

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

North Mississippi Refuges Complex

Coldwater River, Dahomey, Tallahatchie
National Wildlife Refuges
Hunting and Fishing Regulations
2025-2026

This is Not a Permit

Welcome

The North Mississippi Refuges Complex was established in 1989 to manage U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands in the northern twenty-six counties of Mississippi. Headquartered in Grenada, the Complex manages Coldwater River, Dahomey, and Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuges, plus smaller fee-title properties and easements. A total of 16,147 refuge-acres and an additional 9,500 acres of fee-title tracts are managed to conserve and restore bottomland hardwood forest and other wetlands to benefit waterfowl and other wildlife.

North Mississippi Refuges Complex
2776 Sunset Drive
Grenada, MS 38901
662-226-8286

General Information

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

All weapons authorized under state law are allowed for refuge hunts. It is unlawful to hunt within or shoot into a 100' zone along either side of designated roads and parking lots. Non-toxic shot is required for all shotguns.

Vehicles

Vehicles must not obstruct roads, gates, turn rows, field access ramps, or fire lanes and must be operated only on designated roads. ATVs and UTVs are prohibited.

Bicycling

Bicycling is permitted at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs only on designated roads and trails. eBikes must have fully operable pedals and an electric motor of no more than 750 watts (1hp) that meets the requirements of Class 1, 2, or 3 per 50 CFR 27.31.

Boats

Boats including motorboats, kayaks, and canoes are permitted on Refuge waters. Boats may not be stored overnight on the Refuge. State boating regulations apply.

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting and fishing are permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

State hunting and fishing regulations including shooting hours, methods of take, season bag and possession limits, and license requirements apply unless otherwise stated in this brochure. Consult current Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Regulations for details (www.mdwfp.com).

Fluorescent orange / pink requirements are per State regulations. Deer hunters are not exempt from the orange/pink requirement when hunting from an elevated stand.

Access

WHEN: General Refuge hours are sunrise to sunset. Hunters may enter the Refuge at 4 am and must exit no later than two hours after sunset except during raccoon and frog hunts. Scouting is permitted year-round during daylight hours.

WHERE: Refer to maps in this brochure for locations of open and closed areas.

Mobility Impaired Hunt Blinds

Special facilities are available to mobility impaired hunters at Dahomey NWR on a first come first served basis. Blinds are located east of the headquarters and may be accessed by motorized chair, eBike, or motor vehicle. No UTVs or ATVs permitted. Hunters may be assisted by one licensed guest 16 years of age or older but this individual may not harvest deer in this area. A mobility impaired hunter is defined as:

1. A person permanently confined to a wheelchair, or a walker, or
2. A single- or double-leg amputee. Please contact the Complex headquarters for more information.

Farm Service Agency Tracts

Approximately 4,200 acres acquired through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and are open to small game hunting of rabbit, squirrel, and quail only. All hunting regulations apply. Please see maps. Properties include:

Bolivar County: Goss (543 acres), Hester III (386 acres), & Watts (214 acres)

Quitman County: Trainor (228 acres), Trainor (219 acres), Starr (750 acres), Starr (320 acres) & Savage (40 acres)

Tallahatchie County: Schiele (40 acres) & Castleberry (94 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: Robertson (655 acres)

All other properties are closed.

The Trainor (219) tract has a boat ramp provided by MDWFP. All areas behind the blue goose boundary signs are closed to waterfowl hunting.

Permits

Hunters and anglers must purchase a North Mississippi Refuge Complex Hunting/Fishing Permit (#606). Individuals age 15 and younger and 65 and older are not required to obtain a 606 permit. All hunters and anglers under 16 years of age must be in the presence and under the direct supervision of a licensed or exempt hunter at least 21 years of age. A permit is not required for scouting.

A North Mississippi Refuges Complex Hunting and Fishing Permit (license code 606) can be purchased from any state license vendor or from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks website at <http://www.mdwfp.com/license/hunting-license.aspx>. The permit is good one year from the date of purchase.

Harvest Reporting

Each permitted hunter must complete a Harvest Report (FWS form 3-2542) card and display it on the dash of the vehicle so that the name is legible and clearly visible from the outside. Cards are available at Refuge hunt kiosks (see map). Prior to leaving the Refuge, the card must be completed and deposited at a Refuge hunt kiosk. Incorrect information reported on Harvest Report cards or failure to return the card after hunting could result in a Violation Notice and/or a seizure and/or forfeiture of harvested game. A hunter cannot possess more than one Harvest Report card at a time. Harvest Reporting is not required for scouting, fishing, or on the FSA tracts.

Dogs

Dogs are allowed for locating and retrieving waterfowl and small game during open refuge hunting seasons only. They must be tagged with the owner's name and contact information and remain under the control of their handler at all times.

Deer Hunting

Deer hunting is prohibited in open fields. These areas are designated on the brochure maps.

Organized drives for deer are prohibited.

Buckshot is prohibited.

Possession, placement, or hunting over any bait, lure, or attractant is prohibited.

