

**Department of Natural Resources**

**Chapters:**

**Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules:**

**6230, 6234, 6240**

**2022 WATERFOWL AND SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING, GAME REFUGES, LAC  
QUI PARLE WMA AND FEEDING AND RESTING AREAS**

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**EXPIRES 01-30-2023**

Please see the attachment for language of this expedited emergency game and fish rules package relating to 2022 Waterfowl and Sandhill Crane Hunting, Game Refuges, Lac qui Parle WMA and Feeding and Resting Areas.

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1.1 **Department of Natural Resources**

1.2 **Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: 2022 Waterfowl, Sandhill Crane,**  
1.3 **and Mourning Dove Hunting, Game Refuges, Lac qui Parle WMA, and Feeding and**  
1.4 **Resting Areas**

1.5 **6230.0100 DEFINITIONS.**

1.6 *[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.7 Subp. 1a. **Early goose season.** "Early goose season" has the meaning given in part  
1.8 6240.0100, subpart 1a.

1.9 *[For text of subparts 2 and 3, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.10 **6230.0400 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR STATE GAME REFUGES.**

1.11 *[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.12 **Subp. 2. Bemidji Game Refuge, Beltrami County.** The Bemidji Game Refuge in  
1.13 Beltrami County is open to:

1.14 *[For text of item A, see State Register, volume 46, page 97]*

1.15 B. ~~Canada~~ goose hunting during the early goose season, except on Lake Bemidji,  
1.16 the Mississippi River, ~~and~~ Stump Lake, and Lake Irving;

1.17 *[For text of items C and D, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.18 *[For text of subparts 3 and 4, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.19 **Subp. 5. Clay County Game Refuge, Clay County.** The Clay County Game Refuge  
1.20 in Clay County is open to:

1.21 *[For text of item A, see State Register, volume 46, page 97]*

1.22 *[For text of items B and C, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.23 D. ~~Canada~~ goose hunting during the early goose season.

2.1 [For text of subparts 6 to 10, see Minnesota Rules]

2.2 Subp. 11. **Evansville Game Refuge, Douglas County.** The Evansville Game Refuge  
2.3 in Douglas County is open to:

2.4 A. trapping;

2.5 B. ~~Canada~~ Canada goose hunting during the early goose season; and

2.6 C. deer and bear hunting by firearms.

2.7 [For text of subpart 12, see State Register, volume 46, page 97]

2.8 Subp. 13. **Fox Lake Game Refuge, Martin County.** The Fox Lake Game Refuge in  
2.9 Martin County is open to:

2.10 [For text of items A and B, see Minnesota Rules]

2.11 C. ~~special goose hunts~~ goose hunting during the September goose season;

2.12 [For text of items D and E, see Minnesota Rules]

2.13 [For text of subparts 14 to 20, see Minnesota Rules]

2.14 [For text of subpart 21, see State Register, volume 46, page 97]

2.15 [For text of subparts 22 to 32, see Minnesota Rules]

2.16 Subp. 33. **Ocheda Lake Game Refuge, Nobles County.** The Ocheda Lake Game  
2.17 Refuge in Nobles County is open to:

2.18 [For text of items A to C, see Minnesota Rules]

2.19 D. ~~Canada~~ Canada goose hunting during the early season and from the first Saturday in  
2.20 December through the end of the statewide goose season, ~~except that hunting is prohibited~~  
2.21 ~~within 100 yards of surface water during the early goose season;~~ and

2.22 [For text of item E, see Minnesota Rules]

3.1 [For text of subparts 34 to 40, see Minnesota Rules]

3.2 Subp. 41. **St. James Game Refuge, Watonwan County.** The St. James Game Refuge  
3.3 in Watonwan County is open to:

3.4 A. trapping; and

3.5 B. ~~special goose hunts~~ goose hunting during the early goose season.

3.6 [For text of subpart 42, see Minnesota Rules]

3.7 Subp. 43. **Schoolcraft Game Refuge, Hubbard County.** The Schoolcraft Game  
3.8 Refuge in Hubbard County is open to:

3.9 A. small game hunting, except waterfowl, through the Thursday nearest November  
3.10 4 and after the close of the 100 series firearms deer season;

