

Fishing Regulations

Bond Swamp is one of over 500 National Wildlife Refuges. This refuge was established in 1989 and currently covers 6,500 acres of the Ocmulgee river flood plain in Bibb and Twiggs counties.

Though a partnership effort with the State of Georgia and the Ocmulgee Heritage Greenway, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service opened Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to some compatible wildlife oriented recreational uses in 2000. Bank fishing is one of the approved recreational uses for Bond Swamp NWR.

The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation of all species of wildlife. Sport fishing is permitted at a level that does not adversely affect wildlife or its environment. Fishing provides recreational opportunities and permits the use of a valuable renewable resource.

General Regulations

Sport fishing on Bond Swamp NWR is permitted only in designated public fishing areas that are marked as open.

Fishing will only be permitted in the portion of the refuge that is located in Bibb and Twiggs Counties east of the Ocmulgee River. Sport fishing shall be in accordance with all applicable State regulations and with special refuge regulations.

Designated Fishing Areas

Reids Station Road - Bank fishing on Stone Creek - may fish along north side of road and may walk south along creek bank to power line about 1/4 mile.

Stone Creek Parking Area - walk in 300 yards to creek - can fish north along creek to beaver pond and south to the railroad tracks.

Bondsvie Road - drive to railroad tracks to park then walk 100 yards to river on marked trail.

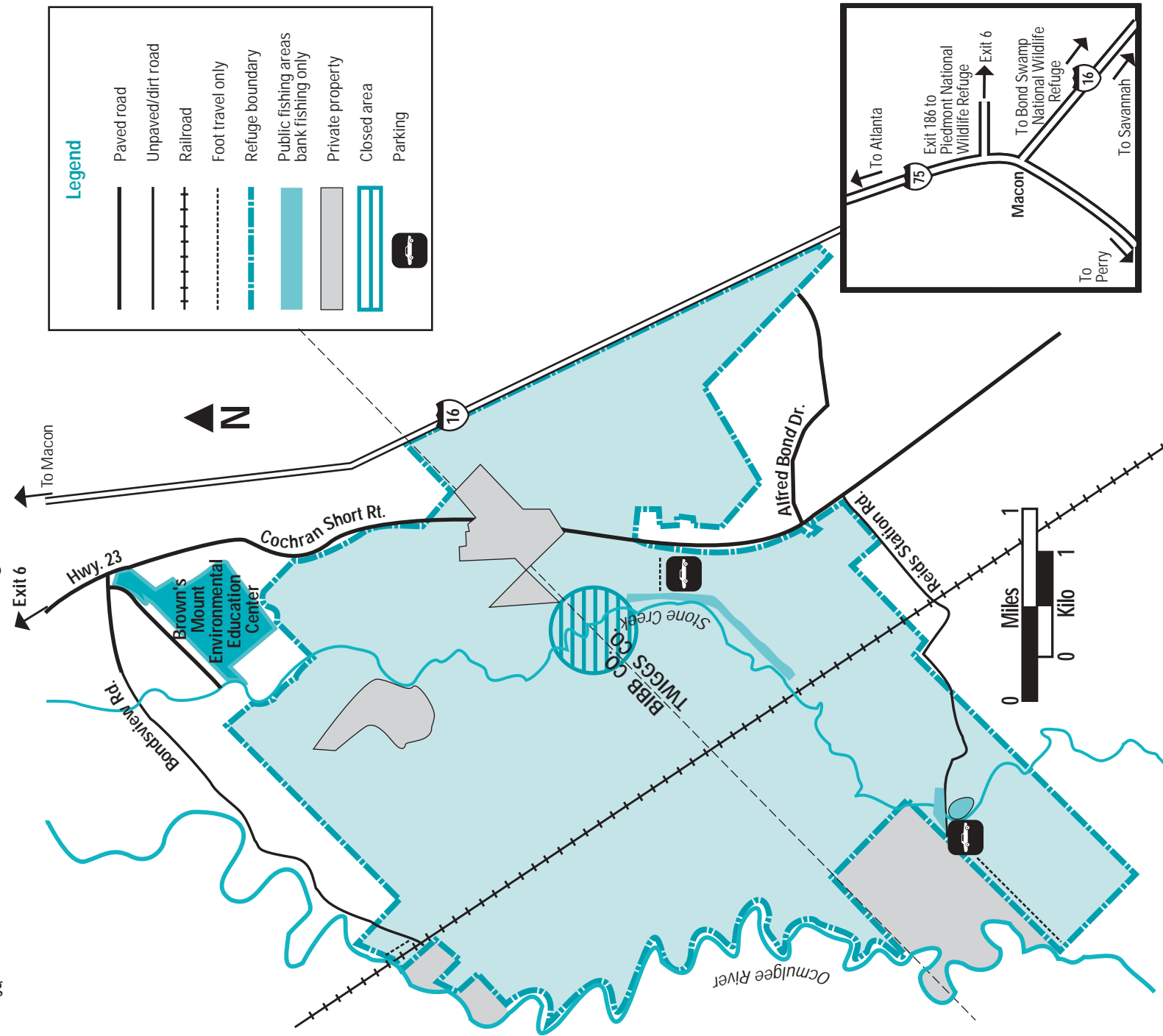
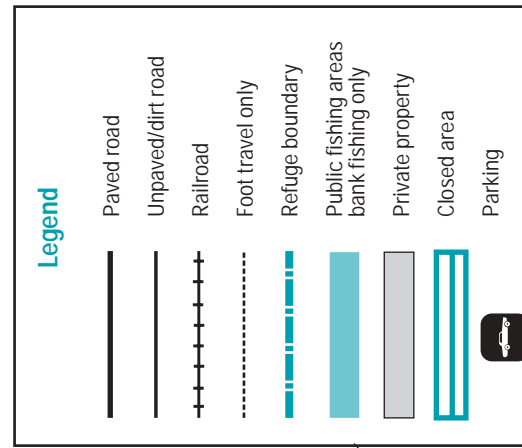
Open Season Hours

