

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

North Mississippi Refuges Complex

**Coldwater River, Dahomey, Tallahatchie
National Wildlife Refuges
Hunting and Fishing Regulations
2022-2023**

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

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/dahomey>

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/coldwater_river

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/tallahatchie>

The refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a national network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people. <http://www.fws.gov/1-800-344-WILD>

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. Shotgun require non-toxic shot.

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.

Boats

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

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. 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).

State deer hunter orange requirements apply to all deer and small game hunters during any refuge firearms season, including the youth season.

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.

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

It is unlawful to hunt within or shoot into a 100' zone along either side of designated roads and parking lots.

Mobility Impaired Persons

Special facilities are available to mobility impaired hunters at Dahomey NWR on a first come first served basis. 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.

Permit Information

Hunters and anglers must purchase a North Mississippi Refuge Complex Hunting/Fishing Permit (#606). Youth hunters age 15 and younger and hunters age 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 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.

Each waterfowl hunter is reminded that they need a Migratory Bird Conservation Hunting Stamp also known as a Federal Duck Stamp to take migratory waterfowl. Migratory bird hunters sixteen years and older must possess a valid Federal Duck Stamp validated by their signature written by him/herself in ink across the face of the stamp prior to their taking such birds. Hunters that purchase a Federal Electronic Duck Stamp must have a traditional signed Federal Duck Stamp on his/her person after 45 days 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 any of the Refuge hunt kiosks (see map).

Prior to leaving the Refuge, the card must be completed and deposited at a Refuge hunt kiosk. Any species not listed on the card should be reported in the "Other" section. Indicate "0" harvested if no game was harvested. 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 on the FSA tracts.

Pets/Domestic Animals

Dogs are allowed for hunting migratory birds, squirrels, rabbits, quail, and raccoons during designated seasons 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, and be tagged with the owner's name and contact information. Dogs are not allowed on Refuge properties outside of hunting season.

All other domestic animals are prohibited.

Deer Hunting

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

Organized drives for deer are prohibited.

Buckshot is prohibited.

Baiting, possession of bait in the field, and/or hunting over bait 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.

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.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Tallahatchie NWR lies within the CWD quarantine zone which prohibits movement of carcasses outside of the zone. Hunters may submit tissue from their deer for CWD testing at one of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks' CWD sampling sites. Deer harvested at Tallahatchie NWR may be taken to the Malmaison WMA headquarters in Leflore County. Deer harvested at Dahomey NWR may be taken to the Dahomey NWR headquarters on Highway 446. 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 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 game or hogs within 300' of any road, trail or parking lot.
- Leaving personal property (except legal deer stands) on a refuge.

Hunt Type	Season Dates	Harvest
Deer		
Early Youth Deer Hunt	November 5-18, 2022	State regulations apply with the following exceptions: Buck only with no antlers (Dahomey NWR)
Youth Deer	November 18-December 31, 2022	State regulations apply except: Youth may not use any firearm with which they may not be licensed to hunt. Antlered deer must meet Delta Management Unit Legal Buck Criteria
Deer Archery	October 1-December 1, 2022	State regulations apply with the following exceptions: Buck only (Dahomey NWR)
Deer Primitive Weapon	December 2-15, 2022	State regulations apply with the following exceptions: Buck only (Dahomey NWR)
Deer General Gun	December 16-31, 2022	State regulations apply with the following exceptions: Buck only (Dahomey NWR)
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
Rabbit	State Season	State regulations apply

	Hunt Areas	Other Regulations
Following restrictions	Open hunt areas at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs	Buckshot prohibited
which may be used safely to harvest a Deer in Florida.	Open hunt areas at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs	Buckshot prohibited
Following (VR)	Open hunt areas at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs	State regulations apply
Following (VR)	Open hunt areas at Dahomey and Tallahatchie NWRs	Youth may use a rifle
Following (VR)	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
quail, teal, and dove	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		
Quail	State Season	State regulations apply
Raccoon	January 1 - February 28, 2023	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 are closed on the refuges.		

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.