Tree Stands/Blinds

It is illegal to construct or hunt from any permanent stand or blind on the Refuge. Valid permit holders are allowed to possess and hunt from one portable stand or blind on the Refuge. Hunters must clearly label stands/blinds with their State license/sportsmen's identification number. Stands/blinds left on the Refuge do not reserve hunting locations. Stands/blinds may be placed seven days prior to the hunt and must be removed no more than seven days after the Refuge's deer season closes. Blinds may not be placed along trails and firebreaks. Stands/blinds not in compliance with these regulations may be confiscated and disposed of by the Refuge staff.

Ground blinds, when occupied, must display a minimum 400 sq inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange visible from all sides during deer firearm and primitive weapon hunts. Deer stands and/or steps cannot be nailed to trees nor can any blind/stand be attached to a tree by any metal object driven, screwed, or otherwise inserted into the tree.

While climbing a tree, installing a treestand that uses climbing aids, or while hunting from a treestand, hunters must use a fall arrest system (full-body harness) that is manufactured to industry standards. Tree saddle users must remain connected to the tree at all times by means of a lineman's belt or tether.

Deer Tracking and Recovery

The use of tracking dogs to recover deer is only permitted after dark, in compliance with State regulations, and with the prior approval of refuge law enforcement and/or refuge management. All tracking and recovery of deer within closed

areas requires prior approval from law enforcement and/or refuge management. All persons involved in tracking and recovery of game must possess a valid North Mississippi Refuges Hunting/Fishing Permit.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Hunters may submit tissue from their deer for CWD testing at one of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks' CWD sampling sites. Testing is voluntary. For more information visit www.mdwfp.com/wildlife-hunting/chronic-wasting-disease.

Waterfowl Hunting

Waterfowl (ducks, teal, mergansers, coots, and geese), rail, and snipe hunting are allowed during specified state seasons on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, thirty minutes before sunrise until noon. After duck season closes, light geese may be hunted on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays until noon during the time period and in the manner defined in the Light Goose Conservation Order. A free permit number (along with refuge permit) is required to hunt light geese during the Conservation Order.

Hunters may possess a maximum of 25 shotshells per person in the field, including waterfowl hunters using refuge boat ramps. Decoys, blinds, and spent shells must be removed from the hunting area by 1 pm following each day's hunt.

Farm Service Agency Tracts are closed to waterfowl hunting.

Fishing Regulations

All federal and state regulations governing creel limits and licenses must be followed.

Commercial fishing is prohibited. Snagging is prohibited. Trotlines, yoyos, limb lines, and crawfish traps are permitted for recreational use only and must be checked every 24 hours. These devices must be legibly marked with the angler's State fishing license number. End of trotlines must be attached by a length of cotton line which extends into the water. Those lacking cotton line, having exposed hooks, or left untended for longer than 24 hours are subject to removal by Refuge staff.

Fishing is permitted in

- the borrow pits at Coldwater River NWR
- south of Highway 8 at Tallahatchie NWR
- and in all waters at Dahomey NWR.

Fishing is also permitted on the following Farm Service Agency tracts:

- north of the Corps levee on the Robertson (655 acres) tract in Leflore County
- the Trainor (219) & Lindsey (204) tracts in Sunflower County
- and the Starr (750) tract in Quitman County.

Prohibited Activities

- Use or possession of alcohol
- Fires, camping, overnight parking, or littering
- Commercial activities including guiding or participating in a paid guided hunt
- Searching for or removing any object of archaeological or historical significance including arrowheads, pottery, or other artifacts, as well as any natural materials such as plants, mushrooms, berries, and antler sheds.
- Use of flagging tape, bright eyes, or other trail marking devices.
- Removal or destruction of any trees, or part of a tree to include limbs or other vegetation on the refuge for any reason.
- Target shooting
- Field dressing (skinning or processing) game or hogs within 300' of any road, trail or parking lot.
- Leaving personal property, including game cameras, on a refuge. (See Tree Stands/Blinds section for more information on leaving stands during the deer season.)
- Drones
- Trapping
- Dog walking, horseback riding or any other domestic animals/pets. (See Dog and Deer Tracking and Recovery for exceptions)
- ATV and UTVs

Hunt Type	Season Dates	Harvest
Deer		
Early Youth Deer Hunt	November 8 - 21, 2025	State regulations apply with the following exceptions: Buck only at Dahomey. No antler restrictions at Tallahatchie. No antler restrictions.
Youth Deer	November 22-December 31, 2025	State regulations apply except: Antlers must meet Delta Deer Management Buck Criteria. Buck only at Dahomey and Tallahatchie.
Deer Archery	October 1-December 31, 2025	State regulations apply with the following exceptions: Buck only (Dahomey NV and Tallahatchie).
Deer Primitive Weapon	December 2-15, 2025	State regulations apply with the following exceptions: Buck only at Dahomey. No antler restrictions at Tallahatchie.
Deer General Gun	December 16-31, 2025	State regulations apply with the following exceptions: Buck only at Dahomey. No antler restrictions at Tallahatchie.
Migratory Game Birds		
Dove	State season	State regulations apply
Waterfowl Youth/Veterans/Active Military	State Season until 12 noon	State regulations apply
Waterfowl, rails, and snipe	State Season. Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday until 12 noon	State regulations apply. Open seasons include ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, rails, and snipe
Woodcock	State Season	State regulations apply
Small Game		
Squirrel Youth	State Season	State regulations apply
Squirrel	State Season	State regulations apply
Squirrel Spring Season	State Season	State regulations apply

