

Lac qui Parle

GOOSE HUNTING GUIDE

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Welcome to the 2018 edition of the Lac qui Parle Goose Hunting Guide. Our goal is to provide hunters with “one stop shopping” on information necessary for an enjoyable goose hunting experience. This guide is specific to the Lac qui Parle State Game Refuge and Controlled Hunting Zone (CHZ). In 2014, the migration was measured in days rather than weeks, as heavy snowfall and intense, sustained cold caused most geese to fly past Lac qui Parle without stopping (peak count was only 7,500 geese). In 2015, goose numbers peaked at 37,000 in late November. Last year (2017), the goose count peaked during late November again, but only at 22,000. In the last few years, geese seem to be showing a tendency to cycle in and out of the refuge so that numbers do not build up to the levels observed during the late 1980’s, 1990’s and 2000’s (see Table 1).

Important notes regarding the Lac qui Parle CHZ and blinds:

- The portion of state land north of Chippewa County Road 33 and east of Chippewa County Road 32 is no longer part of the CHZ and is posted as strictly State Wildlife Management Area - Open to Public Hunting. Pit blind 88 (see insert map) remains available for goose hunting but all other blinds have been removed from this area.
- Stubble straps are installed on all pit blinds and useful for concealing the blinds.
- Pit blinds 49 and 110 may be temporarily unavailable due to standing water in the blind (high water table). When these blinds contain water, optional above ground blinds will be located next to the pits.

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Lac qui Parle CHZ from Oct. 18-Dec. 26.

- Hunters must use designated hunting stations on a first-come, first-served basis. No registration or fee required. No need to check-in at headquarters.
- Hunters are limited to one trip to the blinds before noon, and one trip after noon, per day.
- Hunters are limited to 12 shells per trip in possession.
- Waterfowl and small game hunters must have guns unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of assigned hunting stations.
- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any designated CHZ parking lot or occupy any hunting station from 10 PM to 5 AM.
- No more than one hunting party, consisting of no more than three hunters, may occupy any hunting station at one time.
- The hunting and taking of migratory waterfowl is limited to a distance within 10 feet of each designated hunting station, except hunters may retrieve downed birds away from a posted station if they comply with all other refuge and trespass regulations.
- On public lands, dogs must be on a leash except within 10 feet of stations or while retrieving, and must be under control at all times.
- All persons occupying a hunting station must meet all license requirements to hunt waterfowl in Minnesota.
- No person may leave any refuse, offal or feathers on public lands in the controlled hunting zone or in any parking lot on the management area.

- No alcoholic beverages may be consumed or possessed at any of the hunting stations on public lands.
- No person may loiter between the designated hunting stations on public lands.
- On public lands, after each party member has bagged a limit of Canada geese or expended their limit of shells, the party must promptly leave the station. *Promptly* is defined as “within one hour”.
- No trailers of any kind are allowed in designated parking lots.

General Rules for the Controlled Hunting Zone

- ✓ Be courteous - arrive at your hunting station before the geese start moving, morning and evening.
- ✓ No “sky busting” or taking long distance shots at birds out of range. Not only does this behavior contribute to wounding loss but also conditions geese to fly higher and to avoid hunting blinds.
- ✓ NO LITTERING! Please remove all trash, including empty shotgun shells.
- ✓ It is permissible to drop off your gear and decoys at the nearest approach or road ditch closest to the blind, but you must promptly move your vehicle to the designated parking area.
- ✓ DO NOT DRIVE YOUR VEHICLE TO THE HUNTING BLINDS. This applies even if a field road or trail is already established. The mowed walking paths to the blinds are for your convenience and are not meant for motorized vehicles.

IMPORTANT - Blind Closures During the 9-Day Firearm Season - Due to safety concerns, the following blinds are closed during the 9-day firearm deer season (Nov 3-11): 56, 59-61.

Waterfowl hunters must wear the appropriate amount of blaze orange (page 32 of Hunting and Trapping Regulation Handbook) during the firearm deer season (including muzzleloader) when walking to and from hunting blinds. Hunters may remove blaze orange once they reach the stationary hunting blind.

Tips and general information on designated hunting blinds.

Fifty-one (51) goose hunting blinds are located around the refuge and controlled hunting zone perimeter. Two blind types are available - below ground pits and above ground. The different blind types and corresponding numbers are noted per the insert maps found in this guide. All blinds are spaced at least 200 yards apart and all are numbered. Mowed trails lead to blinds located in grassland cover.

Below ground pits - Pits are the most popular with hunters. We have 17 pit blinds (including #88) located either on cropland edges or in cropland. They are concrete bunkers five feet wide by 12 feet in length with benches, central gun rack and small shelf. A metal ladder is used for access in and out of the blind. The blind covers can flip open from either side and have stubble straps that can be used to help conceal the blind --- just add your own stubble.

On pit blinds 101, 105 and 106. You will find two covers - a *fast grass* flip open cover and then the interior blind covers. Open the flip covers and then remove and place the interior covers in the blind while hunting. Replace all blind covers when done hunting.

A few tips:

1. Although below ground, these blinds are not invisible to geese. Take time to “stubble up” the blind cover and immediate area around the blind. Pick up empty shells outside. Keep your head down and wear face paint on sunny days. Open only the blind covers you need.
2. Consider bringing “fast grass” blind material to cover openings, as geese may flare due to the shadow effect.
3. Use a cart for hauling decoys or extra gear.
4. A small propane heater can make December hunts more comfortable.
5. Dogs may find the pit blinds intimidating the first time. Bringing your own dog blinds is an option to consider.



Above Ground Pits –Simple wooden cribbing wrapped in an oval shape. Some are located along cropland so decoy use is possible but others are strictly pass-shooting in nature.

