

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Holla Bend

*National Wildlife
Refuge*





This blue goose, designed by J.N. Ding Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 500 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is “to administer a national network of lands for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, the restoration of fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

The National Wildlife Refuge System

Unmatched anywhere in the world, the National Wildlife Refuge System in an extensive network of lands and waters protected and managed especially for wildlife and its habitat for people to enjoy.

This unique system encompasses over 92 million acres of lands and waters from north of the Arctic Circle in Alaska to the subtropical waters of the Florida Keys and beyond to the Caribbean and South Pacific. The lands managed as Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge are a part of this system.

Introduction

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1957 as a result of an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigation and flood control project. In 1954, the Corps of Engineers in an effort to improve navigation and



prevent flood damage straightened the Arkansas River by cutting a new channel across Holla Bend. The resulting 7,055 acre island between the old river channel and the new river became Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge.

The land on which the refuge now lies has a history steeped in agriculture. In the early 1900s over 65 families lived on and farmed the rich bottomland soil. In 1927, there was a devastating flood that deposited deep layers of sand on this fertile farmland. This flood and others that followed drove most of the farmers off the land.

A Haven for Wildlife

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge's primary purpose is to provide a winter home for a portion of the millions of duck and geese that use the Mississippi Flyway each year. During these spring and fall migrations as many as fourteen species of ducks and four kinds of geese will stop by the refuge for a short visit. During the winter, it is not uncommon for the refuge to host up to 100,000 ducks and geese at once.

The well-known mallard is the most common duck, but others that may also be seen include pintail, blue-winged and green-winged teal, wigeon, and gadwall. The Canada goose, which is very popular with many nature enthusiasts, has one of its largest wintering populations at Holla Bend Refuge, with numbers of up to 10,000. Snow geese, including the blue phase, are also quite numerous throughout the winter.

Another important winter refuge resident that is commonly seen, is the bald eagle. Like many other birds, the eagles seen here at Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge migrate south each year from



The National Wildlife Federation ©

Managing a Home for Wildlife

northern breeding areas. A dozen or more eagles are often seen on the refuge from December through February.

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge is home to some very familiar wildlife that live here year long. These include white-tailed deer, turkey, bobcat, coyote, raccoon, beaver, and fox squirrel.

The primary goals of the habitat management programs at Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge is to provide feeding and resting areas for migratory waterfowl. Cropland management and the use of cooperative farmers is the main tool for accomplishing this goal. These farmers plant milo, soybeans, corn, and winter wheat. The soybeans and milo are harvested by the farmers while the corn and wheat are left as food for the wintering waterfowl. Other refuge residents also benefit from this practice, such as deer, turkey, and quail.

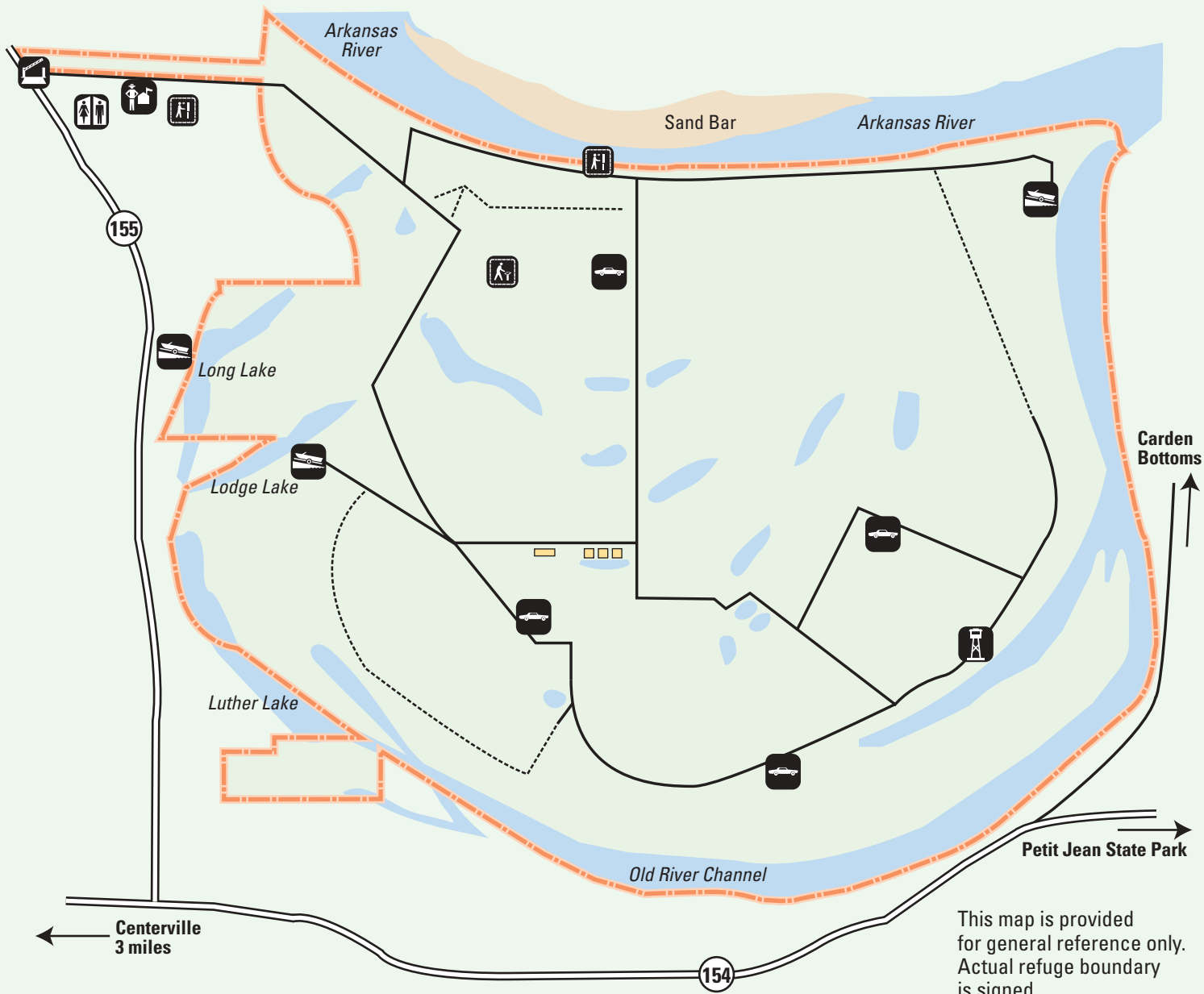
Scattered among these farm fields are several small impoundments. These areas are not wet all year and when they dry up in the summer, plants such as millet will grow there. These plants and especially their











