

# MINNESOTA 2026 WALK-IN ACCESS ATLAS



A \$3 Walk-In Access  
Validation is required.  
ELS Code 190.



# Welcome to Minnesota's Walk-In Access Program



"This will be Minnesota's fifteenth consecutive year of the Walk-In Access Program. Because of the valuable partnership with private landowners, 22,000 acres of habitat is available for validation holders to use in the 2026-2027 season. While this season's area is slightly reduced from previous years, I still encourage you to take advantage of the \$3 validation providing you access to outdoor recreation across southern and western Minnesota. If you have any questions or thoughts, I would like to hear from you! Thank you for participating and supporting this program. Email me at [wia.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:wia.dnr@state.mn.us)"

—Amber Knutson,  
DNR Walk-In Access Coordinator

Walk-in Access (WIA) provides public access on private land and compensates landowners for providing that access. Through WIA, approximately 22,000 acres will be open for public access from Sept. 1 to May 31, on more than 255 sites in west, central and southern Minnesota.

While the majority of WIA parcels include grassland and wetlands, river bottom and forested parcels are also enrolled. This provides a variety of access for hunting, bird watching and/or nature photography.

## VALIDATION REQUIRED

To legally access WIA land, users of all ages must purchase and possess a \$3 Walk-in Access Validation (Code 190). Like hunting licenses, the validation can be purchased through license agents across the state, Electronic Licensing System, or online at [mndnr.gov/licenses/hunting](http://mndnr.gov/licenses/hunting).

The validation helps monitor the number of users on WIA land. Walk-In Access users may be contacted to help the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) understand more about their experiences on WIA land and interest in future program enhancements. The \$3 fee does not cover costs associated with purchasing access, installing boundary signs or providing online or printed maps of the enrolled properties.

## DATA IN THIS ATLAS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

At any time during the year, landowners may opt out of WIA for a variety of reasons including land sales and other property transitions. That means a site shown in this atlas could be closed even after the atlas is published. Additionally, some sites may still be open for access but with habitat disturbance caused by conservation program requirements, noxious weed control or other considerations. It is also possible that sites may be added after the atlas is printed. A good rule of thumb: printed and electronic maps are a great starting point when planning for your visit, but the only way to truly know that a parcel is enrolled and open to public access is to see it in real life. No signs means no access. For the most current data, visit the WIA website at ([mndnr.gov/walkin](http://mndnr.gov/walkin)).

## MAPS AVAILABLE

Visit the WIA website at [mndnr.gov/walkin](http://mndnr.gov/walkin) for a printable atlas of WIA sites by county, aerial photos of each site, and interactive maps such as Google Earth and Google Maps.

Smartphones can access the DNR Recreational Compass to locate sites.

Printed copies of the WIA Atlas are available at DNR offices, county Soil and Water Conservation District offices, and local commerce and tourism outlets across the state. They are also available by calling the DNR at 888-MINNDNR (646-6367).

Maps may not accurately represent the actual legal or established boundaries of public or private land. They should be used for reference only.

## USES OF WIA LAND

- WIA sites are for public access only.
- Individuals with a WIA validation may access sites with no landowner contact necessary from Sept. 1 to May 31.
- All hunting rules and regulations apply on WIAs, and will be enforced by DNR conservation officers.
- Motorized vehicles are not allowed on WIAs.
- Parking is along roads or in designated parking areas—be sure vehicles do not block field entrances.
- Trapping, target shooting, camping, horseback riding, fishing, dog training, fires and other similar activities are not allowed by the public.
- The landowner retains the right to engage in, or give written permission for another individual to engage in, those activities listed above and other limited activities any time during the year, as long as they do not impede public hunting.
- Because most of the land is in the prairie ecoregion, some management such as mowing/haying does take place. Please scout prior to hunting to determine if land has proper habitat for game species.

# SHARE THE PASSION

## #huntmn

### ENROLLING LAND

WIA is targeted toward lands with high quality natural cover. This may include, but is not limited to, parcels already in a conservation program such as Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Only small inclusions of cropland or hay land may be present in WIA parcels.

### RESPECT THE LAND

Please be respectful of the land and the people who own the land. This program depends on landowner participation to be successful. The WIA Code of Conduct can be found below.

### PROGRAM FUNDING

This program began in 2011 when the state received a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture—Voluntary Access Program. Additional funding includes:

- A one-time appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature in 2012
- A \$5 surcharge on nonresident hunting licenses
- Donations of \$1, \$3 or \$5 made by hunters purchasing deer and small game licenses

### WALK-IN ACCESS CODE OF CONDUCT

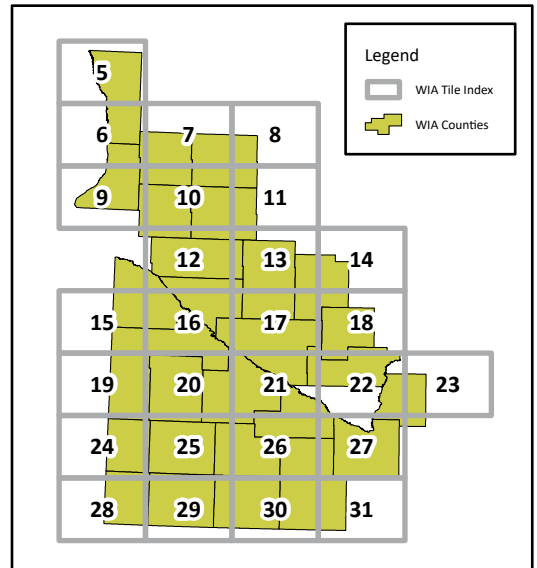
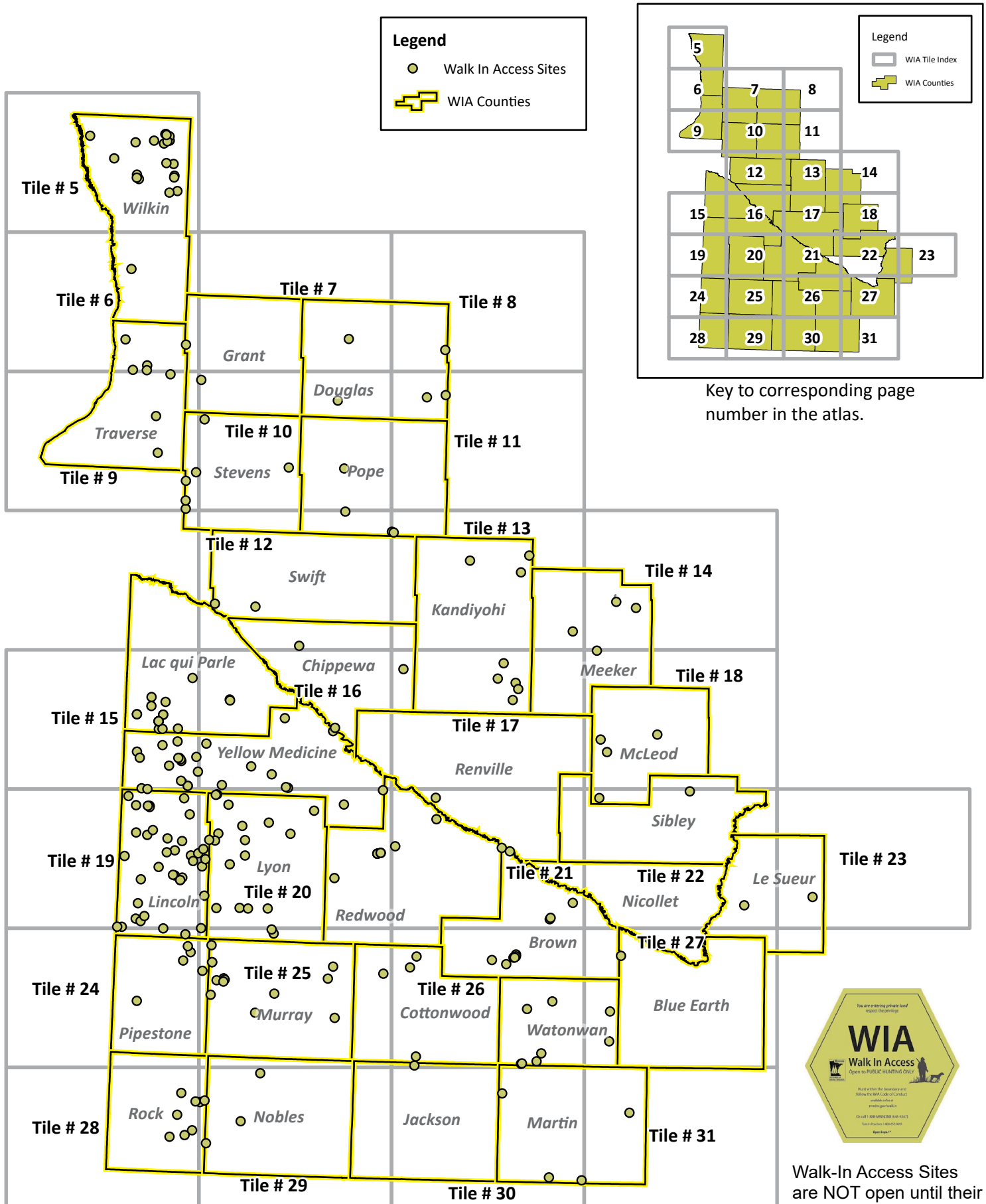
Please follow this code of conduct while hunting these privately owned lands:

1. Only access areas posted with WIA signs. Know the field boundaries and do not trespass on surrounding private lands.
2. Do not contact landowners of WIA parcels for permission to access.
3. Only access WIA parcels on foot.
4. Park in designated parking areas or on the shoulder of the road. Do not block access to farm fields or pastures.
5. Maintain a safe buffer. Do not shoot near farmsteads, livestock or buildings.
6. Leave gates and fences as they were found.
7. Report unlawful activities.
8. Be ethical, courteous and safe. Abuse it—lose it.
9. Do not construct or erect permanent blinds, stands or other structures. Portable structures are allowed as long as no damage is done to trees and they are removed when the user leaves the WIA.
10. Do not litter. Pack out spent shotgun or rifle casings.

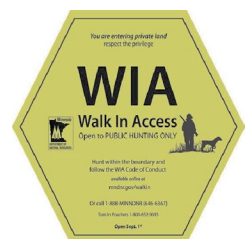
### Walk In Access Atlas Tile Legend

-  Walk-In Access Sites
-  USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas
-  National Wildlife Refuges
-  Wildlife Management Areas
-  Wildlife Refuge Inventory
-  State Park Boundaries
-  Scientific and Natural Areas
-  State Forest Boundaries
-  Native American Reservations
-  County Forest Lands
-  Interstate Trunk Highway
-  U.S. & State Highways
-  County Highway
-  Major River Centerlines
-  Lakes
-  County Boundaries
-  Townships
-  Walk In Access Tile Boundary

# Minnesota 2026 WIA Atlas Map Tile Index



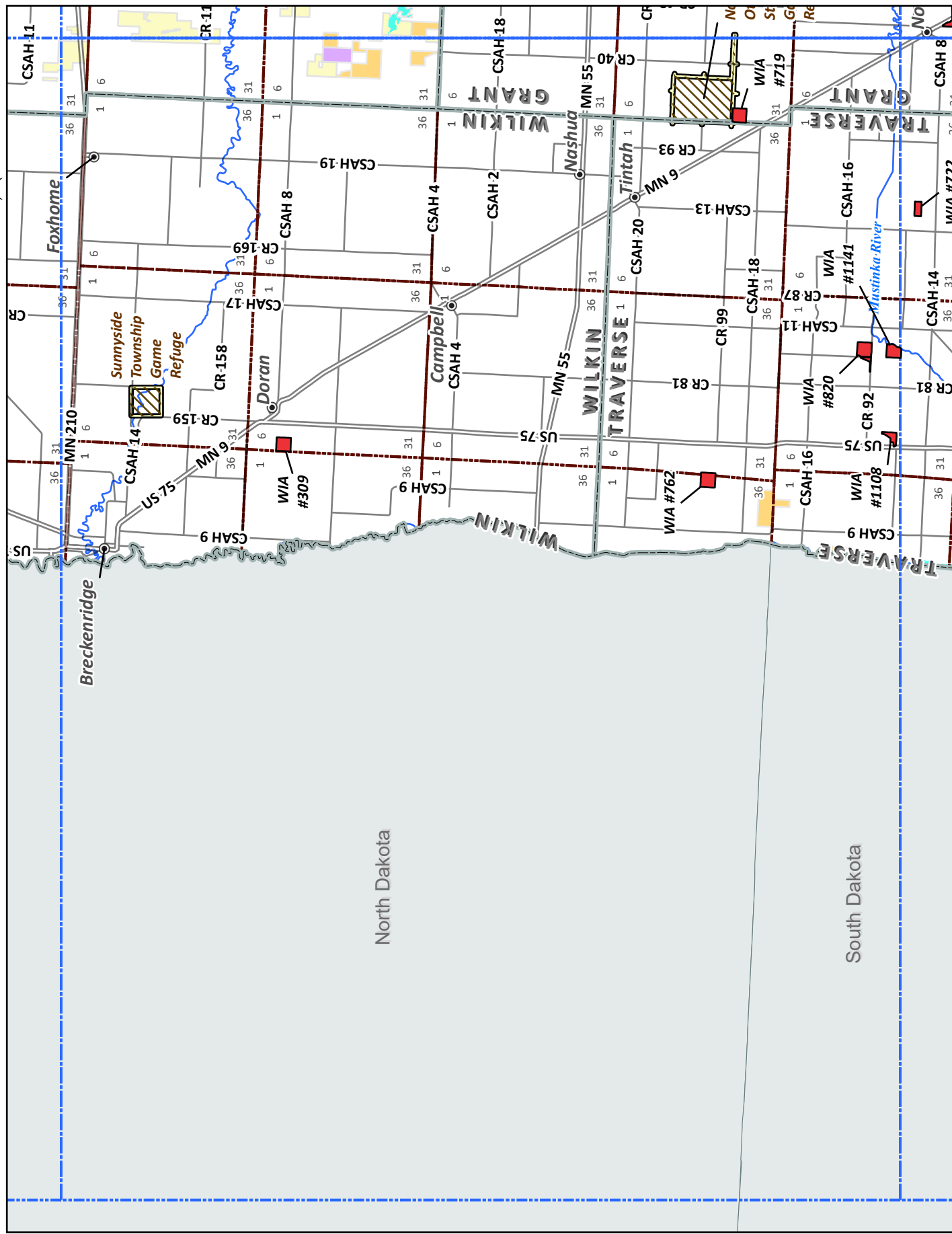
Key to corresponding page number in the atlas.