A few tips:

1. Bring chairs.
2. Bring camo netting or take the time to cut surrounding vegetation and stubble up the cribbing. Try to match the surrounding vegetation.
3. Keep your head down and avoid moving as birds are approaching.
4. Be patient - let geese beyond effective range fly overhead without disturbance. “Sky busting” only encourages the next flocks to fly higher.







Blinds for Hunters with Disabilities - Blinds 48, 56, 61, and 104 have been designed wheel-chair accessible and are available for goose hunters who possess a valid permit to ***Hunt From Standing Motor Vehicle***. Valid permit holders are allowed to drive to the blind to drop off hunters and gear but one person must move the vehicle to the nearest designated parking area. Please exercise caution when driving to these blinds during periods of rain.

Blind 56 has a plywood pad, while blind 48 has a concrete pads. Each is surrounded by wooden cribbing. Blinds 61 and 104 are concrete bunkers with vegetation covered soil mounded up on three sides, and open at one end for access by wheel chairs. All blinds support the use of decoys. Guests of the permit holder may hunt but no more than three hunters are allowed.




Please note these blinds are available to the general public if not occupied by a hunter with disabilities; the general public is not allowed to drive to the hunting blinds.

OVERVIEW MAP




Lac Qui Parle Controlled Hunt Goose Blind Locations

-  Controlled Hunting Zone Boundary
-  Refuge Boundary
-  Sanctuary Boundary Sept - March
-  Sanctuary Boundary Year Round


Controlled Hunt Zone Blinds

-  Controlled Hunt Above Ground Blind
-  Controlled Hunt Pit Blind
-  Wheelchair Accessible Blinds

Parking Areas

-  Parking Lot - Gravel
-  Parking Lot - Natural/Grass Surface
-  Parking Lot - Paved



DNR Office

-  Headquarters Building




Public Waters Basins

-  Public Waters Basins

Public Watercourses

-  Public Water Watercourse
-  Public Ditch/Altered Natural Watercourse

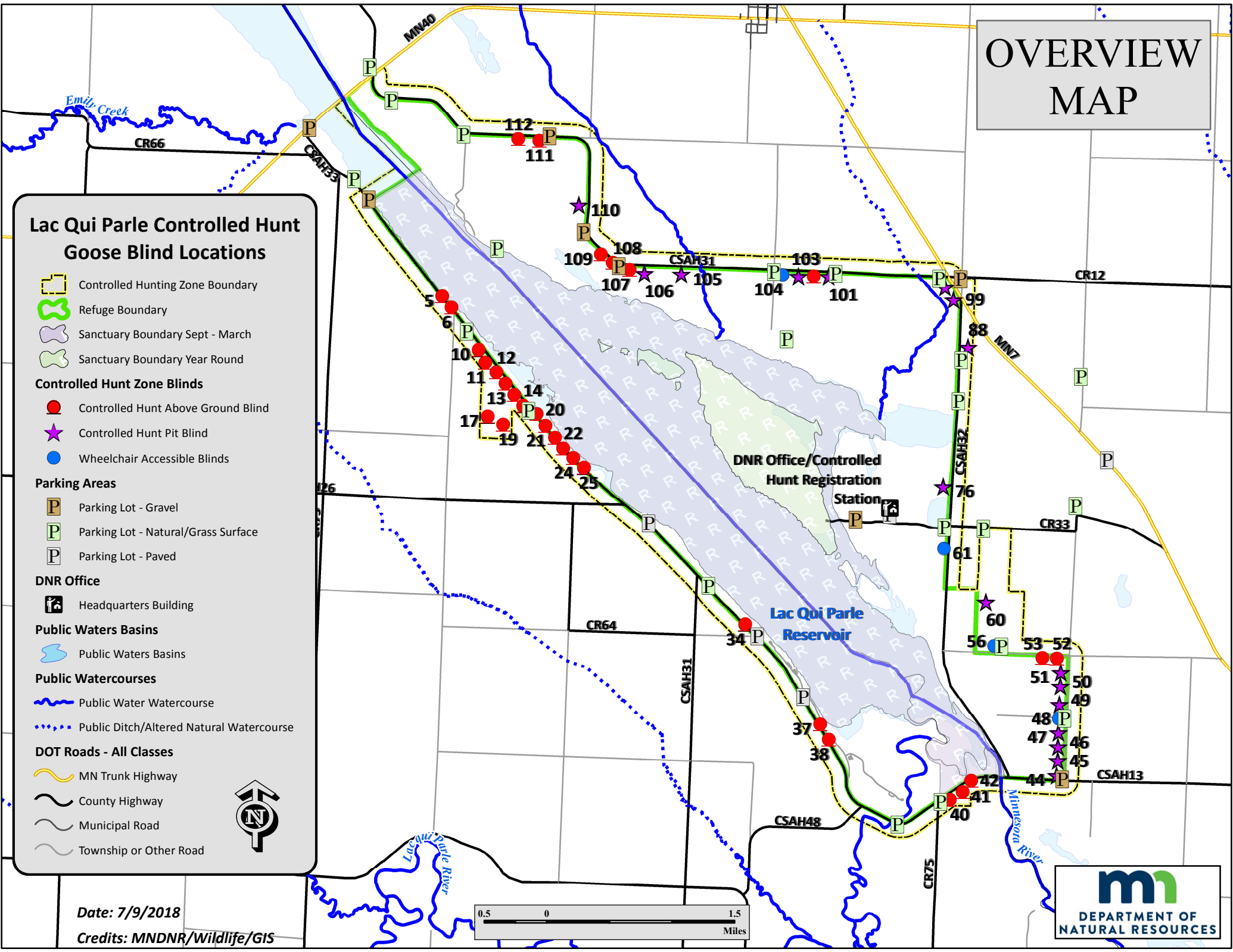
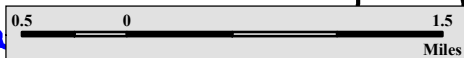
DOT Roads - All Classes

