

Missouri National Recreational River

Hunting and Fishing Guide

Your Guide to Hunting and Fishing at
MNRR Properties and Waters

Printed 2025



Disclaimer: All information presented in this guide is intended to help hunters and anglers to understand hunting rules and regulations on the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR) properties. Some of the information in this guide may come from entities other than MNRR. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information presented is accurate, complete, and useable as of the date of publication, the information included in this publication is for informational purposes and general reference only. MNRR does not guarantee that the information is correct or complete. **By using this atlas, the user agrees that MNRR is not liable for incorrect or incomplete information.**

This atlas makes no claim to be suitable for navigational use despite roads and navigable waterways being depicted for reference. This atlas is not legally binding and not intended for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Often, signs and fence lines mark the actual boundaries between properties – public and private. In the absence of fence lines, posted signs indicate public access boundaries.

The user of this atlas is responsible for ensuring that the land entered is either open to public access or that permission has been obtained from a private property owner prior to access. It is recommended that permission to access private property is documented in writing. It is the responsibility of the atlas user to ensure compliance with the rules and regulations of the land or waters accessed.

This material is based upon work completed by the Missouri National Recreational River, a unit of the National Park System. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official position of other entities. In addition, any reference to specific brands or types of products or services does not constitute or imply an endorsement by the U.S. Department of Interior or any other entity for those products or services. ESRI base maps displayed in this atlas for reference may occasionally depict public lands that conflict with atlas boundaries.

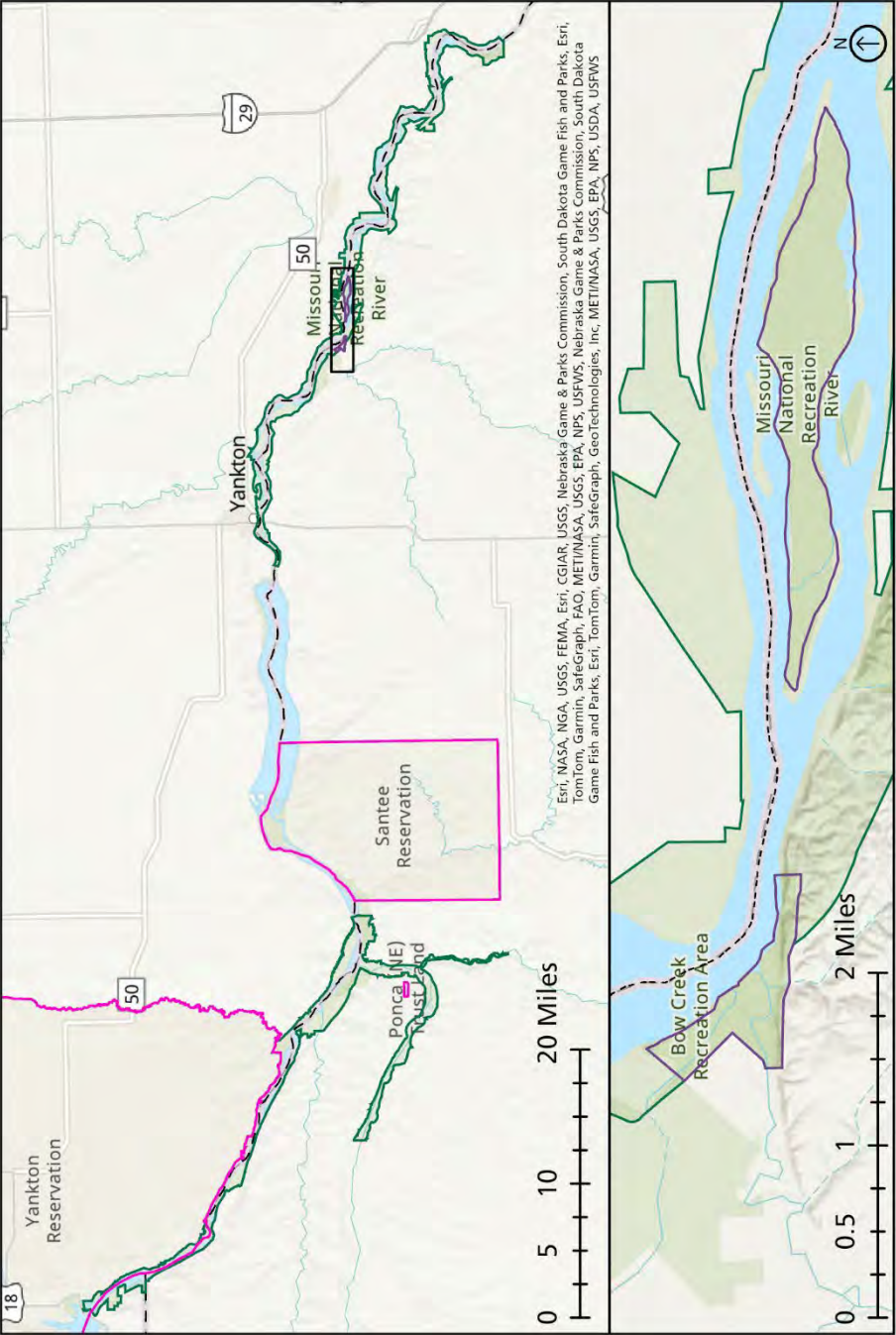
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Purpose

