



# Fishing

## Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge

### General Fishing

The Deep Fork River provides feeding and spawning habitat for many sport fish native to east-central Oklahoma. The most important species to anglers are the channel catfish, flathead catfish, blue catfish (Mississippi white catfish), crappie, white bass, and largemouth bass.

Lands along the Deep Fork River are a mixture of Refuge and private ownership. Anglers should take care in respecting private property. Refuge boundaries are marked with the white "blue goose" signs. Some parts of the refuge are closed to all public entry (see map for closed areas.)

The nearest public boat ramp is at the Deep Fork River Bridge on Highway 266 (see map for location). Although difficult, you can launch light-weight john boats and canoes from the bank at river bridge locations. Use caution when navigating Refuge waters. Numerous submerged tree stumps exist in shallow waters and river currents can be hazardous.

The nearest campground is located at Okmulgee/Dripping Springs State Park, west of Okmulgee along Highway 56.

Persons with disabilities are encouraged to participate in fishing on the Refuge. Contact the Refuge Manager for guidelines to obtain special access.

### Refuge Regulations

By law, national wildlife refuges are closed to all public use activities unless expressly opened.

Fishing and other public uses are allowed in accordance with applicable State laws, unless otherwise listed. Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations provides the general regulations which govern the use on national wildlife refuges. Listed here are a few of the Refuge regulations. Please take time to familiarize yourself with these regulations.

Taking of various game fish and the designated creel limits are as specified in the Oklahoma Fishing Guide. See map for locations open to fishing.

### Signs and Boundaries

The signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Please respect them as you travel throughout the Refuge.

#### National Wildlife Refuge



This sign marks the boundary of the refuge. Consult refuge management for authorized activities.

### Fishing Dates

We allow year-round fishing on the Deep Fork River and at the fishing area at Montezuma Creek. We allow fishing on sloughs, farm ponds and impoundments not connected to the River from **March 1 – September 30**. We allow bowfishing on the Refuge during daylight hours from **March 1 – September 30**.

### Allowed Activities

- Trotlines, jug lines, limb lines, and yo-yo's in the **Deep Fork River ONLY**. These lines must be marked with the owners name and address and must be attended according to time limits specified in the Oklahoma Fishing Guide. Abandoned lines are a hazard to people and wildlife and must be removed when the owner no longer intends on maintaining and attending the lines.

- Fishing from a boat using set lines and rod and reels within the confines of the Deep Fork River.

- Fishing in areas subject to overbank flooding except in areas noted as closed to fishing on this map.

- Noodling according to the State fishing regulations.

- Pets on the Refuge in vehicles or on a leash.

- All vehicles must remain on existing county roads or in designated parking areas.

- Boats used for any recreational activity must be removed from the Refuge daily and must comply with all State regulations.

- Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32) and in accordance with the Oklahoma Self Defense Act: 210 S. 1290.1 et. seq.

### Prohibited Activities

- Trotlines, jug lines, limb lines, and yo-yo's **in sloughs, ponds, and impoundments to protect wading birds such as herons and egrets.**

- Taking of turtles and mussels.

- Snagging and netting on the Refuge.

- Littering, dumping household furniture, trash, brush, or appliances.

- Possession of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances.

- Camping and fires.

- Marking trails with paint or leaving flagging tape, ribbons, or trail tacks.

- Carrying, possessing, or discharging fireworks, weapons (other than legal firearms) or explosives of any kind unless authorized.

- Discharging firearms of any kind and target practice unless authorized.

- Unconfined domestic animals, including but not limited to dogs, hogs, cats, horses, sheep and cattle entering or roaming the Refuge, except as specifically authorized.

- Taking of wildlife or plants (including cutting trees or brush) unless authorized.

- Disturbing, injuring, spearing, poisoning, destroying, collecting any plant or animal except by special permit or unless otherwise permitted.

- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity.

- All terrain vehicles except by individuals possessing a Refuge special use permit.

- Blocking cattle guards, gates, or roadways with vehicles.

### For More Information

Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge  
 PO. Box 816  
 21844 S. 250 Road  
 Okmulgee, OK 74447  
 918/652-0456  
 918 652-3427 (Fax)  
 email: lori\_jones@fws.gov

#### Area Closed



Certain areas of the refuge are closed to visitors for management purposes. Unauthorized entry beyond this sign is prohibited.

#### No Hunting Zone



This sign marks the boundary of no hunting areas on the refuge. All hunting is prohibited beyond this sign.