-  MN Trunk Highway
-  County Highway
-  Municipal Road
-  Township or Other Road





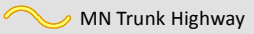


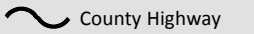


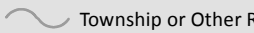









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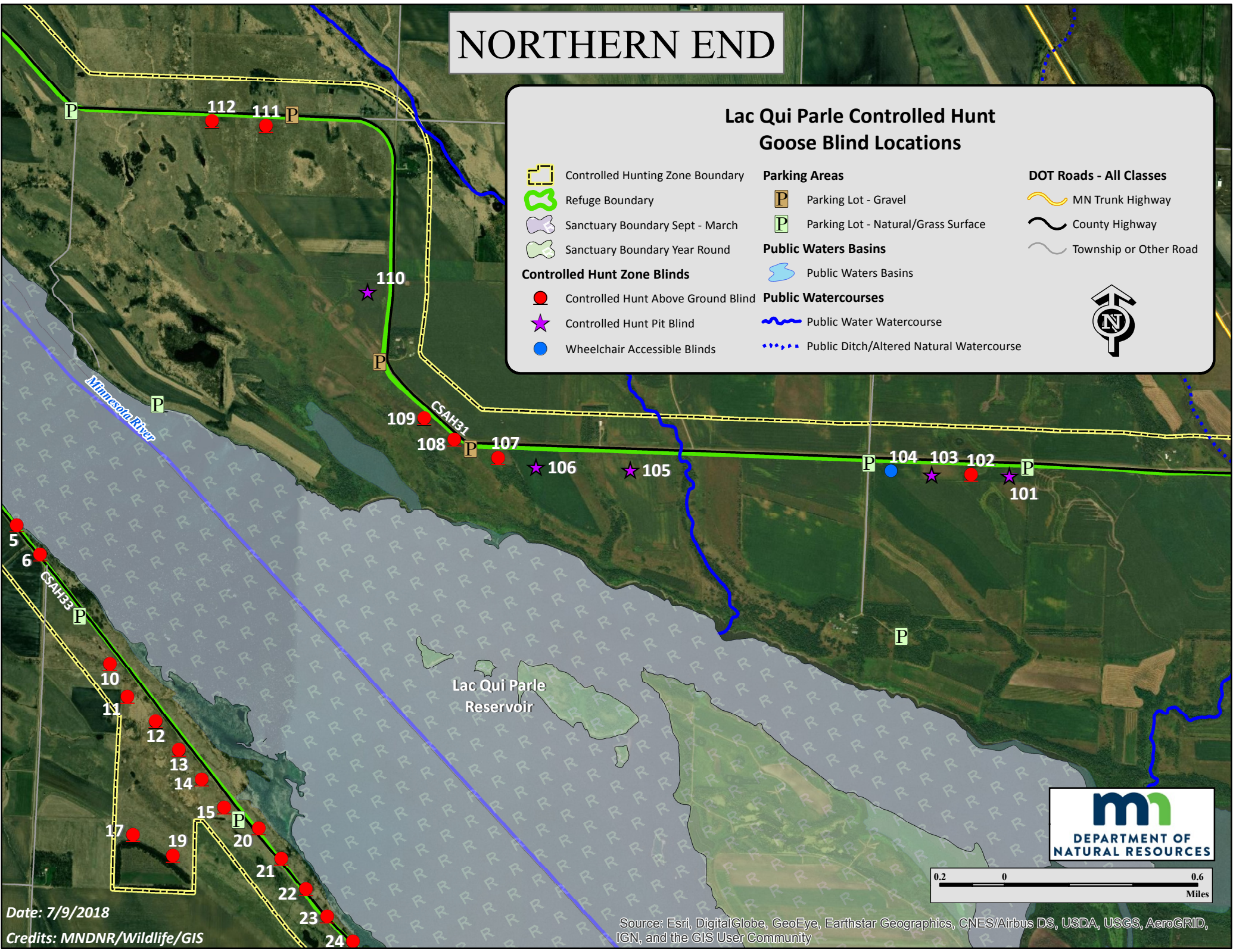
Credits: MNDNR/Wildlife/GIS



NORTHERN END

Lac Qui Parle Controlled Hunt Goose Blind Locations

	Controlled Hunting Zone Boundary		Parking Lot - Gravel		MN Trunk Highway
	Refuge Boundary		Parking Lot - Natural/Grass Surface		County Highway
	Sanctuary Boundary Sept - March		Public Waters Basins		Township or Other Road
	Sanctuary Boundary Year Round		Controlled Hunt Above Ground Blind		Public Water Watercourse
	Controlled Hunt Above Ground Blind		Controlled Hunt Pit Blind		Public Ditch/Altered Natural Watercourse
	Controlled Hunt Pit Blind		Wheelchair Accessible Blinds		
	Wheelchair Accessible Blinds				







Date: 7/9/2018

Credits: MNDNR/Wildlife/GIS




Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

NORTHEAST CORNER




Lac Qui Parle Controlled Hunt Goose Blind Locations

-  Controlled Hunting Zone Boundary
-  Refuge Boundary
-  Sanctuary Boundary Sept - March
-  Sanctuary Boundary Year Round


Controlled Hunt Zone Blinds

-  Controlled Hunt Above Ground Blind
-  Controlled Hunt Pit Blind
-  Wheelchair Accessible Blinds


Parking Areas

-  Parking Lot - Gravel
-  Parking Lot - Natural/Grass Surface
-  Parking Lot - Paved



