

# Cache River

## National Wildlife Refuge



photo: USFWS



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### Refuge Facts

- Established: 1986.
- Acres: 67,500 (Acreage subject to change annually due to active land acquisition program involving voluntary sales/willing sellers within the approved acquisition boundary).
- Location: The office is located at Dixie, AR on Highway 33 sixteen miles south of Augusta, AR.

### Natural History

- Refuge is located in the 10-year flood plain of the Cache River from its confluence with the White River near Clarendon, AR to Grubbs, AR, an air-mile distance of approximately 70 miles.
- Large concentrations of wintering waterfowl during the winter.
- Recognized as a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention and as the most important wintering area for mallards on the continent by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
- Habitat includes 48,415 acres of bottomland forest and associated sloughs and oxbow lakes, 3,561 acres of croplands and 15,524 acres of reforested areas.

### Financial Impact of Refuge

- Nine-person staff.
- 150,000 visitors annually.
- Land values surrounding the refuge have more than doubled.

### Refuge Objectives

- Provide high-quality, diverse habitats for waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, other migratory birds, and others species of native fish and wildlife.
- Conserve, restore, and manage the bottomland hardwood forest resources of the Cache/Lower White River basin.
- Protect endangered species.

- Provide compatible hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation opportunities for the public.

### Management Tools

- Water management for waterfowl, wading and shore birds.
- Cooperative farming and moist soil plant production for waterfowl and other wildlife.
- Reforestation of marginal agricultural lands to provide migratory corridors and habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife species.
- Provide waterfowl sanctuaries.
- Law enforcement.
- Conservation partnerships.

### Public Use Opportunities

- Small game, waterfowl and big game hunting.
- Fishing.
- Boat access to Cache River and Bayou DeView.
- Wildlife observation and photography.
- Education/interpretation.
- Interpretive trails and observation platform.

### Calendar of Events

- May:** peak warbler migration, International Migratory Bird Day.
- June:** National Fishing Week.
- September-February:** small game hunting.
- October:** muzzleloader deer hunting.
- October-February:** archery deer hunting.
- November:** Youth deer and quota gun deer hunting (quota permit required).
- November-January:** duck hunting.
- November-February:** goose hunting.

**December:** muzzleloader deer hunting.

**December-January:** peak waterfowl numbers.

Fishing/wildlife observation/photography: throughout the year.

### **Questions and Answers**

*Where is your office?*

The office is located on Highway 33 at Dixie, AR approximately 16 miles south of Augusta, AR.

*Where can I get a good map of the refuge?*

Large scale maps are available at the refuge office. The non-profit organization "Friends of Felsenthal" sells them for \$20.00 each.

*How do I get a hunting permit?*

They are available at the refuge office and hunting license dealerships in Newport, Augusta, Beedeville, McCrory, Morton, Des Arc, Brinkley, Clarendon, Biscoe, and DeValls Bluff. Permits will also be mailed from the refuge office on request and can be downloaded from the refuge website at <http://www.fws.gov/cacheriver>. The quota gun deer hunt requires a quota hunt permit obtained by contacting the refuge office.

*When are the various hunting seasons?*

Hunting seasons are determined annually and are published in the annual refuge hunt brochure, listed on the refuge website, and printed in the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's annual Hunting Guidebook. The public can call the refuge office to obtain additional hunting and permit information.

*Can I camp on the refuge?*

The refuge does not allow camping. However, camping is allowed at certain times on the adjacent Black Swamp Wildlife Management Area near Gregory, AR, at Horseshoe Lake off Highway 33, two miles south of Augusta, AR, and on the bank of the White River off Highway 70 at DeValls Bluff.

*Can I use an ATV on the refuge?*

Yes, for hunting only. ATV access is allowed from September 1 through February 28 on designated ATV trails only.