

# **North Mississippi Refuges Complex:**

**Coldwater River,  
Dahomey, Tallahatchie**

*National Wildlife Refuges  
Hunting & Fishing  
Regulations 2013-2014*

**This is Not a Permit**

## **General Information**

In 1989, the North Mississippi Refuges Complex (Complex) was established to manage U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands in the northern twenty-six counties of Mississippi. With its headquarters in Grenada, the Complex is responsible for the management of Coldwater River, Dahomey and Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuges, plus smaller fee-title properties and floodplain and conservation easements. The habitat consists of bottomland hardwoods, early successional reforestation areas, agricultural fields, and moist soil units.

In order to provide traditional recreational opportunities, public hunting and fishing are permitted in designated areas during specific times of the year at a level compatible with the environment. Certain areas of the Complex may be closed for sanctuary or administrative purposes. Please refer to refuge maps.

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting the North Mississippi Refuges Complex, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations.

## **General Refuge Regulations**

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuge areas as set forth in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing are in accordance with applicable state regulations subject to the following special conditions:

- Individuals utilizing the Refuge are subject to inspection of permits, licenses, hunting and fishing equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by Service or state officers.
- Each hunter must complete a Harvest Report Card and display it on the dash of the vehicle so that the name is legible and clearly visible from the outside. Prior to leaving the Refuge, the card must be completed and deposited at one of the Hunter Information Stations. If hunting deer or turkey record the number harvested ("0" if no game harvested) and the sex and size data in the appropriate blocks. If hunting any other species, write in the name of the species next to "other" and the number harvested ("0" if no game is harvested).
- A hunter cannot possess more than one Harvest Report Card at a time.
- All Refuge lands are open during daylight hours only with the exception of legal hunting activities.

## **Permit Information**

Hunters and anglers sixteen years of age and older are required to have a \$15 Refuge Hunting & Fishing Permit and all required state licenses in possession at all times while hunting or fishing on Refuge property. All waterfowl hunter sixteen years of age and older must possess both a signed federal and a state waterfowl stamp.

Youth hunters must meet all state law requirements regarding hunter education and supervision, details may be found at the state's website [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com).

Permits are available at the Complex headquarters in Grenada, MS, Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4 pm. Contact the Complex headquarters in Grenada for additional information. Permits are also available by mail. Mail the complete name and address for each applicant on a plain sheet of paper to:

North Mississippi Refuges Complex  
P.O. Box 1070  
Grenada, MS 38902  
Attn: permit application

Enclose a personal check or money order for \$15 payable to USFWS. There is no deadline for obtaining a Refuge Hunting and Fishing Permit. All permits issued for the 2013 – 2014 season expire September 30, 2014.

## *Hours*

General Refuge hours are sunrise to sunset. During hunting season, hunters may enter the Refuge two hours before sunrise and must exit the Refuge no later than two hours after sunset except during raccoon and frog hunts.

## *Mobility Impaired Persons*

Special facilities are available to mobility impaired hunters. A mobility impaired hunter is defined as a person (1) permanently confined to a wheelchair, crutches, or a walker or (2) a single- or double-leg amputee. Please contact the Complex headquarters for more information.

## *Weapons*

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 regulations (50 CFR 27.42) and specific Refuge regulations (50 CFR Part 32).

All weapons authorized under state law are allowed for Refuge hunts.

Only shells containing non-toxic shot may be used or possessed during waterfowl and small game hunts, except, small game may also be hunted with .17 , .22 caliber and

.22 magnum rimfire rifles and archery equipment. During deer and turkey hunts, lead ammunition legal for taking deer and turkey may be used.

### *Motorized Vehicles*

Motorized vehicles are restricted to roads designated as vehicle access roads on the Refuge maps. Blocking access to any road or trail is prohibited.

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs) cannot be used or possessed or carried in trucks or trailers on Refuge lands.

### *Pets/Animals*

Dogs are allowed for hunting migratory birds, squirrels, rabbits, quail, and raccoons during designated seasons only. The use of dogs is encouraged to retrieve dead or wounded waterfowl. Dogs must remain in the control of their handlers at all times. Dogs should be tagged with owner's name and contact information. Dogs are not allowed on Refuge properties outside of hunting season. All other domestic animals are prohibited.

Horses and mules are not allowed on Refuge lands.

### *State Bag Limits*

State season bag and possession limits apply unless otherwise stated. Consult current Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Regulations for details ([www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com)).

### *Deer Stands*

All deer stands must be taken down on a daily basis. They can be chained to the base of a tree during the hunting season while not in use (this does not reserve the site) but must be removed from refuge lands by January 5, 2014. All hunting sites are on a first come, first serve basis.

Deer stands that are not removed from the Refuge on a daily basis must have the hunter's name and permit number legibly written on or attached to the stand. Deer stands not in compliance with these regulations may be confiscated and disposed of by the Service.

Deer stands and/or steps cannot be nailed to trees nor can any blind or stand be attached to a tree by any metal object driven, screwed, or otherwise inserted into the tree.

While climbing a tree, installing a tree stand that uses climbing aids, or while hunting from a tree stand, hunters must use a fall-arrest system that is manufactured to Treestand Manufacturers Association standards.

### *Boats*

Boats and trailers must be registered, licensed, and meet all state regulations.

