

# Bayou Sauvage

## National Wildlife Refuge



photo: USFWS



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### Refuge Facts

- Established: 1990.
- Acres: 22,770.
- Located in the city limits of New Orleans. Nation's largest urban wildlife refuge. Authorized under the Emergency Wetland Act in 1986 by President Ronald Reagan.
- Location: the refuge is located in New Orleans East, 20 minutes from downtown. Refuge can be accessed by I-10, US 90 and US Highway 11.

### Natural History

- Refuge is located in the St. Bernard Delta of the Mississippi River. Land formed from silt that was deposited by the river.
- Concentrations of ducks, raptors, wading birds, shorebirds, and several rookeries on the refuge.
- Approximately 13,000 acres of freshwater marsh with about 400 acres of bottomland.
- Approximately 9,000 acres of brackish marsh.

### Financial Impact of Refuge

- Approximately 400,000 visitors generated \$15 million 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

- To enhance the population of migratory, shore and wading birds.
- To encourage natural diversity of fish and wildlife species.
- To protect endangered and threatened plants and animals.

- To fulfill the international treaty obligations of the nation with respect to fish and wildlife.
- To protect archaeological resources.
- To provide for scientific research and environmental education with emphasis on wetlands.
- To provide opportunities for fish and wildlife-oriented recreation in an urban setting.

### Management Tools

- Water management through gravity flow structures and low lift water pumps. Management benefits waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds. Also used for marsh restoration and noxious plant control.
- Prescribed fire.
- Trapping of exotic wildlife, feral hog and nutria.
- Environmental education.
- Law enforcement.
- Partnerships.

### Public Use Opportunities

- Trails.
- Fishing.
- Bird watching.
- Canoeing.
- Photography.
- Bicycle path.
- Crawfishing and crabbing.
- Van tours.
- Wildlife observations.

### Calendar of Events

**March:** Earth Day.

**April:** Gator Fest.

**May:** International Migratory Bird Day.

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## Questions and Answers

*When is the refuge going to reopen to fishing?*

Most of Bayou Sauvage NWR is closed to fishing from November 1 until the day after the migratory waterfowl season east zone. However, bank fishing and along US Highway 11 and 90 and fishing in the barrow pits and canals adjacent to Highway 11 is permitted year around.

*Can you hunt on Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge?*

No! Hunting is not permitted on Bayou Sauvage NWR. As a result of a public hearing held during the Master Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement and due to the prohibition against the discharging of firearms in the city of New Orleans, it was determined that hunting is not a compatible public use.

*Can you crab and crawfish on the refuge?*

Yes! Recreational crawfishing and crabbing are allowed on the refuge. There is a 100 pound per person limit on the crawfish. Commercial crabbing is not allowed.

*Do you have canoe trips on the weekend, and what is the fee?*

Yes! Persons wanting to sign up for these tours must call and make reservations at 504-646-7544. The tours are free and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Hikes, birding trips and bike trips are also offered.

*Can you come to my school and conduct an environmental education program or can I bring a school group to the refuge?*

The answer to both parts of this question is yes. The staff at the refuge is ready to conduct programs in the schools or welcome the schools to the refuge.