	Hunt Areas	Other Regulations
allowing Either sex at	Open hunt areas at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs	Buckshot prohibited
erred deer t Unit Legal . Either sex	Open hunt areas at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs	Youth may use any firearm with which they may safely hunt, and in compliance with other applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Buckshot prohibited
allowing (VR)	Open hunt areas at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs	
allowing Either sex at	Open hunt areas at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs	Youth may use a rifle. Buckshot prohibited
allowing Either sex at	Open hunt areas at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs	Buckshot prohibited
	Open hunt area at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs	Non-toxic shot required
	Open hunt areas at Coldwater River, Dahomey, and Tallahatchie NWRs	25 shotshell limit per hunter Non-toxic shot required
teal,	Open hunt areas at Coldwater River, Dahomey, and Tallahatchie NWRs	25 shotshell limit per hunter Non-toxic shot required
	Open hunt areas at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs	Non-toxic shot required
	Open hunt areas at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs and open FSA tracts	Shotguns require non-toxic shot
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Hunt Type	Season Dates	Harvest
Small Game - continued		
Rabbit	State Season	State regulations apply
Quail	State Season	State regulations apply
Raccoon	January 1 - February 28, 2026	State regulations apply
Frog	State Season	State regulations apply
Incidental Take Species		
Feral hog, nutria, beaver, coyote	May be taken incidentally during Refuge hunts with the appropriate weapon and ammunition for that hunt	State regulations apply
ALL OTHER HUNTING SEASONS		

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.

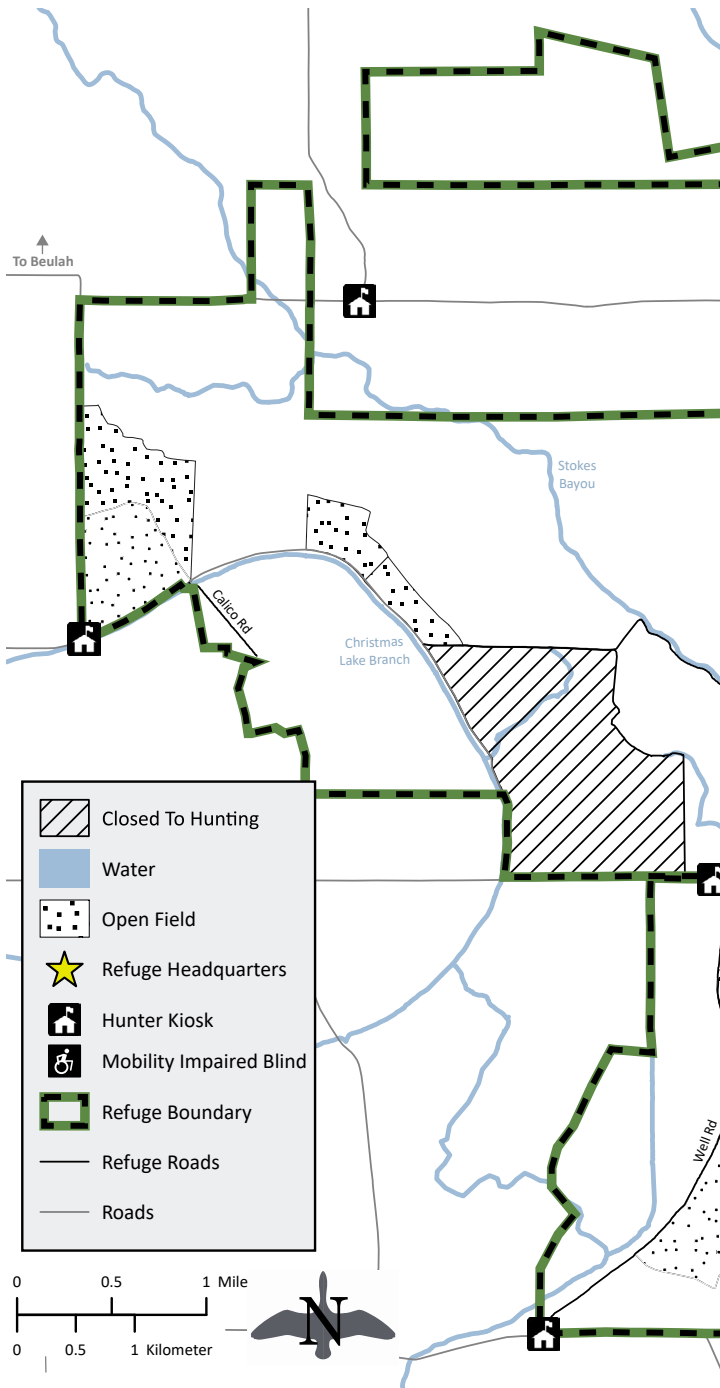
Hunt Areas		Other Regulations
	Open hunt areas at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs and open FSA tracts	Shotguns require non-toxic shot
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	Open hunt areas at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs	Shotguns require non-toxic shot
	Open hunt areas at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs	
	Open hunt areas at Coldwater River, Dahomey, and Tallahatchie NWRs and open FSA tracts	The use of electronic calls is prohibited.
ARE CLOSED ON THE REFUGES.		