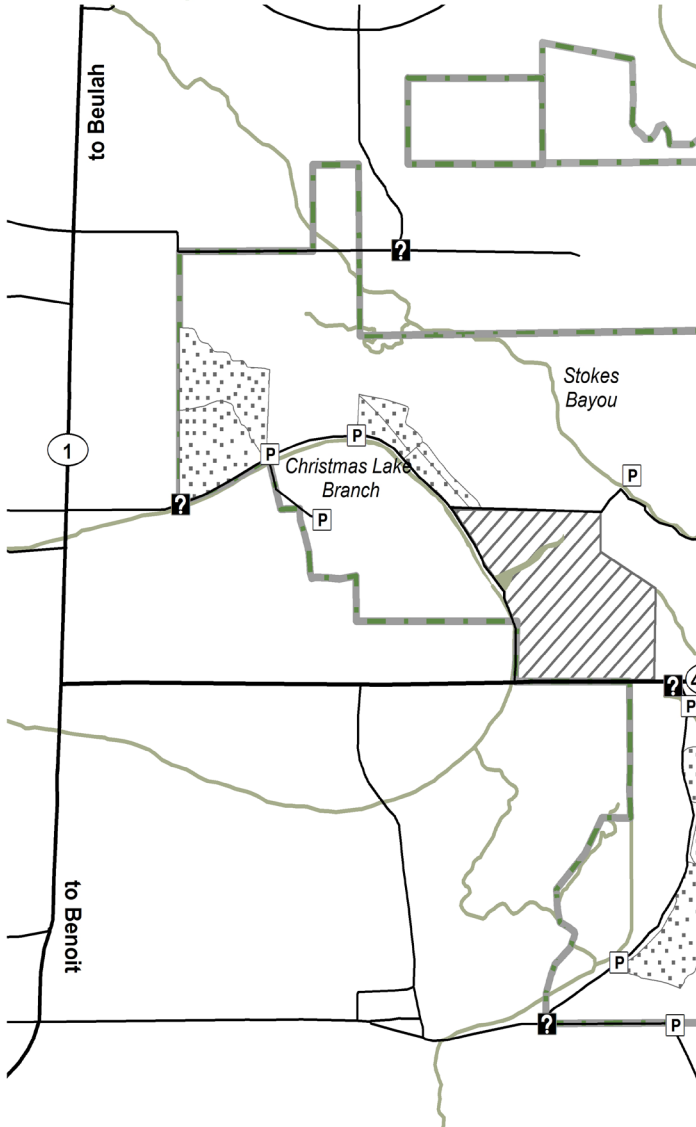
This area is closed to all entry. No roads or trails are open to the public.

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













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

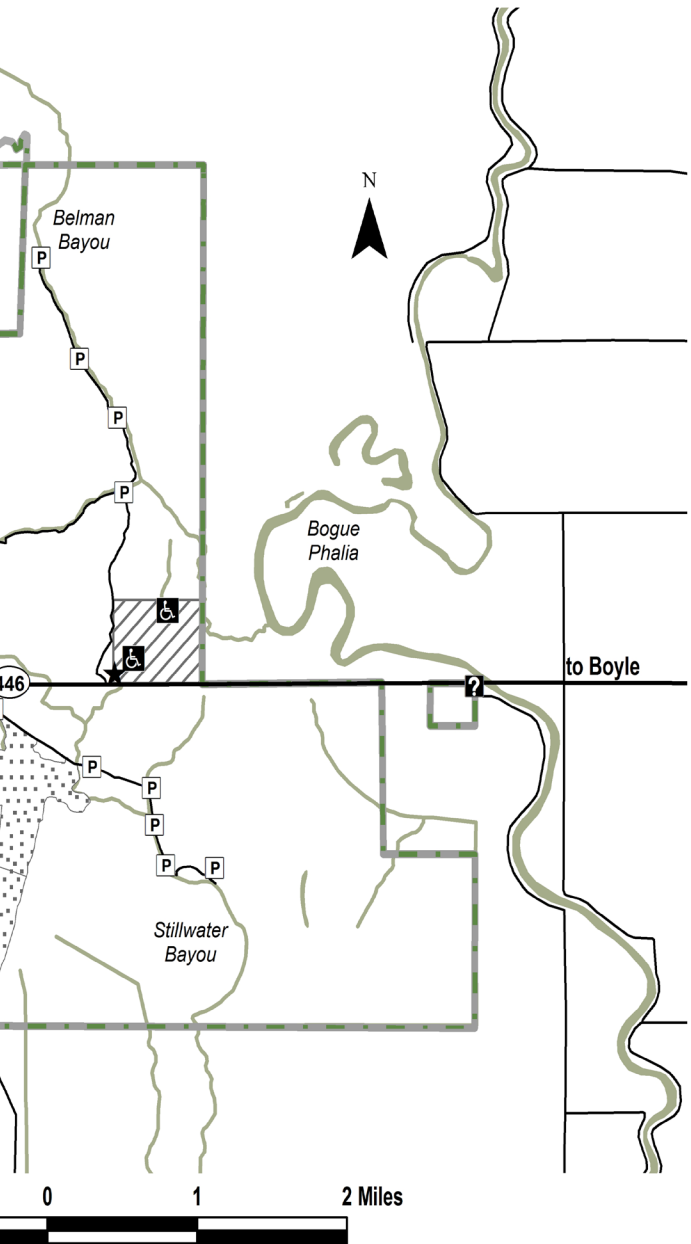
Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge



