

North Mississippi Refuges Complex:

**Coldwater River,
Dahomey, Tallahatchie**

*National Wildlife Refuges
Hunting & Fishing
Regulations 2009-2010*

This Is Not A Permit

General Information

In 1989, the North Mississippi Refuges Complex was established to manage U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands in the northern twenty-six counties of Mississippi. With its headquarters in Grenada, the complex is responsible for the management of Coldwater River, Dahomey and Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuges, plus smaller fee-title properties and floodplain and conservation easements. The habitat consists of bottomland hardwoods, early successional reforestation areas, agricultural fields, and moist soil units.

In order to provide traditional recreational opportunities, public hunting and fishing are permitted in designated areas during specific times of the year at a level compatible with the environment. Certain areas of the complex may be closed for sanctuary or administrative purposes. Please refer to refuge maps.

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting the North Mississippi Refuges Complex, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations.

General Refuge Regulations

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting and fishing on wildlife refuge areas as set forth in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing are in accordance with applicable state regulations subject to the following special conditions.

Each hunter must complete a Harvest Report Card and display it on the dash of the vehicle so that the name is legible and visible from the outside. Prior to leaving the refuge, the card must be completed and deposited at one of the Hunter Information Stations. If hunting deer, hogs or turkey record the number harvested ("0" if no game harvested) and the sex and size data in the appropriate blocks. If hunting any other species, write in the name of the species next to "other" and the number harvested ("0" if no game is harvested).

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspection of permits, licenses, hunting and fishing equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by Service or state officers.

All Refuge lands are open during daylight hours only with the exception of legal hunting activities.

Permit Information

Hunters and anglers sixteen years of age and older are required to have a \$12.50 Refuge Hunting & Fishing Permit and all required state licenses in possession at

all times while hunting or fishing on refuge property. All waterfowl hunter sixteen years of age and older must possess both a federal and a state waterfowl stamp.

Youth hunters under sixteen (16) years of age must be directly supervised by a licensed and permitted adult twenty-one years of age or older. An adult may supervise a maximum of two youth.

Permits are available at the complex headquarter in Grenada, MS, Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4 pm or at Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge by appointment (662/742-9331). Permits are also available by mail. Mail the complete name, address, and phone number for each applicant on a plain sheet of paper to:

North Mississippi Refuges Complex
P.O. Box 1070
Grenada, MS 38902
Attn: permit application

Enclose a personal check or money order payable to **USFWS**. There is no deadline for obtaining a Refuge Hunting and Fishing Permit.

Hours

General refuge hours are sunrise to sunset. During hunting season, hunters may enter the refuge two hours before sunrise and must exit the refuge no later than two hours after sunset except during raccoon hunts and frog hunts.

Mobility Impaired Persons

Special facilities are available to mobility impaired hunters. A mobility impaired hunter is defined as a person (1) permanently confined to a wheelchair, crutches, or a walker or (2) a single- or double-leg amputee. Please contact the complex headquarters for more information.

Weapons

Except during authorized refuge hunts, possession of any weapon is prohibited on the refuge.

All weapons authorized under state law are allowed for refuge hunts with the exception that all handguns are specifically prohibited and may not be possessed at any time while on the refuge. All firearms transported in or on any vehicle including boats on the refuge must be unloaded and cased. Loaded is defined as shells in gun or cap on muzzleloader.

Only shells containing non-toxic shot may be used or possessed during waterfowl and small game hunts. Also, small game may be hunted with .17 and .22 caliber rimfire

rifles. During deer and turkey hunts, lead ammunition legal for taking deer and turkey may be used.

Weapons legal with the state for deer hunting are authorized for hog hunting during the experimental hog hunt at Dahomey NWR.

Motorized Vehicles

Motorized vehicles are restricted to roads designated as vehicle access roads on the refuge maps. Blocking access to any road or trail is prohibited.

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) can not be used or possessed or carried in trucks or trailers on refuge lands.

Pets/Animals

Dogs are allowed for hunting migratory birds, squirrels, rabbits, quail, and raccoons during designated seasons only. Dogs are allowed for hunting hogs during experimental hog hunts only. The use of dogs is encouraged to retrieve dead or wounded waterfowl. Dogs must remain in the control of their handlers at all times. Dogs should be tagged with owner's name and contact information. Dogs are not allowed on refuge properties outside of hunting season. All other domestic animals are prohibited.

Horses and mules are not allowed on refuge lands.

State Bag Limits

State season bag and possession limits apply unless otherwise stated. Consult current Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Regulations for details (www.mdwfp.com).

Deer Stands

All deer stands must be taken down on a daily basis. They can be chained to the base of a tree during the hunting season while not in use (this does not reserve the site) but must be removed from refuge lands by February 28, 2010. All hunting sites are on a first come, first served basis.

All deer stands left unattended are required to be tagged and marked with permit number.