Waterfowl hunters may leave boats meeting all state registration requirements on Refuge water bodies throughout the waterfowl season. Boats must be removed within seventy-two hours after the season closes.

### *Boat Ramps*

When available, please use designated boat ramps. Please see maps for specific locations of boat ramps.

### *Decoys & Blinds*

Decoys, duck blinds and litter must be removed from the hunting area following each day's hunt.

Ground blinds may be used but must be removed daily.

### *Fluorescent-Orange*

All hunters or persons on the Refuge for any reason during any open refuge hunting season must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of visible, unbroken, fluorescent-orange material above the waist line.

Waterfowl hunters must comply while walking/boating to and from actual hunting area. Fluorescent-orange is not required for turkey season, hunting raccoons or frogs at night or for waterfowl hunters while actually hunting.

### *Migratory Game Birds*

Migratory game bird hunting (ducks, teal, mergansers, coots, and geese) is allowed during specified state season on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, thirty minutes before sunrise until noon. After duck, merganser, and coot season closes, light geese may be hunted daily during the time period and manner defined in the Light Geese Conservation Order. A free permit number is required to hunt light geese during the Conservation Order. Permit numbers are issued by the State of Mississippi and obtained by calling (601/432 2199, Monday through Friday 8am to 5 pm).

### **Prohibited Activities**

- Baiting
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages
- Use or possession of any drug or device for employing such drug for hunting
- Use or possession of plastic flagging
- Use or possession of tree climbing spurs
- Hunting or shooting across open fields from ground level during general gun and primitive weapon deer hunts
- Driving or screwing a metal object into any tree or hunting from a tree where a metal object has been driven or screwed

- Removal or destruction of any trees, or part of tree to include removal of tree limbs, plants, or other vegetation on the refuge for any reason
- Collecting, removing, or damaging any animal except those authorized by hunting and fishing regulations
- Fires, camping or littering
- All commercial activities including guiding or participating in a paid guided hunt
- Trapping
- Possession or use of jugs, seines, gill nets, hand-grab baskets or any other similar devices
- Commercial fishing of any kind on Refuge waters
- Snagging or attempting to snag fish
- Possession of more than one Harvest Data Card at a time

### **Youth Hunts**

Youth eligible to participate are those under sixteen (16) years of age. During youth hunts, only youth hunters and their permitted adult supervisors are allowed on Refuge lands. Youth may use a rifle during the Refuge's deer primitive weapon season.

### **Specific Hunting Regulations**

Hunting and fishing north of Mississippi Highway 8 is prohibited on Tallahatchie NWR.

The Coldwater River NWR is closed to public entry.

### *Other Refuge Lands*

Approximately 4,500 acres acquired through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and open to small game hunting of rabbit, squirrel, and quail only. All hunting regulations apply. Properties include: Bolivar County – Goss (543 acres), Hester III (386 acres) & Watts (214 acres), Quitman County – Trainor (228 acres), Trainor (219 acres), Starr (759 acres) & Starr (320 acres), Sunflower County – Lindsey (204 acres), Povall (180 acres), Povall (80 acres), Povall (422 acres) & Walker (42 acres), Marshall County – Smith (232 acres), Leflore County – Robertson (655 acres) Scott (80 acres) & Scott (90 acres). Please see maps.

### **General Fishing Regulations**

All federal and state regulations governing boating, creel limits, and license requirements must be followed by Refuge anglers.

Trotlines, yoyo's and limb lines are permitted for recreational use only. All trotlines, yoyo's and limb lines must be removed when not in use.

### **Specific Fishing Regulations** **Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge**

Fishing is permitted South of Mississippi Highway 8 only.

### **Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge**

Fishing is permitted in the borrow pits only.

### **Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge**

Fishing is permitted.

### **Farm Service Agency (FSA) Properties**

Fishing is permitted North of the Corps levee on the Robertson (655 acres) tract in Leflore County and the Trainor (219) tract in Quitman County.

### **Signs Protect Visitors and Resources**

Millions of people visit National Wildlife Refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs help control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs:



This sign delineates the Refuge boundary. Entry is permitted only for authorized uses in accordance with Refuge regulations. It is your responsibility to know where the property lines are and hunt within the boundaries.