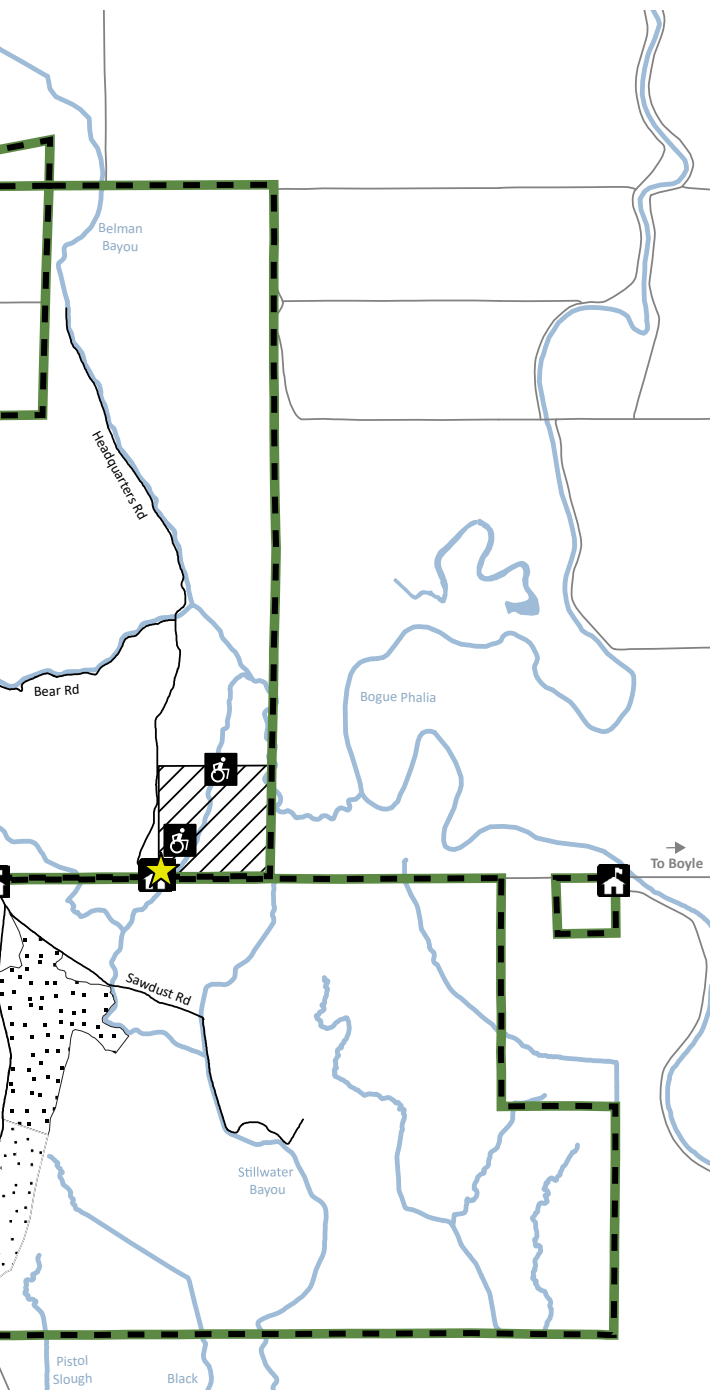


This area is closed to all hunting. Firearms and archery equipment are strictly prohibited.