Deer stands and/or steps can not be nailed to trees nor can any blind or stand be attached to a tree by any metal object driven, screwed, or otherwise inserted into the tree.

Tripod stands must be erected within 25 feet of a tree line.

While climbing a tree, installing a tree stand that uses climbing aids, or while hunting from a tree stand, hunters must use a fall-arrest system that is manufactured to Treestand Manufacturers Association standards.

Boats

Boats and trailers must be registered, licensed, and meet all state regulations.

Waterfowl hunters may leave boats meeting all state registration requirements on refuge water bodies throughout the waterfowl season. Boats must be removed within seventy-two hours after the season closes.

Boat Ramps

When available, please use designated boat ramps. Please see maps for specific locations of boat ramps.

Decoys & Blinds

Decoys, duck blinds and litter must be removed from the hunting area following each day's hunt.

Only temporary blinds may be constructed.

Fluorescent-Orange

All hunters or persons on the refuge for any reason during any open refuge hunting season must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of visible, unbroken, fluorescent-orange material above the waist line. Waterfowl hunters must comply while walking/boating to and from actual hunting area. Fluorescent-orange is not required for turkey season, hunting raccoons or frogs at night or for waterfowl hunters while actually hunting.

Migratory Game Birds

Migratory game bird hunting (ducks, mergansers, coots, and geese) is allowed during specified state season on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, thirty minutes before sunrise until noon. After duck, merganser, and coot season closes, light geese may be hunted daily during the time period and manner defined in the Light Geese Conservation Order. A free permit number is required to hunt light geese during the Conservation Order. Permit numbers are issued by the State of Mississippi and obtained by calling (601/432 2199, Monday through Friday 8am to 5 pm).

Prohibited Activities

- Use or possession of tree climbing spurs
- Baiting
- Use or possession of any drug or device or employing such drug for hunting
- Use or possession of plastic flagging
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages

- Hunting or shooting across open fields from ground level during general gun and primitive weapon deer hunts
- Driving or screwing a metal object into any tree or hunting from a tree where a metal object has been driven or screwed
- Removal or destruction of any trees, or part of tree to include removal of tree limbs, plants, or other vegetation on the refuge for any reason
- Collecting, removing, or damaging any animal except those authorized by hunting and fishing regulations
- Fires, camping or littering
- All commercial activities including guiding or participating in a paid guided hunt
- Trapping
- Possession or use of jugs, seines, nets, hand-grab baskets or any other similar devices
- Commercial fishing of any kind
- Snagging or attempting to snag fish
- Possession of more than one User Information card at a time

Youth Hunts

Youth eligible to participate are those under sixteen (16) years of age. During youth hunts only youth hunter and their permitted adult supervisor are allowed on refuge lands.

Youth hunter under sixteen (16) years of age must be directly supervised by a licensed and permitted adult twenty-one years of age or older. An adult may supervise a maximum of two youth.

Specific Hunting Regulations

Public entry north of Mississippi Highway 8 is prohibited on Tallahatchie NWR.

The Warwick Tract of Coldwater River NWR is open to only waterfowl hunting. All remaining areas of Coldwater River NWR are closed to public entry. *Exception:* Fishing in the borrow pits at the southeast corner of Coldwater River NWR and on the Warwick Tract is permitted. Please see map.

Other Refuge Lands

Approximately 5,000 acres acquired through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and open to small game hunting of rabbit, squirrel, and quail only. All hunting regulations apply. Properties include: **Bolivar County** – Goss (543 acres), Hester III (386 acres) & Watts (214 acres), **Quitman County** – Trainor (228 acres), Trainor (219 acres), Starr (759 acres) & Starr (320 acres), **Sunflower County** – Lindsey (204 acres), Povall (180 acres), Povall (80 acres), Povall (422 acres) & Walker (42 acres), **Marshall County** – Smith (232 acres), **Leflore County** – Scott (90 acres), Scott (80 acres), Robertson (655 acres) & Gwin (343 acres). Please see maps.

General Fishing Regulations

All federal and state regulations governing boating, creel limits, and license requirements must be followed by refuge anglers.

Trotlines, yoyo's and limb lines are permitted for recreational use only. All trotlines, yoyo's and limb lines must be removed when not in use.

Specific Fishing Regulations

Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge

Fishing is permitted South of Mississippi Highway 8 only.

Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge (including the Warwick Tract)

Fishing is permitted in the borrow pits only.

Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge

Fishing is permitted.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Properties

Fishing is permitted North of the Corps levee on the Robertson (655 acres) tract in Leflore County.

