

Felsenthal

National Wildlife Refuge



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1970.
- Acres: 65,000.
- Located in Ashley, Bradley, and Union County, AR.
- Location: The refuge is located 5 miles west of Crossett, AR on Highway 82.

Natural History

- Felsenthal is the world's largest green-tree reservoir consisting of the 15,000-acre Felsenthal Pool that is more than doubled to 36,000 acres during winter flooding.
- Open water: 15,000 acres, bottomland hardwood: 40,000 acres and uplands: 10,000 acres.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- 11 full-time staff.
- One career seasonal.
- One ORP co-op. student.
- One fire temporary.
- 400,000 visitors annually.
- Current budget (FY 00) \$876,200.

Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and other birds.
- Provide habitat and protection for endangered species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, and the threatened American alligator and bald eagle.
- Provide recreation and environmental education for the public.
- Protect cultural resources.

Management Tools

- Water management for waterfowl, wood storks, and wading bird rookeries.
- Prescribed fire.
- Timber management for RCW and bottomland hardwood.
- Hunting.
- Law enforcement.
- Partnerships: Friends of Felsenthal.

Public Use Opportunities

- Trails.
- Fishing.
- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.
- Hunting, including youth hunts.
- Environmental education and interpretation.
- Camping.

Calendar of Events

March: Jake Day for Youths, quota youth turkey hunt.

April: archery turkey hunt, quota gun turkey hunt.

May: Migratory Bird Day

June: Youth Fishing Derby.

October: National Wildlife Refuge Week.

October-January: squirrel, rabbit, beaver, nutria, coyote and feral hog hunting; archery deer hunting.

October-December: quota gun deer hunt.

November-January: quail, raccoon hunt; woodcock trapping; waterfowl hunt.

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Questions and Answers

How do you get to the north end of the Refuge?

Take Highway 160 from Johnsville or Hermitage. Various locations on the refuge are accessible off of Highway 160: take County Road #53 to Eagle Lake; take County Road #53 then #60 to Prairie Island/Saline River access. Take County Road #2, then County Road #63 to Pereogeethe Lake.

Is there camping on the refuge and if so where?

There are 11 primitive camping areas (no facilities) on Felsenthal NWR. Also adjacent to the refuge are two campgrounds with full facilities: these are Crossett Harbor RV Park on Highway 82 and Grand Marais Campground at the town of Felsenthal.

What are the water levels?

Felsenthal Lock and Dam gauge readings are published daily in the *Arkansas Gazette* or you can contact the lock direct at 870/943 2307. Flooding of the Felsenthal Refuge Greentree Reservoir will begin in mid-November with expectations that water levels will reach full flood by the end of December.

What are the hunting regulations and quota deer and turkey hunts?

For the designated hunting seasons, refer to the refuge brochure that can be found at the Felsenthal Visitor Center or received by mail by calling 870/364 3167.

Where are the fish biting?

Good places to fish are in the “eyes of the beholder” and generally associated with habitat needs of the species you are fishing for. Fortunately, fish are fairly well dispersed throughout the bodies of water on the refuge. However, there are always “hotspots” that seem to hold more fish than others. Contact the refuge at 870/364 3167 or local bait stores for up-to-date reports.