Dahomey

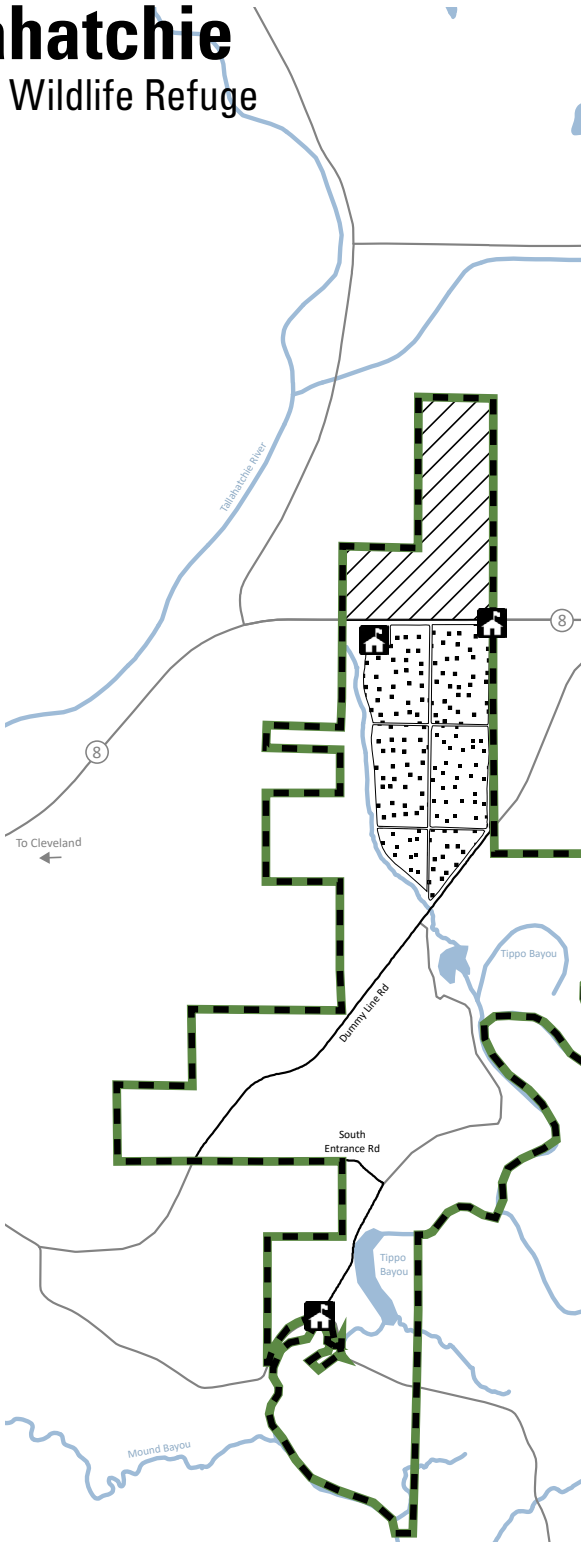
National Wildlife Refuge

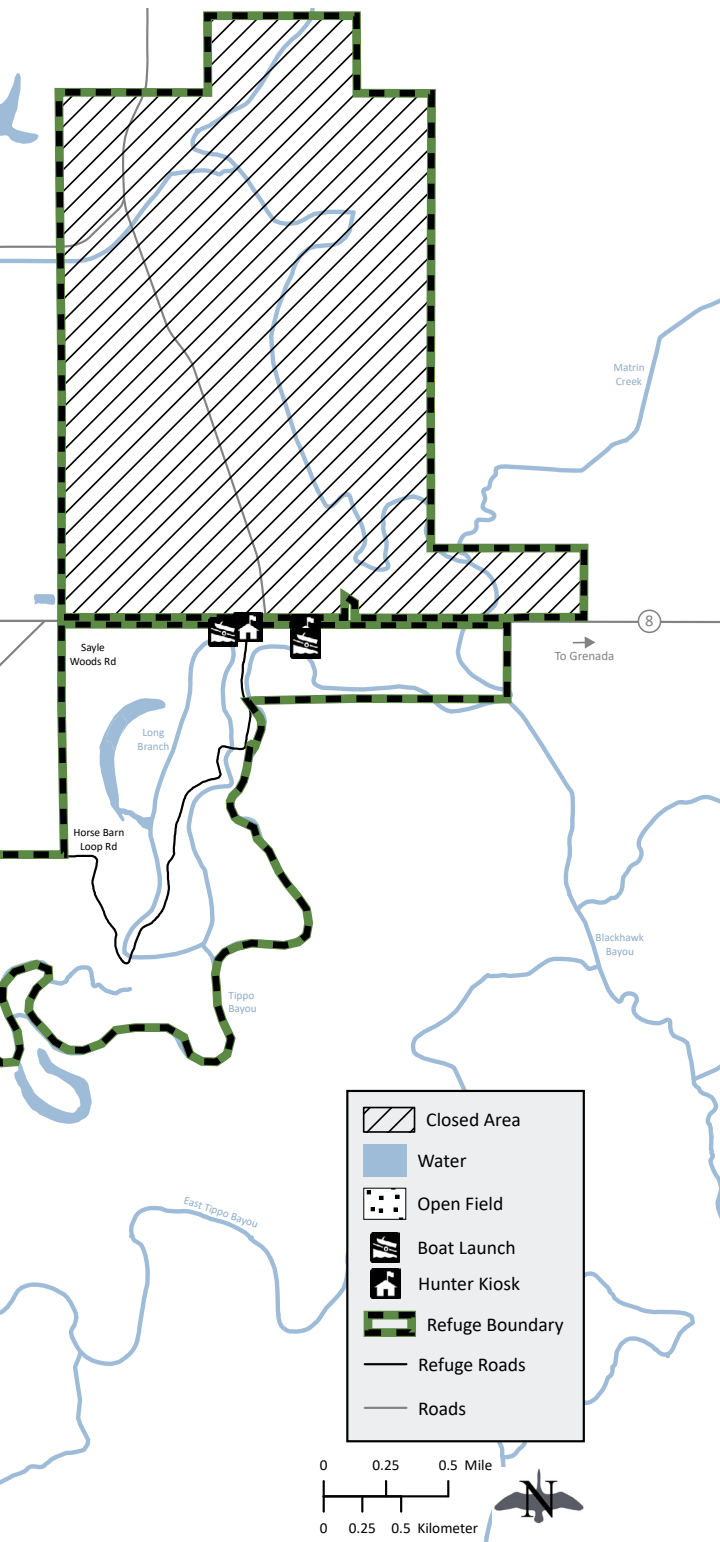




Tallahatchie

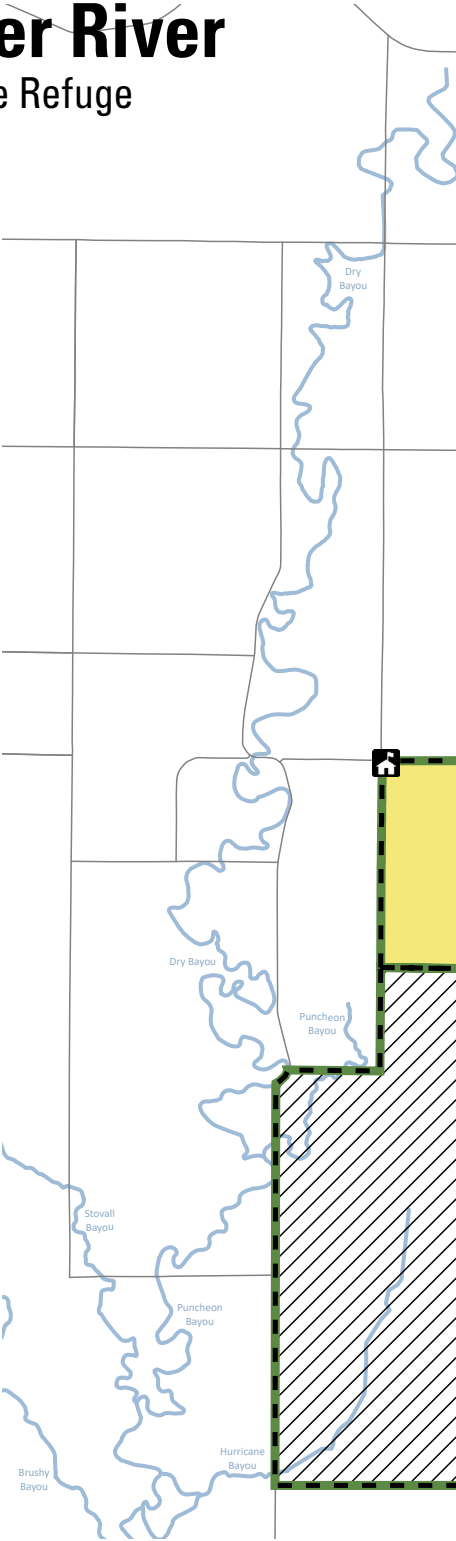
National Wildlife Refuge