This guide was created to present hunters interested in hunting at Missouri National Recreational River properties an easy-to-use, visually engaging guide that clearly lays out the rules and regulations about hunting at MNRR (Missouri National Recreational River) properties. Many recreationalists engaging in these activities are often confused or unsure what the requirements are. Please note: This guide does not address hunting rules on properties not owned by the MNRR – even if they are within the MNRR legislative boundary. Users should always plan their outings in advance and ensure they are fully prepared, including being knowledgeable about rules and regulations specific to the location they intend to access and time of the activity they intend to engage in. **By using this atlas, the user agrees that MNRR is not liable for any incorrect or incomplete information.**

Park Map

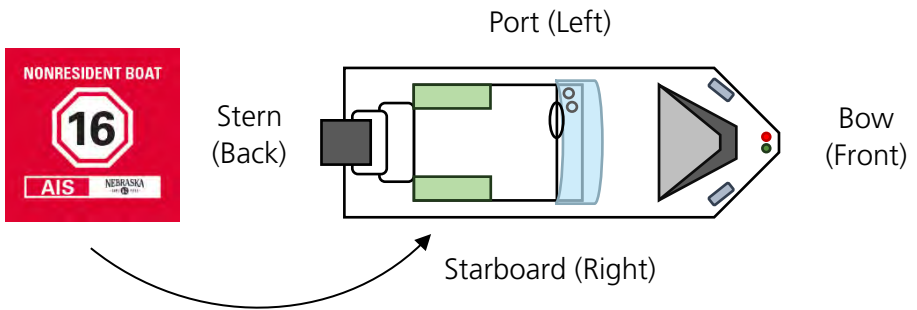


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Important Information

The following information is presented up front because it is important for recreationists to understand and is highly nuanced.

Boats launched from any Nebraska boat ramp, including the North Tailrace ramp below Gavins Point Dam and Lake Yankton must have a Nebraska Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) stamp affixed to the starboard (right) rearward side of the boat if not registered with Nebraska. Boats launched from South Dakota boat ramps do not need AIS stamps. There is a fee for the stamp, obtainable online through the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission website.



In the 0.6 miles downstream of Gavins Point Dam, a South Dakota nonresident fishing license is invalid. South Dakota resident licenses are valid in this stretch.

On your motorboat, make sure to display your registration as required by the state the vessel is registered to. (South Dakota and Nebraska require registration if the boat is in their state for 60 or more consecutive days.) You will need to include the validation sticker followed by two capital block letters for your state's Coat Guard code (e.g.) "NB" or "SD" followed by a 2-inch space and three or four digits in a numerical group followed by a 2-inch space and two or three capital block letters. Letters and numbers must be block letters at least three inches in height of contrasting color and visible for 100 feet. Registration display is to be read left-to-right.

A photograph of a deer with antlers standing in a field, overlaid with a semi-transparent brown filter.

Guidance on Hunting



*Safety reminder: Remember to wear **Hunter Orange***

Park-wide Regulations

Artificial light: The unauthorized use of artificial light for the purpose of viewing wildlife is prohibited in all areas of the park's properties.

Closures: Posted Endangered Bird Nesting Sites are closed to all entry, pets, ATVs, vehicles, and vessel landing.