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This map is provided for general reference only. Actual refuge boundary is signed.

 Refuge boundary	 Boat ramp
 Highway	 Observation tower
 Unpaved road	 Public restrooms
 Walk-in access	 Refuge office/ Entrance fee station
 Automatic gate	 Wildlife trail
 Auto tour route	

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge



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seeds are very important to waterfowl because they are a high source of energy. In the winter these areas fill with water again and are very popular as a food source for the ducks and geese that spend the winter here.

The old Arkansas River channel borders three sides of the refuge and in the winter serves as an excellent night roosting site for all the migratory waterfowl using the refuge.

Together the farm fields, water impoundments, and old Arkansas River channel provide a wonderful home for winter waterfowl and other refuge wildlife.

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge is an excellent place to see wildlife throughout the year. Different animals are more easily seen at various times of the year.

The fall and winter are the best times to see the greatest variety of wildlife. The fall migration brings many types of birds to the refuge. Some like the mallard, bald eagle, Canada and snow goose winter on the refuge, while others like warblers and shorebirds pass through Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge on their way to wintering areas further south.



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Maslowski

During the winter months, large numbers of ducks and geese can be seen feeding in the field and resting in the old river channel. Bald eagles soar high above over the land and perch stately in the trees along the Arkansas River. Marsh hawks can often be seen hunting low over fields.

When the seasons change the large numbers of ducks and geese that have populated the refuge for the past few months begin their flight northward to cooler nesting grounds. Spring brings thousands of neotropical migratory songbirds that use the refuge as a rest area on their journey from Central and South America. Many species of vireos, warblers, buntings, and orioles inhabit the woodlands, during this time. Most only stay for a short time to rest, but others use the refuge as a nesting area.

In early summer, white-tailed deer fawns and young turkeys may be seen along wooded roadsides or in forest openings. While alligators can be seen in the refuge lakes and ponds during the hot summer months. Elegant herons, egrets, and other wading birds feed in the remaining shallow pools of the impoundments. Scissor-tailed flycatchers can be seen gliding in refuge skies.



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Looking for Wildlife

Enjoy Your Visit

The refuge headquarters is located just inside the main refuge entrance road off of Arkansas State Highway 155, south of Dardenalle, Arkansas. The headquarters is open Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm. The refuge is open from sunrise to sunset daily. Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge offers a wide variety of wildlife dependant outdoor recreation activities. Information regarding the refuge, activities, regulations, and a bird list are available.

Access

The primary access to the refuge is via the auto tour route. This road leads to all boat ramps, observation areas, and foot trails. All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and all-terrain cycles are not permitted unless with a special use permit.

Fees

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge is a designated fee area and a vehicle entrance pass is required. Contact the refuge office for more information regarding entrance fees. The refuge also has a quota deer and turkey hunt that requires a fee, consult the refuge hunt brochure for more information.

Fishing

Sport fishing and boating are permitted in all refuge waters from March 1 through October 31. State regulation apply. Consult the refuge public use regulations for more information regarding fishing.



Hunting

Deer, turkey, and raccoon hunting are permitted on the refuge. Consult the refuge public use regulations for more information.

Wildlife Observation and Photography

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge is an excellent place to observe and photograph wildlife. Mornings and early evenings are when wildlife is most active. An observation tower, and foot trail are located on the refuge to improve your chances to see wildlife. For best results and to avoid disturbing wildlife, remain in your vehicle. Drive slowly, look carefully, and bring your binoculars.

Auto Tour

The eight mile auto tour is the best way to learn about the refuge, its management programs, and wildlife. The tour route is open year round. There are a series of informational panels located along the route to assist you in enjoying your visit.

Environmental Education

Environmental Education is an important program on the refuge. Groups are welcome and arrangements may be made by contacting the refuge headquarters in advance.

Fires

Fires are prohibited.

Firearms

Firearms are permitted only during refuge hunts.

Collecting

Surface collecting or digging for archeological, historical or Native American artifacts is prohibited. Picking plants and removing animals is not permitted.

Camping

Camping and overnight parking are not permitted.

Pets

Pets on a leash are permitted.

Horses

Horses are not permitted on the refuge.

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge
Route 1, Box 59
Dardanelle, AR 72834
Phone: 479/229 4300
Fax: 479/229 4302
Email: hollabend@fws.gov
<http://southeast.fws.gov/hollabend/>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

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CELEBRATING A
CENTURY
of CONSERVATION