Coldwater River

National Wildlife Refuge

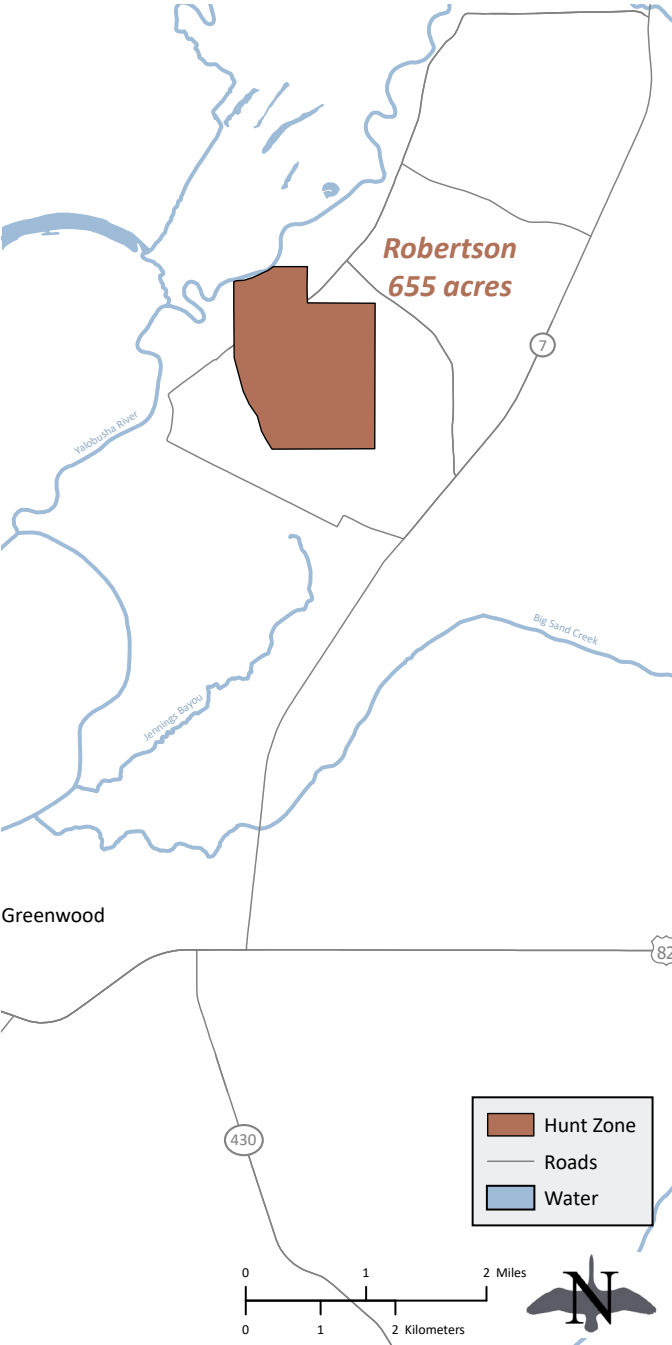




Leflore County

Tallahatchie NWR

SMALL GAME ONLY:
Rabbit, Squirrel, Quail



Quitman and Tallahatchie Counties

Coldwater NWR