DNR Office

-  Headquarters Building




Public Waters Basins

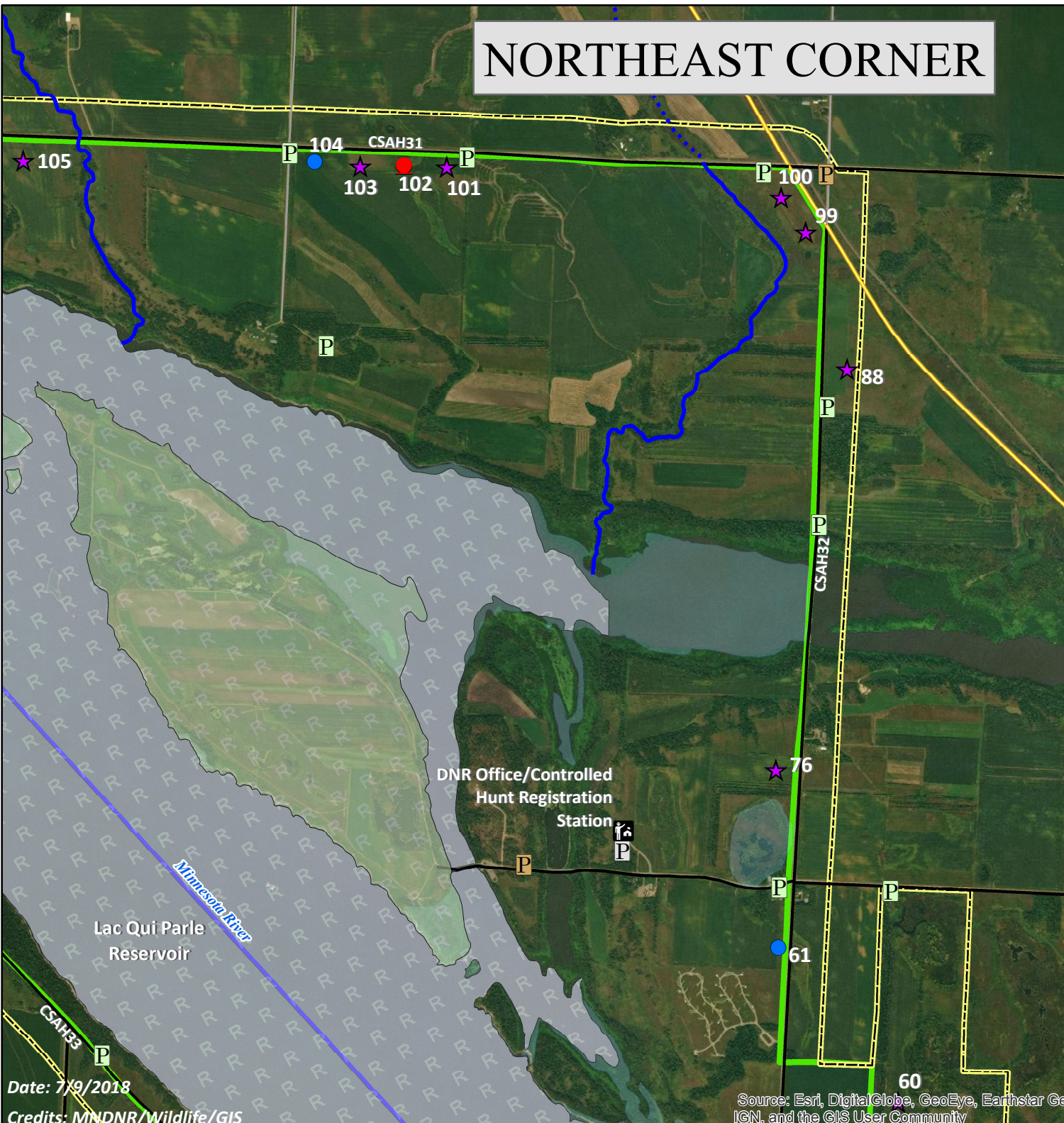
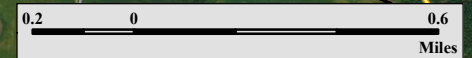
-  Public Waters Basins

