

September 6, 2016
NEWS RELEASE

**Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area and National Wildlife Refuge
Trapping Auction Scheduled For
Wednesday, October 5, 2016**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be holding a public trapping auction at the Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center, N7725 Hwy 28, Horicon, WI 53032 on Wednesday, October 5, 2016. Doors will open at 5 p.m. to allow trappers the opportunity to ask questions and review information. The auction will begin promptly at 6 p.m. USFWS and DNR personnel will then review trapping seasons and regulations, unit boundaries, special conditions/restrictions pertaining to each individual unit, trapping reports, as well as other information with the successful bidders.

The DNR will be offering 10 wetland units during the 2016-17 trapping season. An additional unit will be set aside for any interested youth (between the ages of 12 to 17) or disabled trapper (must possess a disabled hunting permit). Upland trapping permits will also be available, at no charge, to anyone interested and possessing a valid trapping license. The trapping season for all wetland, dike, and upland units on Horicon State Wildlife Area will run from October 29, 2016 through March 15, 2017. Interested trappers are encouraged to scout the units prior to the auction and may do so, by foot or boat, at any time.

The USFWS will have 11 dike/marsh units for bid at the auction. In addition, upland trapping will be offered to any interested trapper, at no charge. One unit will be available at no charge to any interested youth. One unit will also be set aside for any senior or trapper with a disability through a random drawing. Two trappers will be randomly drawn for trapping in this area, at no charge. The drawing will be held at the auction. Trappers do not have to be present at the drawing. Seniors must be 62 years of age or older, youth must be between the ages of 12 and 17, and trappers with disabilities must have a disabled hunting permit from the DNR.

For all units including dike, marsh, and upland the trapping season will be as follows;

****Must Follow State Regulations Start Dates for Specific Species****

Upland

Upland Units Open **Oct 15- March 31**

**Water sets are allowed starting Oct 22*

Dike

Dike Units Open **Oct 22- March 31**

**Trappers are restricted to 25 yards into the marsh from where the water meets the dike.*

Marsh

Marsh Units Open **Dec 1- March 15**

The Refuge will be open on Monday, October 3 and Tuesday, October 4, daylight hours only, to all trappers who wish to scout the areas of the Refuge that will be open to trapping. Interested trappers must obtain a permit at the Refuge Office/Visitor Center off of County Road Z (W4279 Headquarters Road, Mayville, WI 53050) before accessing the units. Scouting permits can be picked up weekdays starting Sept.26 through Oct. 4.

All USFWS and DNR trapping units will be sold to the highest bidder with a limit of one unit per trapper. Bidders must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the auction. Trappers who are bidding must be present at the auction and will be required to make full payment at that time. The USFWS will accept payments by check, money order, debit card, or credit card. No cash will be accepted. The DNR will only accept checks or cash. Both the USFWS and the DNR reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

More details of the 2016/2017 Horicon Marsh trapping season for both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource's State Wildlife Area can be found at

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Horicon/visit/visitor_activities.html and
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/horicon/recreation.html>

Please contact Chris Cole, DNR Wildlife Technician at (920) 210-1641 or Sadie O'Dell, USFWS Wildlife Biologist (920) 387-2658 x 114 if you would like to obtain bidding conditions, trapping rules and regulations, or any other information for Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area or Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, respectively.