Key West and Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuges J. N. "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.



Key West National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1908 as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds and other wildlife. The refuge encompasses more than 200,000 acres with only 2,000 acres of land. The area is home to more than 250 species of birds and is important for sea turtle nesting.

All of the islands in the refuge are designated as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Designated wilderness areas are managed to minimize human impacts and influences and to let natural processes occur without intervention. The refuge limits human use and influence in order to preserve the quality, character and integrity of these protected wilderness lands.

Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1938 as a haven for great white herons, migratory birds, and other wildlife. The refuge consists of almost 200,000 acres of open water and islands, and is known locally as the "backcountry." The refuge provides critical nesting, feeding, and resting areas for hundreds of species of birds and sea turtles.

The refuge was created to protect great white herons from

extinction since the population was decimated by the demand for feathered hats. Protection of great white herons was successful, and these magnificent powder-white birds can be observed feeding on tidal-flats around hundreds of backcountry islands each dawn and

Mangrove islands are important bird nesting and roosting areas, and provide virtually no public use opportunities because upland areas do not exist. Islands with beaches are open to limited public access as marked with signs. Please obey refuge signs to help minimize disturbance to wildlife.

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary was designated in 1990 and protects 2,800 square nautical miles from Key Largo to the Dry Tortugas. This includes the waters of the Key West and Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuges. Visitors to the refuges should be aware that the sanctuary has established additional rules to protect the marine

The sanctuary protects the marine portions of the refuges through a management partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Sanctuary Preservation Areas have been designated at Sand Key, Rock Key and Eastern Dry Rocks (all located within Key West NWR) to protect coral reef habitats.

For the most current National Marine Sanctuary regulations please contact the Sanctuary office at 305/809 4700.

Sanctuary Regulations in Refuges

- No fishing allowed in Sanctuary Preservation Areas.
- Do not touch coral or anchor on coral.
- Do not discharge waste water
- Use dive flag when snorkeling or diving.
- Use mooring buoys when available.



Great white heron/USFWS

For questions about allowable activities within the refuges please call 305/872 0774.

Allowed Activities

- Sport and commercial fishing in accordance with state and federal regulations.
- Recreational boating with conventional propeller- driven crafts, kayaks, canoes and sailboats.
- SCUBA diving and snorkeling.
- Wildlife viewing and photography.
- Refuge hours on islands are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.



Brown pelican/USFWS

Prohibited Activities

- Use of personal watercrafts, hovercrafts and airboats.
- Landing airplanes, helicopters or ultra-lights.
- Water skiing.
- Camping, open fires and pets on islands.
- Search for or removal of antiquities.
- Camping on refuge managed islands.
- No open fires.

Boating in the backcountry is challenging due to very shallow water depths. If you should run aground, please do not try to power-off the area since this results in extreme damage to the environment. Instead, trim up the motor and try to walk the boat to deeper water. You might have to wait for a high-tide to accomplish this.

Refuge Information/Visitor Center	305/872 0774
Refuge Headquarters	305/872 2239
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary	305/809 4700
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission .	305/289 2320
U.S. Coast Guard Key West	305/292 8856
Monroe County Sheriff	305/289 2430
Marine Mammal Stranding Hotline	888/404 3922
Injured or dead sea turtles	305/743 2552
Injured or sick birds	
Key West	305/292 1008
Big Pine Key	305/872 1982
Marathon	305/743 8382
Tavernier	305/852 4486
Monroe County Animal Control	
Key West SPCA	305/294 4857
Marathon SPCA	305/743 4800

National Key Deer Refuge

28950 Watson Boulevard Big Pine Key, FL 33043 Headquarters: 305/872 2239 Fax: 305/872 3675

Visitor Center: 305/872 0774 E-mail: keydeer@fws.gov





Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Kev West Office Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Complex 33 East Quay Road Key West, FL 33040 305/809 4700

Key West National Wildlife Refuge PERSONAL WATERCRAFT CLOSURE ZONE **Great White Heron NO ENTRY National Wildlife Refuge** GULF OF MEXICO NOT FOR NAVIGATION PURPOSES **ENTRY** ZONE **INO MOTOR ZONE (3 ISLANDS)** LITTLE MULLET UPPER HARBOR **GULF OF MEXICO IDLE SPEEDZONES** NO ACCESS ZONE **NULE** KEY ≥ SPANISH KEY MANGROVE BARRACOUTA MOONEY GULL KEYS HBR. KEY KEYS JOE INGRAM KEY **BOCA GRANDE KEY** CRAWFISH KEY MAN KEY WOMAN KEY IDLE SPEED ZONE WEST BAHIA WATER **NO ENTRY** PARTIAL BEACH OPENING ZONE **HONDA** NO VESSEL ZONE WESTCHANNEL HORSESHOE KEYS CRAWL PINE KEY KEY NO JOHNSON **ENTRY** HARDUP KEY ANNETTE **ZONE** MANGROVE **RACCOON** NOT FOR NAVIGATION PURPOSES **CRANE KEY** JOHNSTON KEY CHANNEL COCOANUT TARPON **HOWE** BELLY JOHNSTON KEY MANGROVES PERSONAL WATERCRAFT CLOSURE ZONE MAYO KEY **KEYS TEAKETTLE** HURRICANE **FRIEND** BARRACUDA KEY Key Deer. **GULF OF MEXICO** BUDD KEYS LITTLE PORPOISE KNOCKEMDOWN JOHNSTON PUMPKIN **IDLE SPEED** PIGEON KFY BIG TORCH **BAHIA HONDA GALDIN** KEY NO NAME **ZONE BIG PINE** MALLORY **IDLE SPEED** RAMROD SQUIRREL SUGARLOAF **NO ENTRY ZONE ZONE** CUDJOE Refuge WALTZKEY BASIN SNIPE KEYS JEWFISH BASIN **Visitor Center** SUMMERLAND LITTLE **IDLE SPEED ZONE** WALTZ KEY WHITING KEY CRANE KEYS **SPEED ZONE** ROUND KEYS HARPER • KEY GRASSY KEYS **Personal Watercraft (PWC) Closure Zone** CHANNEL KEY ■ Use of personal watercraft (PWC), airboats, hovercrafts, water-skiing and landing of aircrafts or **Restricted Boat Access Buoys** ultra-lights is prohibited within the boundaries of the ■ Vessel Exclusion and No Entry Zone Key West and Great White Heron National Wildlife Area closed to all boat and visitor access within Refuges (indicated by orange dashed line). areas marked by these buoys or "Area Closed" ■ A personal watercraft is defined as a State of Florida signs. **Refuge Buoys and Signs** Class A-1 vessel, shallow-draft, jet-drive watercraft ■ Combustion Vessel Exclusion Buoys and signs are used to mark no entry, no motor operated by standing, sitting or kneeling on or Use of internal combustion engines is not allowed and idle speed zones. Buoys are placed in areas behind the vessel (in contrast to a conventional boat

where the operator stands or sits inside the vessel). Propeller driven boats, row boats, kayaks, canoes

and sail boats are permitted. Other state and federal

regulations still apply.

important to wildlife and for human safety.

■ These are not mooring buoys—do not tie-up to them.

■ Follow the directions on the buoys.

within areas marked by "No Motor" buoys.

Watercraft must operate at no greater than idle

speed within areas marked by "Idle Speed" buoys.

■ Idle Speed Zone

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