Public Watercourses

-  Public Water Watercourse
-  Public Ditch/Altered Natural Watercourse

DOT Roads - All Classes

-  MN Trunk Highway
-  County Highway
-  Township or Other Road


















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SOUTHEAST CORNER

Lac Qui Parle Controlled Hunt Goose Blind Locations

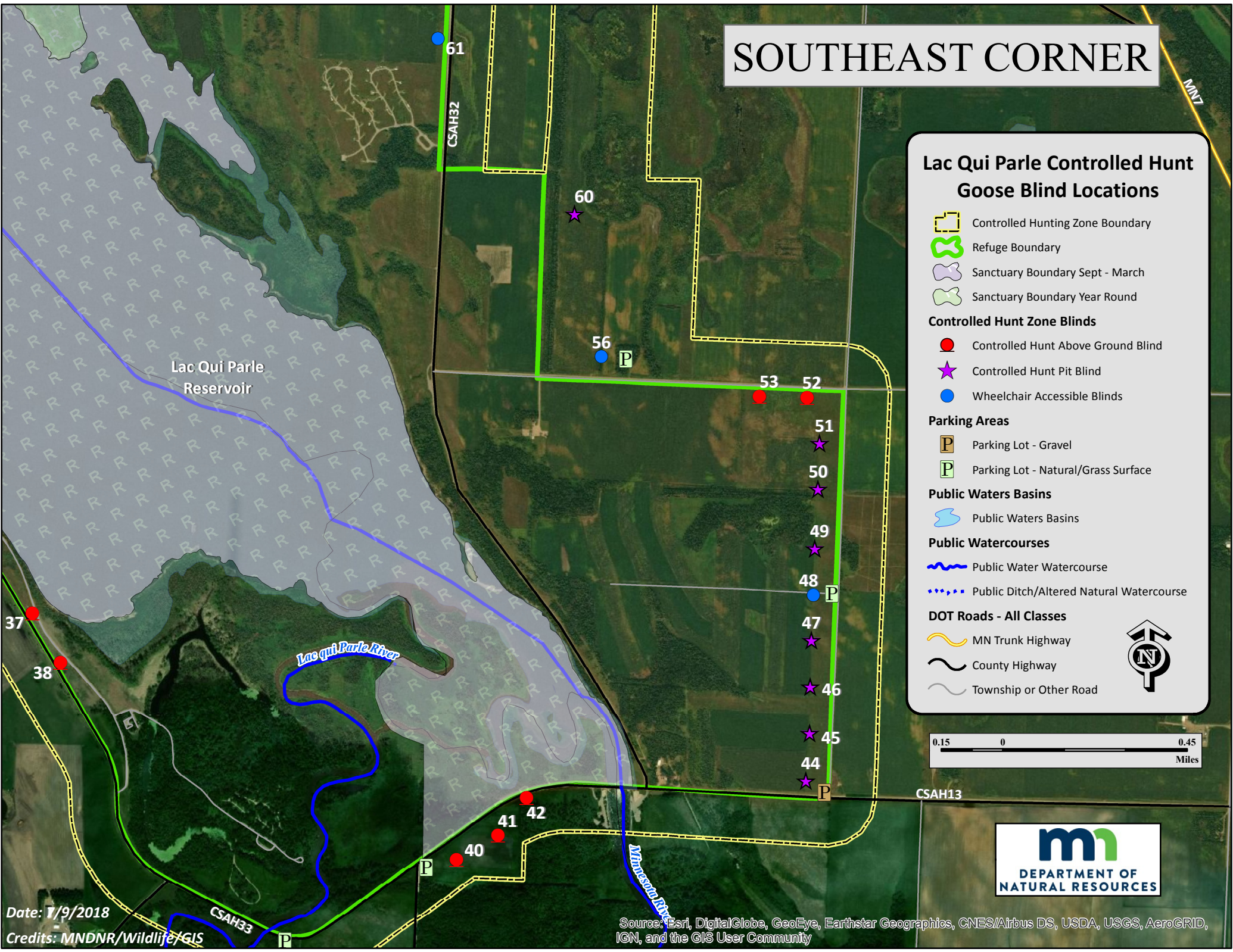
-  Controlled Hunting Zone Boundary
-  Refuge Boundary
-  Sanctuary Boundary Sept - March
-  Sanctuary Boundary Year Round
- Controlled Hunt Zone Blinds**
-  Controlled Hunt Above Ground Blind
-  Controlled Hunt Pit Blind
-  Wheelchair Accessible Blinds
- Parking Areas**
-  Parking Lot - Gravel
-  Parking Lot - Natural/Grass Surface
- Public Waters Basins**
-  Public Waters Basins
- Public Watercourses**
-  Public Water Watercourse
-  Public Ditch/Altered Natural Watercourse
- DOT Roads - All Classes**
-  MN Trunk Highway
-  County Highway
-  Township or Other Road



Date: 7/9/2018

Credits: MNDNR/Wildlife/GIS

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



SOUTHERN END

Lac Qui Parle Controlled Hunt Goose Blind Locations

- Controlled Hunting Zone Boundary
- Refuge Boundary
- Sanctuary Boundary Sept - March
- Sanctuary Boundary Year Round

Controlled Hunt Zone Blinds

- Controlled Hunt Above Ground Blind
- Controlled Hunt Pit Blind
- Wheelchair Accessible Blinds

Parking Areas

- Parking Lot - Gravel
- Parking Lot - Natural/Grass Surface
- Parking Lot - Paved