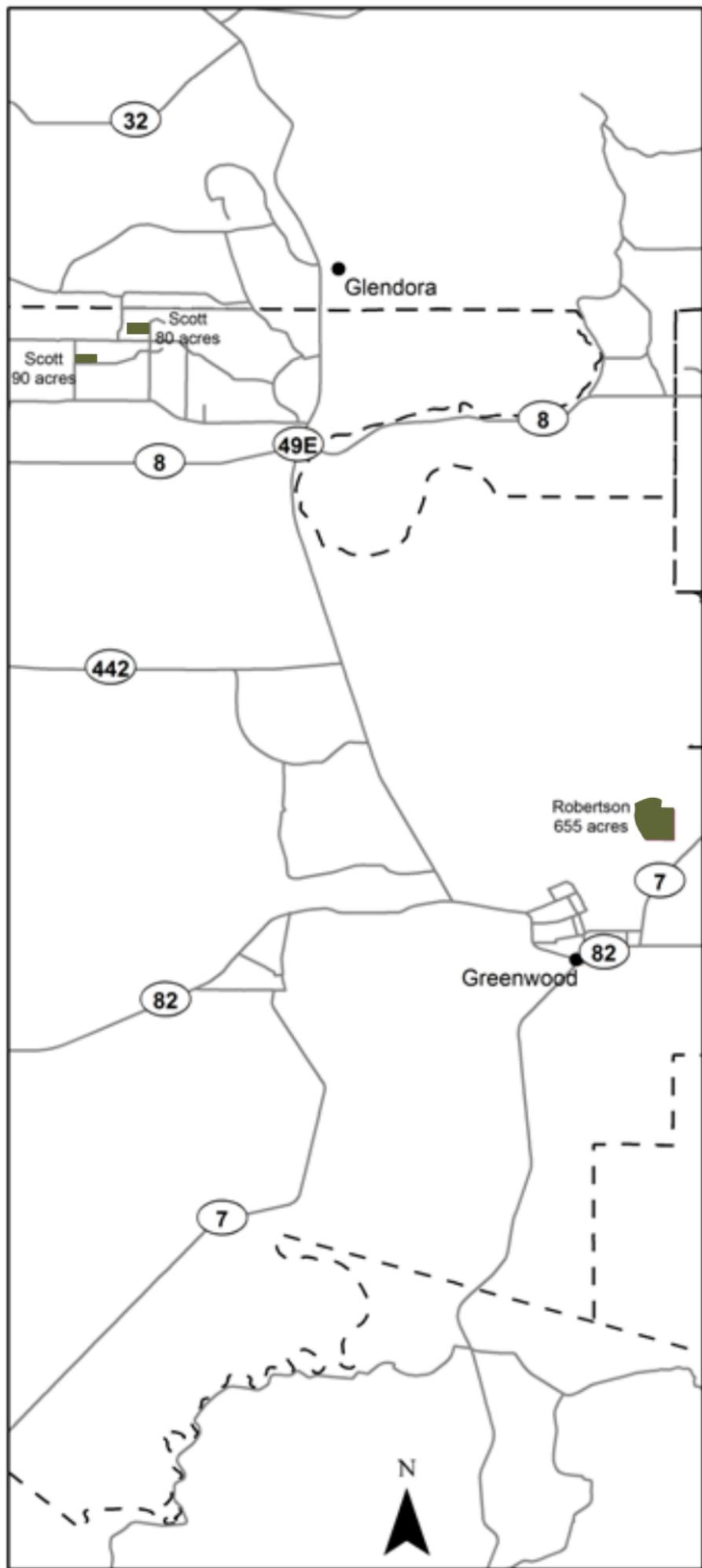
This area is closed to all entry. No roads or trails are open to the public.



This area is closed to all hunting. Firearms and archery equipment are strictly prohibited.

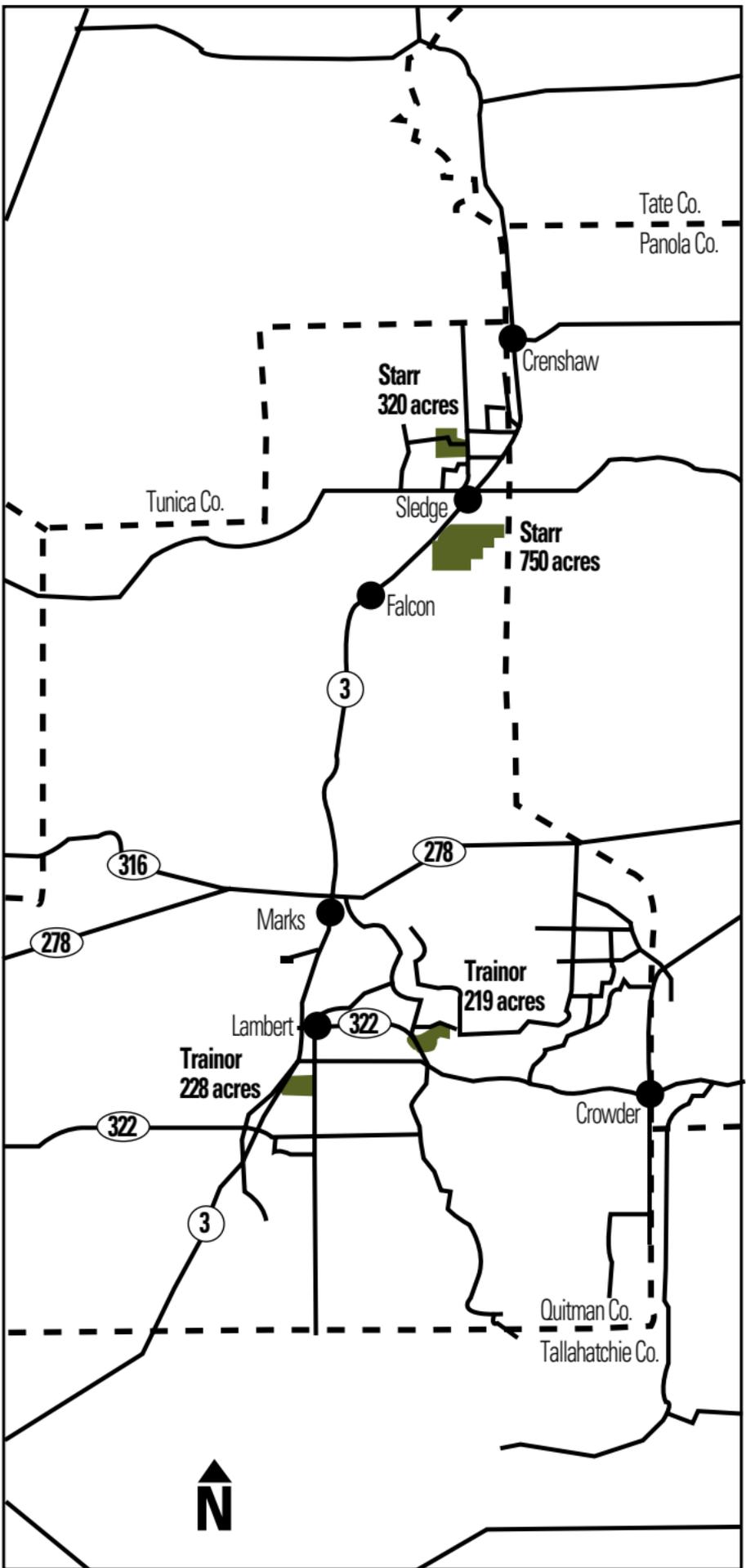
## 2013 - 2014 North Mississippi Refuges Complex Hunting Season