Legend

	Closed to Hunting		Refuge Boundary
	Water		Paved Road
	Open Field		Gravel Road
	Refuge Headquarters		Parking
	Hunter Information Station		Handicapped Hunting Blind





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Belman Bayou

Bogue Phalia

Stillwater Bayou

to Boyle

146

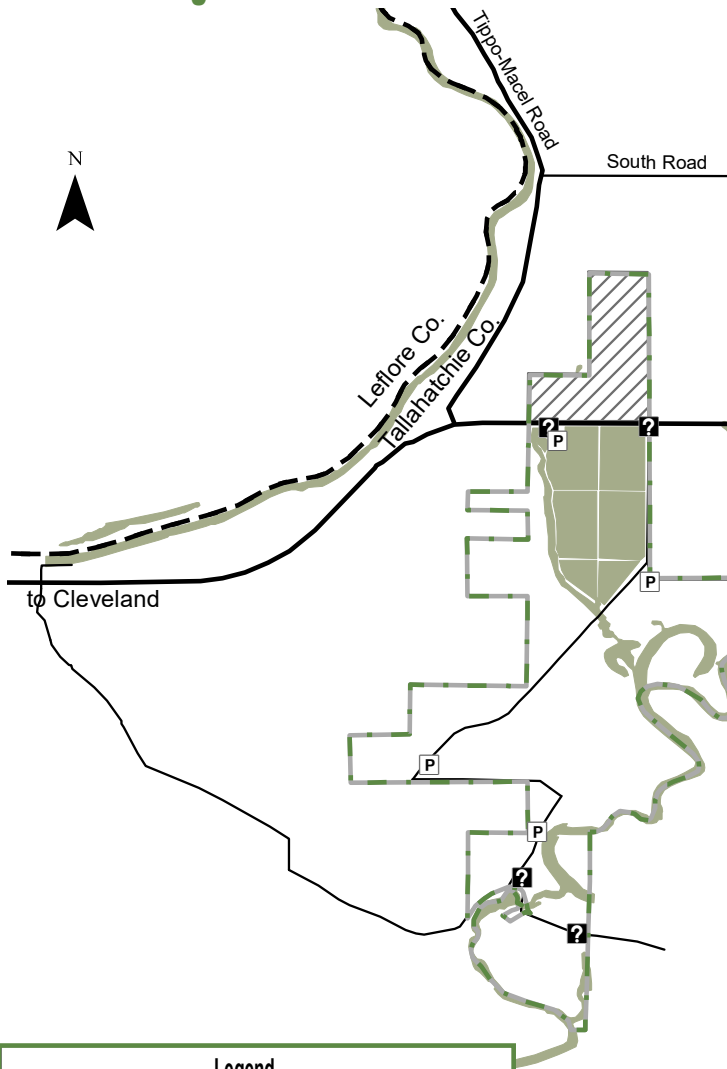
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2 Miles

Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge



Legend



Closed Area



Water



Parking



Boat ramp



Hunter Information Station

Refuge Boundary

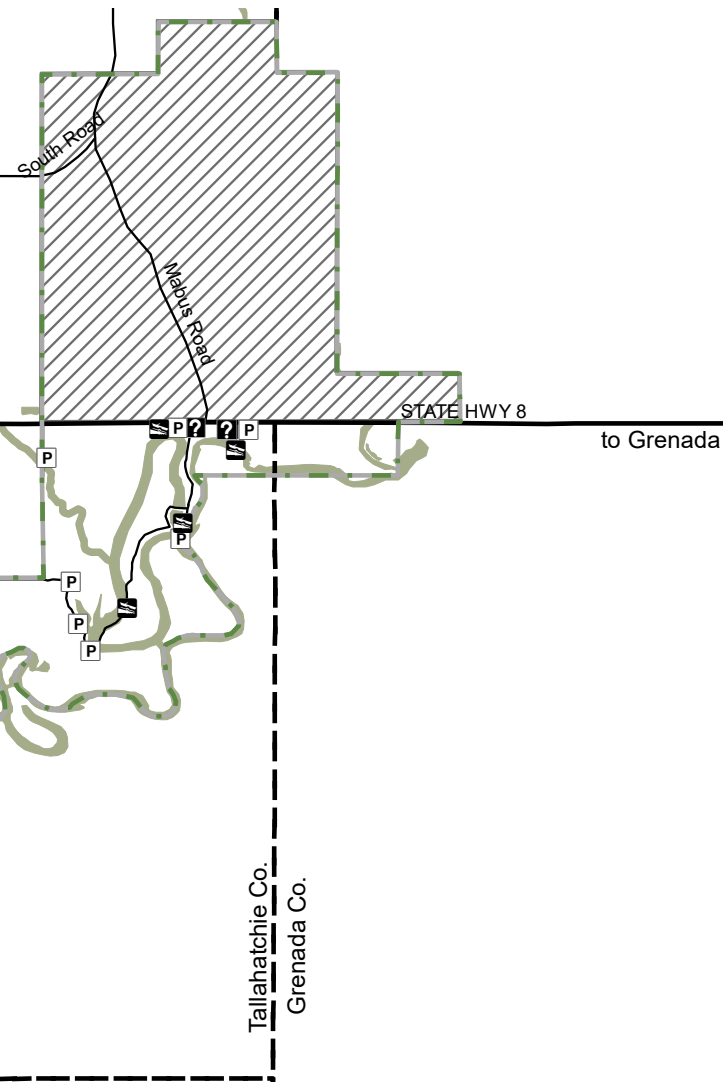
Paved Road

Gravel Road

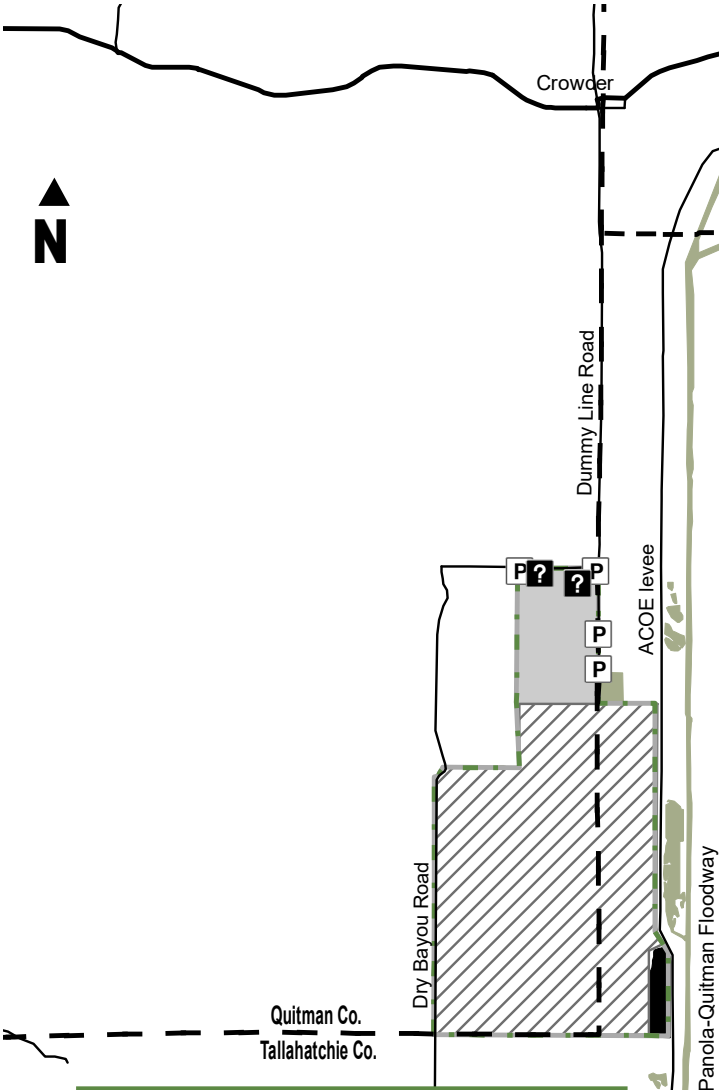
County Boundary