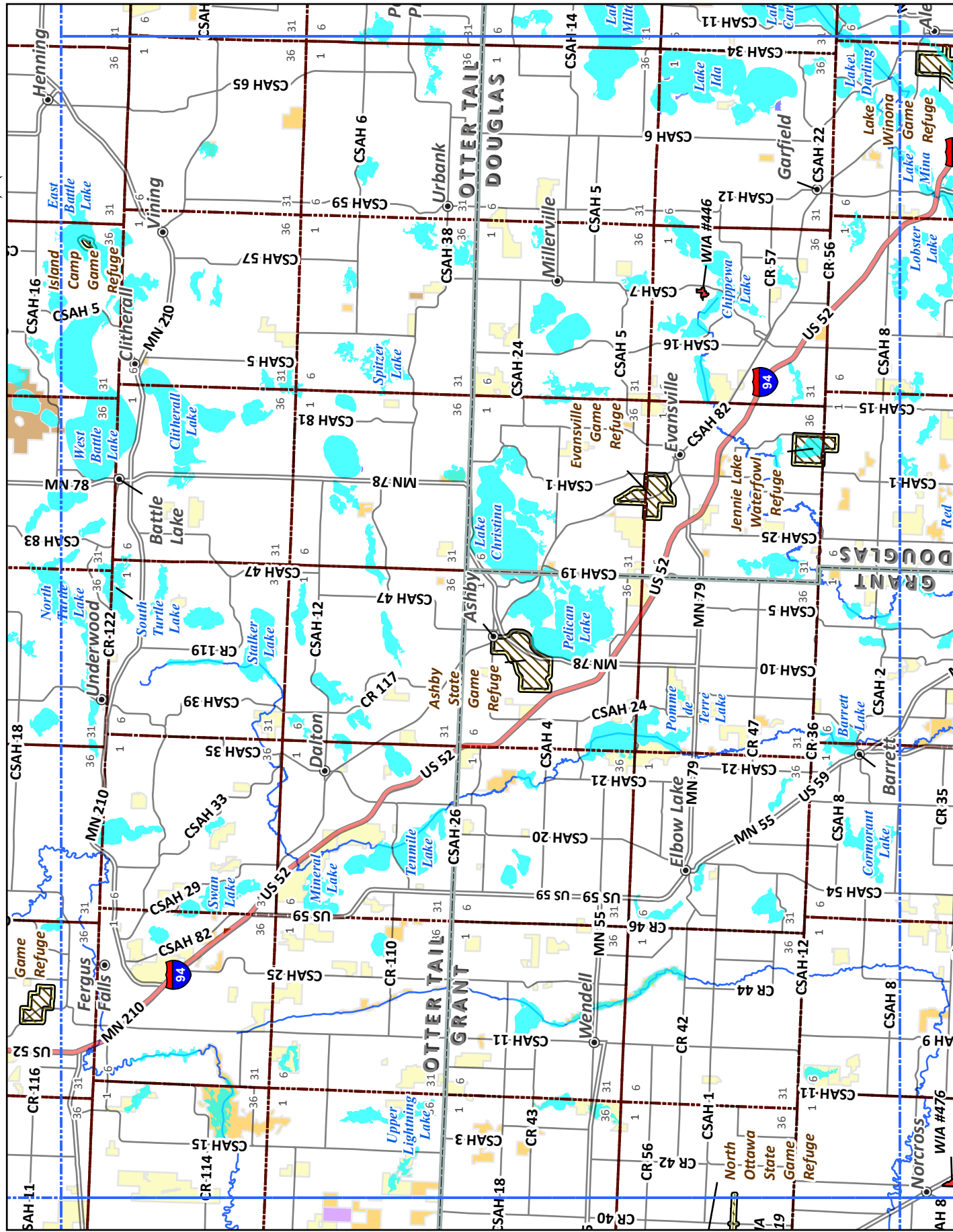
Walk-In Access Sites are NOT open until their boundaries have been posted with WIA signs.