<b>Species</b>	<b>Season Dates</b>	<b>Specific Regulations</b>
Squirrel	Sept 28, 2013- Feb.28, 2014	
Squirrel – Youth Hunt	Sept 21-22, 2013	See Youth Section
Rabbit	October 12, 2013-Feb.28, 2014	
Raccoon	Jan.1-Feb.28, 2014	Dogs required. Special Use Permit required. Contact Refuge Manager
Quail	Nov. 21, 2013- Mar 2, 2014	
Frogs	April 1-Sept.30, 2014	Special Use Permit required. Contact Refuge Manager.
Deer-Youth Hunt	Nov. 16-17, 2013	General Gun - Either sex. Squirrel & rabbit seasons closed.
Deer – Archery	Oct.1-Nov.15, 2013	Either sex
Deer – Primitive Weapon	Dec.2-Dec.15, 2013	Either sex
Deer – General Gun	Dec.16-Dec.29, 2013	Either sex
Turkey	State Season	Dahomey NWR only
Turkey – Youth Hunt	State Season	Dahomey NWR only
Migratory Game Birds: Ducks, Teal, Mergansers, Coots, and Geese	State Season	Open Wed., Sat., and Sun.; 30 minutes before sunrise until noon. Fluorescent-orange required while walking/boating to and from actual hunting area. Only approved non-toxic shot may be used or possessed. After duck, merganser, and coot season closes, light geese may be hunted daily as specified in the Light Geese Conservation Order (see Migratory Game Birds section for more information).
Waterfowl Youth Hunt	State Season	Same regulations apply
Feral Hogs, Beaver, and Nutria		May be taken incidental to an open hunt with weapon