Special Uses: Tournaments, races, or other large-scale events often require a Special Use Permit issued by the park. Events or uses that meet the following criteria require a Special Use Permit:

- Provides a benefit to an individual, group, or organization, rather than the public at large;
- Requires written authorization and some degree of NPS management to protect park resources and the public interest;
- Is not prohibited by law or regulation;
- Is not initiated, sponsored, or conducted by the NPS;
- Is not managed under a concession contract;
- Is not managed through a lease.

In most cases, permits and fees are not required for filming, still photography, or audio recording that involves eight or fewer individuals. In order to avoid permit and fee requirements, the filming, still photography, or audio recording must meet all of the following conditions:

- Occurs in areas open to the public;
- Uses hand-carried equipment only;
- Does not require exclusive use of a site;
- Does not adversely impact park resources, values, or other visitors; AND
- Is not likely to result in additional administrative costs for the National Park Service.

Please contact the park at 605-665-0209 and request the Special Use Permit Coordinator for additional details if you have questions.

MNRR Hunting Regulations

All regulations associated with the applicable hunting license apply. For details, consult information about the other jurisdictions. Additional restrictions imposed by the National Park Service and/or Missouri National Recreational River override those imposed by state jurisdiction when contradictory. Federal rules may be applicable in tribal lands.

Locations, Open Season, and Special Notes by property:

Location	Season	Special Notes
Mulberry Bend	Closed	
Green Island	Closed	
Bow Creek Recreation Area	Labor Day to Memorial Day	Trapping is prohibited year-round. Nebraska license required.
Goat Island	Labor Day to Memorial Day	Small game and nongame hunting are prohibited. Trapping is prohibited from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

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Bow Creek Recreation Area Hunting Zones



Legend

P Parking

A Campsites

No Hunting Allowed

Hunting Allowed

If you have questions about park rules or regulations, consult the Superintendent's Compendium or relevant CFR titles or call MNRR HQ at 605-665-0209 M-F, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If you experience an emergency, call 911.



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Bow Creek Recreation Area – Site specific information:

Blinds: Portable or mobile blinds are allowed to be set up at Bow Creek Recreation Area or on a sandbar attached to the area but must be removed daily. Blinds must be labeled with the owner's name and applicable state hunter identification number.

Decoys: Temporary decoys are allowed. Permanent decoys are not allowed. Decoys must be removed daily.

Developed Facilities: No hunting or trapping is permitted at the Bow Creek Recreation Area within 100 yards of developed facilities including designated primitive camping areas.

Elevated Platforms/Stand: Allowed but must not be permanently mounted (no nails or screws) to trees and not allowed within 100 yards of developed facilities. Hunters can utilize no more than two stands or elevated platforms per hunter and can remain in place for the duration of the season. Stands or platforms can be erected one week before the season starts and must be removed by the last day of the season. Stands and platforms must be labeled with the owner's name and applicable state hunter identification number.

Game Allowed: Upland game, small game, furbearer, turkey, deer, and waterfowl hunting are permitted in accordance with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission regulations and seasons.

License: The hunting seasons are the same as listed for the state of license, except for no hunting at Bow Creek Recreation Area from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Non-toxic Shot: Required for all shotgun hunting.

Prohibited Tools, Devices, and Techniques: The following tools, devices, or techniques are not allowed at Bow Creek Recreation Area: feeders, bait stations, artificial light, amplified, electric or recorded calls, drones, devices utilized for transmitting information regarding

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the location of game, cellular trail cameras, running and/or game drives. Non-cellular trail cameras may be utilized. The name and applicable hunting license number of the owner must be on the exterior of the unattended trail camera. A trail camera is a remotely activated device set to capture photos, video, sound, or other evidence of activity while the user is absent from the location. Nails, bolts, and screws are prohibited for attaching trail cameras to trees, posts, or other structures.

