

THIEF LAKE

Wildlife Management Area

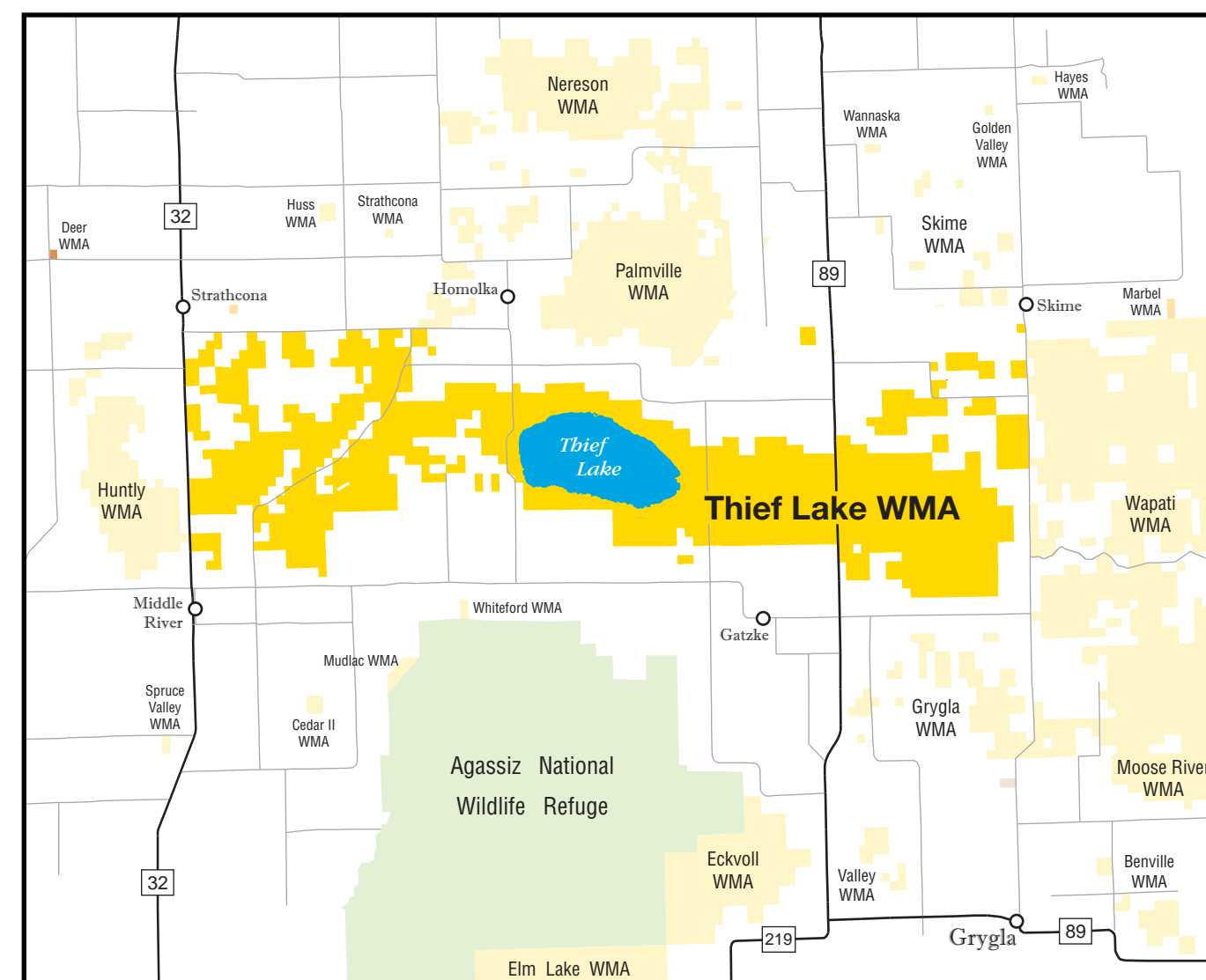