3.11 [For text of items B and C, see Minnesota Rules]

3.12 [For text of subparts 44 to 48, see Minnesota Rules]

3.13 [For text of subpart 49, see State Register, volume 46, page 97]

3.14 [For text of subparts 50 to 53, see Minnesota Rules]

3.15 Subp. 54. [See repealer.]

3.16 [For text of subpart 55, see State Register, volume 46, page 97]

3.17 [For text of subparts 56 to 60, see Minnesota Rules]

3.18 [For text of subparts 61 to 63, see State Register, volume 46, page 97]

3.19 **6230.0600 DESCRIPTIONS OF CONTROLLED HUNTING ZONES.**

3.20 [For text of subparts 1 and 2, see Minnesota Rules]

4.1 Subp. 3. **Lac qui Parle zones, Chippewa and Lac qui Parle Counties.**

4.2 A. On the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area in Chippewa and Lac qui  
4.3 Parle Counties, the controlled hunting zone includes the following:

4.4 The Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NW 1/4 SW 1/4) and the Southeast  
4.5 Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE 1/4 SW 1/4) of Section 32, Township 119 North,  
4.6 Range 42 West, and the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW 1/4 NE 1/4)  
4.7 and the East Half of the Northwest Quarter (E 1/2 NW 1/4) of Section 5, Township  
4.8 118 North, Range 42 West, all in Lac qui Parle County.

4.9 And also the East Half of the Northwest Quarter (E 1/2 NW 1/4), the East Half of the  
4.10 Southwest Quarter (E 1/2 SW 1/4) and the West Half of the West Half of the Southeast  
4.11 Quarter (W 1/2 W 1/2 SE 1/4) of Section 12, Township 118 North, Range 42 West,  
4.12 ~~the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE 1/4 SW 1/4), the Northeast Quarter~~  
4.13 ~~(NE 1/4) except that part lying northeasterly of State Highway 7, the East Half of the~~  
4.14 ~~Southeast Quarter (E 1/2 SE 1/4), and those parts of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4)~~  
4.15 ~~owned by the state and posted as "Wildlife Management Area, Controlled Hunting~~  
4.16 ~~Zone," all in Section 1, Township 118 North, Range 42 West, all in Chippewa County.~~

4.17 And also all state owned land posted as "Wildlife Management Area, Controlled Hunting  
4.18 Zone" located between U.S. Highways 7 and 59 and County State-Aid Highways 32  
4.19 and 33, Chippewa County, in Sections 6 and 7, Township 118 North, Range 41 West,  
4.20 and Section 36, Township 119 North, Range 42 West, all in Chippewa County.

4.21 *[For text of items B and C, see Minnesota Rules]*

4.22 *[For text of subparts 4 to 8, see Minnesota Rules]*

4.23 **6230.0700 LAC QUI PARLE SPECIAL PROVISIONS.**

4.24 *[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]*

4.25 Subp. 2. **Hunting stations.**

4.26 *[For text of item A, see Minnesota Rules]*

4.27 B. From the third Thursday in October through November 30, waterfowl and  
4.28 small game hunters ~~may reserve~~ must use designated hunting stations ~~according to regulations~~

5.1 ~~available at the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area headquarters. Reservation dates~~  
5.2 ~~may not be changed~~ as available on a first-come, first-served basis.

5.3 *[For text of item C, see Minnesota Rules]*

5.4 Subp. 3. [See repealer.]

5.5 *[For text of subparts 4 and 5, see Minnesota Rules]*

5.6 Subp. 6. [See repealer.]

5.7 *[For text of subparts 7 to 9, see Minnesota Rules]*

5.8 **6234.0800 HUNTING BY FALCONRY.**

5.9 *[For text of subparts 1 to 3, see Minnesota Rules]*

5.10 Subp. 4. **Open season and hours for migratory game birds.** Woodcock, sora and  
5.11 Virginia rails, mourning dove, and common snipe may be taken by falconry from September  
5.12 1 to December 16. Ducks, coots, and moorhens (Gallinules) may be taken by falconry ~~from~~  
5.13 ~~the Saturday nearest October 1 to the Saturday nearest January 14~~ during the open seasons  
5.14 prescribed in part 6240.0640, subpart 1, and from December 10, 2022, through January 23,  
5.15 2023. Geese may be taken by falconry during any open goose season. Crows may be taken  
5.16 by falconry during the open season. Falconry hours are from one-half hour before sunrise  
5.17 to sunset, ~~except during the regular waterfowl season when falconry hours are the same as~~  
5.18 ~~waterfowl shooting hours.~~