2009-2010 North Mississippi Refuges Complex Hunting Season

Species	Season Dates	Specific Regulations
Squirrel	State Season	Closed during general gun deer hunts.
Squirrel – Youth Hunt	Sep. 26-27, 2009	
Rabbit	State Season	Closed during general gun deer hunts
Raccoon	Jan. 1, 2010 - Feb. 28, 2010	Special Use Permit required. Contact Refuge Manager.
Quail	State Season	Closed during general gun deer hunts.
Frogs	State Season	Special Use Permit required. Contact Refuge Manager.
Deer-Youth Hunt	Nov. 14-15, 2009	General Gun – Either Sex
Deer-Archery	Oct. 1-Nov. 13, 2009 Nov. 16-20, 2009	Either Sex
Deer Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2-15, 2009	Either Sex
Deer-General Gun	Dec. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 2009	Either Sex
Turkey	State Season	Dahomey NWR Only
Turkey-Youth Hunt	Mar. 13-14, 2010	Dahomey NWR Only
Migratory Game Birds, Ducks, Mergansers, Coots and Geese	State Season	Open Wed., Fri., Sat., and Sun: 30 min. before sunrise until noon. Fluorescent- orange required while walking/ boating to and from actual hunting area. Only approved non-toxic shot may be used or possessed. After duck, merganser and coot season closes, light geese may be hunted daily as specified in the Light Geese Conservation Order (see Migratory Game Birds section for more information.)
Waterfowl Youth Hunt	State Season	Same Regulations Apply
Feral Hogs, Beavers, and Nutria	May be taken during any hunt with weapons legal for that hunt.	No Bag Limit
Experimental Hog Hunt	Feb. 5 & 6, 2010 Feb. 12 & 13, 2010 Feb. 19 & 20, 2010 Feb. 26 & 27, 2010	Dahomey NWR Only

All deer hunting on refuge lands is closed other than dates listed above. During youth hunts, Tallahatchie and Dahomey NWRs are closed to all other hunting.

Signs Protect Visitors and Resources

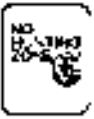
Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs help control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs.



This sign delineates the refuge boundary. Entry is permitted only for authorized uses in accordance with refuge regulations. It is your responsibility to know where the property lines are and hunt within the boundaries.

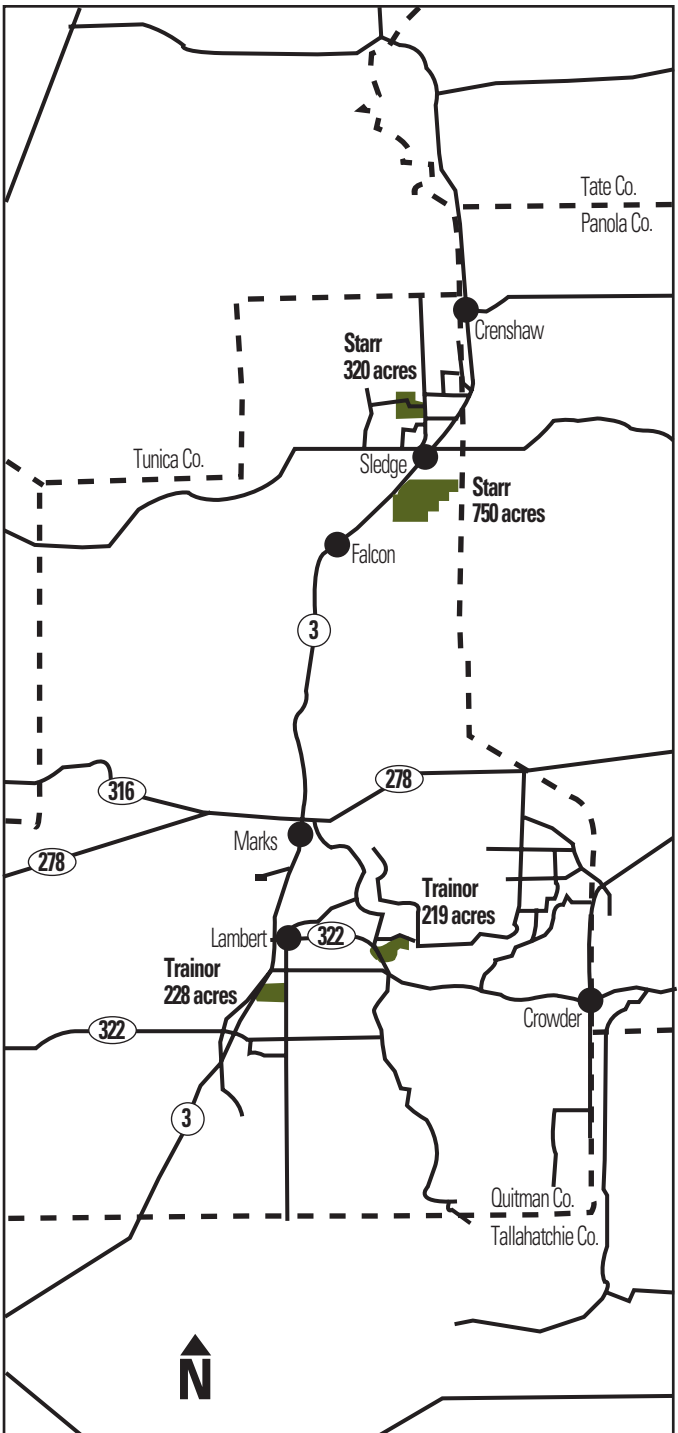


This area is closed to all entry. No roads or trails are open to the public.

