

# Lake Isom

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



**Randy Cook, Refuge Manager**  
**Lake Isom NWR**  
4343 Highway 157  
Union City, TN 38261  
Refuge phone: 901/538 2481  
Administration office: 901/287 0650  
Fax: 901/286 0468  
E-mail: FW4RWRreelfoot@fws.gov

### Refuge Facts

- Established: 1938.
- Acres: 1,850.
- Location: Lake Isom NWR shares a common headquarters with Reelfoot NWR, located 15 miles southwest of Union City, TN on Highway 157 near the Walnut Log Community.

### Natural History

- Refuge habitat created by a series of violent earthquakes from December 1811 to February 1812.
- Concentrations of ducks, geese, raptors, wading birds and shore birds.
- Eagle and osprey nests.
- Habitat acreage:
  - Open water: 592.
  - Wetlands: 222.
  - Woodlands: 537.
  - Croplands: 499.

### Financial Impact of Refuge

- Staffed by Reelfoot NWR employees.
- 16,500 visitors annually.
- Base funding is from West Tennessee NWR Complex budget FY 05 \$1,916,000.

### Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and other birds.
- Provide habitat and protection for endangered species.
- Provide recreation and environmental education for the public.

### Management Tools

- Water management for waterfowl and other birds.
- Cooperative farming for wildlife.
- Mechanical/chemical control of noxious vegetation.
- Big and small game management with public hunting.
- Education/interpretation.
- Law enforcement.
- Partnerships.
- Volunteers.

### Public Use Opportunities

- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.
- Hunting.
- Fishing.

### Calendar of Events

**January:** waterfowl concentrations of up to 100,00 ducks and 50,000 geese.

**March:** bald eagles nesting.

**August:** squirrel hunt.

**October:** archery deer hunt and raccoon hunt.