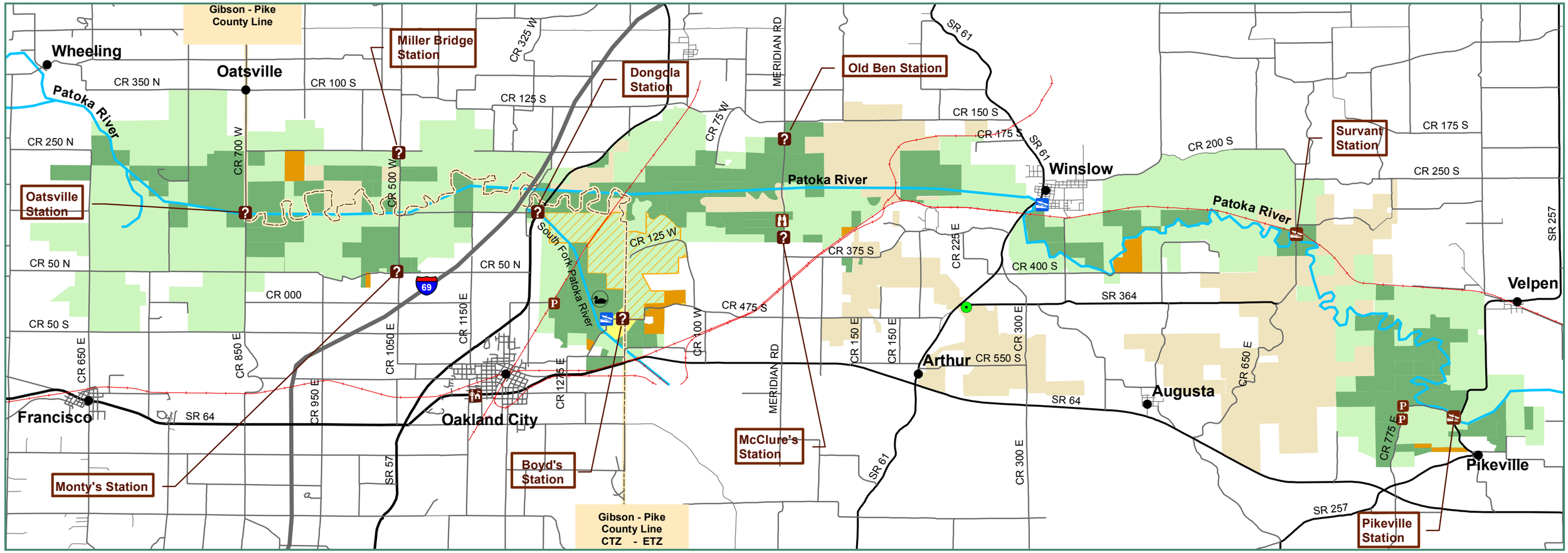
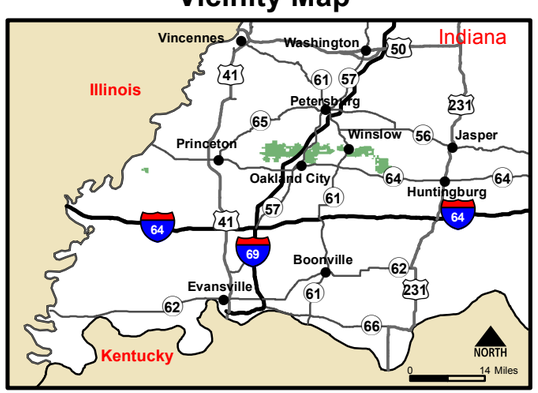


Columbia Mine Preserve
Sycamore Land Trust
Refuge Conservation Easement

Refuge public use regulations apply.
See separate brochure for fishing and restricted hunting regulations.