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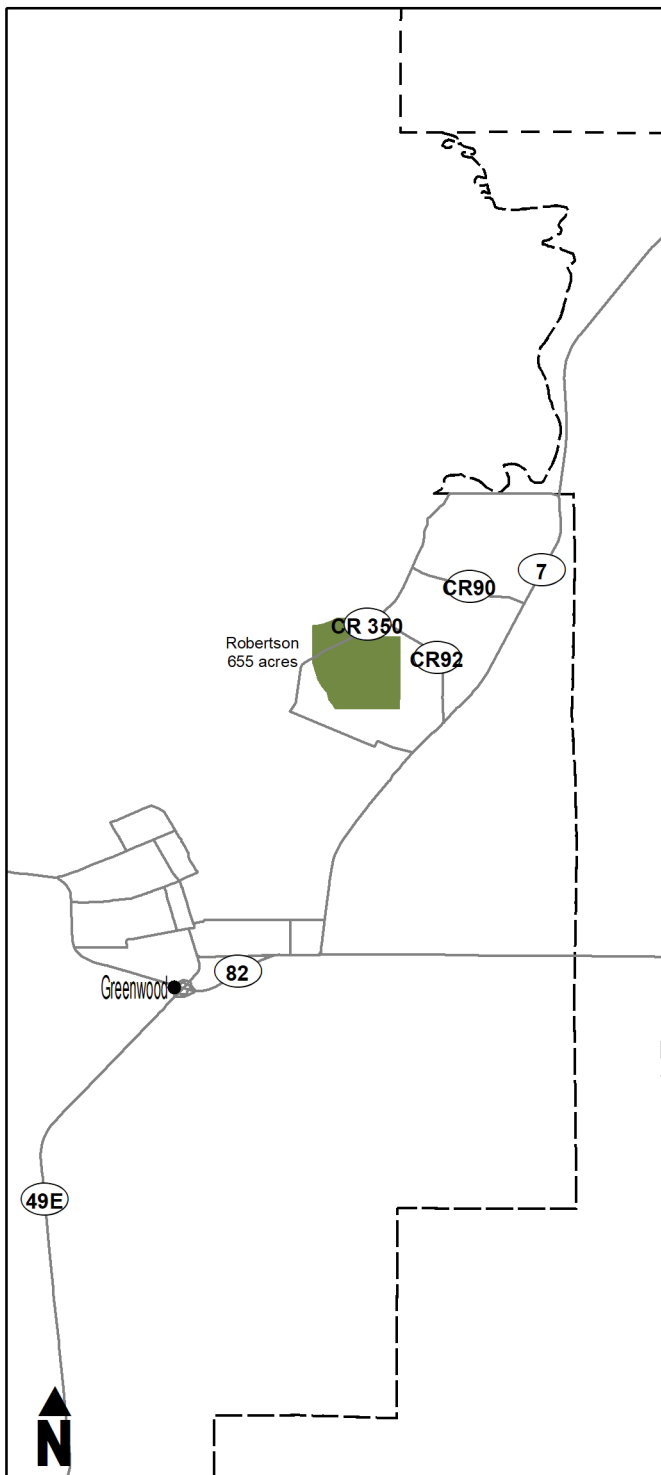
Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge



Legend

	Waterfowl Hunt Area		Refuge Boundary
	Fishing Area		Paved Road
	Closed Area		Gravel Road
	Water		County Boundary
	Hunter Information Station		Parking