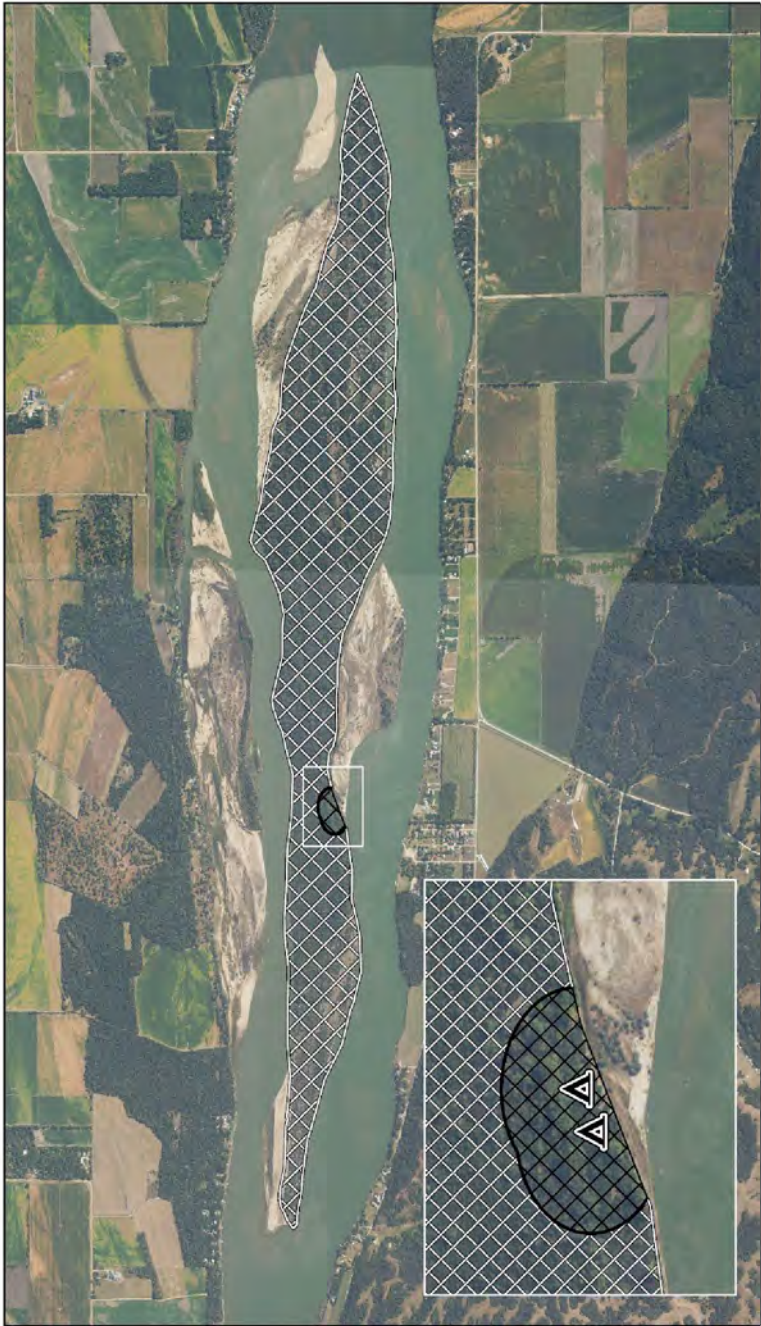
Trapping: Prohibited.

Trash: All hunters and users of the area are required to pack out all hunting debris, such as spent shell casings or other personal trash.

All hunters are required to provide harvest information to the park including dates hunted and species harvested. Data may be emailed to the Park Chief Ranger, called in at 605-665-0209 or mailed to: National Park Service, Visitor and Resource Protection, 508 East Second Street, Yankton, SD 57078



Goat Island Hunting Zones



Legend

- Parking
- No Hunting Allowed
- Hunting Allowed

If you have questions about park rules or regulations, consult the Superintendent's Compendium or relevant CFR titles or call MNRR HQ at 605-665-0209 M-F, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If you experience an emergency, call 911.



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Goat Island – Site specific information

The following is site specific information for Goat Island:

Game Allowed: Archery only deer and archery only turkey hunting is permitted. Waterfowl hunting is open only to firearm use per the laws and regulations of the Nebraska or South Dakota state hunting license. Small game hunting is not allowed on Goat Island.

Trapping: Permitted in accordance with Nebraska and South Dakota state laws and regulations.

Decoys: Permanent decoys are not allowed. All decoys must be removed daily.

License: Anyone hunting or trapping on Goat Island must have a valid Nebraska or South Dakota license/permit, applicable to the species and location. The hunting and trapping seasons are the same as listed for the state of license, except for no hunting or trapping on Goat Island from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Developed Facilities: No hunting or trapping is permitted on Goat Island within 100 yards of developed island facilities including designated camping areas or toilets.