Vicinity Map



Website: www.fws.gov/refuge/patoka_refuge/

Acquired to date: 7,662 acres
Acquisition area: 22,472 acres
Conservation easement: 1,043 acres
Refuge Established: 9/7/1994

The USFWS makes no warranty for use of this map and cannot be held liable for actions or decisions based on map content.

Map is used as part of the Refuge's brochure.

Source of information from FWS Cadrestral, NWI, Indiana.edu and refuge office.

Produced at Refuge Office, Oakland City, IN.

April 7, 2016

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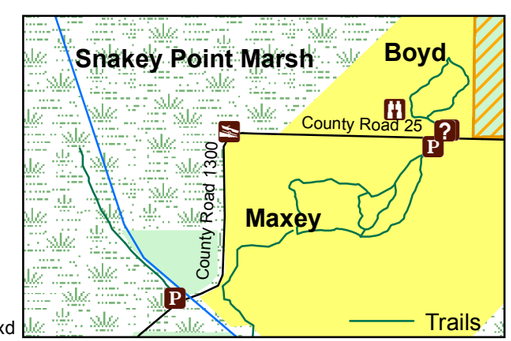


Legend

- Refuge Owned Land - Boundary lines are not all signed.
- Approved Acquisition Area - (Privately Owned)
- Refuge Conservation Easement
- Closed to Hunting
- Closed to Hunting & Fishing
- Snakey Point Marsh
- Patoka River
- Refuge Headquarters
- Boat Ramp and Kiosk
- Kiosk Information & Parking
- Parking Lot
- Wildlife Viewing Area
- Boat Ramp
- Sugar Ridge IDNR Office
- Adjacent State Land
- Railroad

General Information

Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge and Management Area, established September 7, 1994, is located in Gibson and Pike Counties along the Patoka River in southwest Indiana. Public hunting and fishing is permitted on 7,345 of the 7,662 acres acquired to date. Columbia Mine Preserve Conservation Easement of 1,043 acres is open to fishing and restricted hunting. The various tracts that make up the acquired areas are not contiguous and some have poor access due to adjacent coal mining or private lands. **Respect private property.** Always ask permission before entering private property. Most of the Refuge is not signed due to on-going acquisition. The 219-acre White River Bottoms Wildlife Management Area is also included under these regulations. **Lands recently acquired by the Fish & Wildlife Service are closed to fishing and hunting until they are listed as being open in the Federal Register.**

General Refuge Regulations

The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State regulations subject to the following conditions:

See Columbia Mine Preserve leaflet for fishing and restricted hunting regulations.

Only those species authorized for hunting in Indiana and **listed below** may be hunted on the Refuge. All other species are protected.

Migratory Birds

Ducks, geese and coots
Sora rails and common snipe
Mourning doves and woodcocks

Game Birds

Quail
Wild turkey

Small Game

Cottontail rabbit
Gray and Fox squirrel

Furbearers (Hunting Only - Refuge Permit Required)

Red and Gray fox and coyote
Raccoon and opossum

Big Game - White-tailed deer

Ammunition

Shotgun hunters using **scattershot** may possess and use only approved non-toxic shot. Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited while hunting all the above species on the Refuge. Pick up and take out spent casings.

Motorized Vehicles

All motor vehicles must remain on maintained roads and parked so as not to interfere with other traffic. **Off-road vehicles** are not permitted on refuge lands.

Weapons

Firearms, archery equipment and crossbows meeting state requirements are permitted on the refuge only during the designated hunting season. Possession in vehicles while driving through the Refuge on public roads according to State regulations. Handguns are permitted according to State regulations.

Dogs

Dogs are allowed for hunting according to State regulations during designated seasons only. Otherwise, dogs must be leashed. Dog training or running in the off-season is prohibited.

Hunters with Disabilities

Hunters with disabilities must possess the required State permit. State regulations and access conditions apply.