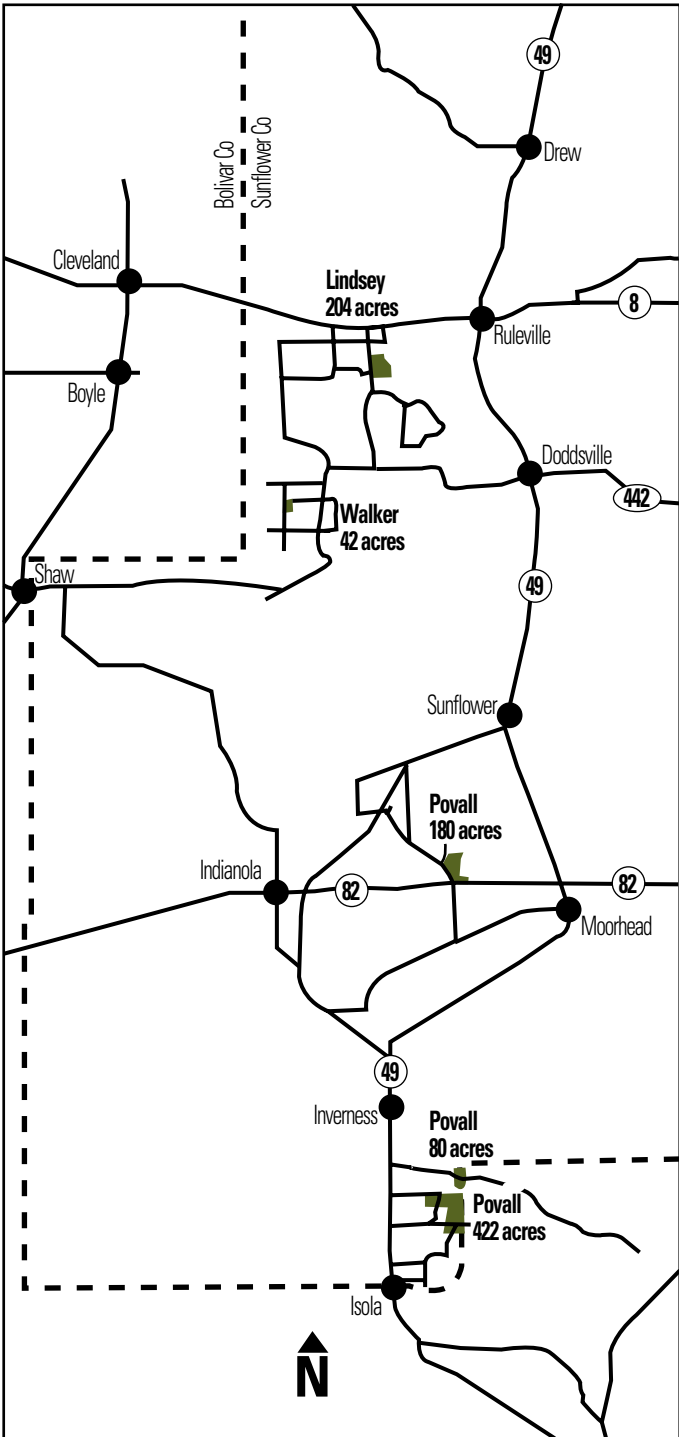


This area is closed to all hunting. Firearms and archery equipment are strictly prohibited.