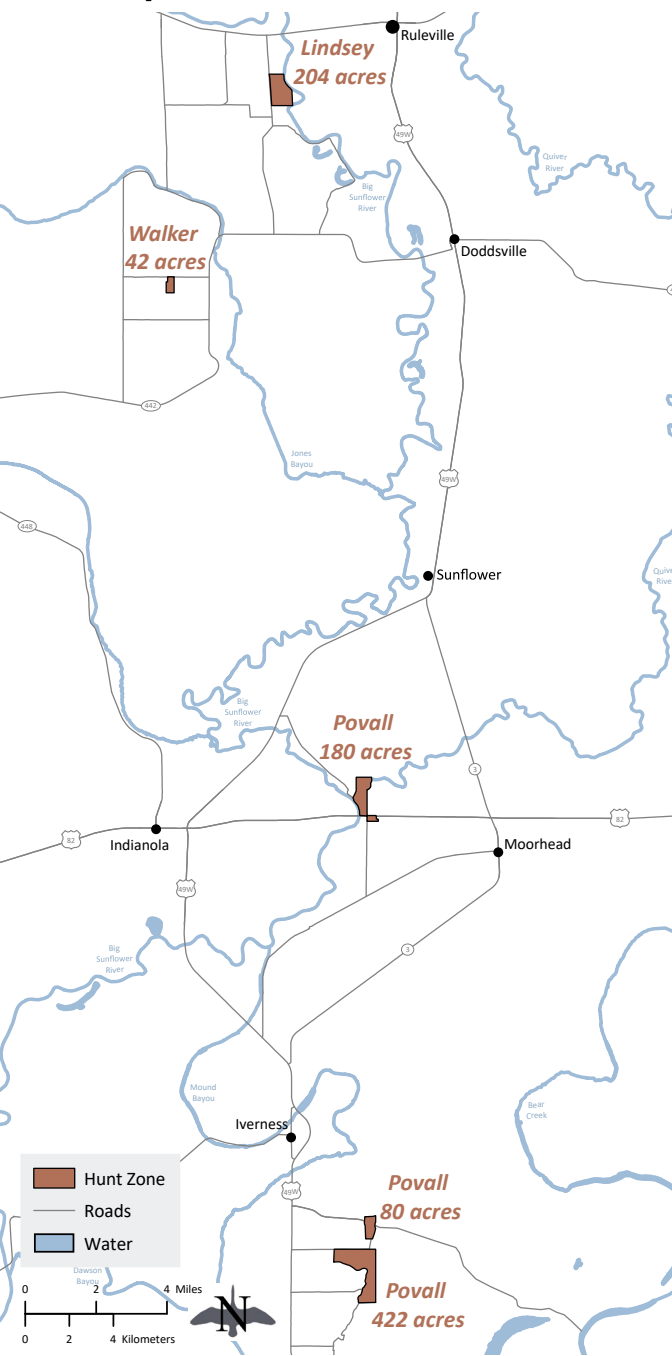
SMALL GAME ONLY: Rabbit, Squirrel, Quail



Sunflower County

Dahomey NWR

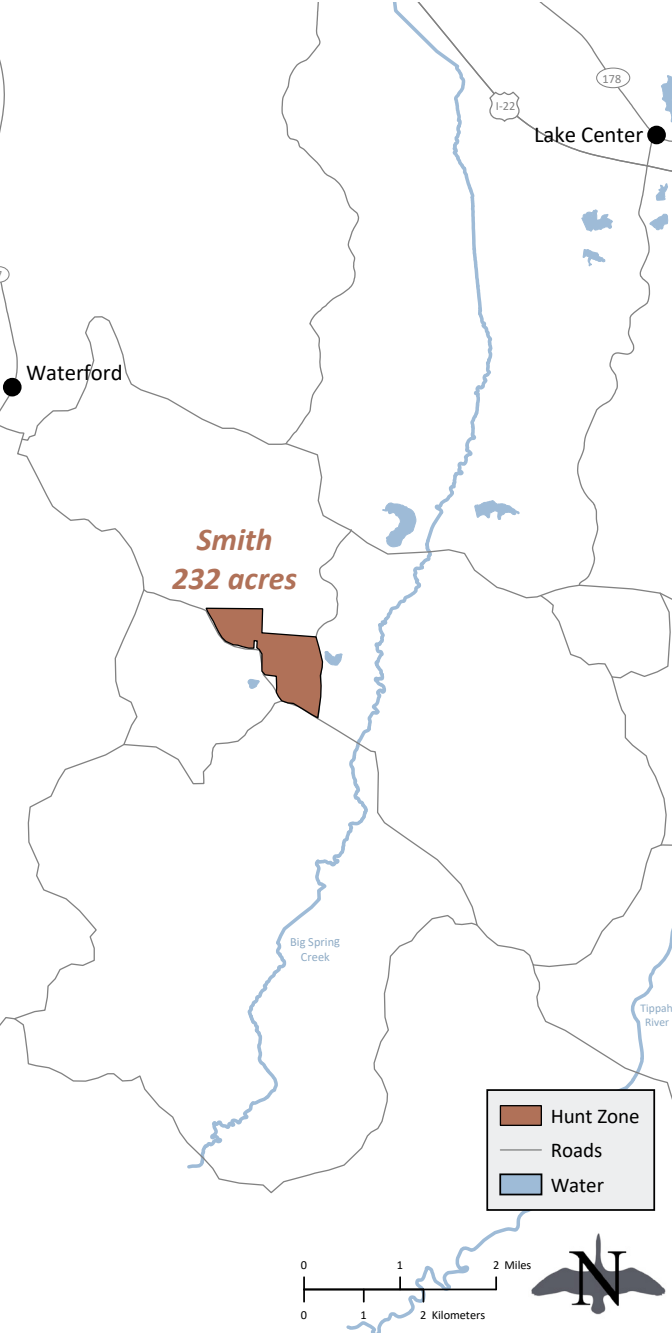
SMALL GAME ONLY:
Rabbit, Squirrel, Quail



