

Theodore Roosevelt National
Wildlife Refuge Complex Hqtrrs
12595 MS Hwy 149
Yazoo City, MS 39194
Phone: (662) 836-3004
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Theodore_Roosevelt/About_the_Complex.html

Information Bulletin



For Immediate Release

Date: March 14, 2022

Contact: Dr. Brett M. Moule, (662) 836-3004,
TRNWRRC - Project Leader

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex is Accepting Public Comments on the Modification of the Current Hunting/Fishing Fee Across the Complex

Currently, the hunting/fishing fee is split between two historic Complexes (Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex and Lower Mississippi River Complex). Prior to 2021, the Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex (TRNWRRC) included Hillside, Holt Collier, Mathews Brake, Morgan Brake, Panther Swamp, Theodore Roosevelt, and Yazoo National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) while the Lower Mississippi River Complex included Bayou Cocodorie, St. Catherine Creek, and Cat Island NWRs. In 2021, these two Complexes merged and became one (excluding Cat Island NWR). Presently, the hunt/fish fee for the TRNWRRC is \$20.00 annually (which includes a \$5.00 processing fee) and the Lower Mississippi River Complex fee is \$25.00 annually (which includes a \$5.00 processing fee). Under the current hunt/fish permit fee program, the user is required to purchase two separate hunt/fish permits to access both Complexes.

The new hunting/fishing fee will be \$25.00 annually (which includes a \$5.00 processing fee) and would allow hunters and anglers to access nine* refuges across the consolidated TRNWRRC with a single permit (*Theodore Roosevelt NWR - currently closed - is anticipated to be open 2023-24). Also with this change, all youth (15 years of age or under, except when participating on a limited draw hunt other than Yazoo NWR Youth Hunt) and seniors (65 years of age or older) will be allowed access to hunt/fish on any of the refuges within the Complex for free (excluding Theodore Roosevelt NWR until opened).

Since 1981, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has had authority to collect recreation fees. Since 1997, the Service has been able to retain fees collected at the station, first under the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program and then, in 2004, under the authority of Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). The FLREA was established to provide funding for recreation program improvements. Typical projects paid for by recreation fee funds include road and parking lot maintenance, brochures, trail improvements, youth and outdoor events, and salaries for appropriate Service staff.

We are interested in hearing from you regarding the proposed new hunting/fishing fee change and are requesting public comments beginning March 14 through March 30, 2022. Please submit any comments by email to yazoo@fws.gov; Subject Line: "Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex Hunt/Fish Fee Comment" or mail to Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex Headquarters Hunt/Fish Fee Comment c/o Brett Moule, 12595 MS Hwy 149, Yazoo City, MS 39194 on the proposed fee changes. The Complex is proposing to make these hunting/fishing fee changes effective August 1, 2022 prior to 2022/2023 hunt season.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook pages at www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge or www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast>.