Public Waters Basins


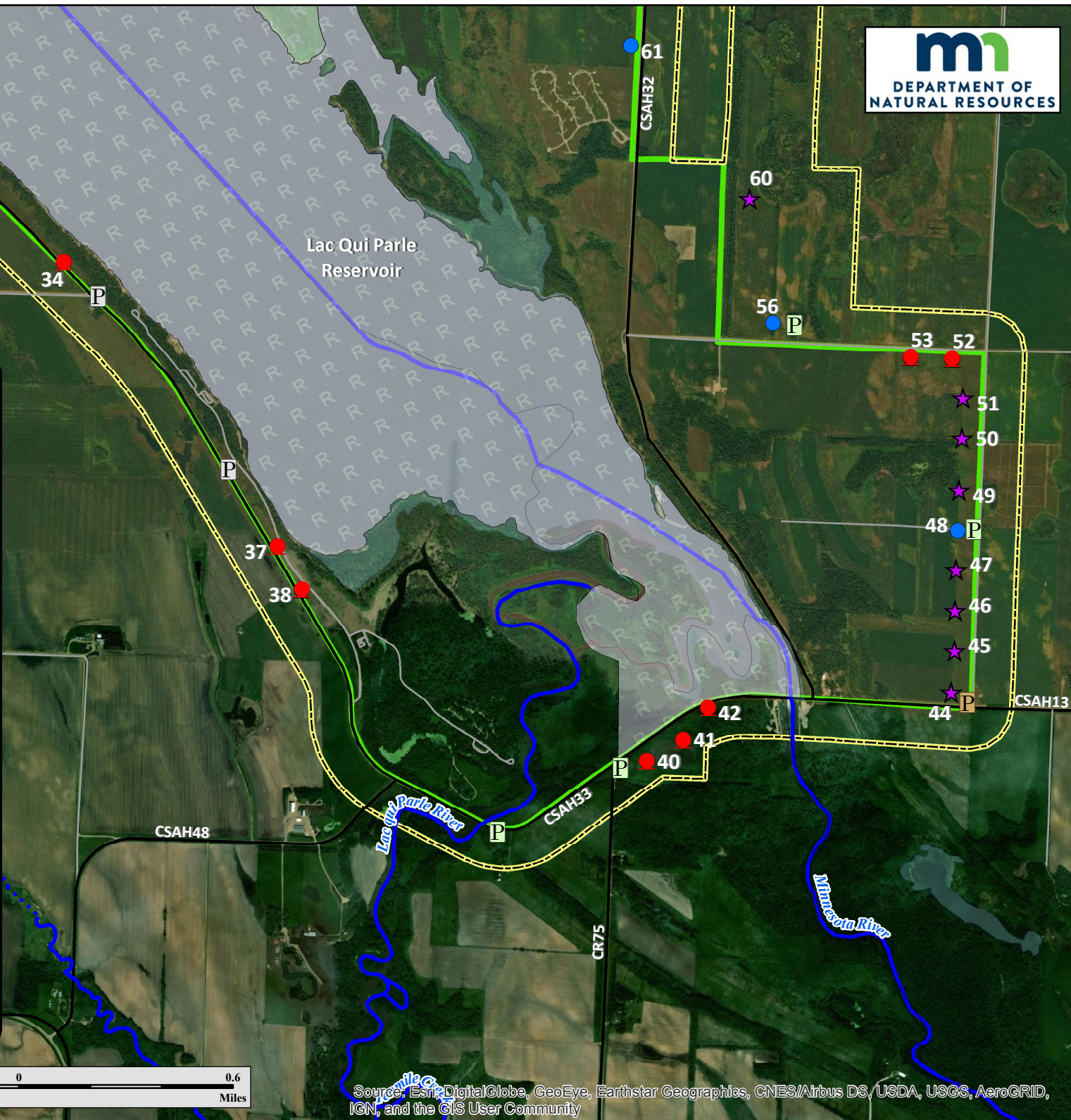
- Public Waters Basins

Public Watercourses

- Public Water Watercourse
- Public Ditch/Altered Natural Watercourse

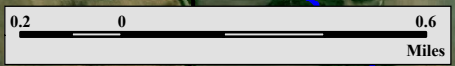
DOT Roads - All Classes

- County Highway
- Township or Other Road

Date: 7/9/2018

Credits: MNDNR/Wildlife/GIS



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

WESTERN SIDE



Lac Qui Parle Controlled Hunt Goose Blind Locations

- Controlled Hunting Zone Boundary
- Refuge Boundary
- Sanctuary Boundary Sept - March
- Sanctuary Boundary Year Round

Controlled Hunt Zone Blinds

- Controlled Hunt Above Ground Blind
- Controlled Hunt Pit Blind
- Wheelchair Accessible Blinds

Parking Areas

- Parking Lot - Gravel
- Parking Lot - Natural/Grass Surface
- Parking Lot - Paved

DNR Office

- Headquarters Building

Public Waters Basins

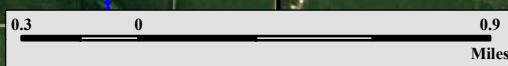
- Public Waters Basins

Public Watercourses

- Public Water Watercourse
- Public Ditch/Altered Natural Watercourse

DOT Roads - All Classes

- MN Trunk Highway
- County Highway
- Township or Other Road



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Field hunting over decoys - Nothing is more exciting than watching Canada geese dropping into your decoys feet down and fully committed.

The following blinds support the use of decoys. These blinds are either located on a cropland field edge or surrounded by cropland as noted below. (Current year's crops listed).

Above Ground Blind 40 - field edge, cover

Above Ground Blind 41 - field edge, cover

Above Ground Blind 48 - (wheel chair accessible) field edge, corn

Above Ground Blind 56 - (wheel chair accessible) field edge, linear shrub row, corn east and soybeans west

Above Ground Blind 61 (wheel chair accessible) - field edge, soybeans

Above Ground Blind 102 - field edge, narrow strip of corn with soybeans beyond

Above Ground Blind 104 (wheel chair accessible) - surrounded by cropland, corn

Below Ground Pit Blind 44 - field edge, soybeans

Below Ground Pit Blind 45 - field edge, corn

Below Ground Pit Blind 46 - field edge, corn

Below Ground Pit Blind 47 - field edge, corn

Below Ground Pit Blind 49 - field edge, corn

Below Ground Pit Blind 50 - field edge, soybeans

Below Ground Pit Blind 51 - field edge, soybeans

Below Ground Pit Blind 60 - surrounded by cropland, soybeans

Below Ground Pit Blind 76 - surrounded by cropland, soybeans

Below Ground Pit Blind 88 - field edge, alfalfa field (note: blind is outside the controlled hunting zone)

Below Ground Pit Blind 101- surrounded by cropland, corn

Below Ground Pit Blind 103- field edge, mowed native grasses, soybeans beyond

Below Ground Pit Blind 105 - new blind in 2014 - surrounded by cropland, soybeans

Below Ground Pit Blind 106 - surrounded by cropland, corn

Below Ground Pit Blind 110 - surrounded by cropland, soybeans

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the best time to hunt geese on the refuge? In general, goose abundance is highest from mid-November thru the second week in December but can vary widely. In recent years peak goose counts have occurred around the Thanksgiving holiday.

How can I find out how many geese are on the refuge? Waterfowl migration reports are posted on the DNR website each week and the Lac qui Parle WMA report will reference goose numbers. Or, hunters can call the Lac qui Parle Wildlife office for an automated recording on number of geese present. Dial 320-734-4451 and **Press 3** to reach the **Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area and then Press 1.**

Can I bring my daughter or son into the blind if they are not hunting? Yes, this is allowed but no more than three hunters may occupy a hunting station at one time.

