

Bald Knob

National Wildlife Refuge



photo: S. Mastowski



photo: USFWS



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1993.
- Acres: 14,800.
- Location: refuge is located in White County, AR approximately two miles south of Bald Knob, AR on Coal Chute Road.

Natural History

- Refuge occupies a large rice culture based farm purchased from John Hancock Insurance Company. Large concentrations of migratory waterfowl and bald eagles during the winter.
- Cropland acreage - 9000; bottomland hardwood and associated sloughs and oxbow lakes -3,900 acres; reforested acreage to bottomland hardwoods - 1,900 acres.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Two-person staff.
- 20,000 visitors annually.
- Current budget (FY 00) funding for Bald Knob NWR is incorporated in the Cache River NWR appropriation which is \$804,000 for both refuges.
- Resident and non-resident visitors generate considerable revenue for restaurants, motels, etc. in Bald Knob and other communities.

Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and other birds.
- Provide habitat for endangered species.
- Provide recreational and environmental education opportunities.

Management Tools

- Water management.
- Cooperative farming and moist soils plant production.
- Reforestation of bottomland hardwoods.
- Mechanical/chemical control of noxious plants.

- Deer management with public hunting.
- Education/interpretation.
- Law enforcement.
- Waterfowl sanctuaries.

Public Use Opportunities

- Hunting of small game, migratory birds and big game.
- Fishing.
- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.

Calendar of Events

September-February: small game hunting.

November-January: duck hunting.

November-February: goose hunting.

October-February: archery deer hunting.

October: muzzleload deer hunting.

November: modern gun deer hunting.

Fishing: throughout the year.

Questions and Answers

Do you have an office?

The office is located on Coal Chute Road, two miles south of Bald Knob, AR.

Will improved roads be developed?

Yes, but it will take several years to complete all weather roads on this new refuge.

Can I use an ATV on the refuge?

Yes, but you must stay on existing roads. Access to the Mingo Creek Unit is ATVs only.

Can I collect arrowheads and other artifacts?

No. All artifacts are protected on Federal lands.

Are you going to reforest any of the refuge?

Yes, current planning is to reforest approximately 4,000 acres of which 1,900 acres have already been accomplished.