

Noxubee

National Wildlife Refuge

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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1940.
- Acres: 48,000 located in Noxubee, Oktibbeha, and Winston counties, Mississippi.
- Location: approximately 17 miles south of Starkville, Mississippi.

Natural History

1,800 acres are comprised of Loakfoma and Bluff Lakes. Approximately 42,500 acres of the refuge are comprised of bottomland and upland woodlands. These forest lands are occupied by a variety of wildlife including quail, deer and turkey.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- 10-person staff.
- 170,000 visitors annually.
- Current budget (FY 05) \$1,028,000.
- Refuge annually generates in excess of \$5.5 million in revenue through visitors and forestry practices.
- Provide over \$300,000 annually to Oktibbeha, Winston, Noxubee counties through refuge revenue sharing.

Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and other birds.
- Provide habitat and protection for endangered species such as bald eagles, wood storks and red-cockaded woodpeckers.
- Provide recreation and environmental education for the public.

Management Tools

- Water management for waterfowl, wood storks and wading bird rookeries.
- Prescribed fire.

- Mechanical/chemical control of noxious plants.
- Deer management with public hunting.
- Farming program.
- Education/interpretation.
- Partnership with Starkville School District assisting in teaching 700 students per year.
- Law enforcement.
- Partnerships.

Public Use Opportunities

- Trails.
- Boardwalk.
- Three observation towers.
- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.
- Hunting, including youth hunts.
- Fishing.
- Visitor center and exhibit hall opened October, 2004.

Calendar of Events

March-October: fishing.

April: birding festival to observe the peak of migrants passing through the refuge.

May: Migratory Bird Day.

August-September: Alligator Counts/Owl Prowls.

October: National Wildlife Refuge Week.

October-April: hunts.

December: Annual Christmas Bird Count.

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Questions and Answers

What is there to do here?

There are seven walking trails varying in length from 1/4-mile to more than four miles, three overlooks, a boardwalk, a picnic area and visitor center with exhibit hall and overlook. Depending on the time of year, there is hunting and fishing too. There are numerous places for great photography, wildlife observation and for wildflower observation.

Where is the best place to fish?

There are countless areas to fish on the refuge—some better than others. Bluff and Loakfoma Lakes are good places to start.

Where can we see alligators?

During summer months visitors have the best chance to see alligators. The lakes are low and the alligators are plentiful. The most regular place to see alligators is off Alligator Point, just east of the Bluff Lake Boardwalk.

What do we need to hunt here?

All refuge hunts require that hunters have the required state permits/licenses as well as refuge permits.

For quota deer hunts a permit must be purchased by mail or in person from the refuge office for \$12.50. For the non-quota or small game hunts, the refuge hunting brochure acts as a permit when the front is signed to acknowledge the fact the hunter has read and understood the refuge regulations. Waterfowl permits are allotted through a lottery drawing. Contact refuge office for details.

Where can we see a red-cockaded woodpecker?

The best times to spot a red-cockaded woodpecker are at sunrise and sunset near cavity trees. At sunrise they come out and sunset they go back in. There are several accessible clusters of woodpeckers on the refuge. The closest cluster to the office is on the Woodpecker Trail.