Can I enter the refuge or sanctuary to retrieve a goose? Yes, but you need to keep your firearm back at the blind or it must be unloaded and cased. We recommend you make retrieval efforts immediately. You may take your dog.

Can I hunt waterfowl outside the designated hunting blinds? No, all waterfowl hunting is restricted to within 10 feet of the designated hunting blinds for the entire waterfowl season.

Can we use layout blinds? Yes, but they need to be within 10 feet of the designated hunting blind. So, you could use a layout blind if situated adjacent to pit or above ground blind.

When does pheasant hunting open on the refuge and in the controlled hunting zone? December 1st. Prior to December 1 pheasant hunting is restricted to the designated hunting stations.

I am in my hunting blind and a rooster pheasant flies by, can I shoot it? Yes, small game hunting is also allowed from the designated hunting blinds but you must be licensed for hunting pheasants and it must be after 9 AM. Shells expended count toward your 12 shell limit. Please exercise caution as other hunting blinds exist to your right and left in many cases. Just remember that you may not possess any lead shot while hunting waterfowl.

What areas are closed to hunting? The Lac qui Parle State Park, Mission Site, Rosemoen Island, and portions of the refuge posted with "State Wildlife Sanctuary - Do Not Trespass" signs, are closed to hunting. See page 106 of Hunting and Trapping Regulation booklet for more information.

We hunted out of the water blinds in the Watson Sag. This area is now outside the controlled hunting zone. Can we still hunt this area? Yes, this area is now posted as Wildlife Management Area and statewide regulations apply. You can hunt anywhere as designated water blinds no longer exist. Outboard motors are allowed between Chippewa County Road 32 and Hwy 7 and 59. East of Hwy 7 and 59 is non-motorized.

Hunting December Geese - With the advent of the longer regular goose seasons, we now have opportunities to hunt geese into late December. The number of geese on the refuge in December varies widely (see Table 1) and abundance is related to the amount of snow cover and sustained cold.

Hunting geese in December can offer both challenges and rewards. While there may be good numbers of birds and hunting pressure is light, birds are generally decoy shy and weather conditions can be brutal.

Goose behavior changes when ice is on the lake. During open water periods geese typically leave the refuge to feed twice daily, morning and late afternoon. Once ice forms on the lake, geese tend to feed only once typically in late afternoon. Days with clear skies, light wind and temperatures well below freezing are difficult as geese will most likely roost on the ice and not leave until almost sunset. Geese tend to move earlier on days with cloud cover and strong winds. The best decoy hunting can occur on days with cloud cover, wind and a dusting to a few inches of snow. Again the above applies when ice is on the lake.

Tracking the Goose Migration - The Lac qui Parle State Game Refuge has over a 40 year tradition of conducting weekly goose counts. Goose counts are conducted by two DNR staff members separately counting geese from select vantage points around the refuge. Each staff keeps their own tally on number of geese observed and at the end of the survey the numbers are averaged. Counts are taken at mid-day to increase the likelihood geese are back from feeding and preferably on days with little wind so the geese are loafing comfortably on the water.

The “bread and butter” Canada goose at Lac qui Parle has always been what we refer to as the Eastern Prairie Population (EPP). These medium sized geese nest in Manitoba along Hudson Bay’s west coast. Traditionally, these geese developed a strong stop-over affinity for a few sites during the fall migration. Most noticeably Oak Hammock Marsh in Manitoba, Lac qui Parle State Game Refuge in Minnesota, and Swan Lake in Missouri.

Canada goose migration has changed over the past 40 years. Take a close look at the numbers and you’ll note a few trends: (1) Geese are arriving on the refuge almost a month later. (2) Peak counts are a month later. (3) In recent years, peak counts have dropped below 100,000 Canada geese. The bottom line is Canada geese are spending more time in Manitoba during the fall months and when they do migrate south, the geese are spread throughout much of Minnesota.

Definitions for the weekly periods are found at the end of Table 1. For example, a count during the third week of October (Oct. 3) would have been taken any day between and including 15 thru 23 October.

Table 1. Weekly Canada goose counts, Lac qui Parle Refuge, 1975-2015.

Week	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	Mean
Mid-Winter ^a		1,000		3	0				12,000	20	2,605
Sept. 3		12,000	7,500	5,000	10,000		3,000	11,500	9,000	3,500	7,688
Sept. 4		20,000	7,600	20,000	16,000	17,600	14,000	25,000		30,000	18,775
Oct. 1	49,000	35,000	45,000	42,000	52,000	49,000	42,000	45,000	24,000	73,000	45,600
Oct. 2	53,500	48,000	50,000	70,000	48,000	62,850	60,500	64,000	55,000	78,000	58,985
Oct. 3	58,000	30,000	58,000	70,000	49,000	53,000	71,000	68,000	68,000	65,000	59,000
Oct. 4	60,000	44,000	63,000	75,000	48,000	55,000	79,000	80,000	63,000	55,000	62,200
Nov. 1	72,000	65,000	60,000	66,500	50,000	53,000	70,000	80,000	63,000		64,389
Nov. 2	70,000	50,000	50,000		61,000	40,000	55,000	80,000	62,000		58,500
Nov. 3		44,000	50,000	55,000			48,000	41,000	30,000	70,000	48,286
Mid-Dec ^b									16,000	60,500	38,250