5.19 **6240.0100 DEFINITIONS.**

5.20 *[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]*

5.21 Subp. 1a. **Early goose season.** "Early goose season" means goose seasons ~~beginning~~  
5.22 ~~before open~~ September 16 3 through September 18.

5.23 *[For text of subparts 2 to 4, see Minnesota Rules]*

6.1 Subp. 5. **Dark geese.** "Dark geese" means Canada, brant, and white-fronted geese.

6.2 Subp. 6. **Light geese.** "Light geese" means snow, blue, and Ross's geese.

6.3 **6240.0200 GENERAL RESTRICTIONS FOR TAKING AND POSSESSION OF**  
6.4 **MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS.**

6.5 Subpart 1. **Shooting hours.** Shooting hours for migratory waterfowl, coots, gallinules,  
6.6 rails, and snipe are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except as follows: during the  
6.7 early teal season from September 3 through September 7, when shooting hours are sunrise  
6.8 to sunset for teal.

6.9 ~~A. on the opening day of the duck season, shooting hours begin at 9:00 a.m.; and~~

6.10 ~~B. from the opening day of the duck season to the Saturday nearest October 8,~~  
6.11 ~~shooting hours end at 4:00 p.m.~~

6.12 Subp. 2. **Possession limits.** The possession limit is ~~twice~~ three times the daily limit;  
6.13 ~~except for rails where the daily and possession limits are the same~~ for all migratory birds.  
6.14 All restrictions specific to a species or gender apply.

6.15 *[For text of subpart 3, see Minnesota Rules]*

6.16 Subp. 4. **Use of motorized watercraft.** A person may use motorized watercraft in  
6.17 the waterfowl feeding and resting area established on South Heron Lake during the early  
6.18 goose season established in part 6240.1200.

6.19 *[For text of subparts 5 and 6, see Minnesota Rules]*

6.20 Subp. 7. **Taking in open water.** A person may take migratory waterfowl, coots,  
6.21 gallinules, rails, and snipe in open water on the following waters of Minnesota with the  
6.22 restrictions given:

6.23 A. the area of the Mississippi River and backwaters within the boundary beginning  
6.24 at the intersection of US Highway 61 and the Minnesota border in Dakota County; thence

7.1 along US Highway 61 to US Highway 63; thence along US Highway 61/63 to US Highway  
7.2 61; thence along US Highway 61 to US Highway 14; thence along US Highway 61/14 to  
7.3 Interstate 90; thence along Interstate 90/US Highway 61/14 to State Trunk Highway (STH)  
7.4 16; thence along STH 16 to STH 26; thence along STH 26 to the state's southern boundary;  
7.5 thence along the southern boundary to the eastern boundary; thence along the eastern  
7.6 boundary to the point of the beginning: hunting is allowed not more than 100 feet from any  
7.7 shoreline, including islands, from boats that must be at anchor;

7.8 B. Lake Pepin, Lake of the Woods, Lake Mille Lacs: hunting is allowed from  
7.9 boats that must be at anchor; and

7.10 C. Lake Superior north and east of Minnesota/Park Point peninsula: hunting is  
7.11 allowed from boats that must be at anchor.

7.12 **6240.0250 TAKING MOURNING DOVES.**

7.13 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Mourning doves may be taken during the ~~60-day~~ 90-day  
7.14 period beginning September 1.