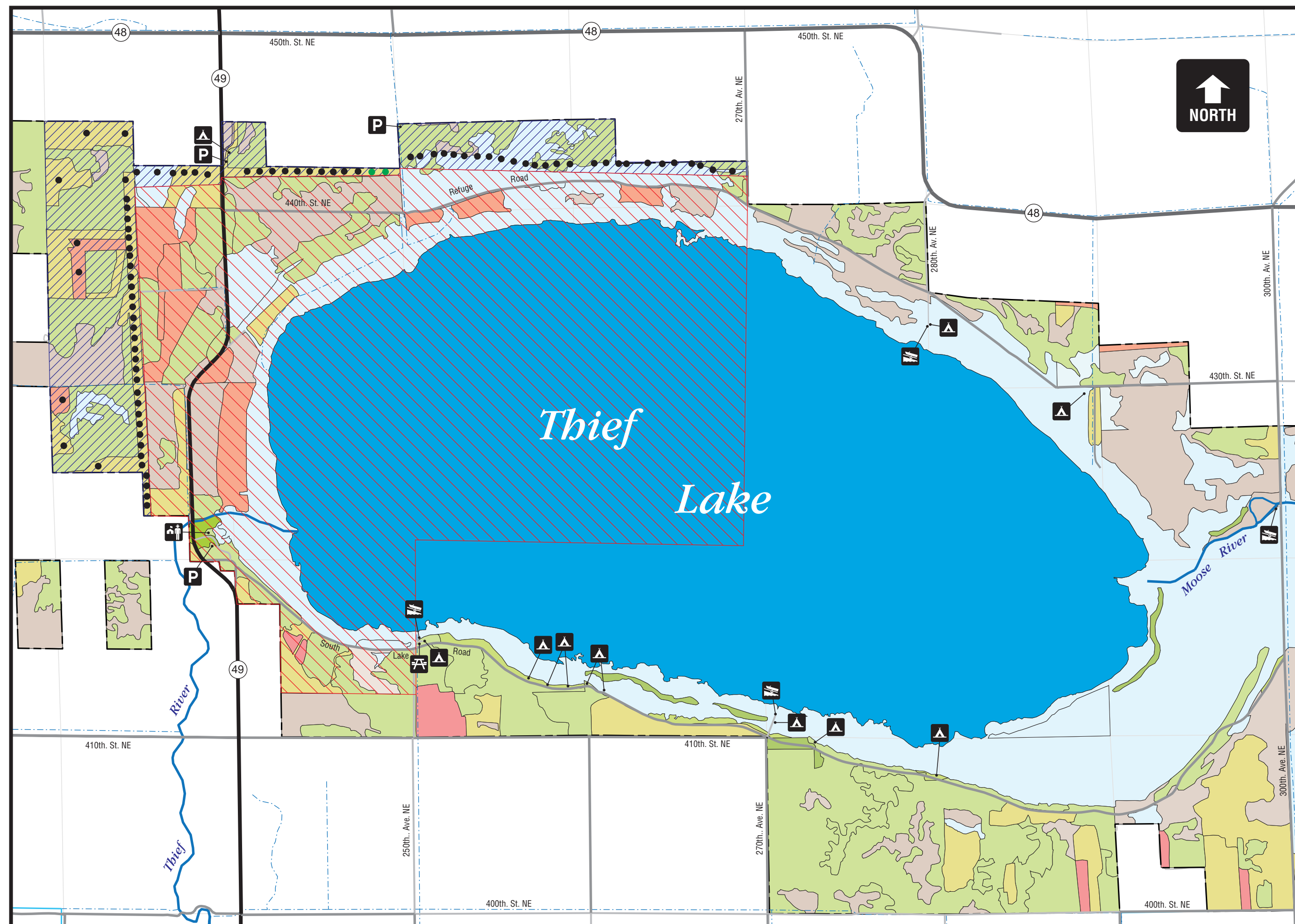


