

Choctaw

National Wildlife Refuge



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1964.
- Acres: 4,218 acres plus 236 acres in perpetual conservation easements in eight parcels in Monroe, Sumter and Conecuh counties.
- The refuge is located 10 miles northwest of Coffeerville, AL, across the Tombigbee River and north of Highway 84, in Southwest Alabama, approximately 80 miles north of Mobile.

Natural History

- Refuge borders Tombigbee River (Tenn-Tom Waterway) for 6.5 miles.
- Two creeks (Okatuppa & Turkey) divide the refuge into three separate units.
- Approximately one-half of the refuge is creeks, sloughs, lakes, and backwaters of the Tombigbee River.
- Approximately one-half of the refuge is typical bottomland hardwoods associated with the Tombigbee River basins.
- Habitat open areas (approximately 150 acres) are utilized for waterfowl cropland and moist soil units.
- Wildlife includes: herons, raptors, otters, beavers, deer, turkeys, raccoons, squirrels, wood ducks, wintering waterfowl, and endangered/threatened species (American alligators, bald eagles and wood storks).

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Four-person staff.
- 30,000 visitors annually, mostly fishermen and hunters.
- FY 99 budget: \$284,225.

Refuge Objectives

- Manage habitat for wintering waterfowl.
- Maintain habitat and provide protection for threatened and endangered species.
- Manage wood duck nest boxes and brood rearing habitat.
- Maintain wildlife diversity.
- Manage forest to be productive bottomland hardwoods.
- Provide wildlife-dependent recreation.

Management Tools

- Water level management (moist soil units).
- Forest management (planting and selective harvest).
- Crops for wintering waterfowl.
- Deer management through recreational hunting.
- Community partnerships.
- Law enforcement.
- Wood duck artificial nest boxes and banding.
- Exotic aquatic plant management.

Public Use Opportunities

- Big game archery hunts (deer and hogs).
- Small game gun hunts (squirrels, rabbits, raccoons).
- Fishing (sport and commercial).
- Boating (ramps and parking).
- Hiking, photography, wildlife observation.
- Information kiosk and cypress swamp overlook.

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Questions and Answers

Can I camp on the refuge?

Camping is available at the Corps' of Engineers Primitive Campground at Lenoir Landing—one-half-mile north. Modern camping is available at Corps' of Engineers Service Area off Highway Number 84, about 20 miles south. Camping on the refuge is not permitted.

Can I gun-hunt for deer and hogs?

Hunting for big game on the refuge is by bow and arrow only, from October 15-November 30 each year. Gun hunting for small game is permitted November 8-November 30.

Can I fish with jugs and/or trot lines?

No. Sport fishing is permitted **only** with poles and lines or rods and reels. A refuge permit is required for commercial fishing on the refuge.

Can I visit the refuge this weekend?

Access to this bottomland hardwood refuge is sometimes only possible by boat in the spring. Road access is limited, and frequent flooding and storms make it impassable; therefore, call **first**.

Where can I launch my boat?

Large boats may use the refuge boat ramp or either of the Corps' of Engineers campground launch areas: north at Lenoir's or south at the Service Area.