7.15 *[For text of subpart 2, see Minnesota Rules]*

7.16 **6240.0610 YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAY.**

7.17 Subpart 1. **Dates, eligibility, and license requirements.** Ducks, mergansers, coots,  
7.18 moorhens, and ~~Canada~~ dark or light geese may be taken statewide on Youth Waterfowl  
7.19 Hunting Day Weekend, September 10 and 11, by resident and nonresident hunters ~~15~~ 17  
7.20 years of age or younger. An adult resident or nonresident mentor 18 years of age or older,  
7.21 who is authorized by the youth's parent or guardian, must accompany the youth hunter at  
7.22 all times during the hunt. The accompanying adult may not hunt. No hunting license or state  
7.23 waterfowl stamps are required, except all youth hunters age 16 and older must have a federal  
7.24 migratory bird stamp.



8.1 Subp. 2. **Shooting hours and decoys.**

8.2 A. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to ~~4:00 p.m.~~ sunset.

8.3 B. Motorized decoys are legal.

8.4 Subp. 3. **Bag limits.** The daily bag limit for ducks, mergansers, coots, and moorhens  
8.5 is as allowed by federal rule. The daily bag limit for geese is five ~~Canada~~ dark geese and  
8.6 20 light geese.

8.7 **6240.0630 TAKING SANDHILL CRANE.**

8.8 Subpart 1. Open season. Sandhill cranes may be taken September 17 through October  
8.9 23.

8.10 Subp. 2. Shooting hours. Shooting hours for sandhill cranes are one-half hour before  
8.11 sunrise to sunset.

8.12 Subp. 3. Open area; taking restrictions.

8.13 A. Sandhill cranes may be taken only in the Northwest Goose Zone described in  
8.14 part 6240.0860, subpart 1.

8.15 B. Sandhill cranes may be taken by bow and arrow or by shotgun with nontoxic  
8.16 shot approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. A person may not take sandhill  
8.17 cranes with a rifle or handgun.

8.18 Subp. 4. License and requirements.

8.19 A. Sandhill cranes may be taken only under:

8.20 (1) a license to take sandhill cranes issued by the commissioner for a fee of  
8.21 \$3; and

8.22 (2) a small-game license, unless exempted.

9.1 B. A hunter must have a license to take sandhill cranes in possession when taking  
9.2 or possessing sandhill cranes.

9.3 C. A hunter must not have had small- or big-game hunting privileges revoked  
9.4 within one year of purchasing a license to take sandhill cranes.

9.5 Subp. 5. **Bag limits.** A person may not take more than two sandhill cranes per day or  
9.6 have more than six sandhill cranes in possession.

9.7 Subp. 6. **Penalties.** Violating this part or the conditions of a license issued under this  
9.8 part results in revocation of the license and any other penalty provided by state or federal  
9.9 law.

9.10 Subp. 7. **Game and waterfowl refuges.** All state game refuges closed to migratory-  
9.11 waterfowl hunting are closed to taking sandhill cranes under this part. All waterfowl refuges  
9.12 closed by posting to taking ducks or geese during any portion of the fall waterfowl seasons  
9.13 are closed to taking sandhill cranes under this part.

9.14 **6240.0640 TAKING COOTS, MOORHENS, DUCKS, AND MERGANSERS.**

9.15 Subpart 1. **Open season.**

9.16 A. Coots, moorhens, ducks, and mergansers may be taken as follows:

9.17 (1) in the North Waterfowl Zone described in part 6240.0620, subpart 2,  
9.18 during the 60-day period from September 24 through November 22;

9.19 (2) in the Central Waterfowl Zone described in part 6240.0620, subpart 4,  
9.20 during the 60-day period that includes September 24 through October 2 and October 8  
9.21 through November 27; and

9.22 (3) in the remainder of the state, during the 60-day period that includes  
9.23 September 24 through October 2 and October 8 through November 27.

10.1 B. Blue- and green-winged and cinnamon teal may be taken statewide September  
10.2 3 through September 7.

10.3 Subp. 2. Daily limits.

10.4 A. In any one day, a person may not take more than six ducks, five mergansers,  
10.5 and a total of 15 coots and moorhens.

10.6 B. The daily limit of ducks, other than mergansers, may not include more than  
10.7 four mallards, including two female mallards; one pintail; two redheads; three wood ducks;  
10.8 two black ducks; and two canvasback.