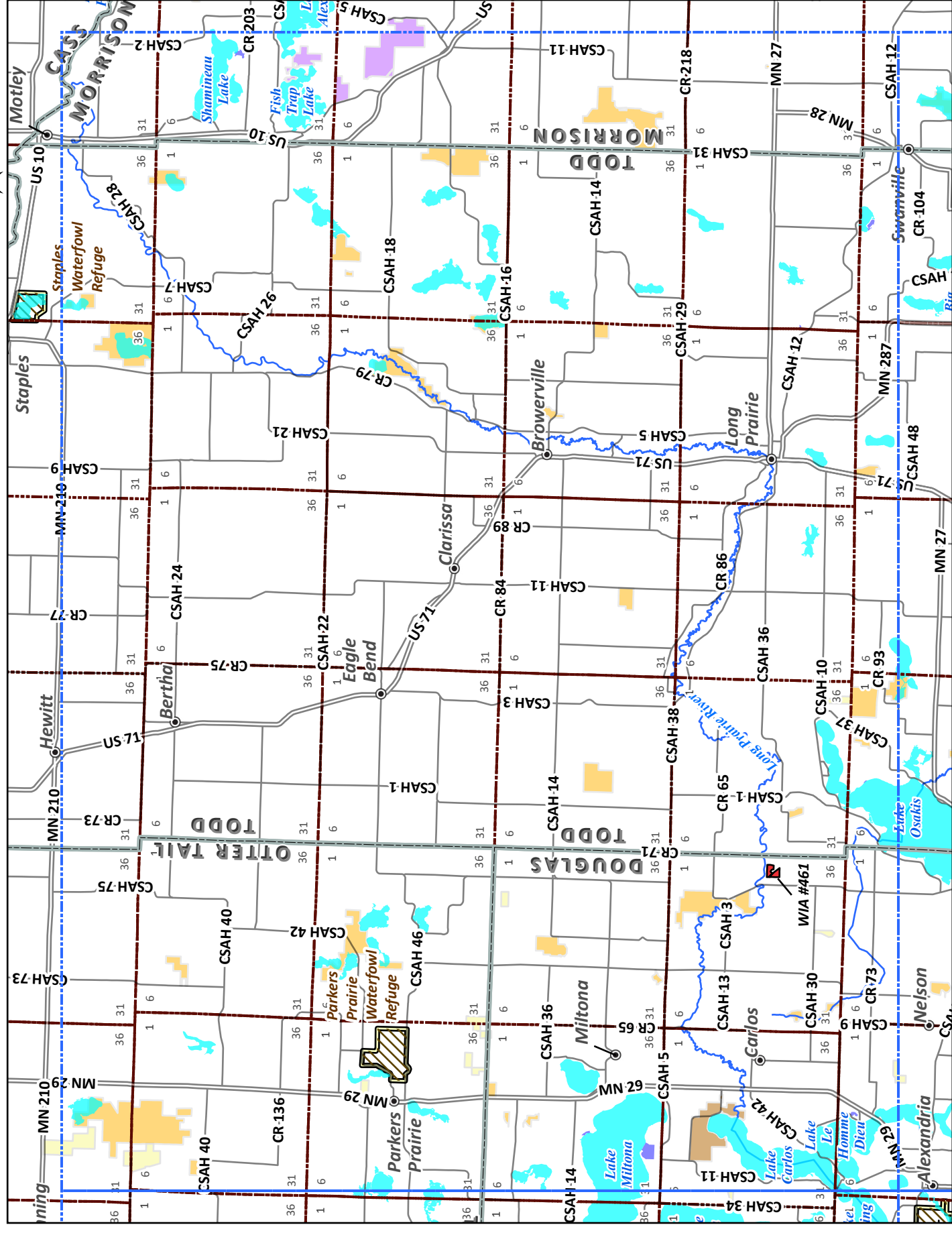


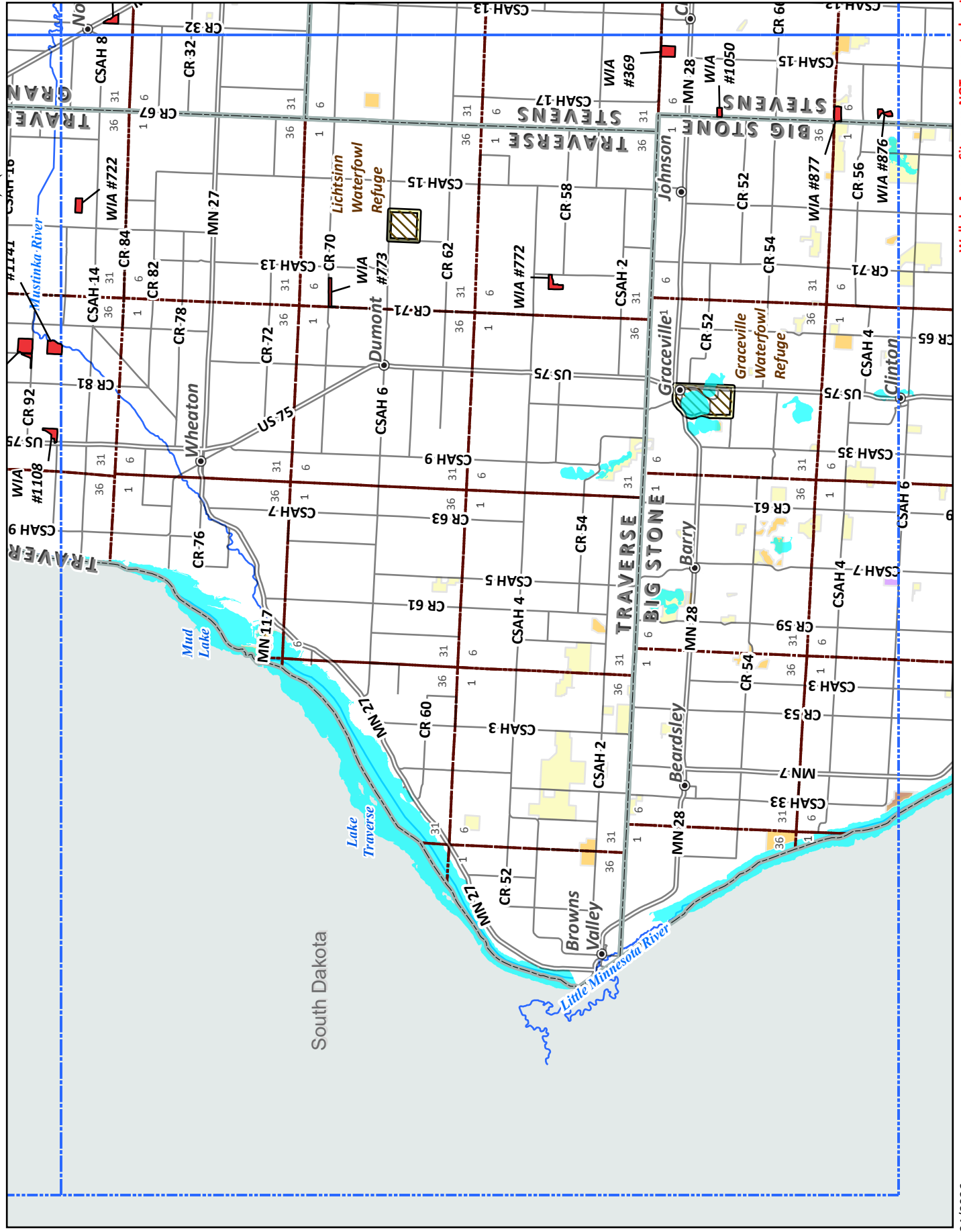






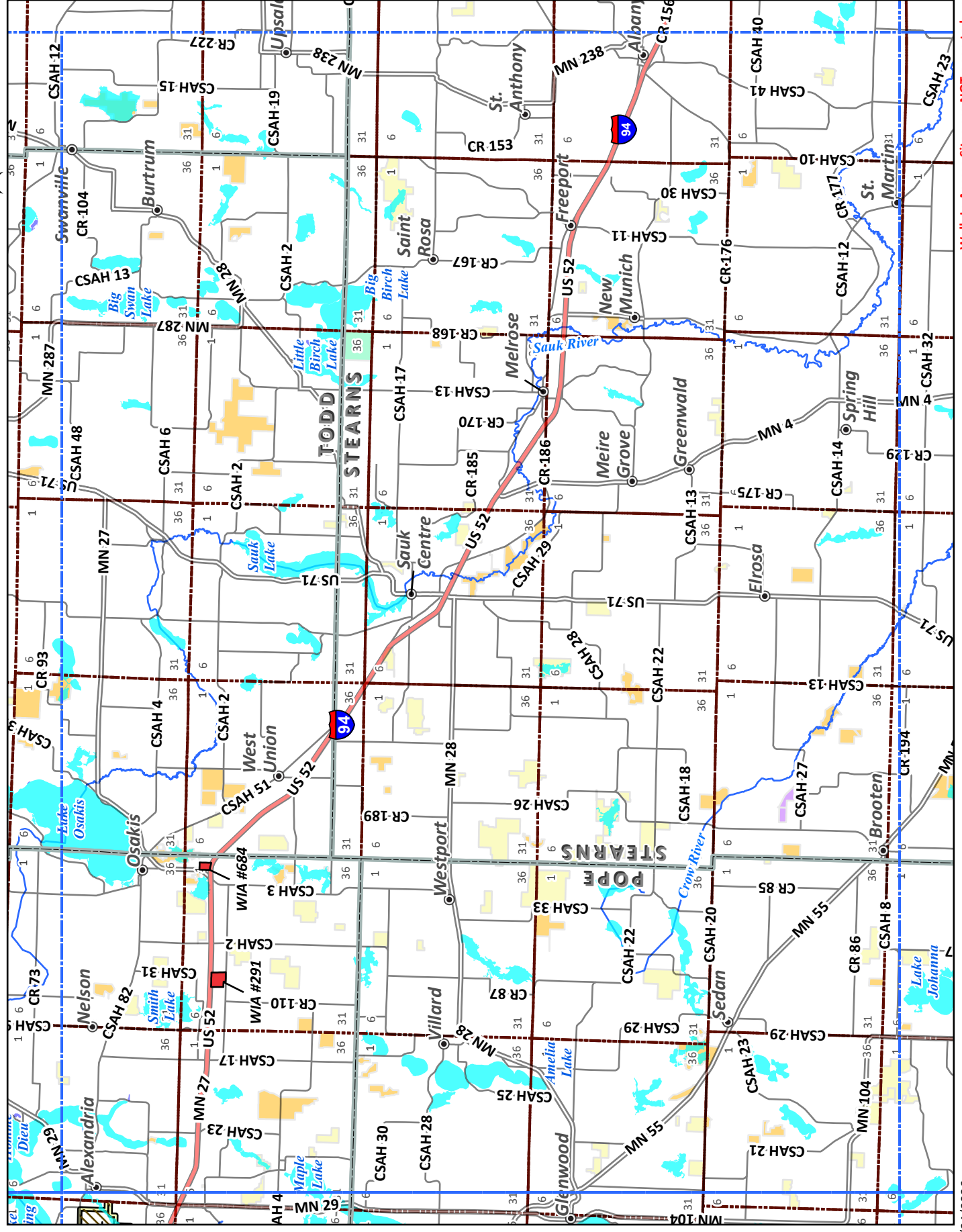






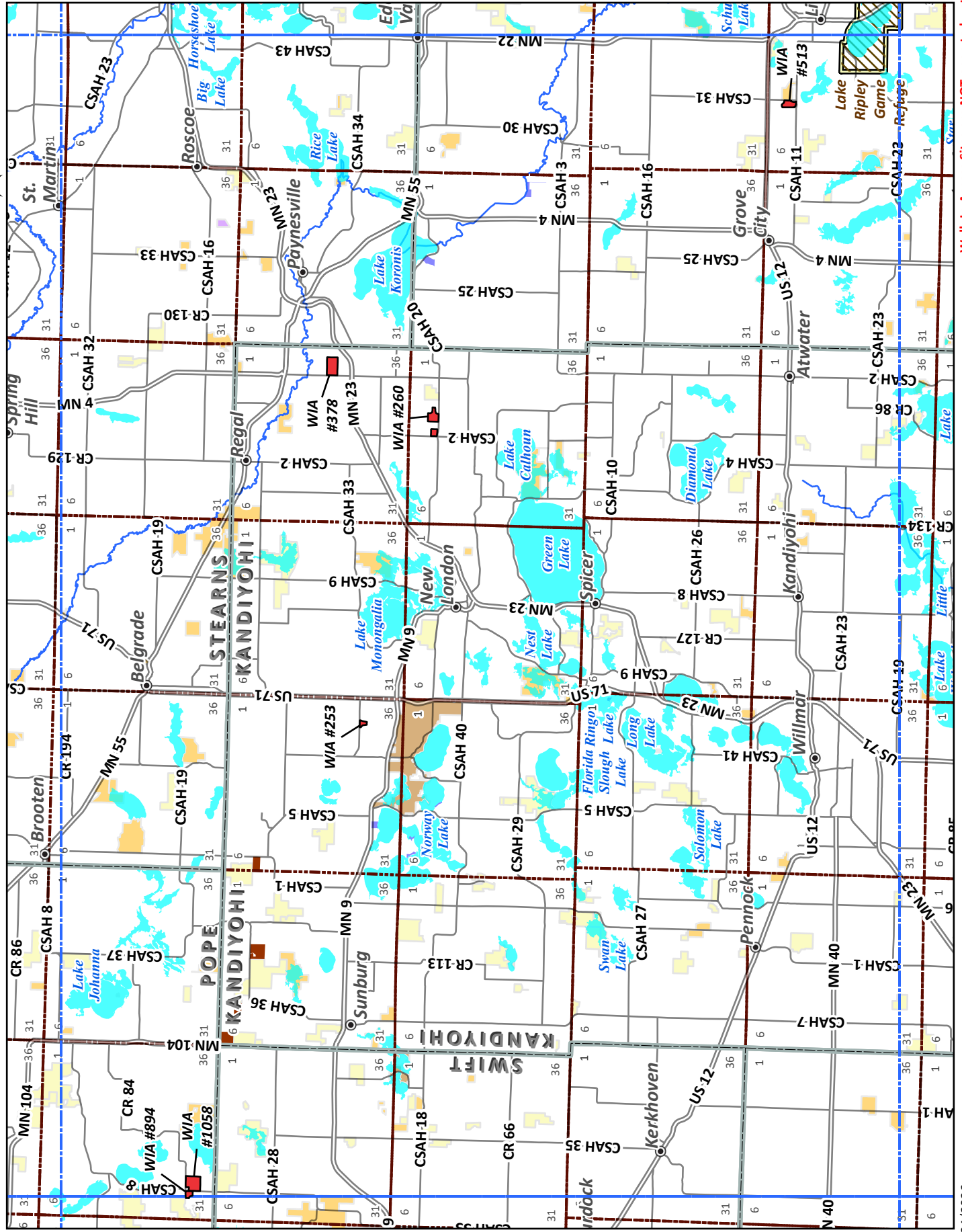


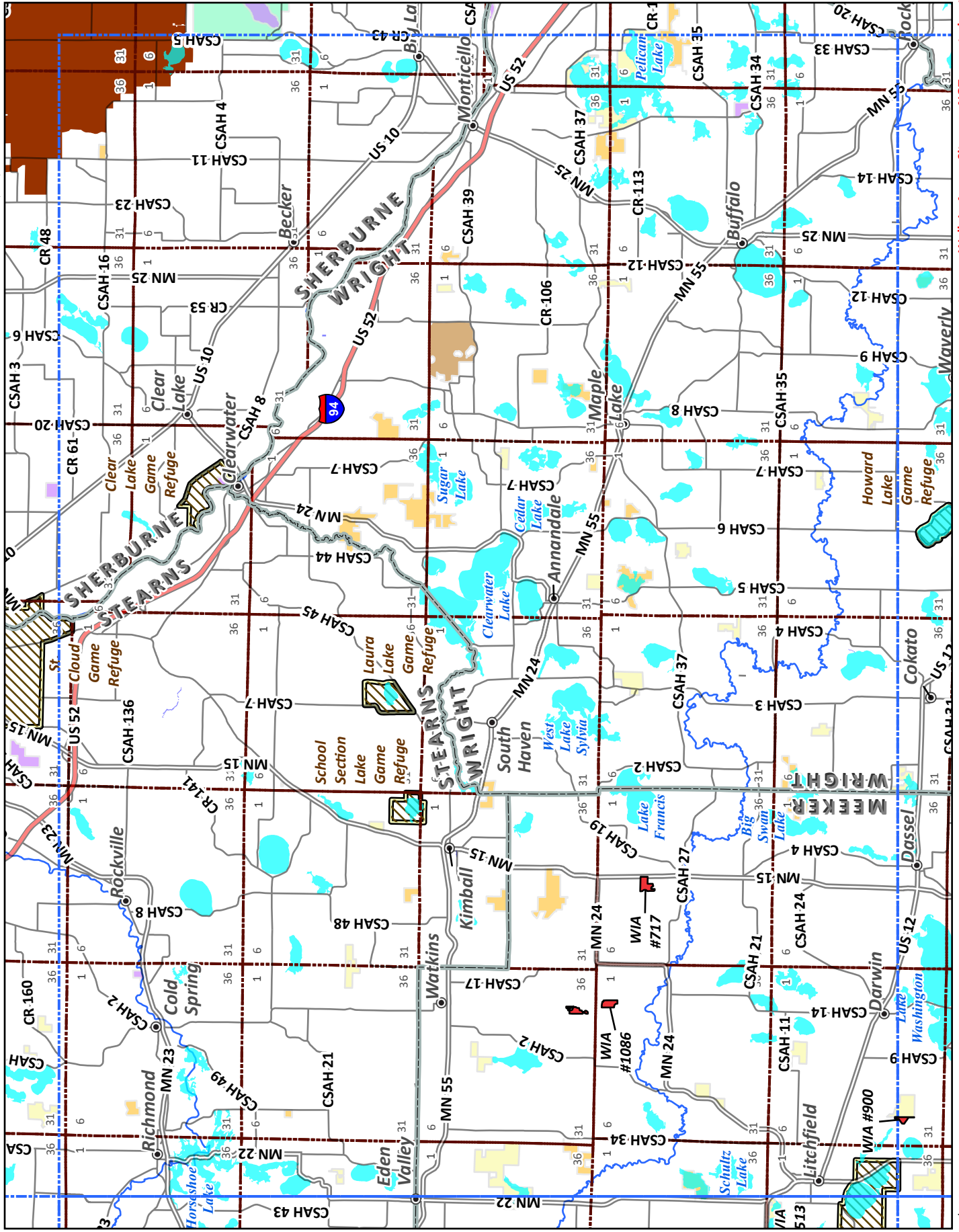


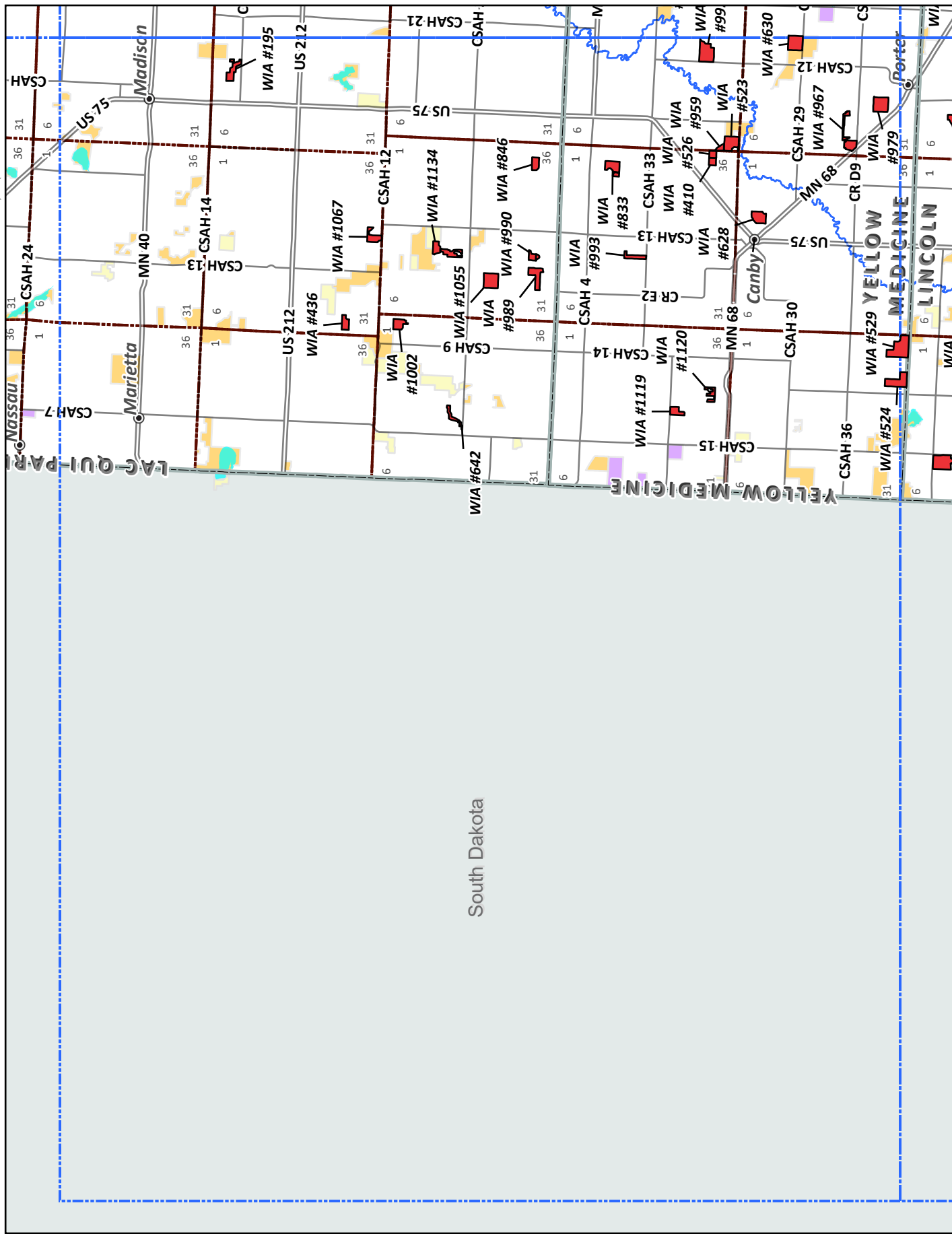




