

Delta

National Wildlife Refuge



photo: USFWS



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1935.
- Acres: 48,800.
- Located in Lower Plaquemines Parish. Nearest town is Venice, LA. Refuge sub-headquarters are located in Venice. Actual refuge location is 5 miles south of Venice near Pilot Town at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Access is by boat or aircraft only.

Natural History

Refuge is part of St. Bernard Delta which was formed by sediment deposits from the Mississippi River. Refuge was established as a bird sanctuary. Large concentrations of ducks, geese, raptors, wading birds, shorebirds, and several bird rookeries are on the refuge. Refuge is almost entirely marsh with very little upland habitat.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- 300,000 visitors annually.
- Big Branch Marsh, Bogue Chitto, Breton, Delta, Bayou Sauvage, Bayou Teche, Mandalay and Atchafalaya NWRs are administered under the Southeast Louisiana Complex with a total O&M budget for FY06 of \$2,325,000 and 20.6 employees.

Refuge Objectives

- Provide wintering habitat and sanctuary for waterfowl and other migratory birds.
- To protect and enhance endangered species.
- To restore and preserve marshland habitat.
- To provide compatible consumptive and non-consumptive public use.

Management Tools

- Habitat restoration through Crevasse Program.
- Law enforcement.
- Environmental education.
- Partnerships.

Public Use Opportunities

- Canoeing.
- Boating.
- Bird watching.
- Fishing.
- Hunting.
- Photography.

Calendar of Events

September: teal season.

October: deer hunting (archery only).

October-February: rabbit season.

November-January: duck season.

Questions and Answers

When does the hunting season begin on Delta NWR?

The early teal season begins in mid-September. The early archery season for deer is October 1-31; the duck season usually starts in late November; pursuant to state regulations.

Where is the best place to hunt on the refuge?

Only a portion of the refuge is open to hunting. Only those areas north of Main Pass and south of Raphael Pass are open to hunting. With this in mind the most productive hunting areas are the splays and bayous north of Main Pass.

Can you fish in the bird sanctuary after noon during the migratory waterfowl hunting season?

No! The bird sanctuary is closed to all public use during the migratory waterfowl hunting season. This is done to minimize disturbance to wintering waterfowl.

Is camping allowed on the refuge?

Camping is not allowed on the refuge.

Is commercial fishing, crabbing and shrimping allowed on the refuge?

No! Commercial fishing is not allowed on the refuge. However recreational fishing is allowed on the refuge. Delta NWR has some of best fisheries resources in the U.S. Sport shrimping is not allowed.