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Department of Natural Resources

Controlled Hunt Zone (CHZ):

A complete listing of CHZ rules is found in the Waterfowl Supplement, which is published annually. The following rules apply to all waterfowl hunters in the CHZ, and small game hunters from the opening of the regular waterfowl season to the Tuesday nearest October 22:

- Hunters must use designated stations on a first come, first served basis.
- 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.
- Hunters must have guns unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of the hunting stations.
- Selected blinds will be posted closed during the early September Goose season because of their proximity to water.
- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any designated CHZ parking lot or hunting station from 10 pm to 5 am.
- Several blinds have been modified to allow hunting by persons with disabilities. Qualifying hunters should contact the headquarters for details.

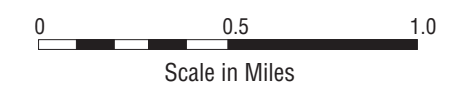


Other Wildlife Management Areas in the Thief Lake Work Area:

While Thief Lake is the largest WMA in the work area, a total of 13 WMAs totaling 115,000 acres are managed from this office. These include the Wapiti (32,000 acres) and Grygla (3300 acres) WMAs to the east and south, which are home to the Grygla elk herd; Palmville WMA (15,000 acres) to the north of the lake which includes a large rich fen; and Nereson WMA (9500 acres) to the north of Palmville which includes two 500 acre impoundments, along with several smaller areas.

LEGEND

	County State Aid Highway (paved)		Upland Deciduous Trees
	County State Aid Highway (gravel)		Upland Coniferous Trees
	Township Road		Lowland Deciduous Trees
	Other Road		Lowland Coniferous Trees
	WMA Headquarters		Upland Brush
	Camping Permitted		Lowland Brush
	Picnic Area		Grass-Open Land
	Parking		Cropland
	Boat Launch		Emergent Wetlands
	Hunting Blind		Open Water
	Accessible Hunting Blind		
	Controlled Hunt Zone		
	Sanctuary		



For More Information:
Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area
 42280 240th. Avenue NE
 Middle River, MN 56737
 Phone: 218-222-3747 (Area Headquarters Office, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Mon. - Fri.) FAX: 218-222-3746

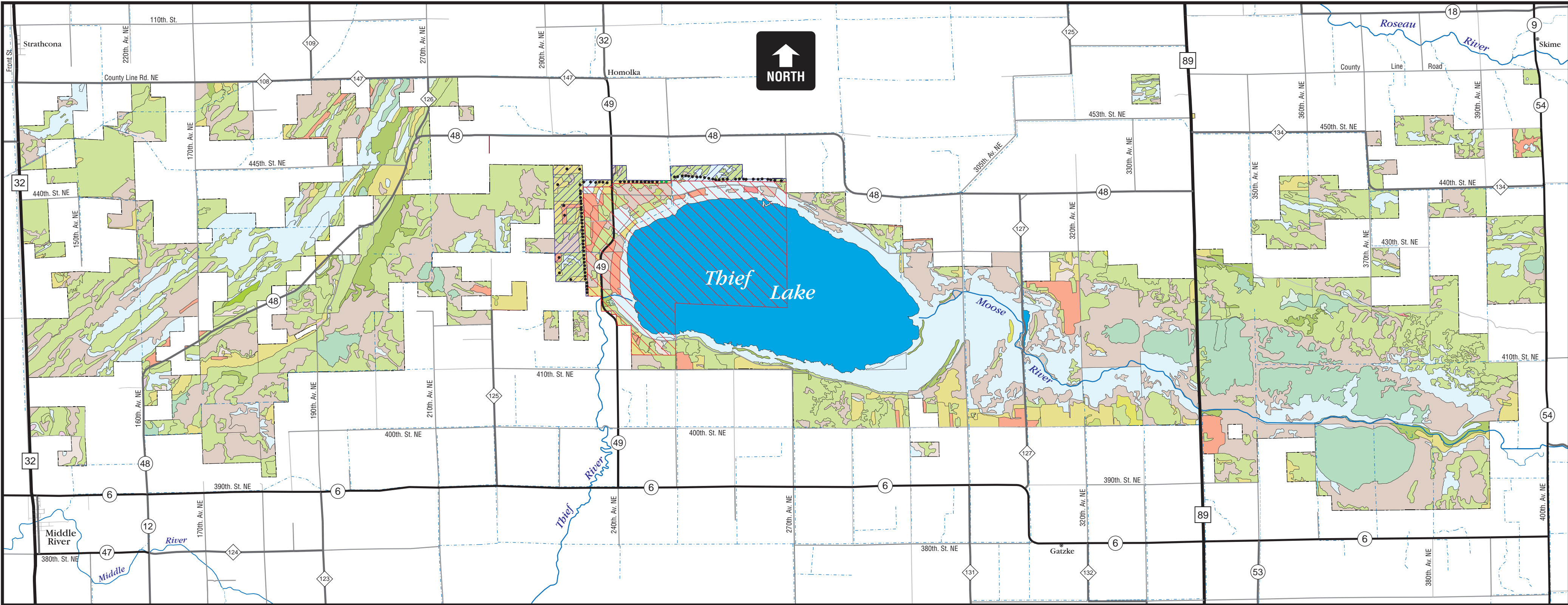
Northwest Regional Office
 2115 Birchmont Beach Road, NE
 Bemidji, MN 56601
 Phone: 218-308-2651 (Wildlife Regional Office)
 FAX: 218-755-3181