Elevated Platforms/Stands: Allowed for deer and turkey archery hunting only. They must not be permanently mounted (no nails or screws) to trees and not allowed within 100 yards of developed facilities (camping areas or toilets). Hunters can utilize no more than two stands or elevated platforms per hunter and can remain in place for the duration of the season. Stands or platforms can be erected one week before the season starts and must be removed by the last day of the season. Stands and platforms must be labeled with the owner's name and applicable state hunter identification number.

Blinds: Portable or mobile blinds are allowed to be set up on the island or on a sandbar attached to the island; all blinds must be removed daily. Blinds must be labeled with the owner's name and applicable state hunter identification number.

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Trash: Hunters and trappers are required to pack out all hunting debris, such as spent shell casings or other personal trash.

Prohibited Tools, Devices, and Techniques: The following tools, devices, or techniques are not allowed at Goat Island: feeders, bait stations, artificial light, amplified, electric or recorded calls, drones, devices utilized for transmitting information regarding the location of game, cellular trail cameras, running and/or game drives. Non-cellular trail cameras may be utilized. The name and applicable hunting license number of the owner must be on the exterior of the unattended trail camera. A trail camera is a remotely activated device set to capture photos, video, sound, or other evidence of activity while the user is absent from the location. Nails, bolts and screws are prohibited for attaching trail cameras to trees, posts or other structures.

All hunters are required to provide harvest information to the park including dates hunted and species harvested. Data may be sent via email to the Chief Park Ranger, called in at 605-665-0209 or mailed to: National Park Service, Attn: Visitor and Resource Protection, 508 East Second Street, Yankton, SD 57078.



Hunting License information

Licenses accepted at MNRR Properties

The Missouri National Recreational River does not issue hunting licenses. Hunting licenses are accepted from South Dakota or Nebraska if valid in that location. A license from either state is valid in the water along the border and on Goat Island, but the rules tied to that license are enforced. Tribal licenses are required for hunting from tribal lands under their jurisdiction and are valid in those locations.

Additional questions about licenses from these jurisdictions may be answered by contacting the relevant jurisdiction directly. Border water regulations are generally the same in both South Dakota and Nebraska.

A valid hunting license for the location where the hunter is engaging in such activities must be presented when requested by a Park Ranger or Law Enforcement Officer. Additional identification must also be presented when requested.

South Dakota Hunting Licenses

Licenses are required to hunt and harvest within South Dakota's jurisdiction. Hunting along rivers that border South Dakota is permitted. Licenses may be purchased at gfp.sd.gov, on the GFP mobile app, authorized retailers, or select County Treasurer's offices. South Dakota has two classes of licenses: Resident and Non-resident. To qualify for a resident license, one must have lived in South Dakota for at least 90 consecutive days prior, have no residency or resident hunting license in another state/foreign country, and have any driver's licenses and vehicle registrations in South Dakota. One must have intent to become a permanent resident. There are exceptions for government workers stationed elsewhere, military service, post-secondary education, foreign students in South Dakota, minors, and South Dakota National Guard members. Consult the South Dakota Hunting Guide for full details. Non-resident licenses are issued to anyone ineligible for a resident license.

Hunting and Fishing Guide

State hunting licenses are NOT valid on tribal trust lands. Contact tribes for specific information if interested in hunting on those lands.

The hunter must have the appropriate license to hunt the specified animal. Documentation to demonstrate age for discounted price must also be provided at the time of purchase. Some licenses are valid only in certain units of the State. The hunter should consult their license and provided guidance. The MNRR area is entirely in Unit 00A.

Need more details? Check out the South Dakota Hunting Guide

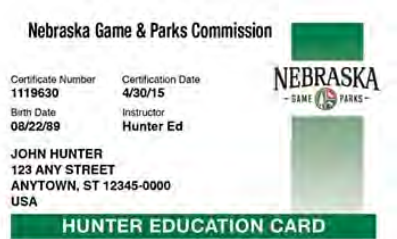
Find the guide online at: <http://gfp.sd.gov/pages/regulations> or in print at locations such as state parks, outfitters, and recreation stores throughout South Dakota.