Robertson
655 acres

CR 350

CR 92

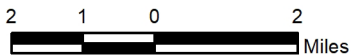
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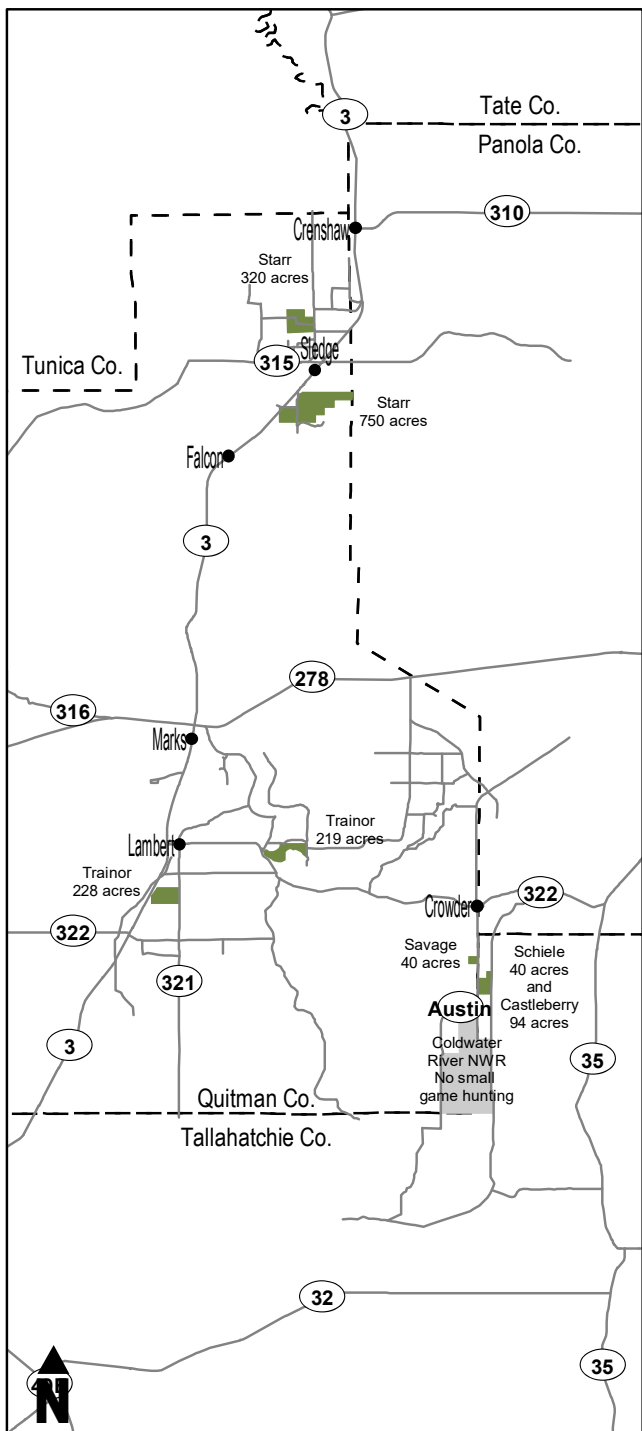
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Greenwood

