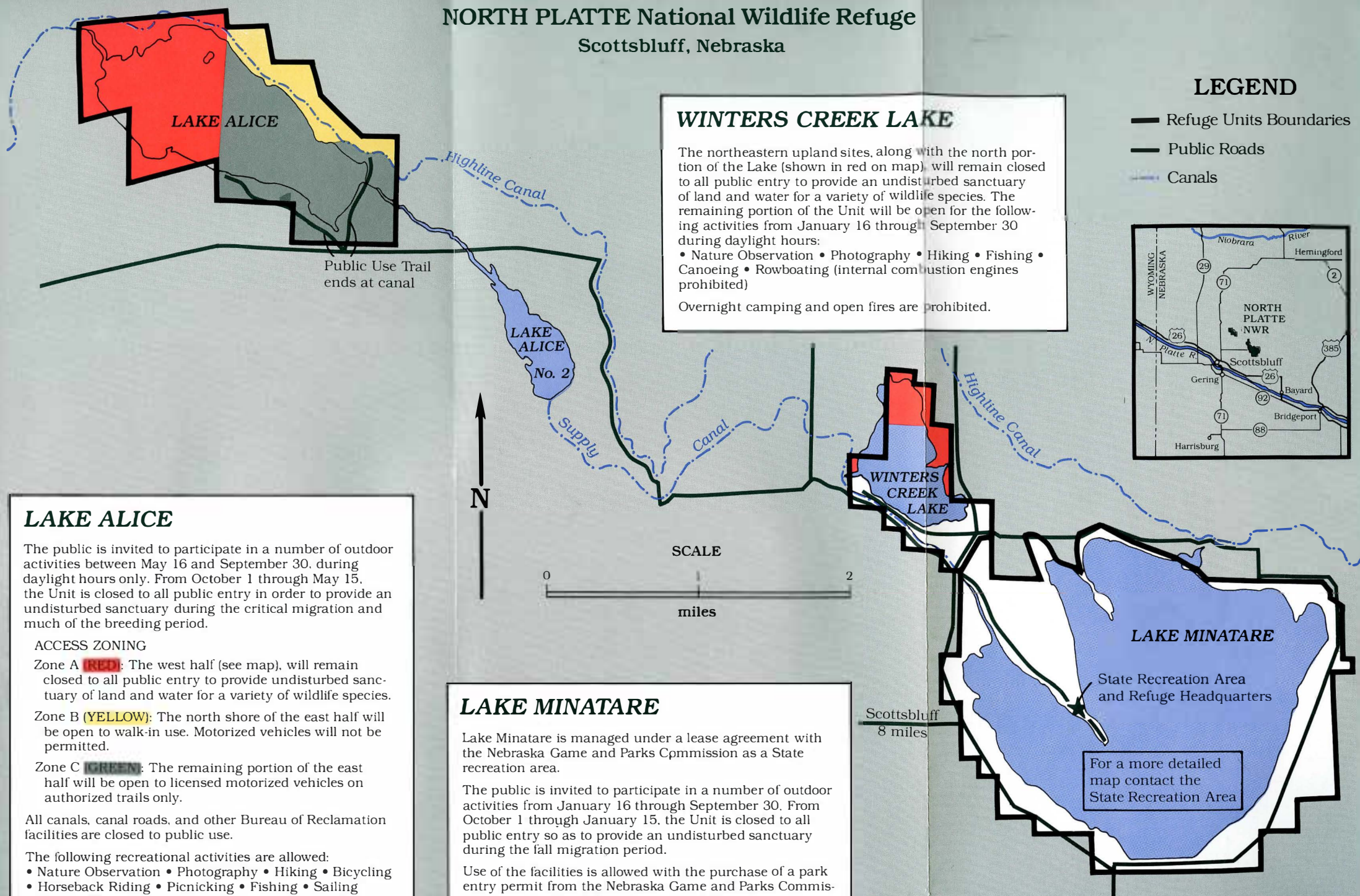
### LAKE MINATARE

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

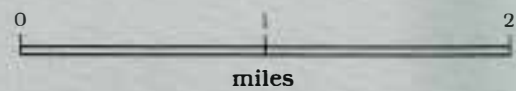
The public is invited to participate in a number of outdoor activities from January 16 through September 30. From October 1 through January 15, the Unit is closed to all public entry so as to provide an undisturbed sanctuary during the fall migration period.

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.



#### SCALE



Scottsbluff  
8 miles

LAKE MINATARE  
State Recreation Area  
and Refuge Headquarters

For a more detailed map contact the State Recreation Area

U.S. FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Department of the Interior