Division of Fish & Wildlife, Operations Section
 500 Lafayette Road Box 20
 St. Paul, MN 55155
 Phone: 651-259-5200 (Division Office)
 FAX: 651-297-4961

Information Center
 500 Lafayette Road
 St. Paul, MN 55155
 Phone: 651-296-6157 (Metro Area)
 MN Toll Free: 1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367)

TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf)
 Phone: 651-296-5484 (Metro Area)
 MN Toll Free: 1-800-657-3929

www.mndnr.gov



About Thief Lake WMA
Size: 55,000 acres **Year Created:** 1931

Location:
 Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area (TLWMA) is a public WMA located in north-eastern Marshall County, Minnesota, approximately midway between the cities of Thief River Falls and Roseau. Nearby towns include Middle River (southwest of the WMA), Strathcona (northwest of the WMA), Wannaska (northeast of the WMA) and Gatzke (south of the WMA). The headquarters for the area is located approximately thirteen miles northeast of Middle River, just off of Marshall County Highway 49 (240th Avenue). From Middle River, follow Marshall County 6 east of town ten miles, then take Marshall County 49 north three miles. The TLWMA Headquarters is on the east side of the road just south of the bridge over the Thief River.

Wildlife Management:
 Minnesota's Wildlife Management Areas are administered by the Department of Natural Resources to perpetuate and reestablish, if necessary, quality wildlife habitat for the maximum production of a variety of wildlife species. Recreational public use of the areas is managed in a manner that is consistent with the purpose of Wildlife Management Areas. Habitats on the areas are managed using a variety of methods including water level management, prescribed burning, mechanical treatment such as brush shearing and mowing, farming and timber harvest. Wetlands, brushlands, forests and fields are managed and maintained to provide a diversity of habitats to meet the requirements of a variety of resident and migratory wildlife species.

LEGEND

- State Highway
- County State Aid Highway (paved)
- County State Aid Highway (gravel)
- County Road
- Township Road
- Other Road
- Controlled Hunting Zone
- Sanctuary

WMA Cover Types

- Upland Deciduous Trees
- Upland Coniferous Trees
- Lowland Deciduous Trees
- Lowland Coniferous Trees
- Upland Brush
- Lowland Brush
- Grass-Open Land
- Cropland
- Non-vegetated
- Emergent Wetlands
- Open Water