#### Waterfowl Sanctuary



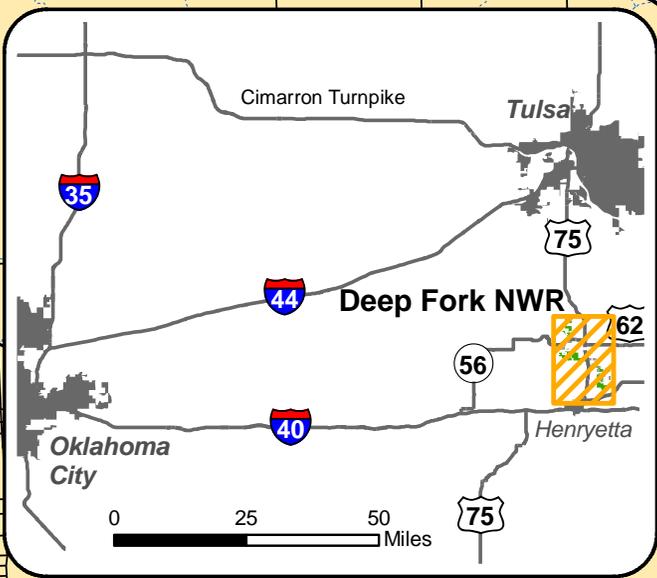
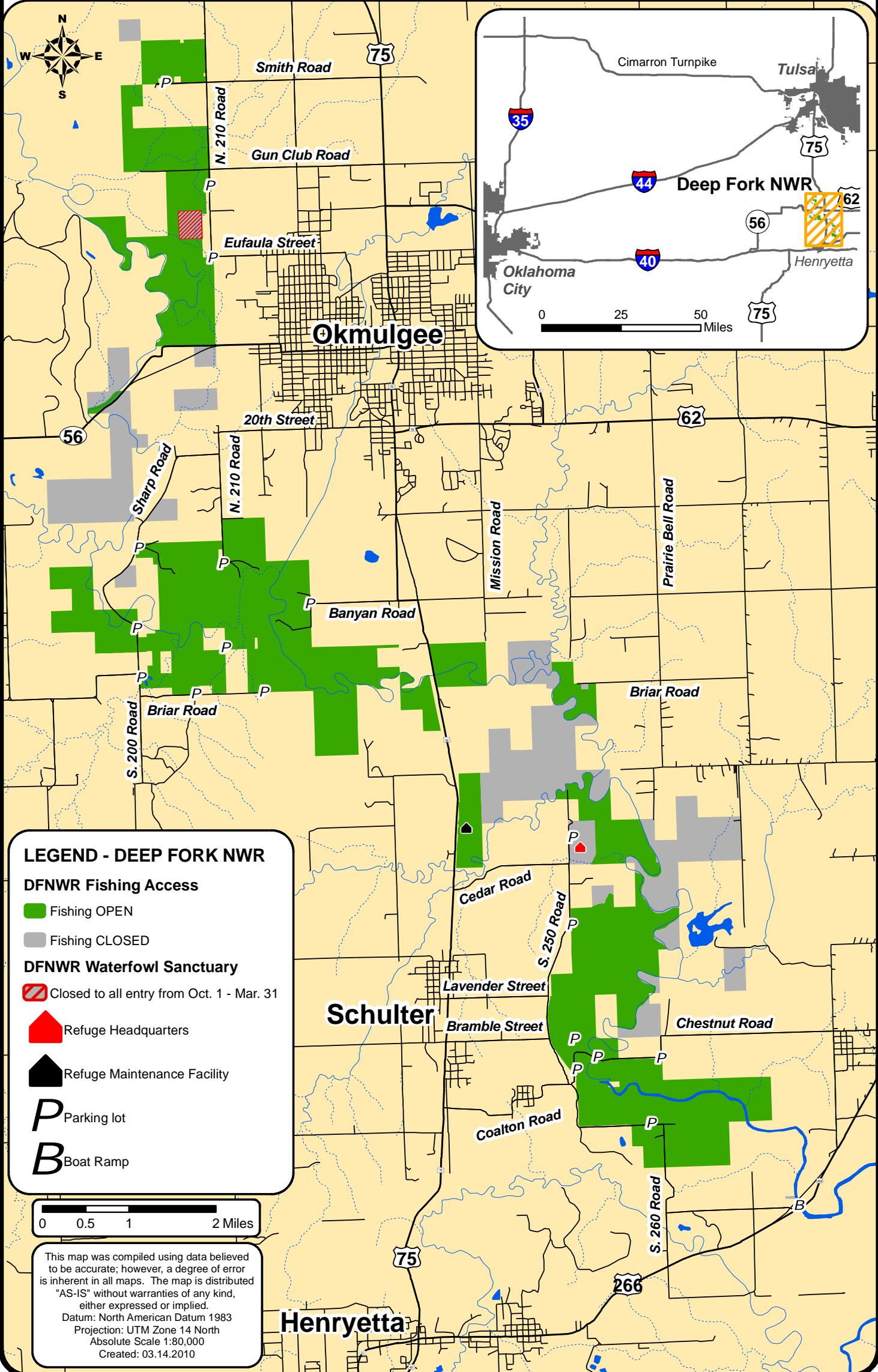
This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl sanctuary areas.



# U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service



## Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge (DFNWR) - Fishing Map Okmulgee County, Oklahoma



**LEGEND - DEEP FORK NWR**

**DFNWR Fishing Access**

- Fishing OPEN
- Fishing CLOSED

**DFNWR Waterfowl Sanctuary**

- Closed to all entry from Oct. 1 - Mar. 31
- Refuge Headquarters
- Refuge Maintenance Facility
- P** Parking lot
- B** Boat Ramp



This map was compiled using data believed to be accurate; however, a degree of error is inherent in all maps. The map is distributed "AS-IS" without warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied.

Datum: North American Datum 1983  
 Projection: UTM Zone 14 North  
 Absolute Scale 1:80,000  
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