

Bald Knob

National Wildlife Refuge



photo: S. Maslowski



photo: USFWS



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1993.
- Acres: 15,022.
- Location: refuge is located in White County, AR approximately two miles south of Bald Knob, AR on Coal Chute Road.

Natural History

- Refuge occupies the site of a large rice farm purchased from John Hancock Insurance Company. Large concentrations of migratory waterfowl and bald eagles during the winter.
- Cropland: 4,522 acres; bottomland hardwood forest and associated sloughs and oxbow lakes: 4,201 acres; reforestation: 6,188 acres Old fields, roads, levees and other habitats: 240 acres.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Three-person staff.
- 40,000 visitors annually.
- Visitors generate considerable revenue for restaurants, motels, gas stations, etc. in Bald Knob and other communities.

Refuge Objectives

- Provide diverse, high-quality habitats for migrating and wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and other migratory birds.
- Provide habitat for endangered species and other native species of wildlife.
- Provide compatible hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation opportunities for the public.

Management Tools

- Water management.
- Cooperative farming and moist soil plant production to provide food for waterfowl and other wildlife.

- Reforestation of marginal agricultural lands to bottomland hardwoods.
- Mechanical/chemical control of exotic/invasive plants.
- Providing waterfowl sanctuaries.
- Nuisance beaver control.
- Law enforcement.

Public Use Opportunities

- Hunting of small game, migratory birds and big game.
- Fishing.
- Wildlife observation and photography.
- Education/interpretation.

Calendar of Events

May: peak warbler migration, International Migratory Bird Day.

June: National Fishing Week.

September-February: small game hunting.

October: National Wildlife Refuge Week.

October-February: archery deer hunting.

October: muzzleloader deer hunting.

November-December: peak waterfowl numbers.

November-January: duck hunting.

November-February: goose hunting

November: youth hunting and modern gun deer hunting (quota permit required).

Fishing/wildlife observation/ photography: throughout the year.

Questions and Answers

Do you have an office?

The office is located on Coal Chute Road, two miles south of Bald Knob, AR. A new Visitor Center/Contact Station, funded by *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, was completed in 2011.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Can I use an ATV on the refuge?

Yes for hunting only. ATV access is permitted from September 1 – February 28, but you must stay on existing ATV roads, levee tops, and parking areas. Access to the Mingo Creek Unit is by ATVs only.

Can I collect arrowheads and other artifacts?

No. All artifacts are protected on Federal lands.