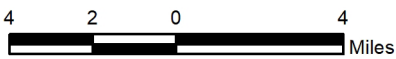
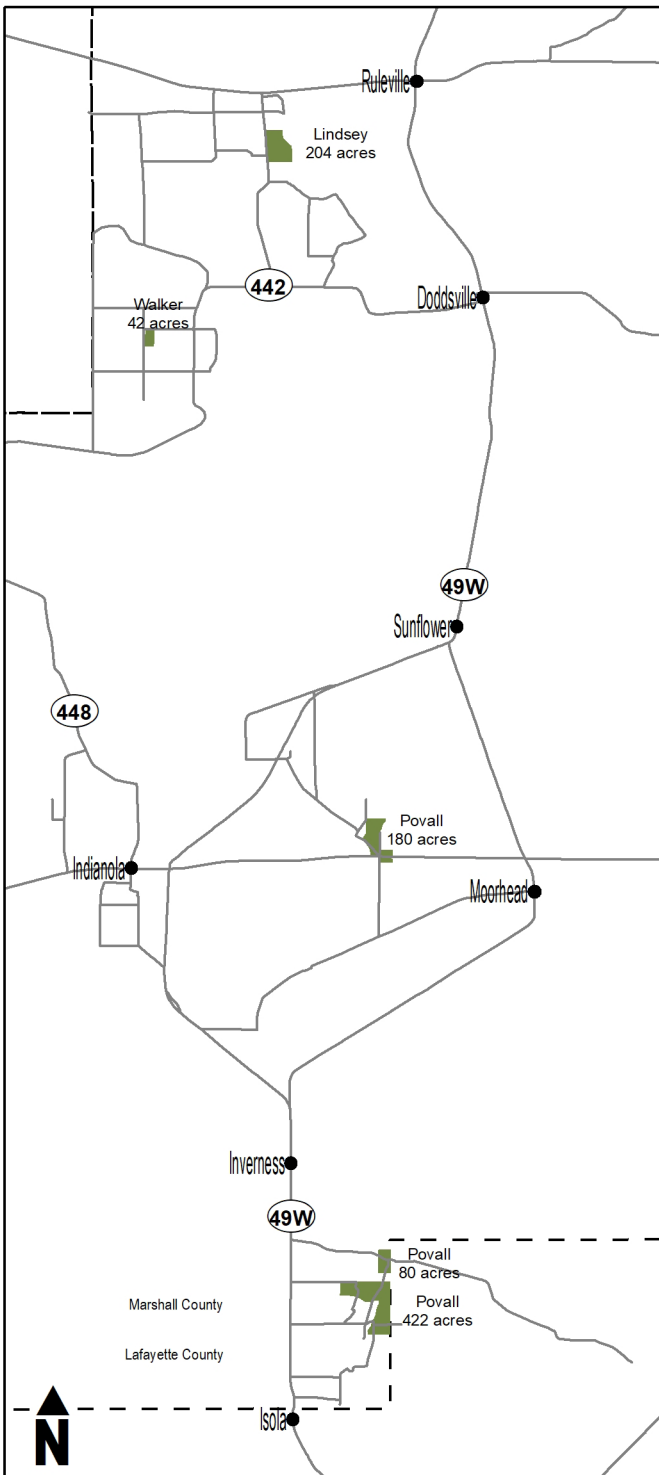
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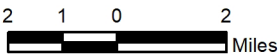
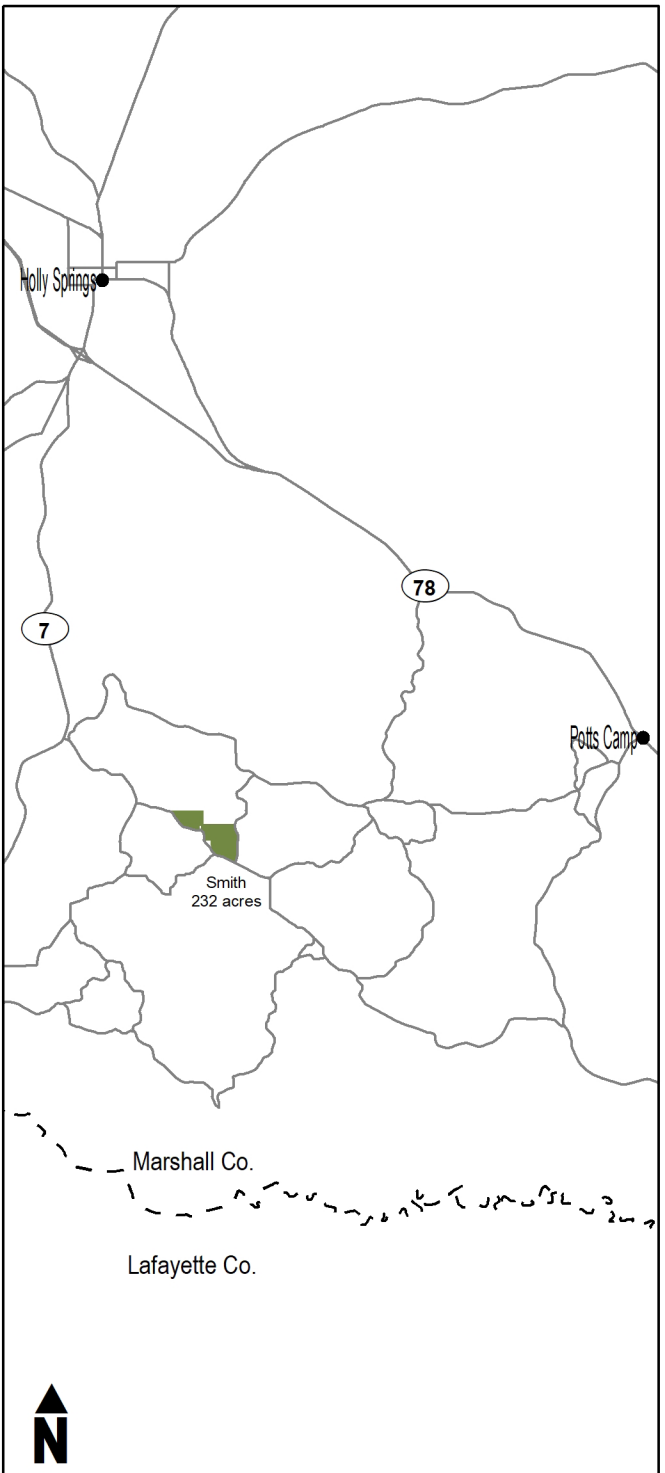
Leflore County