Week	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	Mean
Mid-Winter ^a	17,000	7,000	9,650	30,000	7,500	18,600	6,450		12,500		13,588
Sept. 3	6,900	2,000	6,800	4,000	735	940	5,000			3,600	3,747
Sept. 4	25,000	5,500	41,000		40,000	16,500	25,000	18,000	7,500	8,750	20,806
Oct. 1	58,500	50,000	65,000	66,500	74,000	96,000	41,000		33,000	15,000	55,444
Oct. 2	65,000	68,000	60,000	112,000	97,750		50,000	38,500	60,000	25,000	64,028
Oct. 3	50,000	67,500	73,000	95,000	143,500	88,000	110,500		84,000	40,000	83,500
Oct. 4	45,000	75,000	80,000			100,000		71,000		87,000	76,333
Nov. 1	45,000	83,000			158,000			85,000	123,000	87,000	96,833
Nov. 2	75,000			72,000							73,500
Nov. 3	75,000	150,000	70,000						70,000		91,250
Mid-Dec ^b	6,500		70,000			68,500		61,300	21,600	51,595	46,583

Week	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Mean
Mid-Winter ^a	23,500	38,250	8,250	60,900	11,200	28,500	500	9,000	111,200	45,000	33,630
Sept. 3	8,000				5,000	500	500	100	500	400	2,143
Sept. 4		12,800		4,000	8,500	1,000	8,300	200	5,000	1,600	5,175
Oct. 1	30,000		4,000	19,000	40,000	2,500	20,000	5,000	25,000	2,400	16,433
Oct. 2	35,000	47,800	11,000	37,000	40,000	13,700	32,000	30,000	18,100	12,500	27,710
Oct. 3	131,000		47,550	42,000	88,000	23,000	56,200	68,000	45,000	18,000	57,639
Oct. 4		47,700	100,000	64,000	105,000	23,000	90,000	91,000	70,000	20,000	67,856
Nov. 1		115,000	125,000	100,000	105,000	30,000	120,000	147,000	112,000	20,000	97,111
Nov. 2		70,000		104,000	105,000	154,500	136,000	147,000	150,000	90,000	119,563
Nov. 3	150,000		92,500	95,400	91,000	154,500	150,000	147,000	150,000	114,000	127,156
Mid-Dec ^b	75,250	18,000	51,800	32,500	105,200	3,000				100,000	55,107

Week	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Mean
Mid-Winter ^a	11,500	18,400	80,000	51,000	8,500	15,000	11,000	73,000	1465	830	27,070
Sept. 3	300	500	400	300	300	300	200	300	300	300	320
Sept. 4	3,400	1,000	5,000	300	300	300	450	500	300	300	1,185
Oct. 1	3,400	5,000	5,000	300	800	500	2,000	2,000	300	300	1,960
Oct. 2	5,800	50,000	7,500	2,800	2,250	2,500	2,600	3,800	1,500	500	7,925
Oct. 3	24,500	83,000	21,000	15,000	10,000	4,500	16,000	3,800	7,000	1,300	18,610
Oct. 4	28,000	97,000	60,000	54,500	10,000	7,500	16,000	7,300	14,500	1,300	29,610
Nov. 1	36,000	97,000	108,000	71,600	42,500	30,000	22,000	11,000	20,000	1,300	43,940
Nov. 2	117,000	120,000	108,000	122,000	44,000	30,000	35,000	48,600	41,000	6,000	67,160
Nov. 3	117,000	135,000	120,000	128,000	44,000	65,000	40,000	48,600	47,000	7,000	75,160
Nov. 4	112,000	120,000	120,000	128,000	57,000	72,000	75,000	58,000	56,000	1,150	79,915
Dec. 1						81,000	75,000	75,000	56,000	450	57,490
Dec. 2						16,500	75,000	65,000	27,500	450	36,890
Dec. 3 ^b	20,000	75,000	30,000		75,000	11,000	75,000	20,000	1,700	450	34,239
Dec. 4						11,000	63,250	400	1,200	450	15,260

Table 1 continued.

Week	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Mean
Mid-Winter ^a	360	6	118								183
Sept. 3	200	300									200
Sept. 4	200	300									200
Oct. 1	400	300									400
Oct. 2	600	500									600
Oct. 3	1,500	500									1,500
Oct. 4	2,600	900									2,600
Nov. 1	4,500	1400									4,500
Nov. 2	5,900	2500									5,900
Nov. 3	19,500	11500									19,500
Nov. 4	37,000	11500									37,000
Dec. 1	9,400	11500									9,400
Dec. 2	2,200	7200									2,200
Dec. 3 ^b	150	2500									150
Dec. 4	65	125									65

Numbers in italics denote averages (2-3 counts during the same time period) otherwise we normally use the highest count for the weekly period.

^aMid-winter survey held the week of 1-7 January. To track changes in winter goose use, you need to look at the Mid-December count and then the Mid-Winter count for the next year.

^bThe week/period "Dec. 3" (12-18 December) closely matches the historic period for the Mid-December goose survey. The mid-December goose survey was officially cancelled in 1998. December weekly counts were initiated in 2010 which was the year the 85-day regular seasons began.

Time Period Definitions:

Sept. 3 = September 17 thru September 23

Sept. 4 = September 24 thru September 30

Oct. 1 = October 1 thru October 7

Oct. 2 = October 8 thru October 14

Oct. 3 = October 15 thru October 23

Oct. 4 = October 24 thru October 30

Nov. 1 = October 31 thru November 6

Nov. 2 = November 7 thru November 13

Nov. 3 = November 14 thru November 20

Nov. 4 = November 21 thru November 27

Dec. 1 = November 28 thru December 4-

Dec 2 = December 5 thru December 11

Dec. 3 = December 12 thru December 18

Dec. 4 = December 19-December 25

Mid-Dec - 11-17 Dec

Mid-Winter - 1-7 Jan

[We thank Bret Amundson from Minnesota Sporting Journal for use of copyrighted photos]