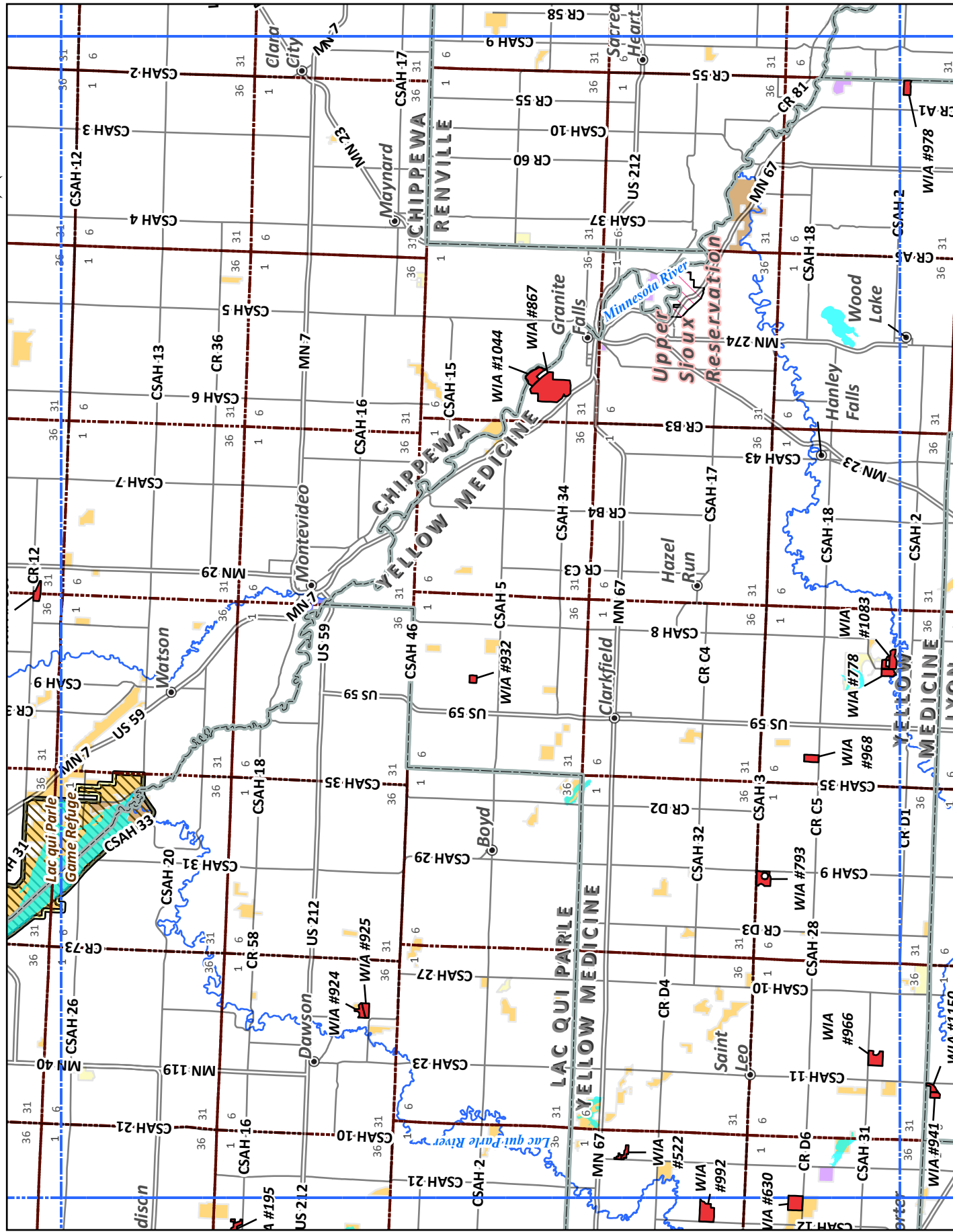




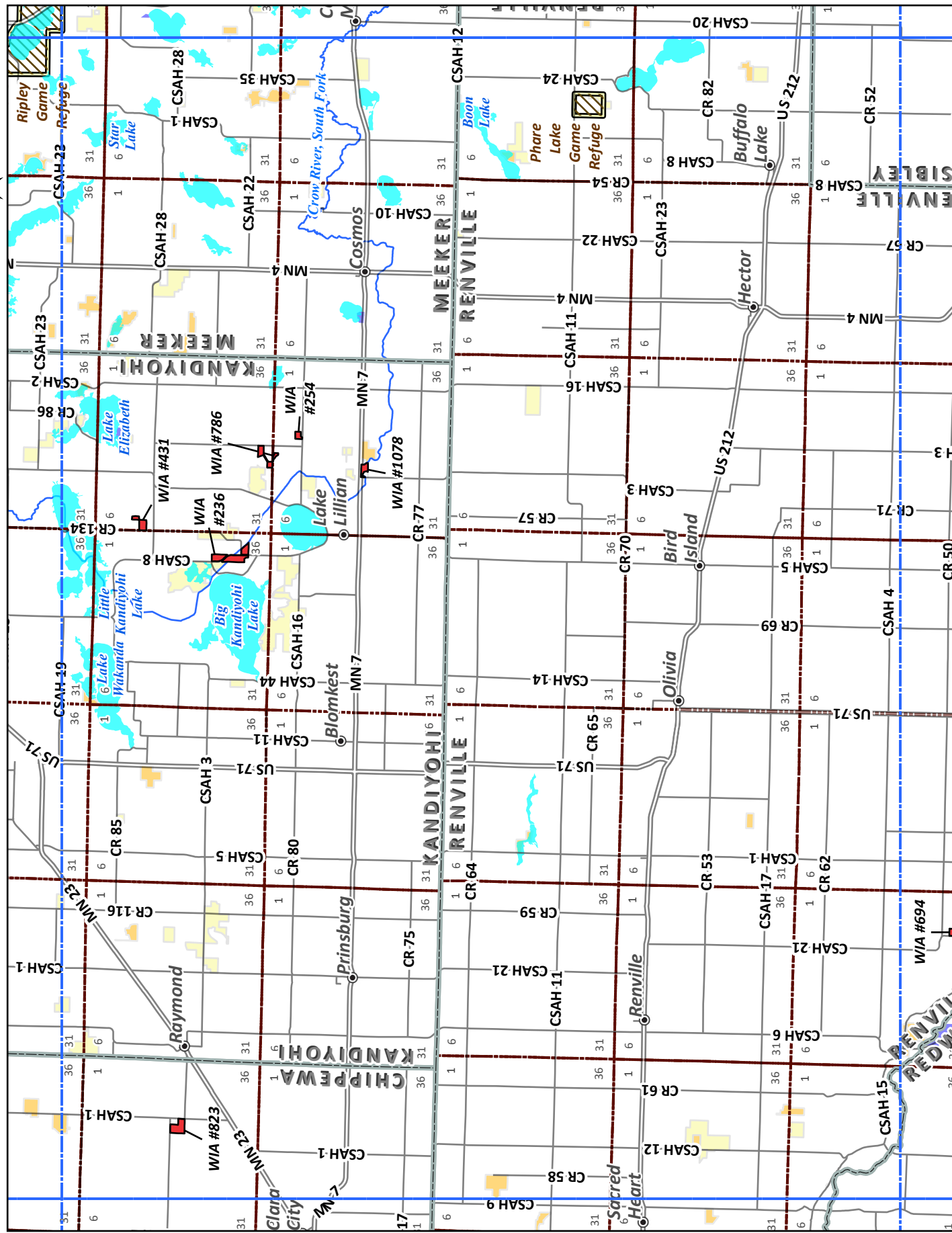


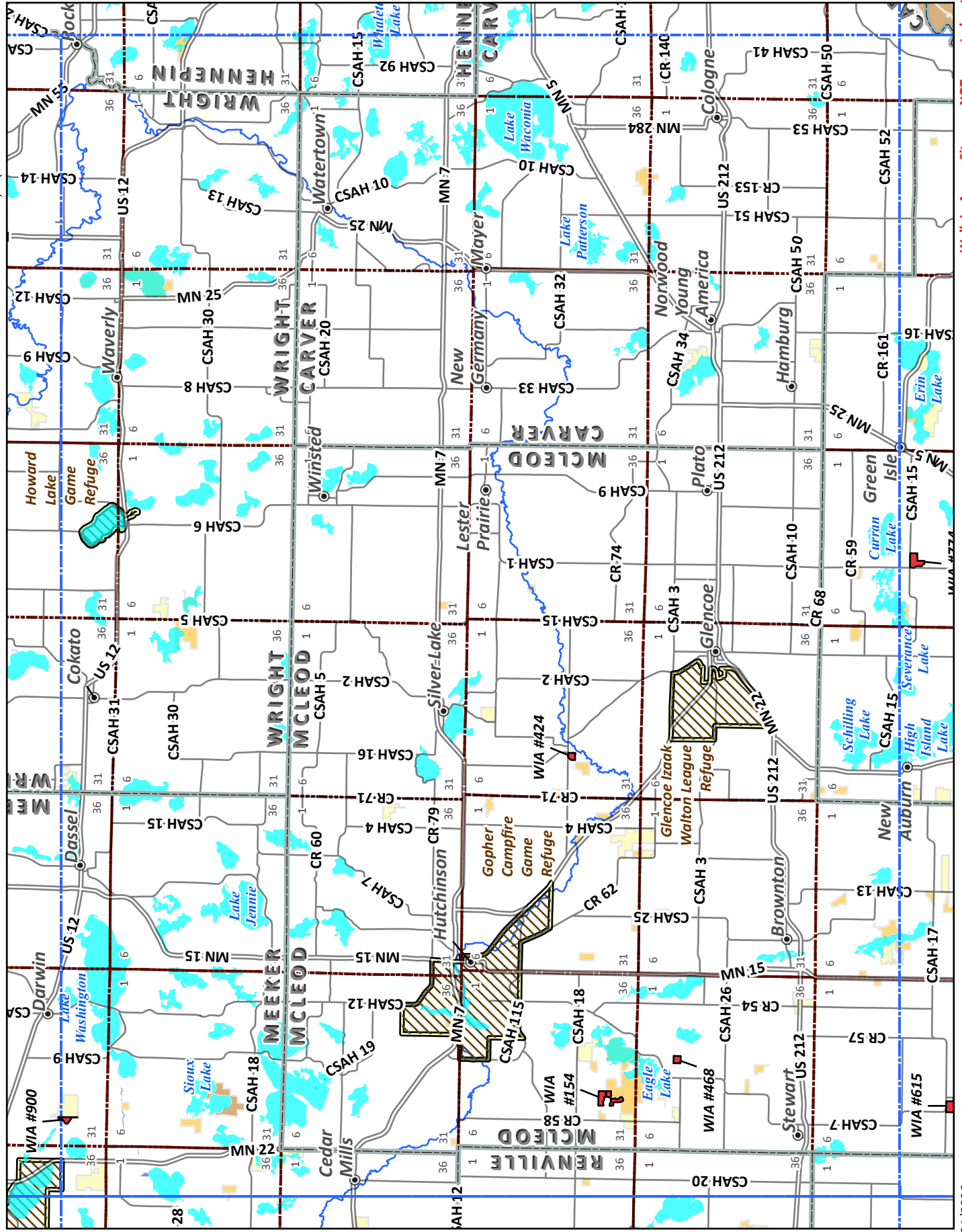




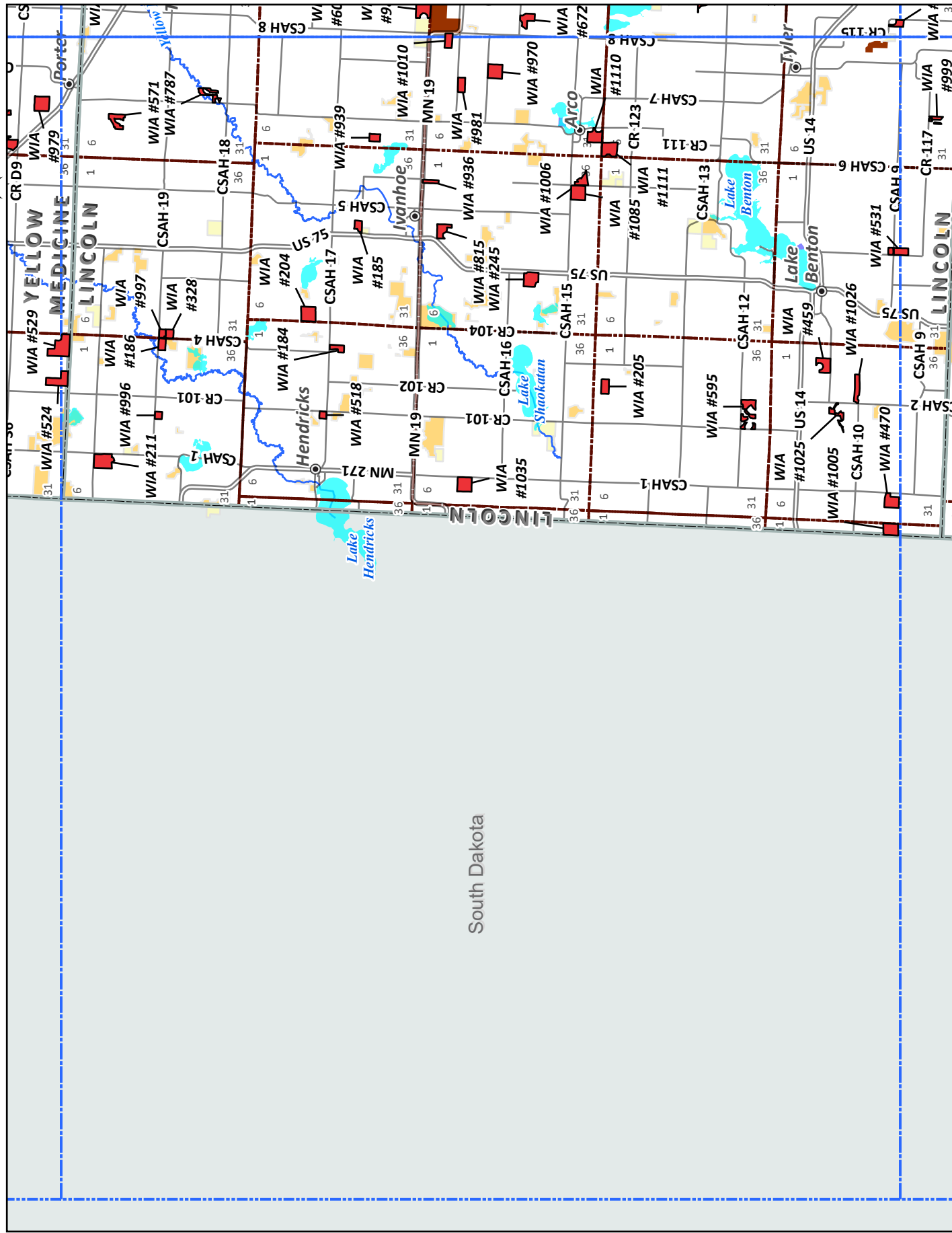


Walk-In Access Sites are NOT open to hunting until  
their boundaries have been posted with WIA signs