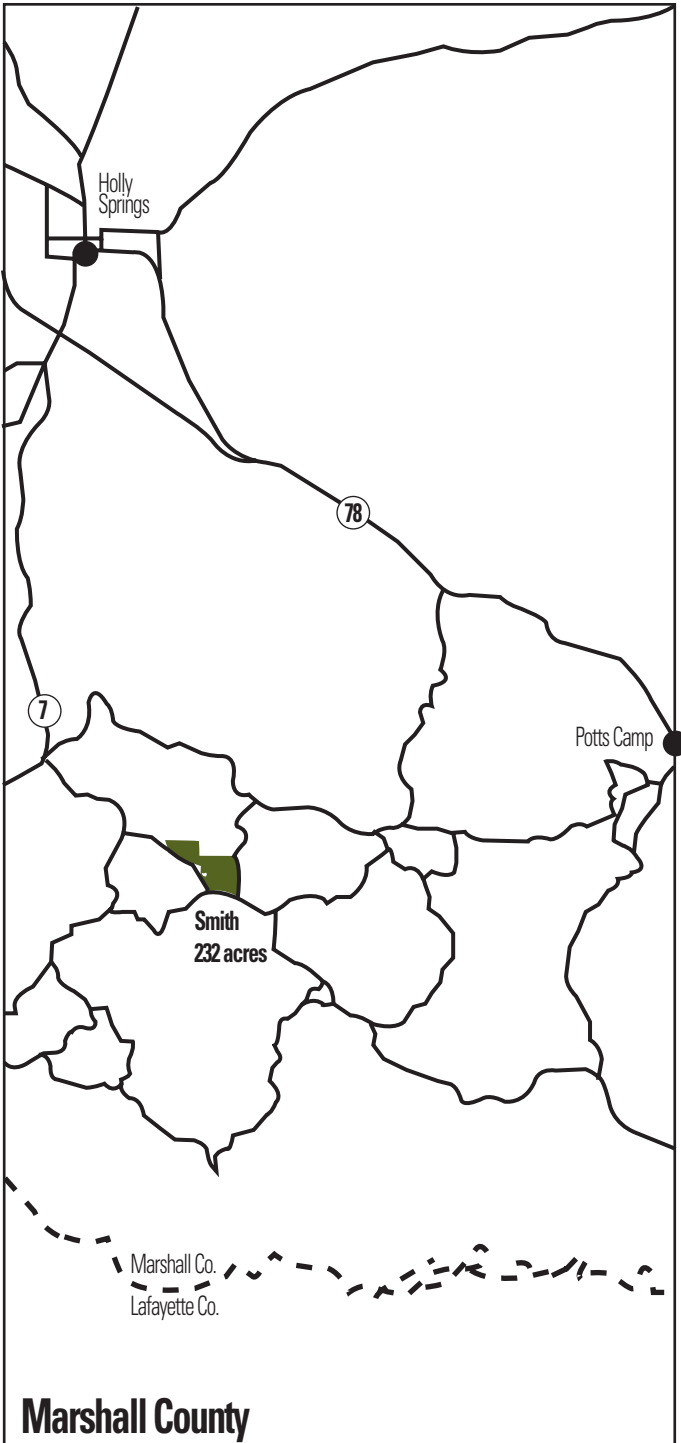




Quitman County



Sunflower County



Coahoma Co.

Bolivar Co.