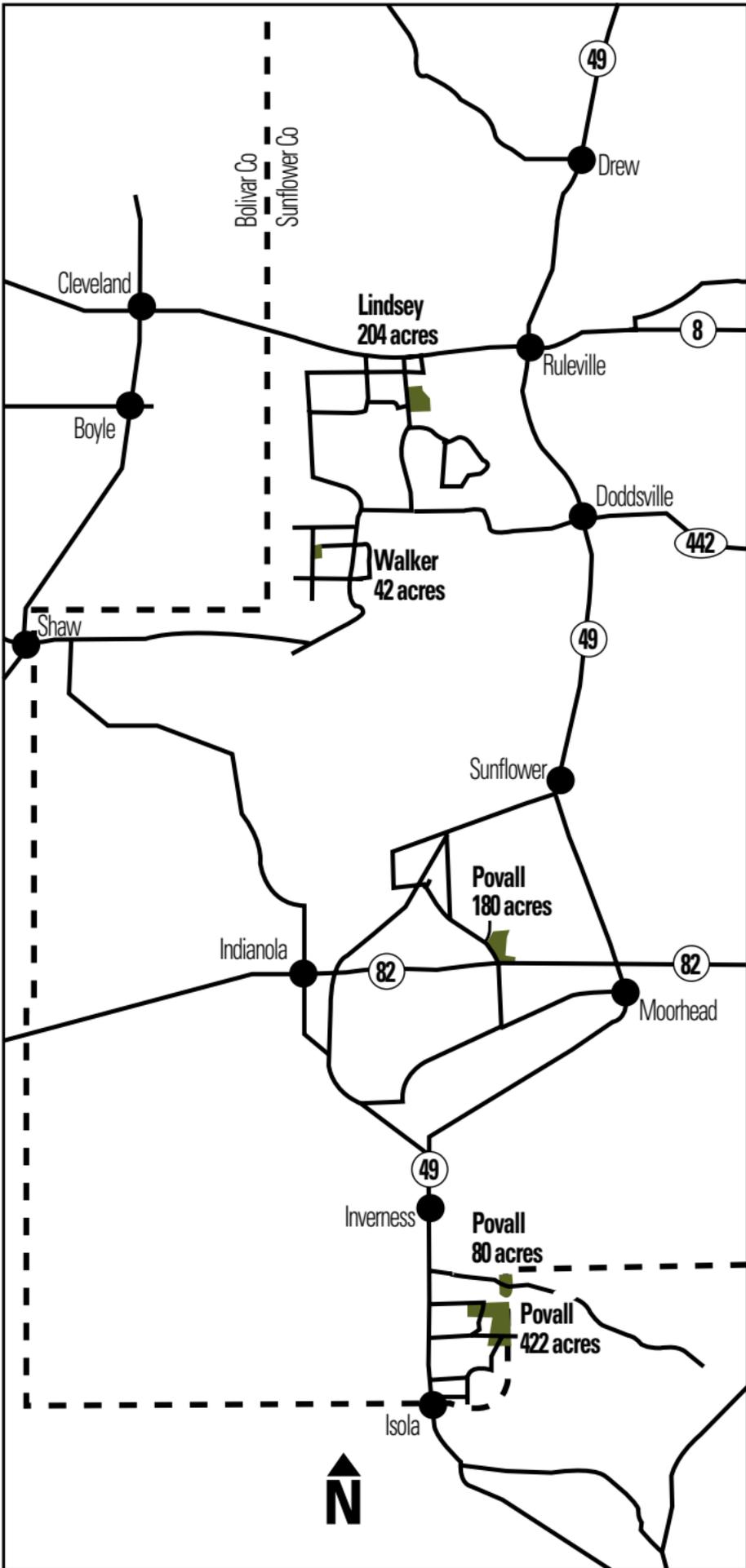


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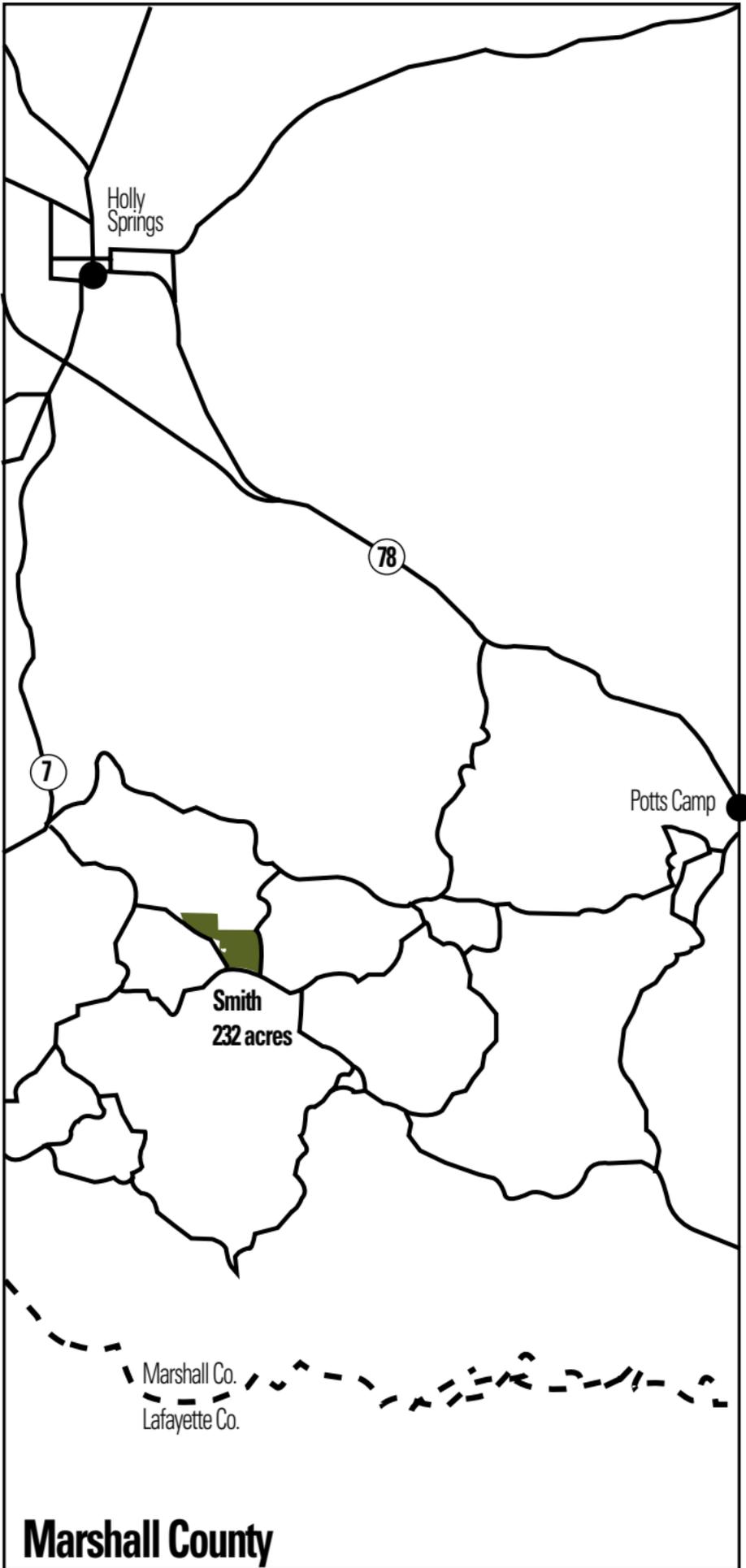
**Leflore County**



**Quitman County**



# Sunflower County



Holly Springs

78

7

Potts Camp

Smith  
232 acres

Marshall Co.  
Lafayette Co.

**Marshall County**



Coahoma Co.

Bolivar Co.