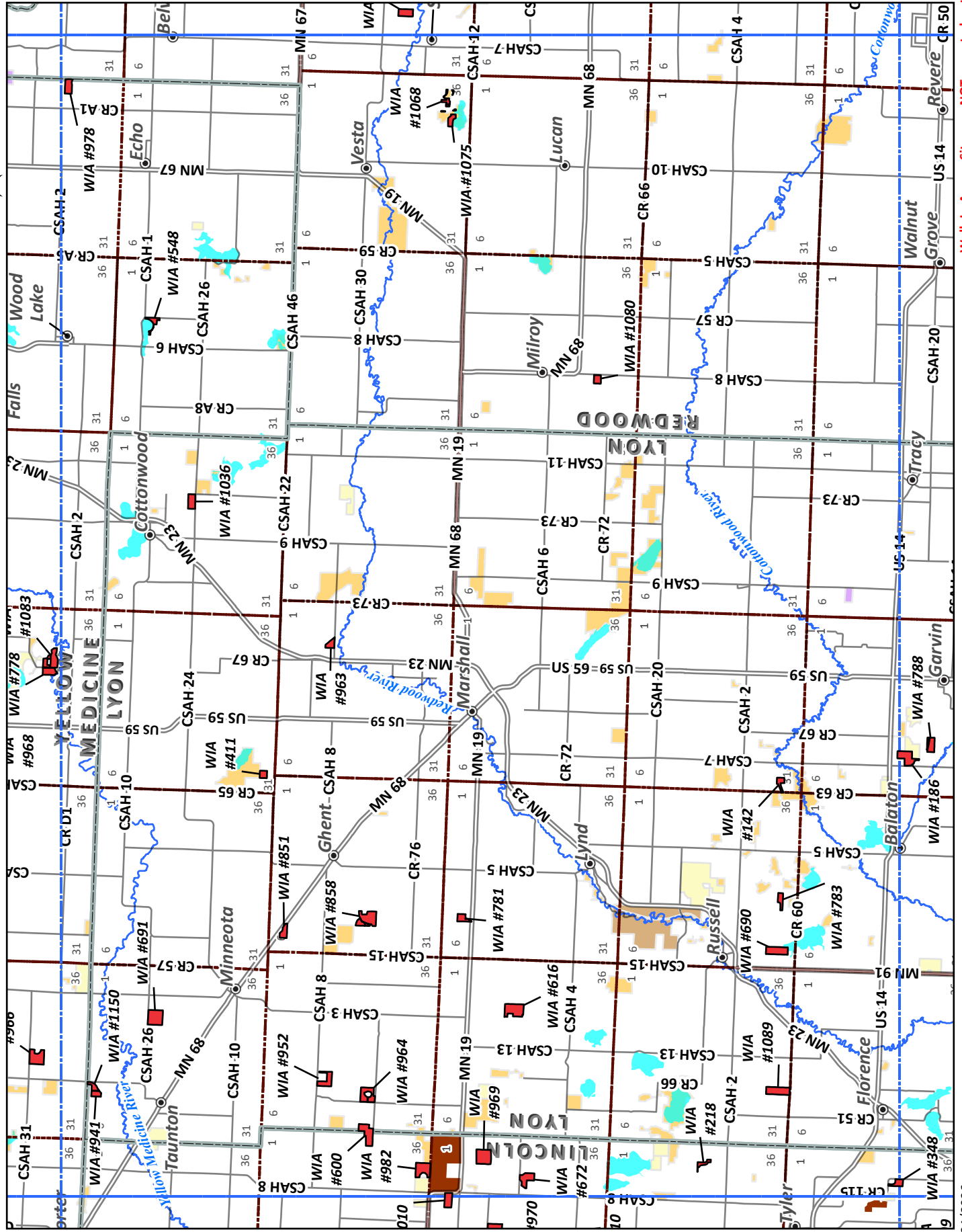


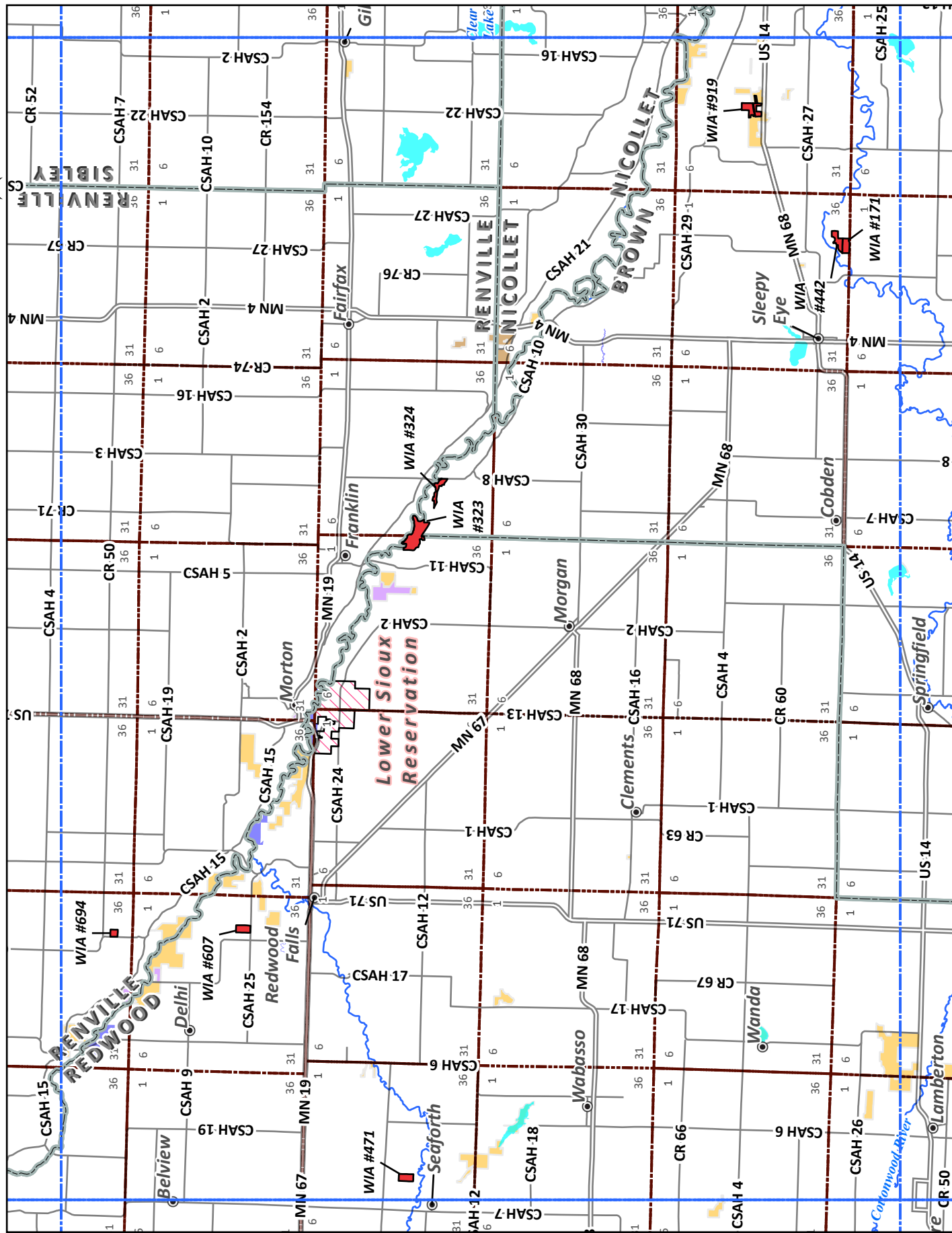




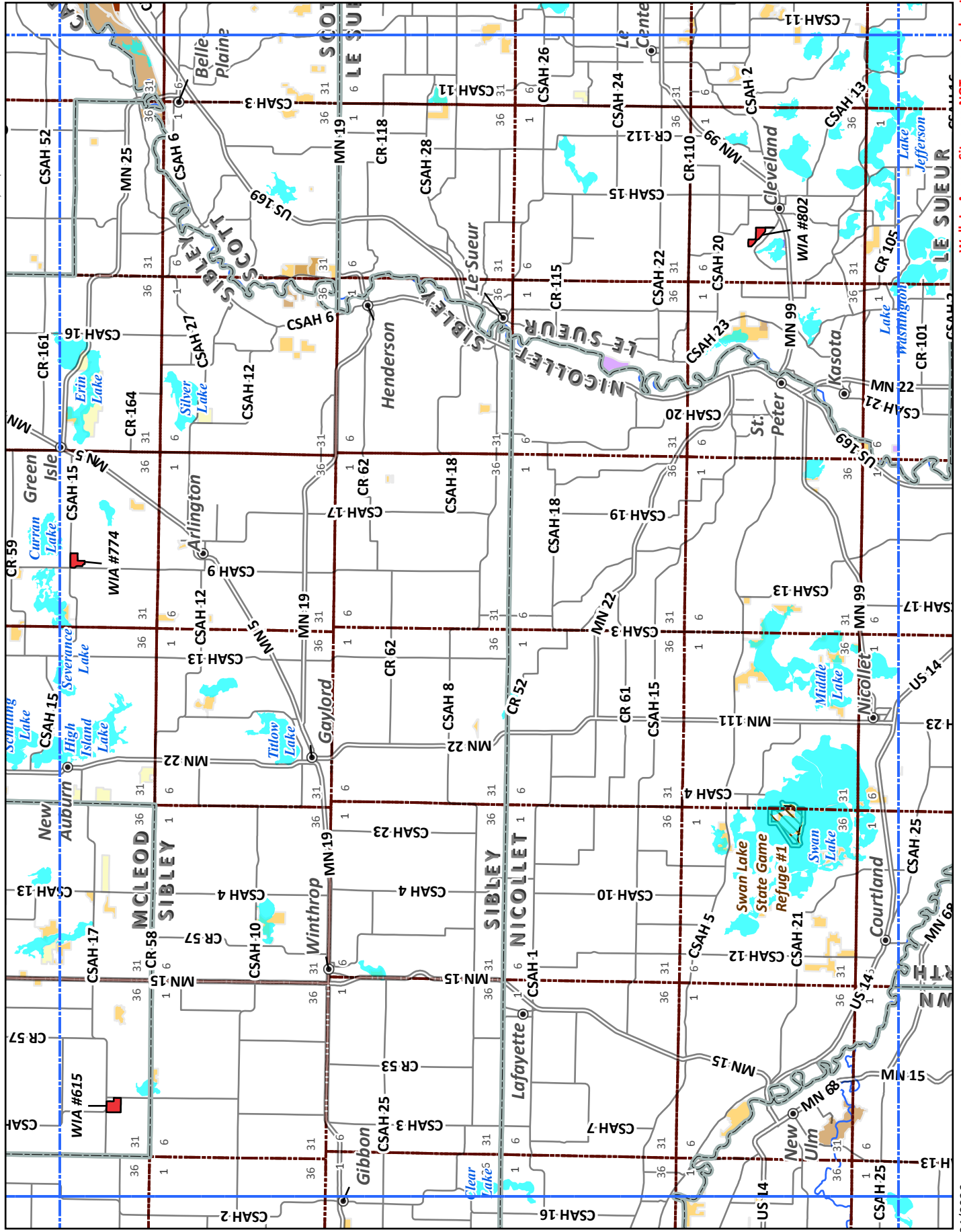


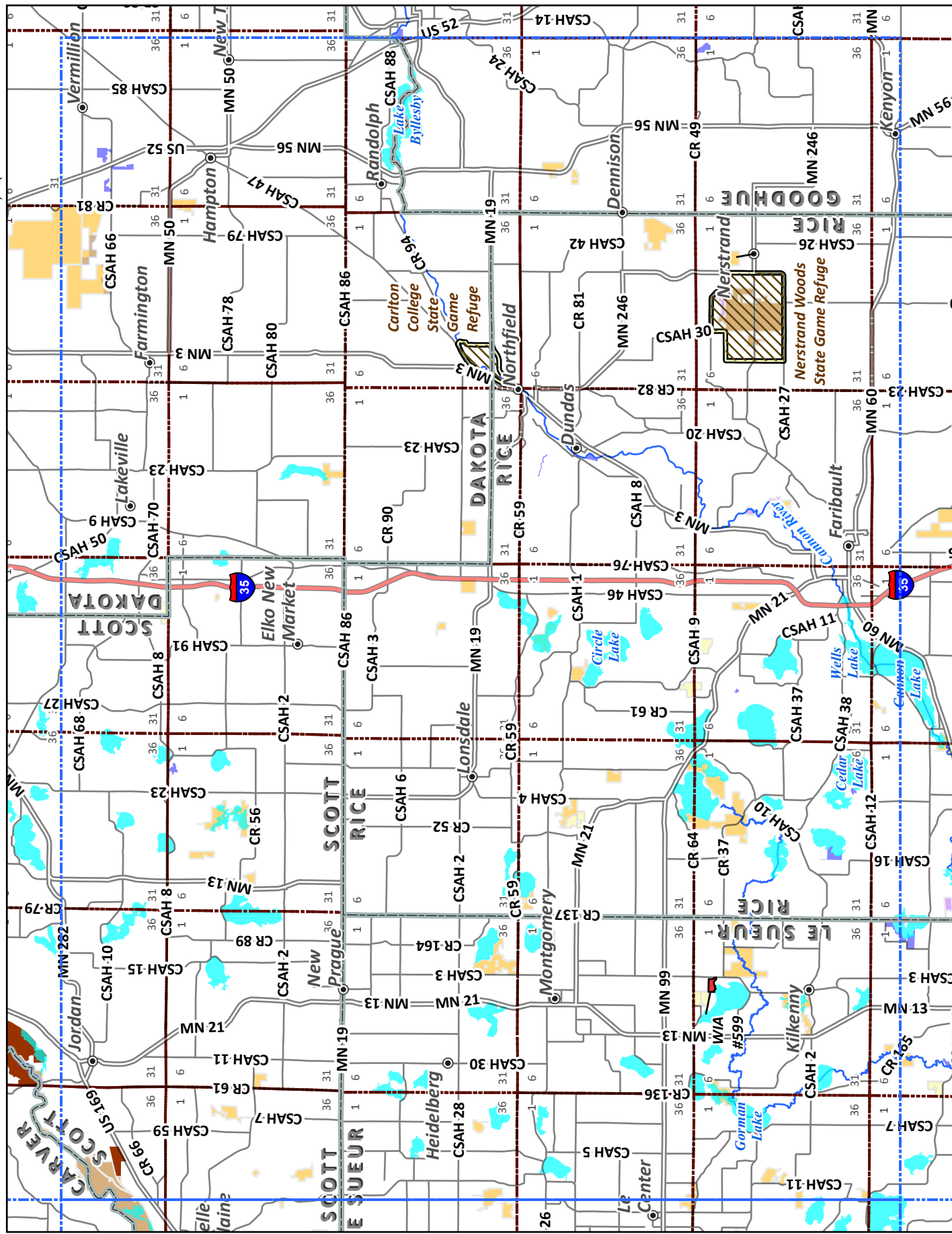
South Dakota

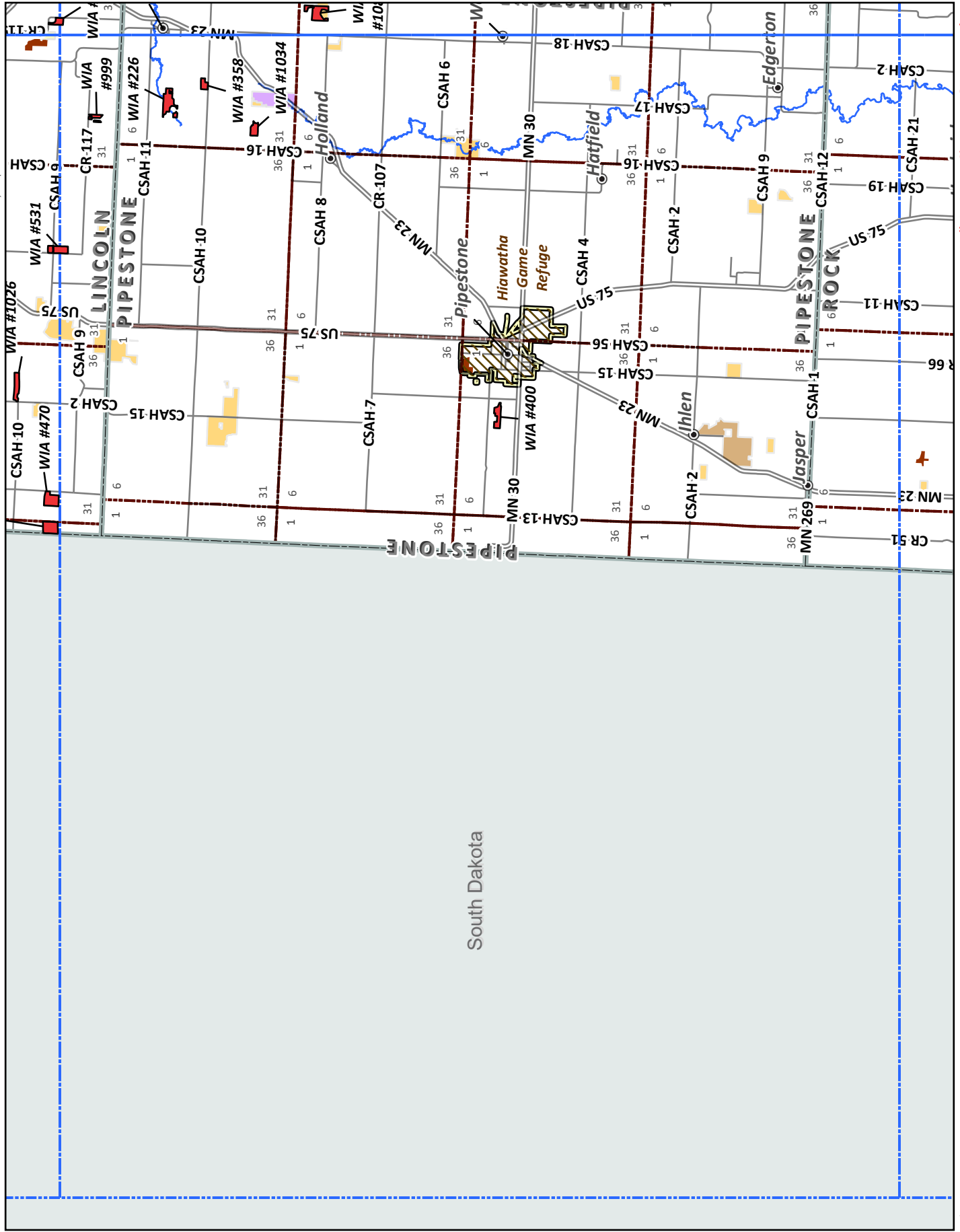








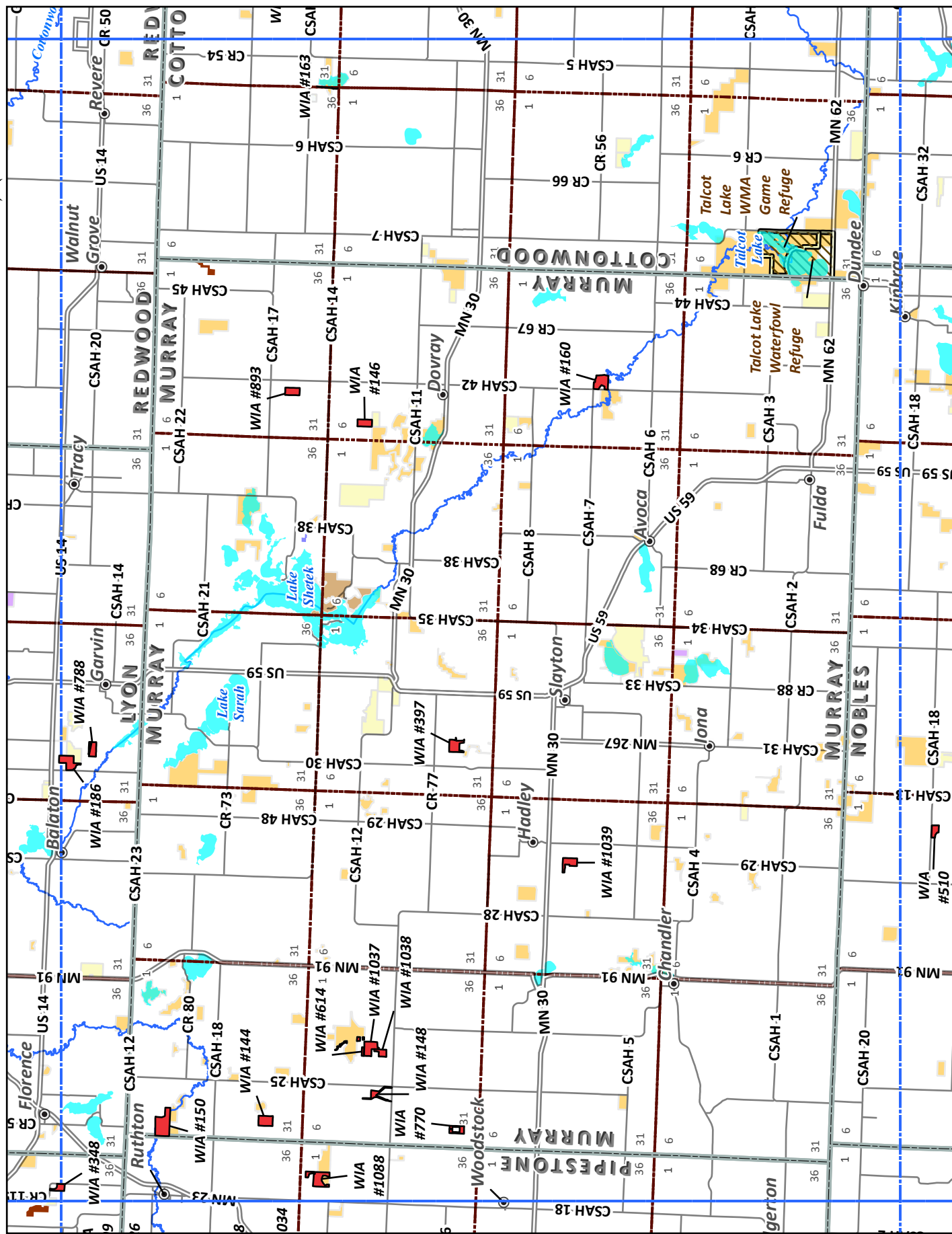