1

Goss
543 acres

Watts
214 acres

Alligator

Duncan

61

Shelby

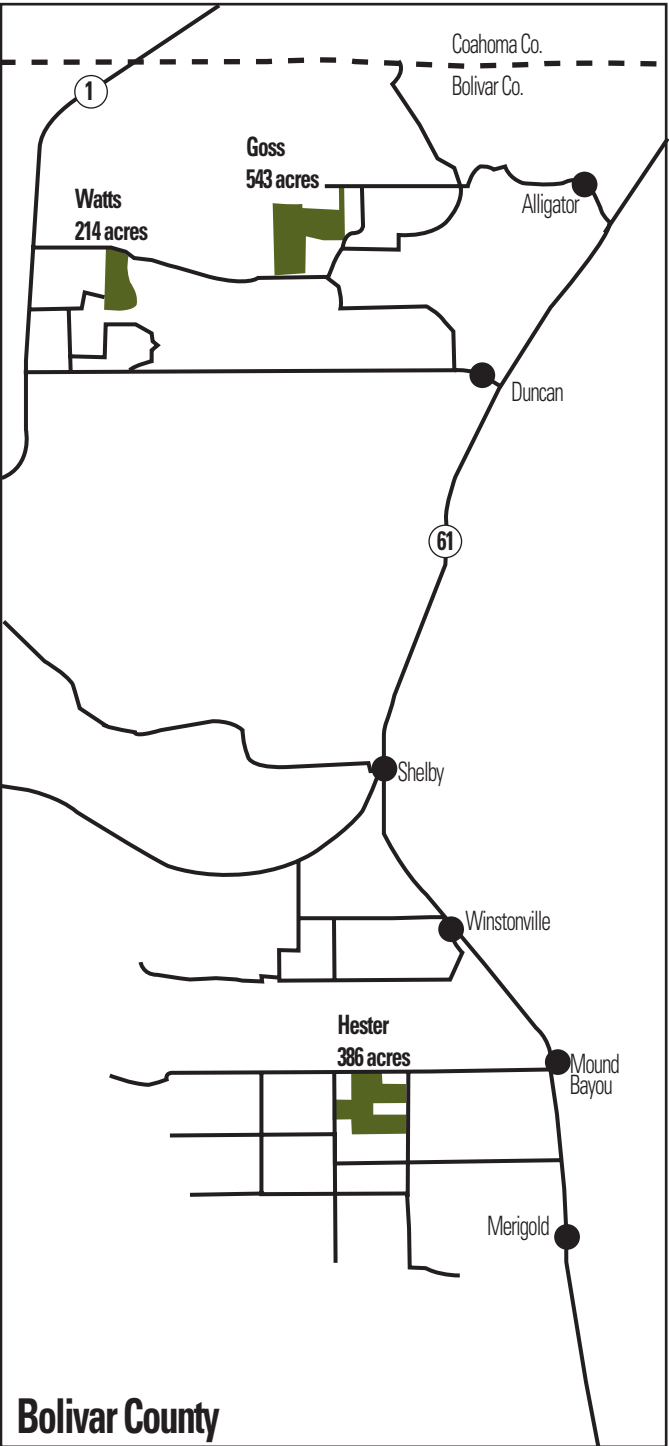
Winstonville

Hester
386 acres

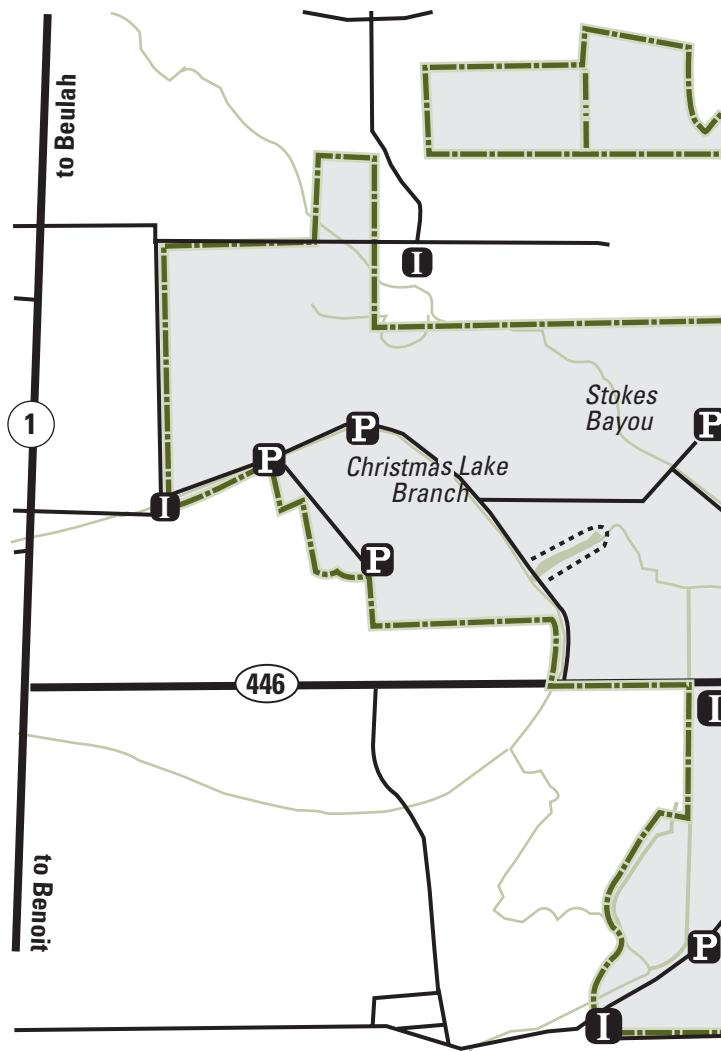
Mound Bayou

Merigold

Bolivar County

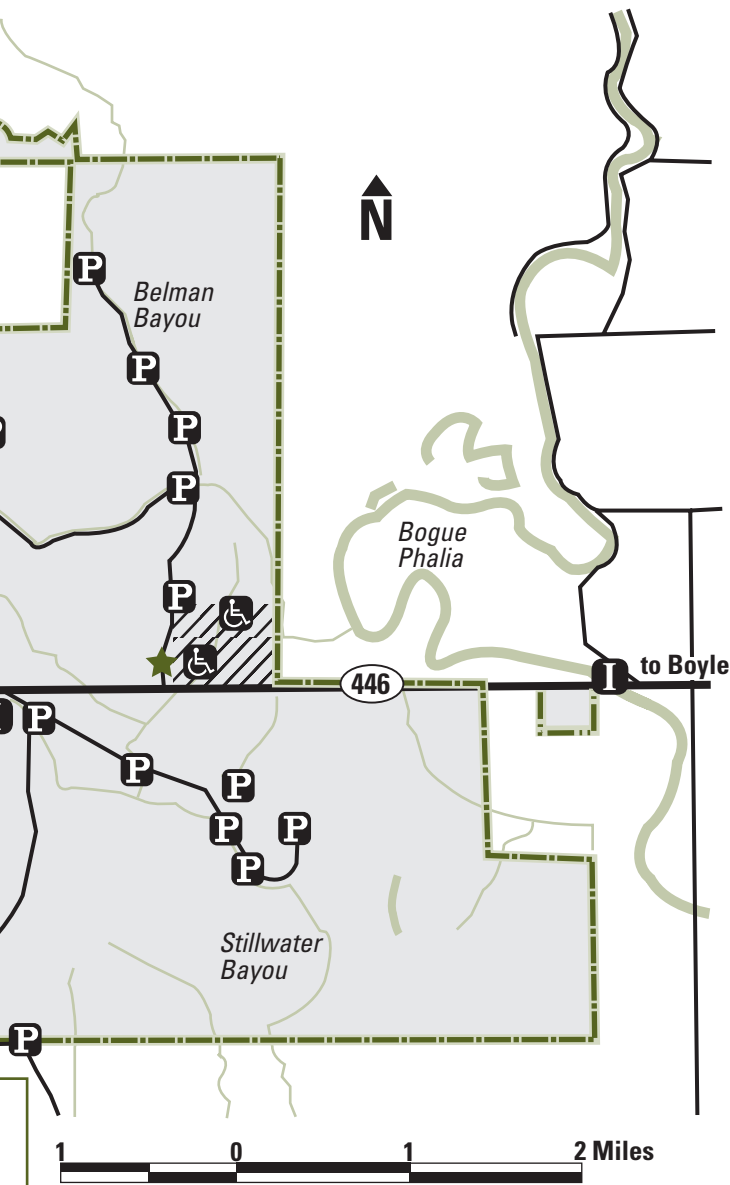


Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge



Legend











- | | |
|---|--|
|  Refuge Boundary |  Paved Road |
|  Open for Hunting and Fishing |  Refuge Headquarters |
|  Closed Area |  Hunter Information Station |
|  Water |  Parking |
|  Gravel Road |  Handicapped Hunting Blind |
|  Herbert Nature Trail | |