Nebraska Hunting Licenses

Licenses (referred to as permits by Nebraska) are required to hunt and harvest within Nebraska's jurisdiction. Hunting along rivers that border Nebraska is permitted. Licenses may be purchased at authorized retailers, online at the Nebraska Game and Parks website, or the Nebraska Game and Parks mobile app.

Hunters aged 12 through 29 are required to successfully complete a Firearm Hunter Education course to hunt any species with a firearm or air gun. Likewise, hunters ages 12 through 29 are required to successfully complete a Bowhunter

Education course to hunt deer, elk antelope, or mountain sheep with a bow and arrow or a crossbow. Hunters required to complete these courses must carry proof of successful completion. Hunters under age 12 may complete the courses, but if they have not, they may be accompanied by a licensed hunter aged 19 or older. If the accompanying adult is less than 29, they must have completed the required courses. All hunters, regardless of age, are encouraged to



Missouri National Recreational River take the course. These requirements apply to both Nebraska residents and non-residents. Courses can be completed in-person or online. Register online at <http://www.outdoornebraska.gov/huntereducation>.

State licenses are NOT valid on land owned by tribes. Contact tribes for specific information if interested in hunting on those lands.

Nebraska has two classes of licenses: Resident and Non-Resident. To qualify for a resident license, one must have lived in Nebraska for at least 30 consecutive days with the intention of remaining permanently. Residents in (post-secondary) schools in another state or stationed outside of Nebraska as part of a military assignment that have maintained Nebraska as their legal residence remain eligible. New residents should be prepared to provide documentation proving residency. Non-resident licenses are issued to anyone ineligible for a resident license.

Need more details? Check out the Nebraska's Hunting Guides.

Find the guide online at: <https://outdoornebraska.gov/guides-maps/> or in print at locations such as state parks, outfitters, and recreation stores throughout Nebraska.



Guidance on Fishing



Safety reminder: Wear your life jacket on boats 🚤

Fishing license information

Licenses accepted at Missouri National Recreational River

The Missouri National Recreational River does not issue fishing licenses. Fishing licenses are accepted from South Dakota and Nebraska if valid in that location. A license from either state is valid on the waters of the Missouri River if on the state border, but the rules tied to that license are enforced.

Additional questions about licenses from these jurisdictions may be answered by contacting the relevant jurisdiction directly.

MNRR Fishing Regulations

Most of the MNRR's waters are on the state boundary between Nebraska and South Dakota. As such, anglers should be aware of regulations from both states. A portion of the Missouri River on the 39-Mile District is entirely within South Dakota. The Niobrara and Verdigre Creek portions in the 39-mile district are in Nebraska. State rules apply, unless federal rules are stricter or otherwise superseded by federal provisions

Threatened/Endangered Species: Pallid sturgeon is listed on the Threatened and Endangered Species List. Telling the difference between pallid sturgeon and other types of sturgeon is difficult, so all types of sturgeon are closed to fishing year-round.

Silverfin: Silverfin, also known as big head carp, silver carp, or Asian carp is a non-native invasive species. Foul catch should simply be returned to the river because the benefit of removing a single carp is outweighed by the harm of it rotting on the bank or in the trash.

State of South Dakota Fishing Licenses

Licenses are required to fish within South Dakota's jurisdiction. Fishing along rivers that border South Dakota is permitted. There is an exception for individuals who are residents of neither South Dakota

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nor Nebraska for the stretch of river starting from Gavins Point Dam to 0.6 miles downstream. These individuals must purchase a non-resident license from Nebraska. Resident licenses are valid on this stretch. Licenses may be purchased at gfp.sd.gov, on the GFP mobile app, authorized retailers, or select County Treasurer's offices.

Fishers are required to carry their licenses when fishing and must present the license when requested by a conservation or law enforcement officer. Those over 18 also must present a driver's license, photo identification card, or other form of valid identification for verification. Licenses may be displayed electronically on a smartphone, but carrying a physical copy is recommended in case of device malfunction, power loss, or lack of connectivity.

South Dakota has two classes of licenses: Resident and Non-resident. To qualify for a resident license, one must have lived in South Dakota for at least 90 consecutive days, have no residency or resident hunting license in another state/foreign country, and have any driver's licenses and vehicle registrations in South Dakota. There are exceptions for government workers stationed elsewhere, military service, post-secondary education, foreign students in South Dakota, minors, and South Dakota National Guard members. Consult the South Dakota Fishing Guide for full details. Non-resident licenses are issued to anyone ineligible for a resident license.