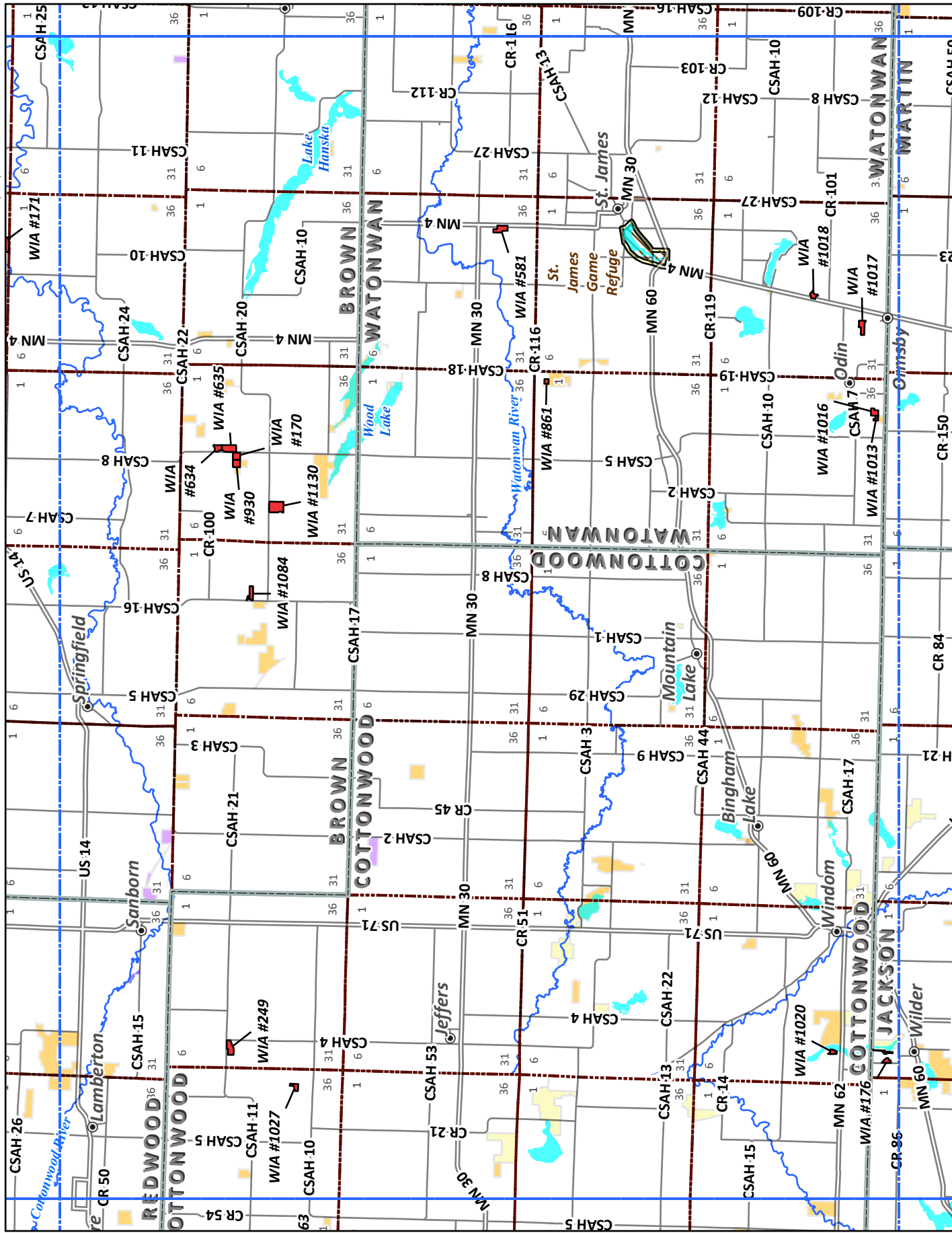


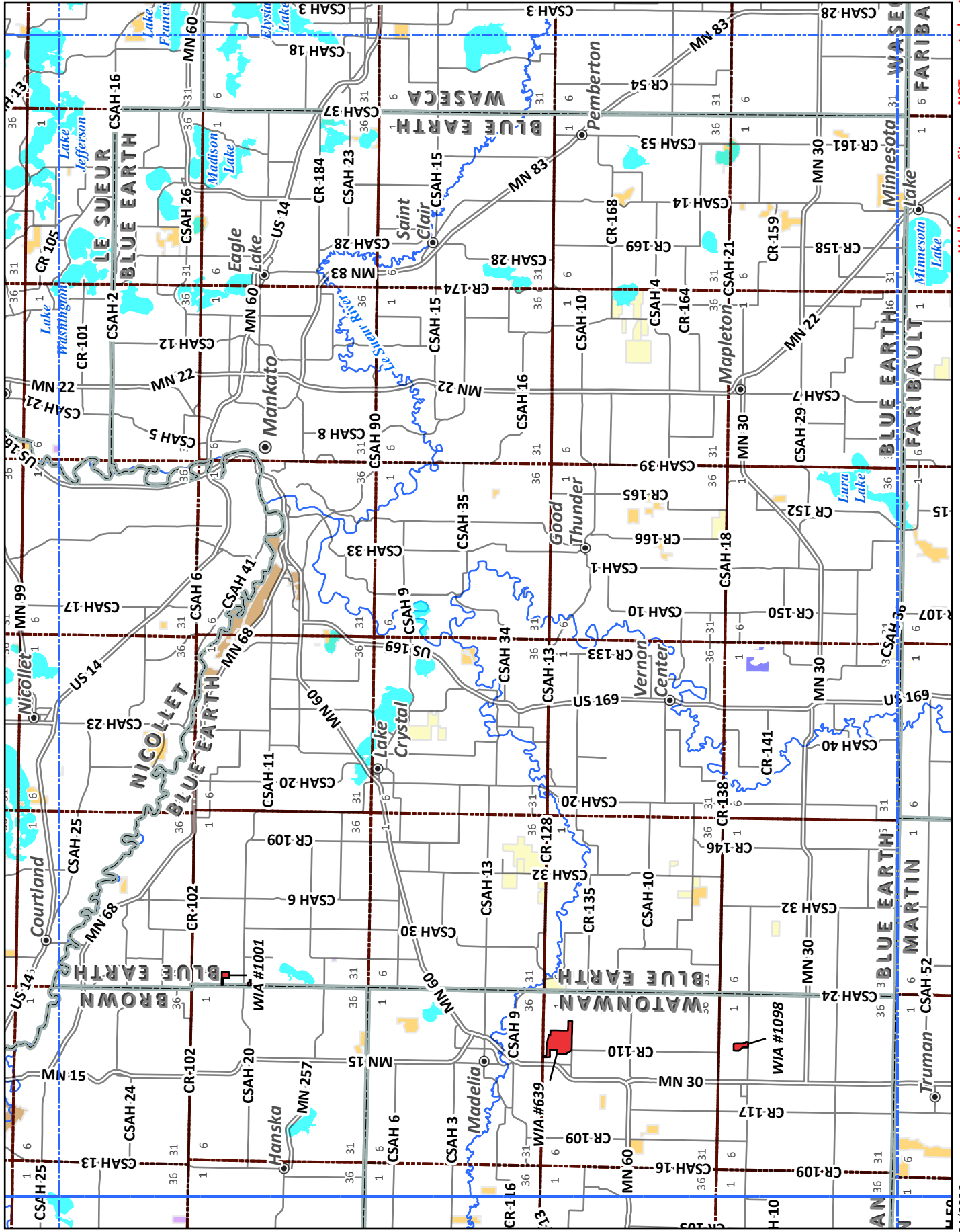
South Dakota

South Dakota

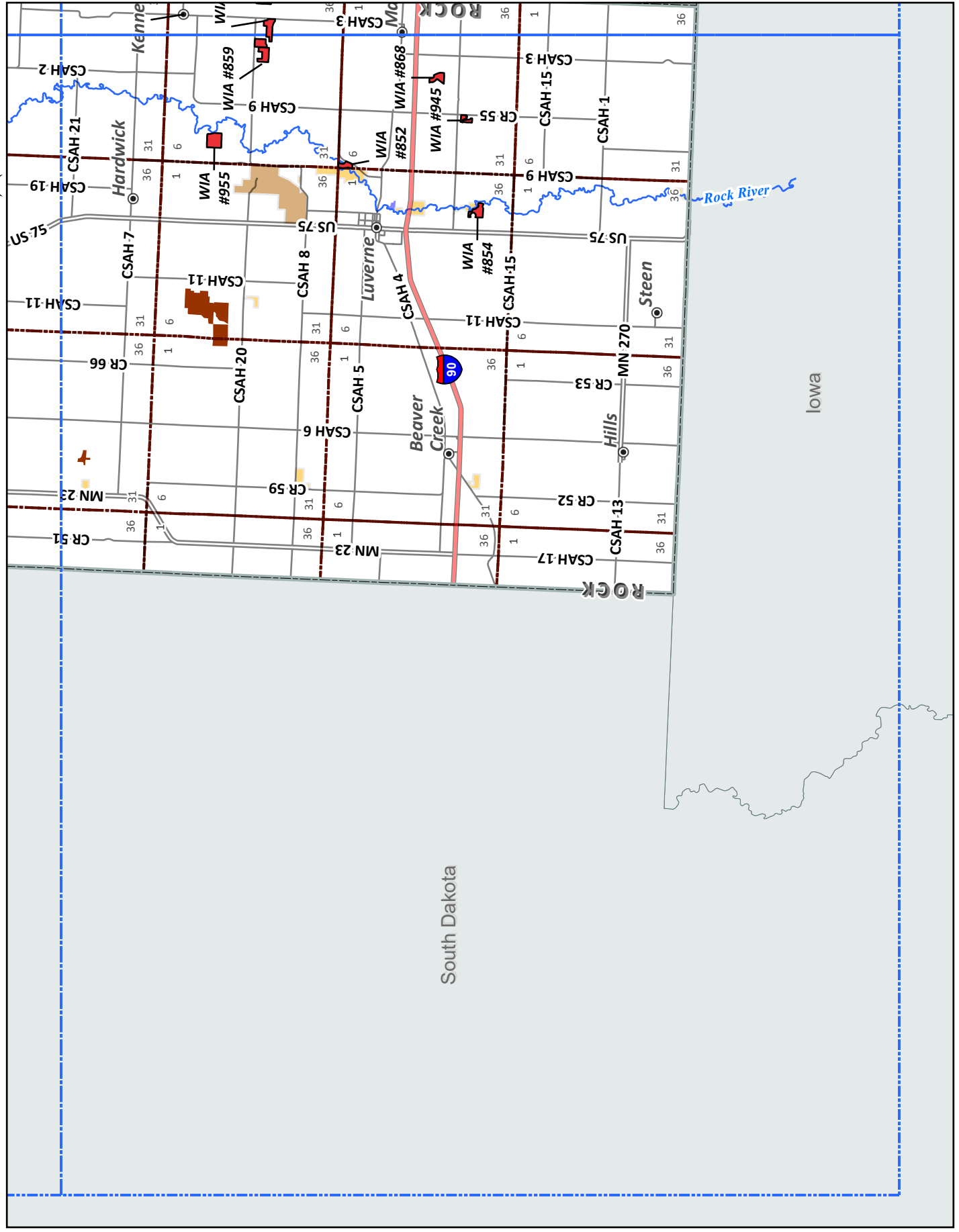


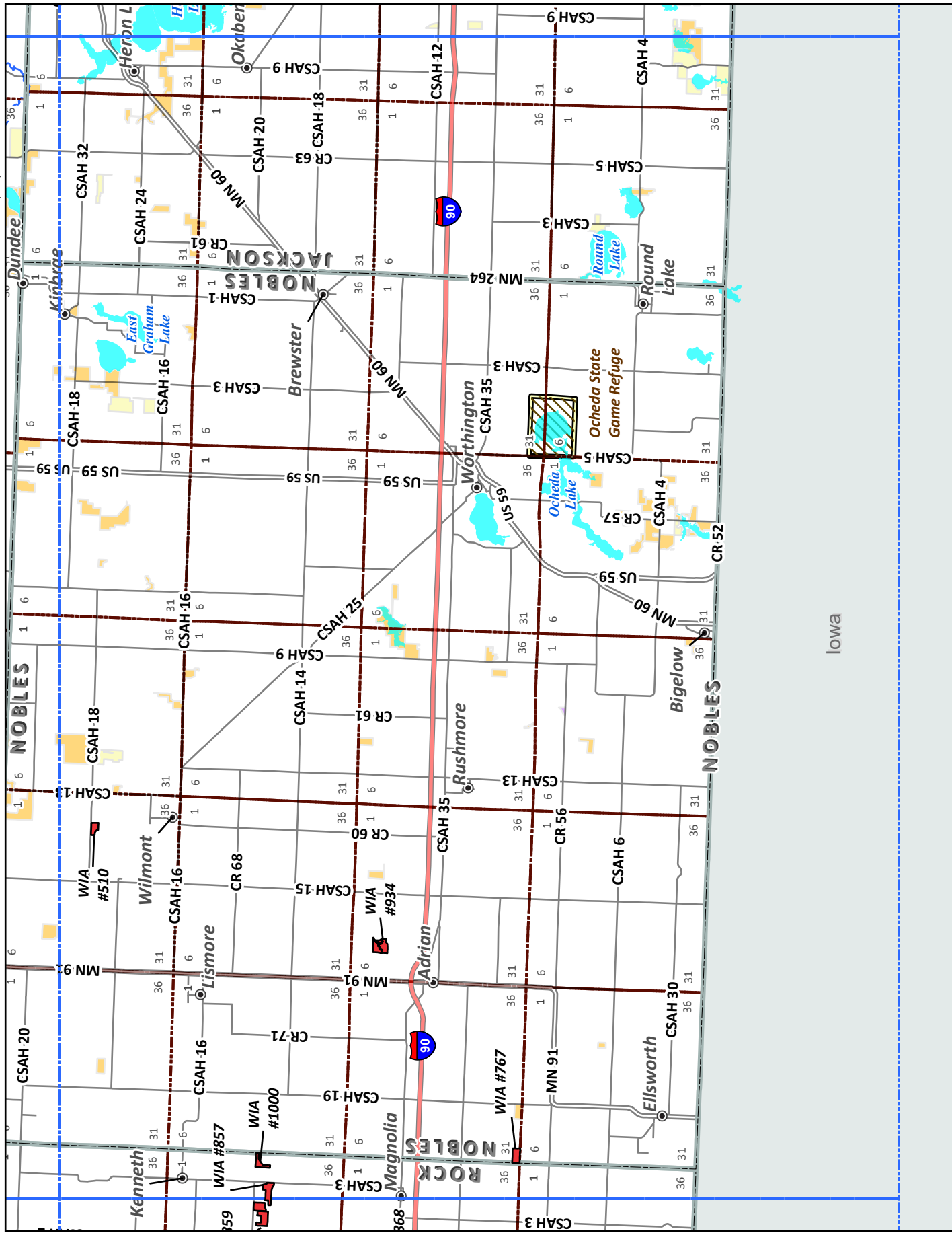


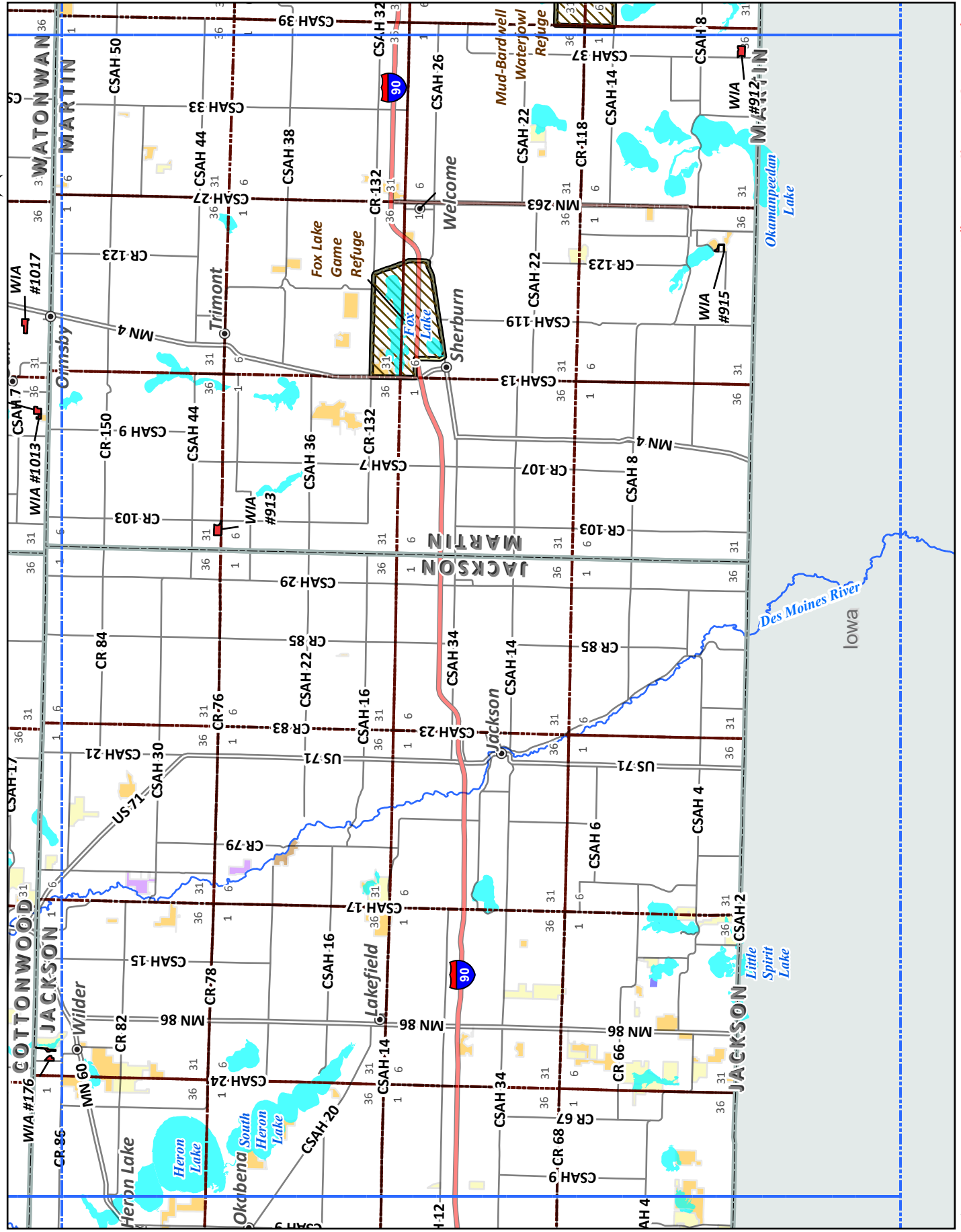




