

Bayou Teche

National Wildlife Refuge



photo: Steven Reagan



photo: Steven Reagan



photo: Steven Reagan

Paul Yakupzack, Refuge Manager
Mandalay NWR
3599 Bayou Black Drive
Houma, LA 70360
Phone: 985/853 1078
Fax: 985/853 1079
E-mail: paul_yakupzack@fws.gov

Refuge Facts

- Established: 2001
- Acres: 18,113, located in St. Mary Parish, LA.
- Location: The refuge is located at the south edge of Franklin, LA. Franklin is approximately 55 miles from Lafayette, LA and 108 miles from New Orleans, LA. The refuge is accessible by vehicle, boat, and foot. Currently, there is no refuge headquarters.

Natural History

- Louisiana black bears are relatively abundant throughout the refuge. Other wildlife includes alligators, wading birds, ducks and bald eagles.
- The area is forested with bottomland hardwoods and cypress-gum forests.
- Oil and gas wells, and canals are important in the area.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Administered by Mandalay NWR staff.
- Bayou Teche is a new refuge with no operating budget. FY 02 budget for Mandalay NWR is \$167,000.

Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat and refuge for the 'threatened' Louisiana black bear.
- Provide the highest quality migratory bird habitat possible.
- Allow compatible public use such as nature trails, recreational boating, fishing, hunting, wildlife observation and photography.
- Promote research and restoration of the Louisiana black bear.
- Provide opportunity for environmental education and interpretation.

Management Tools

- Habitat management.
- Management of black bears.
- Law enforcement.

Public Use Opportunities

- Wildlife observation.
- Boating.
- Photography.
- Fishing.
- Hunting.

Calendar of Events

January - December: fishing, wildlife observation, photography and boating.

Questions and Answers

Where is the Bayou Teche NWR?
Bayou Teche NWR is located approximately two miles south of Franklin, Louisiana and adjacent to Highway 90 (Future Interstate 49). Access is by vehicle, boat and foot.

Can I hunt on Bayou Teche NWR?
Yes, hunting will be allowed on the refuge. However, this 538th refuge, established on October 31, 2001, is still being brought online. Prior to opening hunting on the refuge, refuge boundaries will need to be posted and a refuge brochure developed describing hunting, fishing and public use regulations. For further information contact the Refuge Manager, Mandalay NWR, LA.

Is fishing allowed on Bayou Teche NWR?
Yes, fishing will be allowed on the refuge. However, prior to opening fishing on the refuge, refuge boundaries will need to be signed and a refuge brochure developed that describes hunting, fishing and public use regulations.

Where can I see a Louisiana black bear?
Bayou Teche NWR is the only National Wildlife Refuge with the specific mission of managing bears. This uniquely adapted subspecies of the American black bear currently occupies much of the refuge. Although shy and most active near dusk and dawn, visitors may see individual bears at any time during their visit to the refuge. The refuge will be opened to public use after boundaries are signed and the development of the refuge hunting, fishing, and public use regulations.