The refuge is open for fishing from March 15 to October 15, during daylight hours only. The Ocmulgee River is open to fishing year round in accordance with state regulations.

Species, Limits, Equipment

Same as State regulations with the following exceptions:

Largemouth bass must be 14 inches in length to keep.



Please report any violations of refuge regulations or any problems you have to the Piedmont Refuge office

Littering is illegal, unsightly, and can leave a bad image of fishermen. Pick up litter when you see it. Do not leave trash on your refuge.

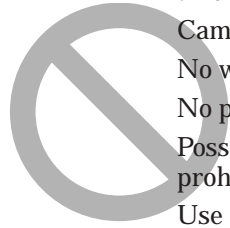
Bond Swamp

National Wildlife Refuge

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Special Regulations



Fishermen may use only rod and reel or pole and line to fish.

No boats or canoes are allowed on the refuge at this time. A boat ramp and limited boat access is planned for the future.

It is illegal to be in possession of short nose sturgeon on the refuge or in the Ocmulgee River.

Do not disturb or harm any other wildlife.

Dogs allowed, but must be kept on a leash at all times.

Camping is prohibited on the refuge.

No weapons are permitted on the refuge.

No public access on the railroad tracks.

Possession or use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on the refuge.

Use only roads open for vehicle travel.

Driving around or through a closed gate is prohibited. Do not block gates or roads.

ATV's are prohibited.

Licenses, all fishing equipment and effects, and vehicles or other conveyances are subject to inspection by Federal and State officers.

Public Access

The refuge is open during daylight hours for general public use and foot travel except during managed deer and feral hog hunts when a valid hunt permit is required to enter the hunt area. Some access roads and portions of the refuge may be closed during periods of flooding. Parking areas are located on Reids Station Road, at the Stone Creek access, and on Bondsview Road (See map).

The refuge is primarily river swamp with creeks and slews traversing the entire area. When the Ocmulgee River breaches its banks, the flood plain may remain flooded for weeks. Access by vehicle and foot can be difficult. The Refuge contains poisonous snakes, such as the rattlesnake, water moccasin, and copperhead snakes, as well as alligators and black bears. Poison ivy and sumac are abundant.

How to Get More Info

Additional copies of the fishing regulations and other information may be obtained at the kiosk at Stone Creek, Piedmont Refuge headquarters in Jones County or you may receive them by mail by calling the office 478/986 5441.

Bond Swamp
National Wildlife Refuge
 718 Juliette Road
 Round Oak, GA 31038
 478/986 5441
 email: FW4RWPiedmont@fws.gov
<http://piedmont.fws.gov/bondswamp.html>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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<http://southeast.fws.gov>

September 2002

