Talmo Wildlife Area is located 8 miles north and 5 miles east of Concordia in north-central Kansas. This 1,400-acre historic wetland is well known for its salty soils and saline water, and has been referred to as “Seapo Marsh”, a Native American word meaning ‘great salt basin’. The Talmo Wildlife Area encompasses 942 acres on the west half of this great basin. The area open to the public includes 150 acres of managed, moist soil marshes along with 90 acres of natural saline areas that flood during periods of heavy rain or high water. There are approximately 153 acres of agricultural production on the area while the remaining 550 acres consist of both native warm season and cool season grasses. Before Kansas was settled by Europeans, salt marshes and salt springs were used by wildlife, Native Americans, and early travelers. Wild animals of the plains, especially bison, deer, antelope, and elk, obtained salt from licks or salt flats. Native Americans, explorers, and early ranchers gathered salt by evaporating water collected from salt springs. During the wetter times of the year, waterfowl and shorebirds in large numbers used these areas for migration stopovers.

SPORTSMAN PERMIT REQUIRED

Daily electronic hunt permits (iSportsman) are used on the area. Hunters will need to complete a one-time registration with iSportsman either online at https://kdwp.isportsman.net or by contacting your nearest KDWPT office. Once registered, hunters need to “check-in” and “check-out” by smartphone or computer. Hunters can also check in by phone, calling 1-844-500-0825. Hunters are encouraged to check in the night prior to their hunt from a computer or an area that has cell service (after 8).

Information for these permits will be available on signs throughout the area. If you have any questions or need assistance with iSportsman, contact the area office listed on the front of this brochure.

UPLAND GAME

The mosaic of wetland pools and wet meadows inlayed in big areas of native warm and cool season grasses provide excellent habitat for pheasants. Upland bird production fluctuates with habitat and weather patterns. Hunters who concentrate on heavy cover away from roads will find birds throughout the season. Bobwhite quail are less abundant but scattered throughout the area.

WADE/WALK-IN ACCESS

Hunters will find the best access by walking in from numerous parking lots and access points. The marsh bottom can make it difficult to walk far from the shoreline. Deep water is present in some drainage channels. The levee system around the perimeter of the hunting pools makes walking to various locations relatively easy.

BOAT ACCESS

All of Talmo Wildlife Area is a non-motorized boat only area. Hunters may launch small boats off of the road to pools that are accessible. There are no ramps provided, therefore boats will have to be carried in.

WILDLIFE VIEWING

The wetlands attract a large number of migrating birds. Endangered whooping cranes frequent the area annually along with bald eagles, sandhill cranes and multiple species of shorebirds. Mammals including deer, coyotes, bobcats, muskrats and beavers may be seen in the salt marshes, which are accessible by foot. Binoculars or spotting scopes are recommended for close-up looks at the wetland’s varied animal life.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Non-toxic shot is required for all shotgun hunting. The information obtained from the daily iSportsman permits is important to the future management of the area.

Camping is not allowed on Talmo Wildlife Area, but accommodations are located a few miles away in Concordia or Belleville.

No trash receptacles are provided, take your trash with you.

All motorized vehicles must remain on maintained roadways or parking areas.

General Area Map