

Upper Mississippi Conservation Area Waterfowl Hunting Information



General Information:

The Upper Mississippi Conservation Area includes federal lands along the Mississippi River north of St. Louis, Missouri. It consists of 87 separate tracts totaling 12,500 acres lying between the Melvin Price Lock and Dam and LaGrange, Missouri. These tracts are managed for wildlife purposes under permits granted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For information on Mississippi River Pools 24, 25 and 26 contact the Missouri Department of Conservation Staff at the Upper Mississippi Conservation Area in Elsberry, Missouri

Missouri Department of Conservation
Box 201
Elsberry, MO 63343
573-898-5905

Waterfowl Hunting Procedures:

Most tracts of land in the Upper Mississippi Conservation Area are designated as either **Open** or **Restricted** waterfowl hunting areas.

In general, hunting is permitted by statewide regulations in open areas. In restricted areas, hunters must hunt in accordance to the information provided in this document.

There are a few tracts that do not fit into either of these categories. For example, the 500 acre Clarksville Refuge is a tract located just upstream from Clarksville,

Missouri. No hunting or firearms are permitted within this refuge and it is closed to all public use from October 15 to the end of the prescribed duck season each year. Also, there are several small public use and public access sites that are closed to hunting.

Open Waterfowl Hunting Areas:

Blinds may be constructed without site restrictions but they may not be locked. Blinds unoccupied at one-half hour before legal shooting time may be used by the first hunter to arrive. No structures other than blinds, boat concealments and decoy lockers are permitted.

Restricted Waterfowl Hunting Areas:

Designated blind sites are allocated by a system of registration and drawing established by the Department of Conservation. Blind sites are registered to hunters for a period of two consecutive waterfowl seasons. Hunters are required to hunt within 10 yards of the blind site. Hunters may use permanent blinds, boat blinds, or temporary blinds.

Blind registrants may list up to three co-registrants.

Blind sites not occupied at one-half hour before legal shooting time may be used by the first hunter to arrive.

Drawing and Registration Procedures:

Effective in May 2016, all blind draws for the Upper Mississippi Conservation Area restricted waterfowl hunting zone will be conducted electronically and biennially (every other year).

For detailed information on the online blind drawing process go to: <http://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/waterfowl/waterfowl-where-hunt/upper-mississippi-ca-online-blind-drawing>

Requirements to Apply

All applicants need to have the proper permits, a conservation ID number, an email address, and a phone number to register.

Permit requirements

- All applicants must be at least 16 years old
- If you are between age 16 and 64 you are required to have a current annual Resident or Nonresident Small Game Hunting Permit and a Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit (available March 15)
- If you are Missouri resident age 65 or over, or a disabled veteran, you only need to have a Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit

Blind Options:

In Restricted Areas, hunters have three blind options, permanent blind, boat blind, or temporary blind. Permanent blinds may only be constructed by the primary or co-registrants at their drawn blind site.

Hunters must hunt within ten (10) yards of the blind site marker. There are no required specifications for blinds in Open or Restricted Areas. Only native vegetation may be used as camouflage material (Johnson grass and Phragmites are strictly prohibited). Only willows may be cut from Upper Mississippi Conservation Area or any other Conservation Area.

Other Information and Regulations

- Blind registrants from the previous seasons shall have until June 15th to remove the blind from their site. Any blinds or blind building materials left on sites after this date shall be made available to the current blind site registrants.
- Structures other than usable blinds, boat concealments, dog platforms and decoy boxes are prohibited.
- Commercially operated blind sites are not permitted.
- Blind sites may not be sold or leased.
- Decoys may be left out at all times.
- Permanent blinds may not be locked.
- In Restricted portions of Upper Mississippi Conservation Area waterfowl may be hunted only from designated blind sites during the regular duck and Canada goose seasons. These restrictions do not apply during early teal, early Canada goose seasons, and Light Goose Conservation Order.