Duck/Goose Blinds and Decoys

Pits or permanent blinds may not be constructed or used on the refuge area. Only portable blinds or structures constructed of native plant materials are permitted for waterfowl hunting. Blinds must be removed or dismantled at the end of each day's hunt. Decoys must be removed at the end of each day's hunt.

Deer/Turkey Stands

Permanent tree stands/blinds may not be constructed or used on the refuge area. Hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited. Portable tree stands may be used for deer or turkey hunting and may be left overnight only between noon September 15, 2015 and January 10, 2016. Tree stands must be legibly marked with owner's name, address and phone number at eye level or lower.

Sport Fishing

State regulations apply as to license, seasons, sizes, limits, methods of take and species of fish to be taken with the following exceptions:

- Limb lines, jug lines, trot lines, and snares are prohibited as the method of catching fish in refuge waters other than the Patoka River channel.
- Fishing is permitted during daylight hours only.
- Minimum size limit for largemouth bass on Snakey Point Marsh is 14 inches.
- Minnows, crayfish, frogs and turtles are protected and may not be collected or harvested.

Boats

- On refuge property, motorboats are only permitted on Snakey Point Marsh **east** of the South Fork and on Patoka River.
- Motorboats on Snakey Point Marsh are restricted to **slow speed/minimum wake**.
- To minimize disturbance to wildlife, gasoline powered motorboats **are not permitted** on **other** refuge waters.
- Air boats are prohibited on **all** refuge waters.
- Boats may not be left on refuge property overnight.

Safety

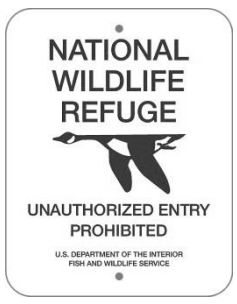
Safety Zone *- Discharge of firearms within 150 yards of any dwelling or building on or adjacent to the refuge is prohibited.* Hunters are cautioned to identify their targets before shooting. In addition to other hunters, non-hunting visitors are present on the refuge throughout the year and may be in the woods at any time.

Report all injuries and accidents to Refuge Headquarters, 510 ½ W Morton St., Oakland City, Indiana or phone (812) 749-3199.

The following activities are prohibited on Patoka River NWR&MA:

- Littering/dumping including spent shotshell casings.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Target practice or random shooting
- Camping/overnight parking
- Trapping furbearers
- Open campfires/swimming
- Taking or attempting to take any wildlife not authorized in these refuge regulations.
- Taking, cutting or destroying any plants or parts thereof including flowers, fruits, nuts, fungi, herbs, shrubs or trees other than specified for temporary blind construction.
- Use of off-road vehicles, horses, mules, llamas and bicycles other than on maintained road rights-of-ways.
- Marking trails with tape, ribbons, paper, paint tree blazes, etc.
- Baiting or hunting over bait including salt.
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery, beads, etc. Use of metal detectors or digging for artifacts.
- Spotlighting prohibited by State regulations.
- Use of fireworks, trail cameras and drones.
- Unless specifically listed as a permitted use, all uses of natural resources on the refuge are prohibited.

Know your signs



Refuge Boundary
These signs mark the boundary of the refuge. It is important to understand they DO NOT prohibit access, only unauthorized uses.

Public Hunting Area
This area is open to hunting at specific times.

Public Fishing Area
This area is open to fishing at specific times.

Hunting Prohibited

Sanctuary Area
This area is off limits to the public unless otherwise specified.

Safety Notice!

All visitors in the field must wear fluorescent orange hat or vest in areas open to hunting during hunting season.

Equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from the programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of age, race, religion, color, sex, national origin or disability. If questions, contact:

U.S. Department of the Interior, Office for Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240

TTY users may reach the Patoka River Refuge through the Indiana State Relay Service at 1-800-743-3333 (V/TTY).

U.S Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
http://www.fws.gov

Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge & Management Area
510 ½ W Morton St, PO Box 217
Oakland City, IN 47660
www.fws.gov/refuge/patoka_river/