

# Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee

## *National Wildlife Refuge*



photo: Mark Ramirez



photo: USFWS



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### Refuge Facts

- Established: 1940.
- Acres: 48,219 located in Noxubee, Oktibbeha, and Winston counties, Mississippi.
- Location: approximately 17 miles south of Starkville, Mississippi.

### Natural History

1,331 acres are comprised of Loakfoma and Bluff Lakes. Approximately 42,500 acres of the refuge are comprised of bottomland and upland woodlands. These forest lands are occupied by a variety of wildlife including red-cockaded woodpecker, quail, deer and turkey.

### Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and other birds.
- Provide habitat and protection for endangered species such as red-cockaded woodpeckers.

- Provide recreation and environmental education for the public.

### Management Tools

- Water management for waterfowl, wood storks and wading bird rookeries.
- Prescribed fire.
- Mechanical/chemical control of noxious plants.
- Deer management with public hunting.
- Habitat management.
- Education/interpretation.
- Partnership with Starkville School District assisting in teaching 7000+ students per year.
- Law enforcement.
- Partnerships.

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## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### Public Use Opportunities

- Trails.
- Boardwalks.
- Three observation towers.
- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.
- Hunting, including youth hunts.
- Fishing.
- Visitor center and exhibit hall.

### Calendar of Events

**March-October:** fishing.

**April:** Fishing derbies.

**September:** National Wildlife Refuge Week.

**October-April:** hunts.

**December:** Annual Christmas Bird Count.

### Questions and Answers

*What is there to do here?*

There are seven walking trails varying in length from 1/4-mile to more than four miles, three overlooks, boardwalks, a picnic area and visitor center with exhibit hall and overlook. Depending on the time of year, there is hunting and fishing too. There are numerous places for great photography, wildlife observation and for wildflower observation.

*Where is the best place to fish?*

There are countless areas to fish on the refuge—some better than others. Bluff and Loakfoma Lakes are good places to start.

*Where can we see alligators?*

During summer months visitors have the best chance to see alligators. The lakes are low and the alligators are plentiful. The most regular place to see alligators is off Alligator Point, just east of the Bluff Lake Boardwalk.

*What do we need to hunt?*

The refuge is in the initial stages of implementing an entrance fee. A \$5 daily or \$25 annual public entrance pass will be required of all refuge visitors age 16 years and older. The entrance pass covers all hunting except for deer and waterfowl. Both deer and waterfowl require a separate \$15 permit that is sold online.

*Where can we see*

*a red-cockaded woodpecker?*

The best times to spot a red-cockaded woodpecker are at sunrise and sunset near cavity trees. At sunrise they come out and sunset they go back in. There are several accessible clusters of woodpeckers on the refuge. The closest cluster to the office is on the Woodpecker Trail.