

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
2700 Suwannee Canal Road
Folkston, GA 31537
Phone: (912) 496-7836
Fax: (912) 496-7991
<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee>

News Release



For Immediate Release

Date: May 23, 2019

Contact: Susan Heisey, 912-286-3110
Supervisory Refuge Ranger

Compartment #1 Wildfire 98% Contained Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

Folkston, GA.....As of this afternoon, the Compartment #1 Fire is 98% contained. Fire personnel will continue to patrol and monitor the fire each day, as there will continue to be areas of smoke within the fire perimeter until the area receives sufficient rain. With no rain in the forecast and a hot and dry holiday weekend approaching, fire personnel will also be ready for any additional fires that may occur due to the drying conditions. Fire personnel and equipment from area refuges are also onsite to assist with monitoring the Compartment #1 Fire as well as being available for any new fires that may occur during this forecast increase in fire danger. The Compartment #1 Fire was caused by lightning and is estimated at 185 acres.

The burn ban on campfires and charcoal grills in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge remains in effect until further notice. This burn ban includes the campground at Stephen C. Foster State Park and any picnicking areas at Okefenokee Swamp Park and Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Main Entrance. Additionally, campfires and charcoal grilling by individuals on overnight camping trips on the Wilderness Canoe Trail System are prohibited.

All entrances to the Okefenokee are open for business and welcoming visitors during this holiday weekend. Due to the forecast temperatures, we recommend getting out early to enjoy the best opportunities of seeing wildlife. Bring water and snacks, sunscreen, and wear a hat while visiting. For information on visiting the Stephen C. Foster State Park near Fargo, please call 912-637-5274; to visit the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge near Folkston, please call 912-496-7836; or to visit the Okefenokee Swamp Park near Waycross, please call 912-283-0583.

For additional information about the Compartment #1 Fire or the temporary burn ban at the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, please call Susan Heisey at 912-286-3110 or email susan_heisey@fws.gov. Follow the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Facebook page ([@OkefenokeeWildlifeRefuge](https://www.facebook.com/OkefenokeeWildlifeRefuge)) for fire updates and on Inciweb at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6348/>

-fws-

The Main Entrance (Suwannee Canal Recreation Area) to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is the primary entrance managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is located 11 miles southwest of Folkston, GA off Hwy 121/23. Entrance fees are \$5 per vehicle/\$1 per bicycle for a daily pass (good for 7 days). Annual passes are also available. The refuge is open daily and offers a variety of opportunities for the visiting public. Call 912-496-7836 or visit the refuge website at www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee for hours of operation, upcoming events, and entrance fee information.

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