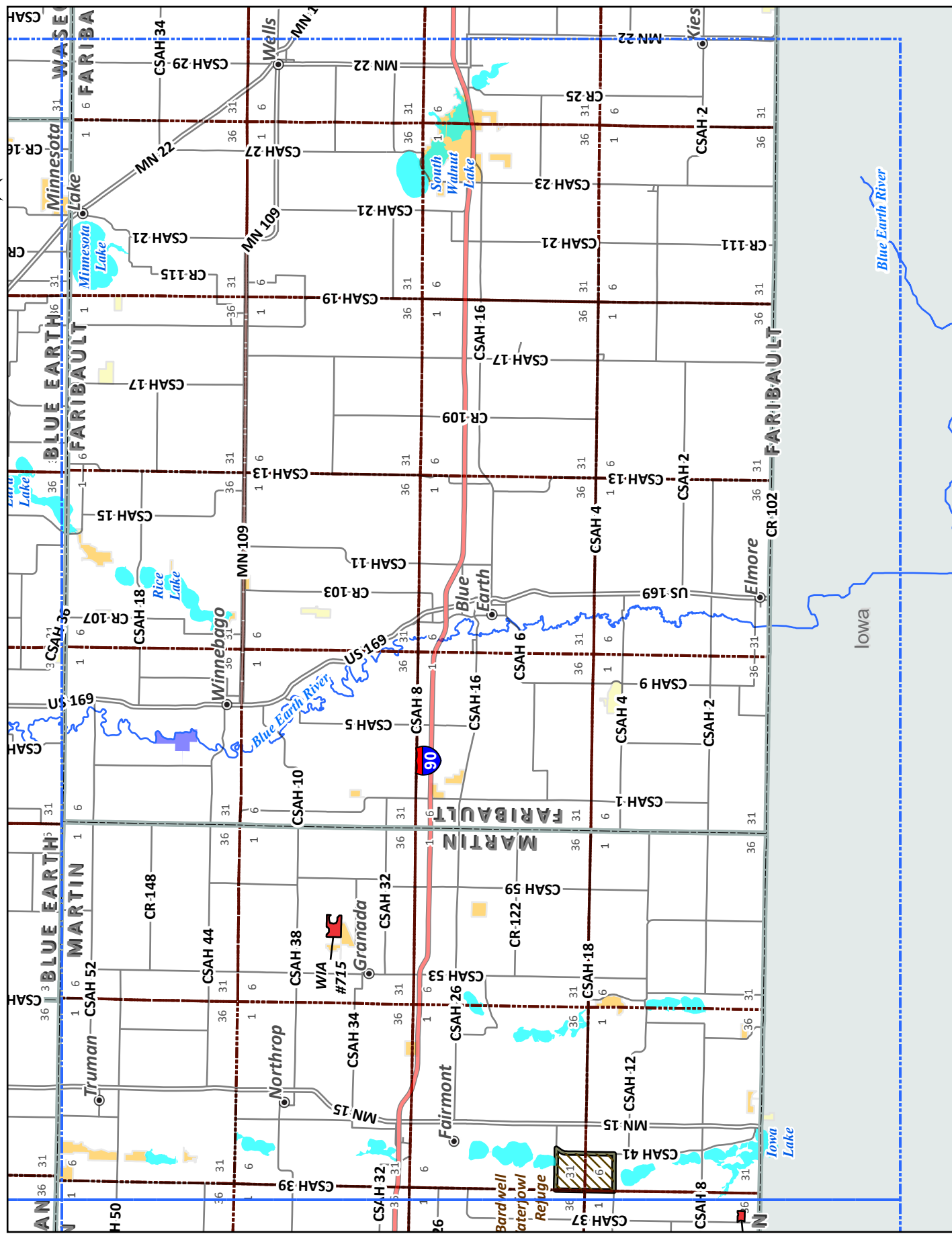












# MINNESOTA WILDLIFE AREA CONTACTS

Last updated in 2026

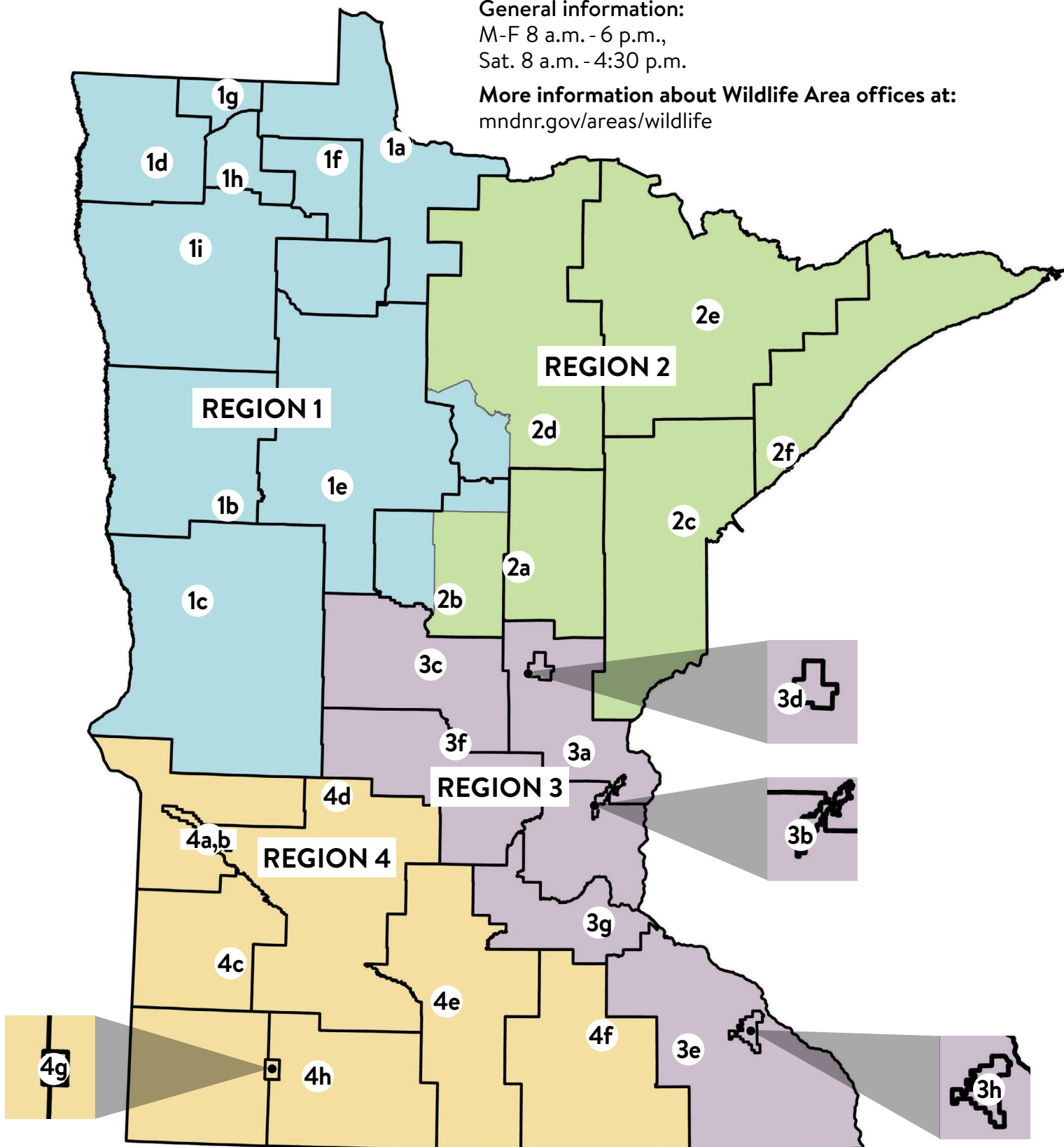


Interpreters are available to answer all of your questions.  
888-MINNDNR (646-6367) or 651-296-6157