10.9 C. The limit of scaup is one per day through October 13 and two per day the  
10.10 remainder of the duck season.

10.11 D. The daily limit of mergansers may not include more than two hooded  
10.12 mergansers.

10.13 **6240.0950 TAKING GEESE.**

10.14 Subpart 1. Open season. Geese may be taken:

10.15 A. statewide during the early goose season. The early goose season is a special  
10.16 season for which a special-season goose license is required under Minnesota Statutes, section  
10.17 97B.802;

10.18 B. in the North Waterfowl Zone described in part 6240.0620, subpart 2, September  
10.19 24 through December 23;

10.20 C. in the Central Waterfowl Zone described in part 6240.0620, subpart 4,  
10.21 September 24 through October 2 and October 8 through December 28; and

10.22 D. in the South Waterfowl Zone described in part 6240.0620, subpart 3, September  
10.23 24 through October 2 and October 8 through December 28.

11.1 Subp. 2. **Daily limit.** From September 3 through September 18, the bag limit for dark  
 11.2 geese is five combined and the bag limit for light geese is 20 combined. Beginning September  
 11.3 24, a person may not take more than five dark geese or 20 light geese during any open  
 11.4 season.

11.5 **6240.1850 REFUGES OPEN TO TAKING GEESE.**

11.6 *[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]*

11.7 **Subp. 2. Game refuges.**

11.8 A. ~~The following refuges are open to goose hunting during the first two days of~~  
 11.9 ~~the regular goose season: Fox Lake Game Refuge in Martin County and the Saint James~~  
 11.10 ~~Game Refuge in Watonwan County~~ is open to goose hunting during the first two days of  
 11.11 the regular goose season.

11.12 B. The Fox Lake Game Refuge is open to goose hunting ~~for~~ from the last ~~seven~~  
 11.13 ~~days~~ day of the statewide duck season through the end of the goose season. ~~There is no~~  
 11.14 ~~goose hunting within 100 yards of Fox and Temperence Lakes.~~

11.15 **Subp. 3. Waterfowl refuges.**

11.16 *[For text of item A, see Minnesota Rules]*

11.17 B. The Mud-Bardwell Waterfowl Refuge in Martin County is open to ~~Canada~~  
 11.18 ~~goose hunting from the Saturday on or nearest November 1~~ October 9 to the end of the  
 11.19 ~~goose season. There is no goose hunting within 100 yards of Mud and Bardwell Lakes.~~

11.20 **6240.2000 MIGRATORY WATERFOWL FEEDING AND RESTING AREA**  
 11.21 **RESTRICTIONS.**

11.22 *[For text of subparts 1 to 3, see Minnesota Rules]*

12.1 Subp. 4. **Use of electric motors.** On the lakes listed in items A to ~~J~~K, a person may  
 12.2 use an electric motor with battery power of 12 volts or less within the designated migratory  
 12.3 waterfowl feeding and resting area during the open waterfowl season:

12.4 *[For text of items A to E, see Minnesota Rules]*

12.5 F. Kandiyohi County: ~~Wagona~~ Wakanda Lake, Lake Lillian;

12.6 *[For text of items G and H, see Minnesota Rules]*

12.7 I. Pope County: Nelson Lake; ~~and~~

12.8 J. Traverse County: Mud Lake; and

12.9 K. Le Sueur County: Diamond Lake, Dora Lake, Sanborn Lake.

12.10 **REPEALER.** Minnesota Rules, parts 6230.0400, subpart 54; 6230.0700, subparts 3 and  
 12.11 6; 6240.1150, subpart 2; 6240.1200, subparts 3, 4, and 5; and 6240.1800, subpart 1, are  
 12.12 repealed.

12.13 **EFFECTIVE PERIOD.** The emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, parts 6230.0100,  
 12.14 6230.0400, 6230.0600, 6230.0700, 6234.0800, 6240.0100, 6240.0200, 6240.0250, 6240.0610,  
 12.15 6240.1850, and 6240.2000, and the repealer expire January 30, 2023. After the emergency  
 12.16 amendments expire, the permanent rules as they read before those amendments again take  
 12.17 effect, except as they may be amended by permanent rule. Minnesota Rules, parts 6240.0630,  
 12.18 6240.0640, and 6240.0950, expire January 30, 2023.