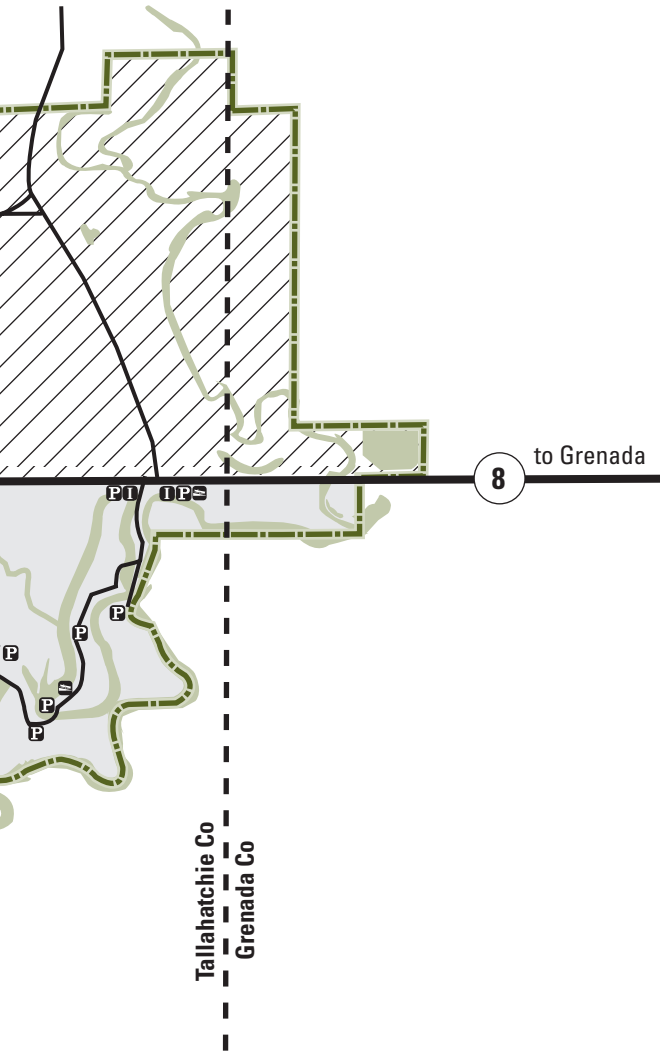


Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge

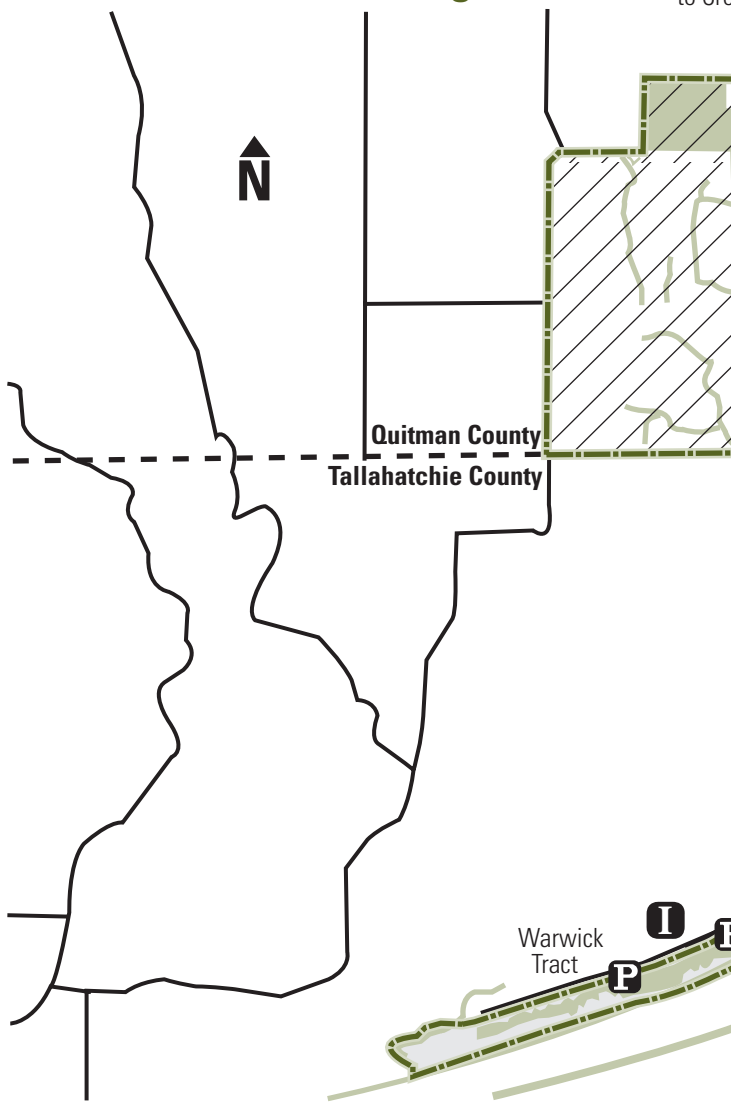


Legend











 Refuge Boundary	 County Boundary
 Open for Hunting and Fishing	 Hunter Information Station
 Closed Area	 Parking
 Water	 Boat Ramp
 Paved Road	
 Gravel Road	

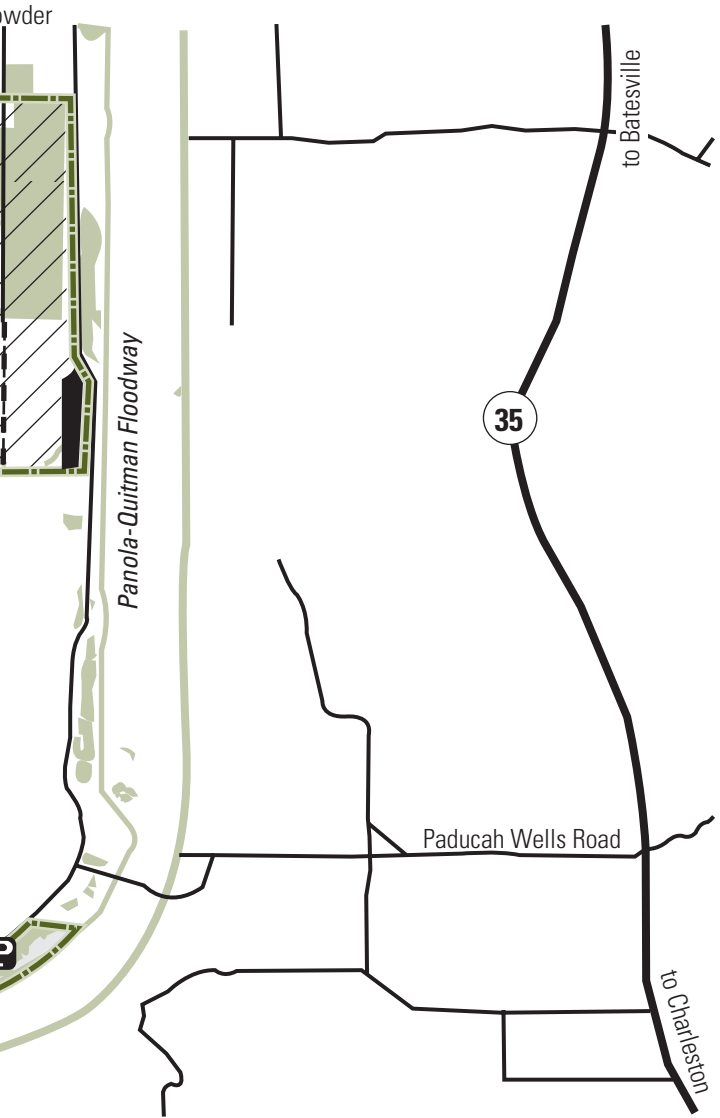


Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge



Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Refuge Boundary |  Paved Road |
|  Open for waterfowl hunting only & fishing |  Gravel Road |
|  Open for fishing only |  County Boundary |
|  Closed Area |  Hunter Information Station |
|  Water |  Parking |



on

North Mississippi Refuges Complex
P.O. Box 1070
2776 Sunset Drive
Grenada, MS 38901
phone: 662/226 8286
fax: 662/226 8488
<http://southeast.fws.gov>

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/ 344 WILD

July 2009