0 1.0 2.0
Scale in Miles

General Description:
 The land making up the WMA is flat and was once part of glacial Lake Agassiz. Vegetation types common to the area include marshes and sedge meadows, as well as aspen forests, brushlands, oak savannah and coniferous forests, in addition to limited areas of cropland. The Moose River flows west from the Moose River Impoundment and enters Thief Lake at the east end. Thief Lake then is the source of the Thief River, which flows out of the west side of the lake, and then goes south through Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge to Thief River Falls, where it joins the Red Lake River. Thief Lake itself is 7100 acres in size at normal pool. A sanctuary area of slightly more than 5100 acres covers the west and north-central portions of the lake, along with associated uplands. A Controlled Hunting Zone (CHZ) with 85 blinds and shooting positions (primarily for goose hunting) abuts the upland portions of the sanctuary. Wildlife habitat on the WMA is managed for resident and migratory wildlife. The area provides recreational sport hunting of many game species, bird watching (on the Pine to Prairie Birding Trail), trapping, snowmobiling and other compatible outdoor recreational opportunities.

Respect Private Property; Ask Before Entering.
 Private property adjoins much of the WMA land. Please do not trespass on private land.



Recreational Facilities:
 Public hunting has been the dominant outdoor recreational use of the WMAs and sport hunters have been the principal source of funding for acquisition, development, operation and management of the areas. Other outdoor activities commonly pursued on the area include birding (bird list available at Headquarters), trapping, snowmobiling, hiking and, usually in conjunction with the other outdoor activities, camping. Most campgrounds on the area are primitive, and primarily provided for hunter use in the fall. One campground, north of the headquarters has a handicapped accessible restroom. Other handicapped accessible facilities include two hunting blinds/wildlife observation blinds (#58 and #59) in the Controlled Hunting Zone. Over water hunting of waterfowl is permitted on Thief Lake in the areas east and south of the sanctuary boundaries during the appropriate seasons. Pass shooting of waterfowl is permitted in the Controlled Hunting Zone (CHZ) on the north and west side of the sanctuary (see annual Hunting and Trapping Handbook for CHZ and other hunting regulations). In addition to waterfowl hunting, black bear and white-tailed deer hunting are popular uses of the area as is upland game hunting (ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse). Voluntary hunter bag checks and other surveys are conducted on the area to determine hunter use, hunter success, wildlife harvest, and to examine wildlife health. Big Game and furbearers may be registered at the Thief Lake WMA Headquarters.

Nearby State Parks (Hayes Lake to the northeast and Old Mill to the west) and the city of Middle River provide developed camping sites with amenities.

Wildlife Management Area Rules:
 (partial listing)

- Hunting in accordance with all regulations (see annual Hunting & Trapping Regulations Handbook) is permitted. Unprotected wild animals may not be taken within WMAs from March 1 to August 31.
- Furbearer trapping in accordance with all regulations is permitted (annual trapping permit required on TLWMA).
- Camping is allowed at designated "Camping permitted" sites (look for the Camping Permitted signs). Camps must be occupied and cannot be left unattended overnight.
- Picking fruit and mushrooms is permitted
- Portable tree stands for hunting, wildlife observation and photography may be used but must be removed daily at the close of shooting hours.
- Motorized vehicles, licensed for public highway use, may be operated (20 mph speed limit) on graveled roads and designated mowed trails except when posted closed.
- Motorized watercraft are permitted on Thief Lake WMA. Only motors of ten horsepower or less are allowed.
- Commercial and private business use of a WMA is prohibited.
- A person may not permit or allow livestock, horses, or other domestic animals within a Wildlife Management Area, except dogs accompanied by or under the control of the owner, except from April 16 through July 14 when dogs must be on a leash.
- A person may not consume alcoholic beverages within a WMA, except when lawfully occupying an overnight use area.
- A person may not operate all-terrain vehicles or off-highway vehicles, hang glider, airboat, hover craft, or personal watercraft within the boundaries of a WMA except ATVs are permitted during firearms deer season to retrieve deer after shooting hours (see specific regulation for details).
- A vehicle may not be parked in a WMA in front of a gate or in a manner that obstructs travel.
- Boats, decoys, or other property may not be left unattended overnight, except lawfully placed traps.
- Disorderly conduct, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, is prohibited within a WMA.
- Target, trap, skeet, or indiscriminate shooting is prohibited within a WMA except as authorized by the commissioner.