

Cache River

National Wildlife Refuge



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS

Dennis J. Widner, Refuge Manager
Cache River NWR
26320 Highway 33 South
Augusta, AR 72006
Phone: 870/347 2614
Fax: 870/347 2908
E-mail: FW4RWCatcheRiver@fws.gov

Refuge Facts

- Established: 1986.
- Acres: 54,000 (The refuge acreage changes annually due to continued acquisition on a voluntary sales/seller basis within the approved acquisition boundary).
- Location: The office is located at Dixie, AR on Highway 33 sixteen miles south of Augusta, AR.

Natural History

- Refuge is located in the 10-year flood plain of the Cache River from its confluence with the White River near Clarendon, AR to Grubbs, AR, an air-mile distance of approximately 70 miles.
- Large concentrations of wintering waterfowl during the winter.
- Recognized as a Wetland of International Importance by the RAMSAR Convention and the most important wintering area for mallards by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
- Habitat includes 41,000 acres of bottomland forest and associated sloughs and oxbow lakes, 3,561 acres of croplands and 8,000 acres of reforested areas.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Nine-person staff.
- 120,000 visitors annually.
- Current operations and maintenance budget (FY 05) \$875,000.
- Prices of land surrounding the refuge have more than doubled.

Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and other birds.
- Protect and restore the bottomland hardwood resources of the basin.
- Protect endangered species.
- Provide recreational and environmental education opportunities.

Management Tools

- Water management for waterfowl, wading and shore birds.
- Cooperative farming and moist soil plant production.
- Reforestation to provide migratory corridors and habitat for all migratory birds and other species.
- Waterfowl sanctuaries.
- Deer management with public hunting.
- Education/interpretation.
- Law enforcement.
- Partnerships.

Public Use Opportunities

- Small game, waterfowl and big game hunting.
- Fishing.
- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.

Calendar of Events

September-February: small game hunting.

October: muzzleload deer hunting.

October-February: archery deer hunting.

November: modern gun deer hunting.

November-January: duck hunting.

November-February: goose hunting.

Fishing: throughout the year.

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge

Questions and Answers

Where is your office?

The office is located on Highway 33 at Dixie, AR approximately 16 miles south of Augusta, AR.

Where can I get a good map of the refuge?

Large scale maps are available at our office. The non-profit organization "Friends of Felsenthal" sells them for \$20.00 each.

How do I get a hunting permit?

They are available at the refuge office and hunting license dealerships in Newport, Augusta, Beedeville, McCrory, Morton, Des Arc, Brinkley, Clarendon, Biscoe, and DeValls Bluff. Permits will also be mailed from the refuge office on request. Some deer hunts require a quota hunt permit obtained through a drawing.

When are the various hunting seasons?

These are set annually. Interested individuals should contact the refuge office or refer to the current refuge hunting permit for seasons and regulations.

Where can I camp?

The refuge does not allow camping. However, camping is allowed on the adjacent Black Swamp Wildlife Management Area near Gregory, AR, at Horseshoe Lake off Highway 33, two miles south of Augusta, AR, and on the bank of the White River off Highway 70 at DeValls Bluff.