License, titling and registration:  
M-F 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

General information:  
M-F 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.,  
Sat. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

More information about Wildlife Area offices at:  
[mndnr.gov/areas/wildlife](http://mndnr.gov/areas/wildlife)



## REGION 1

| Location on Map | Area Name                               | Address                                            | Phone Number      | Wildlife Contact  |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1a              | Baudette                                | 204 Main St E Baudette MN 56623                    | 218-395-6033      | Bob Schmidt       |
| 1b              | Detroit Lakes                           | 14583 Cty Hwy 19 Detroit Lakes MN 56501            | 218-846-8476      | Rob Baden         |
| 1c              | Fergus Falls                            | 1509 First Ave N Fergus Falls MN 56537             | 218-671-7969      | Nicholas Snavelly |
| 1d              | Karlstad                                | 202 North Main St, PO Box 154<br>Karlstad MN 56732 | 218-772-1261      | Jason Wollin      |
| 1e              | Park Rapids                             | 603 1st St W Park Rapids MN 56470                  | 218-732-8452 x235 | Erik Thorson      |
| 1f              | Red Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) | Norris Camp, Box 100<br>Roosevelt MN 56673         | 218-783-6861      | Charlie Tucker    |
| 1g              | Roseau River WMA                        | 27952 400th St Roseau MN 56751                     | 218-452-7617      | Thomas Enright    |
| 1h              | Thief Lake WMA                          | 42280 240th Ave NE Middle River MN 56737           | 218-633-7670      | Kyle Arola        |
| 1i              | Thief River Falls                       | 246 125th Ave NE<br>Thief River Falls MN 56701     | 218-219-8587      | Doug Franke       |

## REGION 2

| Location on Map | Area Name    | Address                                 | Phone Number | Wildlife Contact |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 2a              | Aitkin       | 1200 Minnesota Ave S Aitkin MN 56431    | 218-429-3053 | Russ Reisz       |
| 2b              | Brainerd     | 1601 Minnesota Dr Brainerd MN 56401     | 218-203-4323 | Christine Reisz  |
| 2c              | Cloquet      | 305 E Business Park Dr Cloquet MN 55720 | 218-878-5663 | Chris Balzer     |
| 2d              | Grand Rapids | 1201 E US Hwy 2 Grand Rapids MN 55744   | 218-328-8864 | Dawn Plattner    |
| 2e              | Tower        | 650 US Hwy 169 Tower MN 55790           | 218-300-7861 | Jessica Holmes   |
| 2f              | Two Harbors  | 1568 US Hwy 2 Two Harbors MN 55616      | 218-834-1452 | Nancy Hansen     |

## REGION 3

| Location on Map | Area Name                | Address                                       | Phone Number | Wildlife Contact  |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 3a              | Cambridge                | 800 Oak Savanna Lane SW<br>Cambridge MN 55008 | 763-284-7230 | Tim Marion        |
| 3b              | North Metro              | 5463-C W Broadway Forest Lake MN 55025        | 651-539-3305 | Alexandra Schmitz |
| 3c              | Little Falls             | 16543 Haven Rd Little Falls MN 56345          | 320-232-1066 | Beau Liddell      |
| 3d              | Mille Lacs WMA           | 29172 100th Ave Onamia MN 56359               | 320-532-3537 | Steve Piepgras    |
| 3e              | Rochester                | 2118 Campus Dr SE Rochester MN 55904          | 507-206-2858 | Todd Froberg      |
| 3f              | Sauk Rapids              | 1035 S Benton Dr Sauk Rapids MN 56379         | 320-223-7869 | Peter Borash      |
| 3g              | Vermillion River Complex | 15325 Babcock Ave Rosemount MN 55068          | 651-322-4643 | Tim Pharis        |
| 3h              | Whitewater WMA           | 15035 MN Hwy 74 Altura MN 55910               | 507-796-3281 | Christine Johnson |

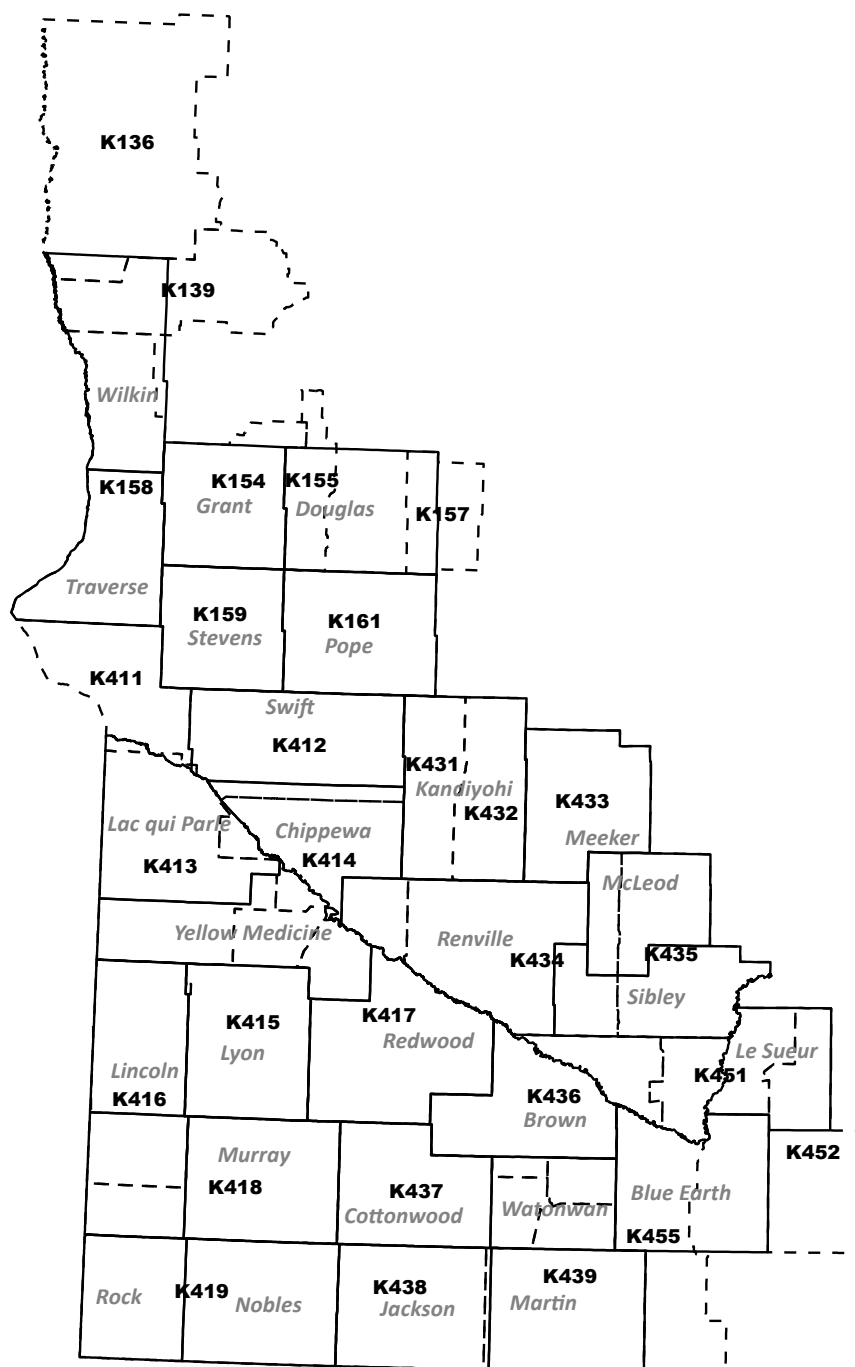
## REGION 4

| Location on Map | Area Name                       | Address                               | Phone Number      | Wildlife Contact        |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 4a              | Appleton (Lac qui Parle WMA)    | 14047 20th St NW Watson MN 56295      | 320-734-4451 x228 | Curt Vacek              |
| 4b              | Lac qui Parle (WMA)             | 14047 20th St NW Watson MN 56295      | 320-734-4451      | Walt Gessler            |
| 4c              | Marshall                        | 2716 290th St Marshall MN 56258       | 507-537-6170      | Wendy Krueger           |
| 4d              | New London                      | 9338 187th Ave NE New London MN 56273 | 320-347-7632      | Cory Netland            |
| 4e              | Nicollet                        | 501 9th St Nicollet MN 56074          | 507-386-3920      | Joseph Stangel (Acting) |
| 4f              | Owatonna (Rice Lake State Park) | 8485 Rose St Owatonna MN 55060        | 507-414-6200      | Jeanine Vorland         |
| 4g              | Slayton-Talcot Lake (WMA)       | 40249 Cty Rd 7 Dundee MN 56131        | 507-873-5650      | Bill Schuna             |
| 4h              | Windom                          | 175 Cty Rd 26 Windom MN 56101         | 507-832-6025      | Brian Nyborg            |



# Conservation Officer Patrol Areas Covering the Walk-In Access Counties

This map displays the Conservation Officer patrol areas covering the counties in the WIA program. CO contact information listed here is subject to change. For the most current CO contact information, visit [mndnr.gov/officerpatrolareas](http://mndnr.gov/officerpatrolareas) or contact the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157 or toll-free 888-646-6367.



1-800-652-9093



## Legend

-  WIA Counties
-  CO Patrol Areas

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CONSERVATION OFFICERS COVERING THE WALK-IN ACCESS COUNTIES

| K#   | OFFICER NAME     | WORKSTATION    | COUNTY                            |
|------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| K136 | William Landmark | Moorhead       | Clay/Norman/<br>Wilkin            |
| K139 | Grey Corbus      | Pelican Rapids | Otter Tail/Wilkin                 |
| K154 | Ryan Brown       | Elbow Lake     | Grant/Otter Tail                  |
| K155 | Shane Osborne    | Evansville     | Douglas/<br>Otter Tail            |
| K157 | Felicia Znajda   | Osakis         | Douglas/Todd                      |
| K158 | Ryan Brown       | Wheaton        | Traverse/Wilkin                   |
| K159 | Emily Douvier    | Morris         | Stevens                           |
| K161 | Andrew Ladzinski | Glenwood       | Pope                              |
| K411 | Dallas Cornell   | Ortonville     | Big Stone                         |
| K412 | Danielle Reuss   | Benson         | Chippewa/Swift                    |
| K413 | Mason Bulthuis   | Madison        | Lac Qui Parle/<br>Yellow Medicine |
| K414 | Luke Gutzwiller  | Montevideo     | Lyon/<br>Yellow Medicine          |
| K415 | Matt Loftness    | Marshall       | Lyon/<br>Yellow Medicine          |
| K416 | Derek Daniels    | Lake Benton    | Lincoln/Pipestone                 |

| K#   | OFFICER NAME     | WORKSTATION   | COUNTY                                 |
|------|------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------|
| K417 | Jacob Peterson   | Redwood Falls | Redwood/<br>Yellow Medicine            |
| K418 | Shawn Wichmann   | Slayton       | Murray/Pipestone                       |
| K419 | Dustin Roemeling | Worthington   | Nobles/Rock                            |
| K431 | Shane Vernier    | Willmar #1    | Kandiyohi                              |
| K432 | Cassie Block     | Willmar #2    | Kandiyohi                              |
| K433 | Nicholas Klehr   | Litchfield    | Meeker                                 |
| K434 | Brett Wilttrout  | Hutchinson #1 | McLeod/Nicollet/<br>Renville           |
| K435 | Zachary Larson   | Hutchinson #2 | McLeod/Sibley                          |
| K436 | Thor Nelson      | New Ulm       | Brown/Nicollet/<br>Watsonwan           |
| K437 | Travis Cain      | Windom        | Cotton/<br>Watsonwan                   |
| K438 | Emma Wehking     | Jackson       | Jackson                                |
| K439 | Eric Schettler   | Fairmont      | Martin/Watowan                         |
| K451 | Mitch Nowak      | St. Peter     | Le Sueur/Nicollet                      |
| K452 | Meng Moua        | Waseca        | Le Sueur/Waseca                        |
| K455 | Jamie VanThuyne  | Mankato #2    | Blue Earth/<br>Faribault/<br>Watsonwan |

Walk-In Access Program is funded by:



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

This material is based upon work supported by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under number NR246322XXXXG004. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

## CALL US

Interpreters are available to answer all of your questions.

License, titling and registration: M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

General information: M-F 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

888-MINNDNR (646-6367) or 651-296-6157



mnfishwildlife



mndnr



minnesotadnr

## TURN IN POACHERS

24-hour hotline, 800-652-9093



500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
651-296-6157

888-MINNDNR (646-6367) MN Toll Free

[mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov)

The Minnesota DNR prohibits discrimination in its programs and services based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital or familial status, disability, public assistance status, age, sexual orientation, and local human rights commission activity. Individuals with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to access or participate in DNR programs and services, including those who would like to request this document in an alternative format, should contact the DNR ADA Title II Coordinator at [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us) or 651-296-6157. We welcome calls from Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) users. For assistance in other languages, please call 651-296-6157 or 888-MINNDNR (646-6367). Discrimination inquiries should be sent to Minnesota DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4049; or Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250.

© 2026, State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources.

Publication printed using vegetable-based ink. Please recycle.