Temporary fishing licenses are valid beginning at 12:01 AM on the date stated on the license. For one-day licenses, expiration occurs at midnight on the same day. For three-day licenses, expiration occurs at midnight on the third day. For three-day licenses, the holder may catch the daily limit each day, but they may not exceed possession limits.

Free Fishing Weekend is an annual event held the weekend prior to Memorial Day weekend where no fishing licenses are required. Catch and possession limits as well as all other regulations still apply. Need more details? Check out the South Dakota Fishing Handbook. Find the guide online at: <http://gfp.sd.gov/page/regulations> or in print at

Missouri National Recreational River locations such as state parks, outfitters, and recreation stores throughout South Dakota.

State of Nebraska Fishing Licenses

Licenses (referred to as permits by Nebraska) are required to fish within Nebraska's jurisdiction. Fishing along rivers that border Nebraska is permitted. Licenses may be purchased at authorized retailers, online at the Nebraska Game and Parks website, or the Nebraska Game and Parks mobile app.

Fishing licenses are required for anyone age 16 and older. Non-residents under 16 do not need a fishing license if and only if accompanied by someone with a fishing license.

Nebraska has two classes of licenses: Resident and Non-Resident. To qualify for a resident license, one must have lived in Nebraska for at least 30 consecutive days with the intention to stay permanently. Residents in (post-secondary) schools in another state or stationed outside of Nebraska as part of a military assignment that have maintained Nebraska as their legal residence remain eligible. New residents should be prepared to provide documentation proving residency. Non-resident licenses are issued to anyone ineligible for a resident license.



Need more details? Check out the Nebraska's Fishing Guide.

Find the guide online at: <https://outdoornebraska.gov/guides-maps/> or in print at locations such as state parks, outfitters, and recreation stores throughout Nebraska.

Paddlefish Regulations

License: Special licenses are required to take paddlefish. Both states have a lottery system for issuing these permits. For full details, including which permit you require, please contact the state you are interested in getting a permit license from. Rules can be highly nuanced – particularly within 0.6 miles of the Gavins Point Dam. Paddlefish licenses must be carried with your regular fishing license and presented to conservation or law enforcement officers when requested.



Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!

Aquatic invasive species are an ongoing problem at MNRR. Zebra mussels and big head carp are just some of the threats to the integrity of aquatic ecosystems. It's important that you do your part by:

1. Cleaning your gear

- Remove visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud before leaving the water access.
- Rinse your gear with hot water (120 °F/50 °C) with the appropriate pressure and follow your owner's manual

2. Draining your gear

- Clear the bilge, livewell, and anything else with water before leaving the water access.

3. Drying your gear

- Allow gear to dry for at least five days or wipe with a towel before reusing

4. Disposing of trash

- Put any unwanted bait, worms, and fish parts in the trash.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.

StopAquaticHitchhikers.org

Hunt Animals, Not Treasure

The story of MNRR contains the stories and experiences of Native Americans, homesteaders, freed slaves, and communities in the area from the distant past to today. This story is contained in the ground as artifacts and fossils. These artifacts provide hints into how these stories unfolded. Artifacts can be anything people in the past made for practical and/or cultural purposes. Fossils are remains of plants or animals preserved over eons.

It may be tempting to keep artifacts you find as souvenirs. Even if it's not malicious, treasure hunters are stealing our ability to learn from the past and have a shared story. Handling artifacts and fossils requires special training to ensure items are properly contextualized, left undamaged, and handled respectfully.

Looting can also land you in legal trouble. Under the Archeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979 and the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (PRPA) of 2009, taking artifacts/fossils from federal lands can mean hefty fines and jail time. Recklessly desecrating gravesites, disturbing burial grounds, or taking funerary objects (items that accompany or are part of burials/cremation) is likewise immoral, illegal, and potentially actionable under federal and state law.

If you find something special at MNRR, notify the park at 605-665-0209. **Do not disturb the item! Report suspicious activity.**





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Leave Your Legacy!

Follow all applicable rules and regulations to leave nature for future generations.

Questions? Contact MNRR at 605-665-0209