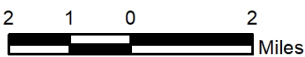
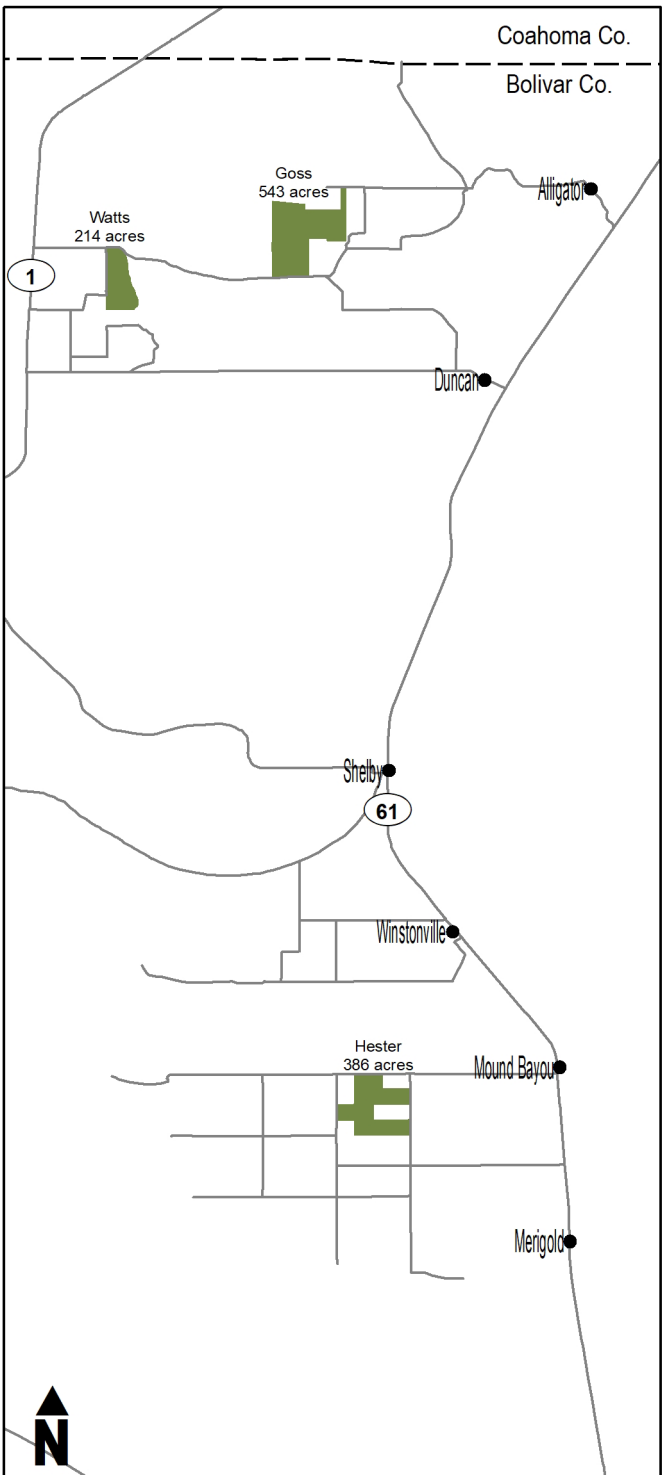
Quitman and Tallahatchie Counties



Sunflower County



Marshall County



Bolivar County



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

P.O. Box 1070

2776 Sunset Drive

Grenada, MS 38901

Phone: 662/226 8286

Fax: 662-226-8488

<http://southeast.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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