Marshall County

Coldwater NWR

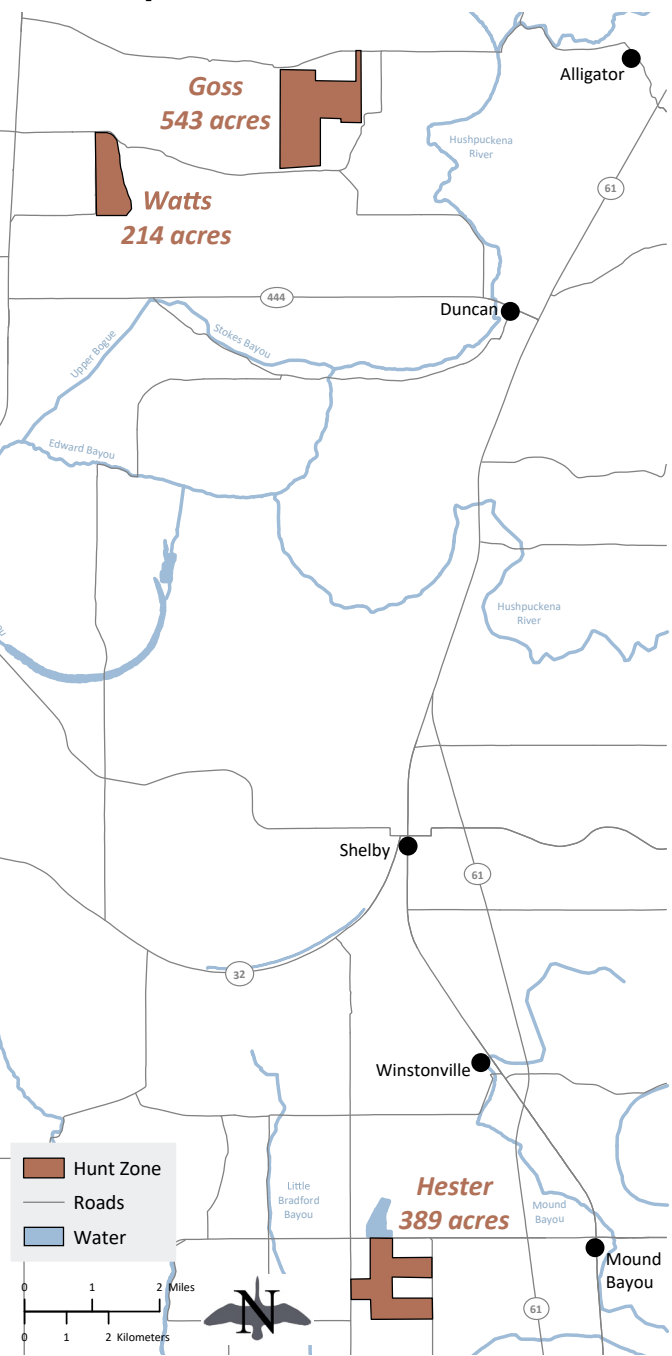
SMALL GAME ONLY:
Rabbit, Squirrel, Quail



Bolivar County

Dahomey NWR

SMALL GAME ONLY:
Rabbit, Squirrel, Quail





Poaching is a crime.

To Report a Wildlife Crime:

Email: fws_tips@fws.gov

Call: 1-844-397-8477

Help us to protect wildlife and your public lands by reporting wildlife crimes and violations. There are two options for reporting violations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can email fws_tips@fws.gov or call 1-844-397-8477 and leave a message. Make sure to include the name of the refuge where the violation occurred and your contact information. Tips may be reported anonymously.

North Mississippi Refuges Complex
2776 Sunset Drive
Grenada, MS 38901

Phone: 662/226 8286

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/dahomey>
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/coldwater-river>
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/tallahatchie>

<http://southeast.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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