1

Goss  
543 acres

Watts  
214 acres

Alligator

Duncan

61

Shelby

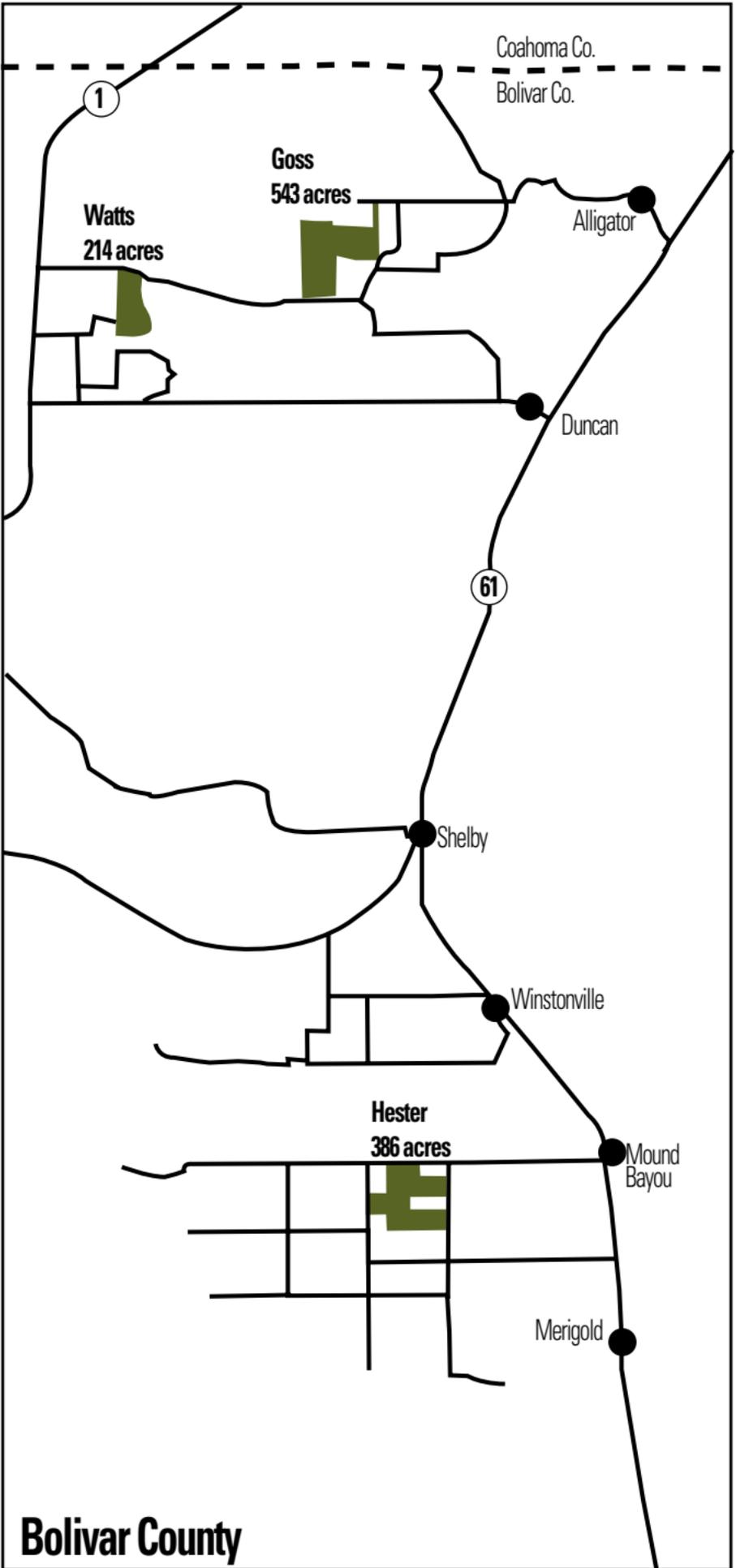
Winstonville

Hester  
386 acres

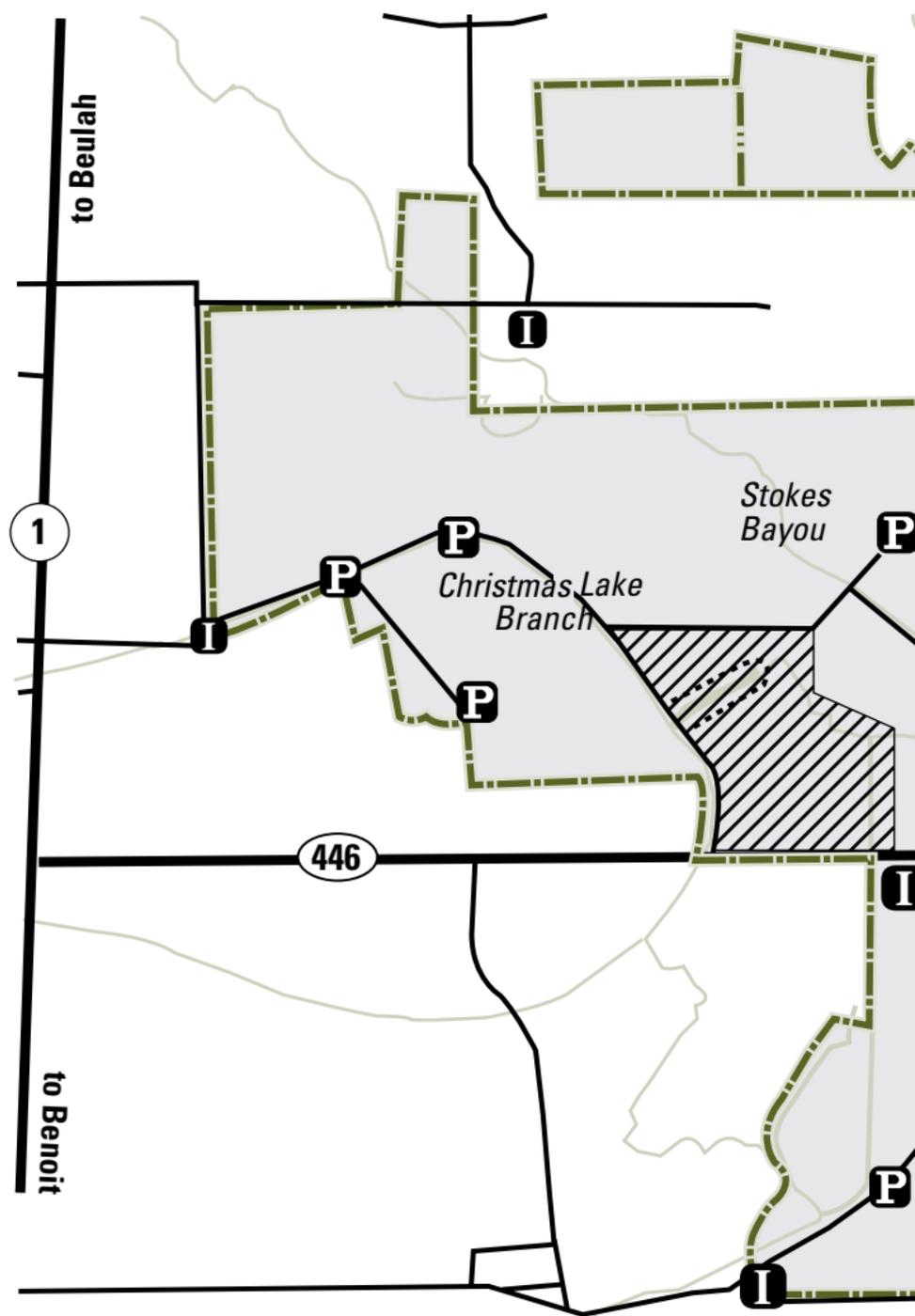
Mound Bayou

Merigold

**Bolivar County**

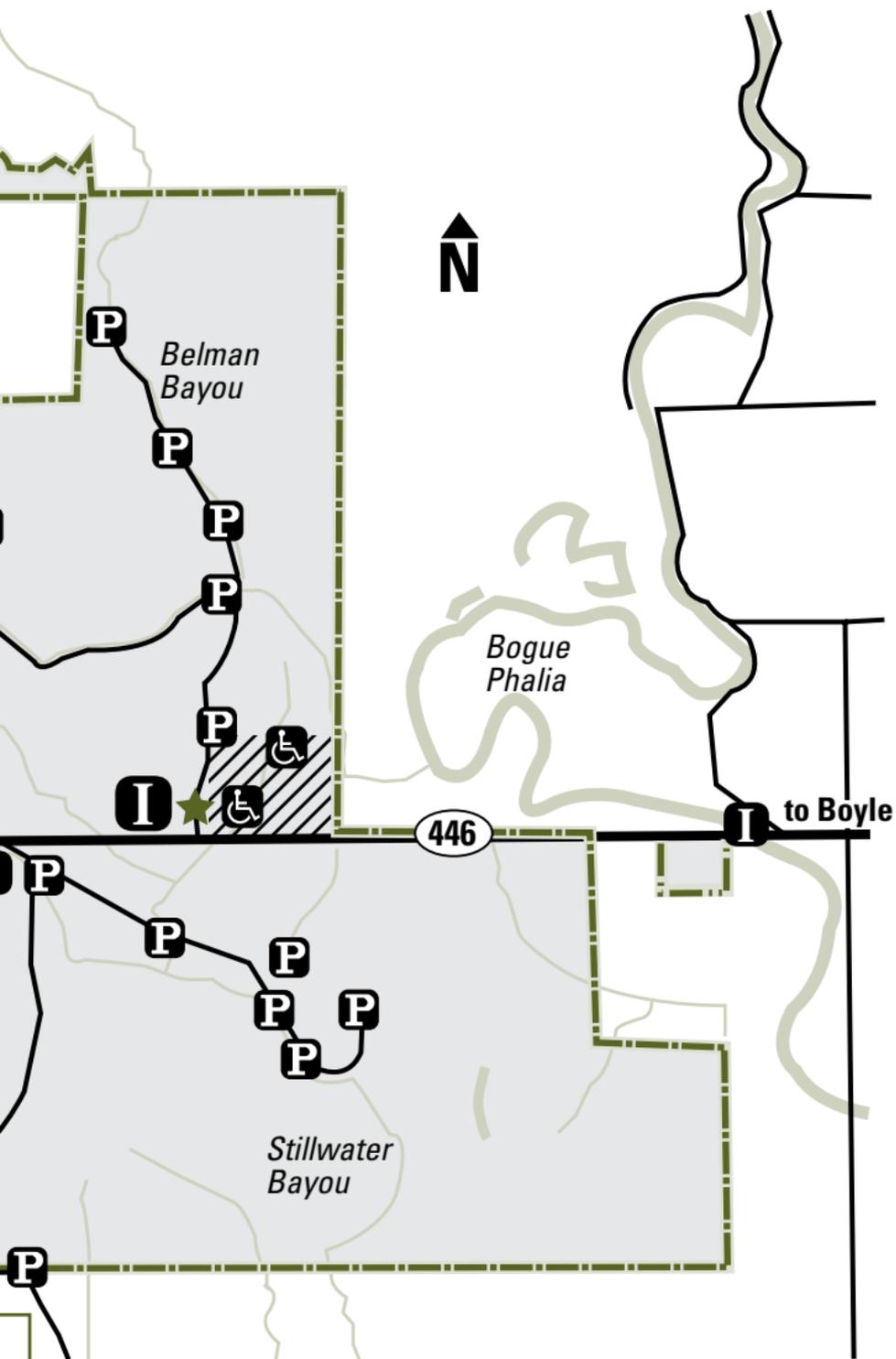


# Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge

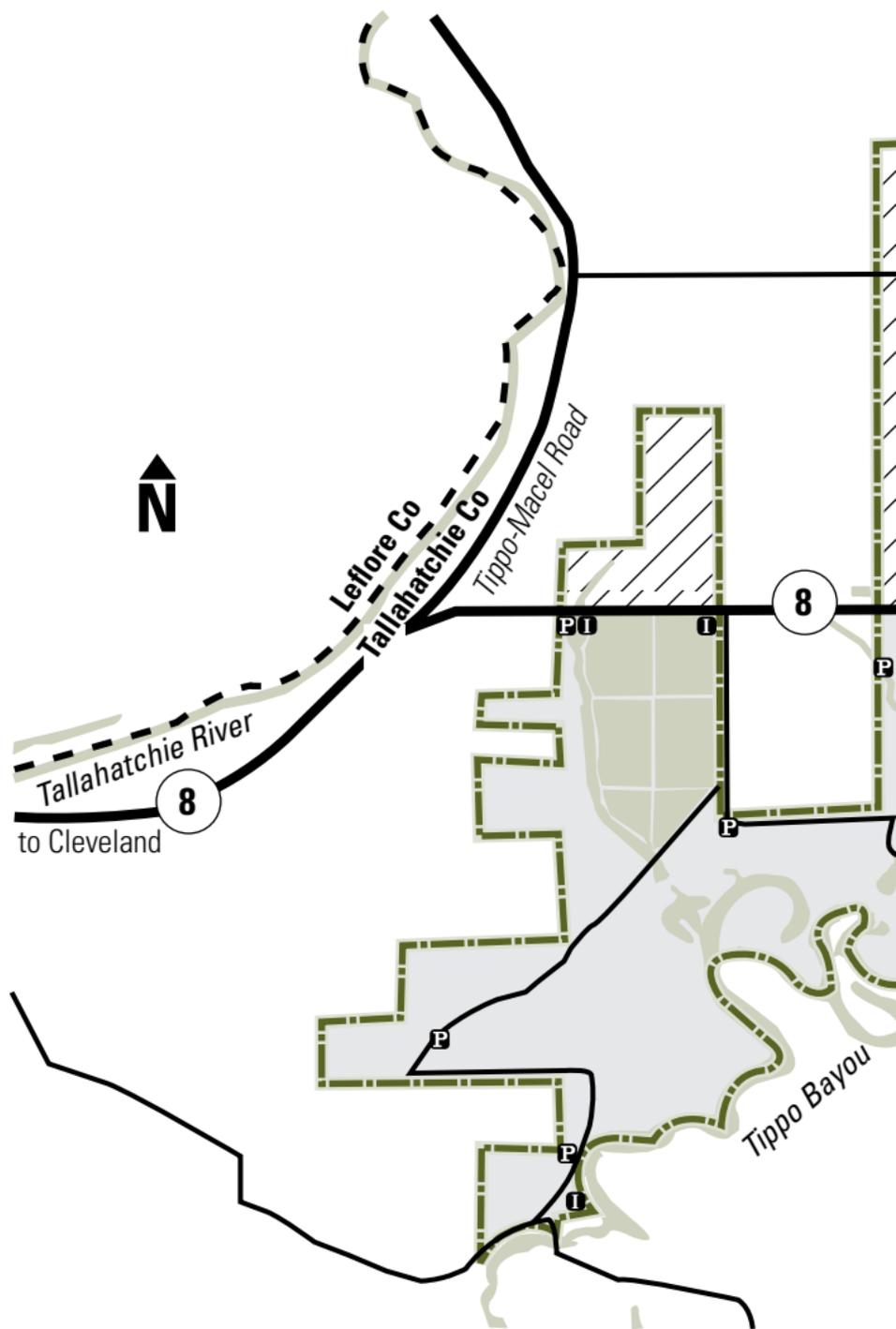


## Legend

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Refuge Boundary              |  Paved Road                 |
|  Open for Hunting and Fishing |  Refuge Headquarters        |
|  Closed Area                  |  Hunter Information Station |
|  Water                        |  Parking                    |
|  Gravel Road                  |  Handicapped Hunting Blind  |
|  Herbert Nature Trail         |  |

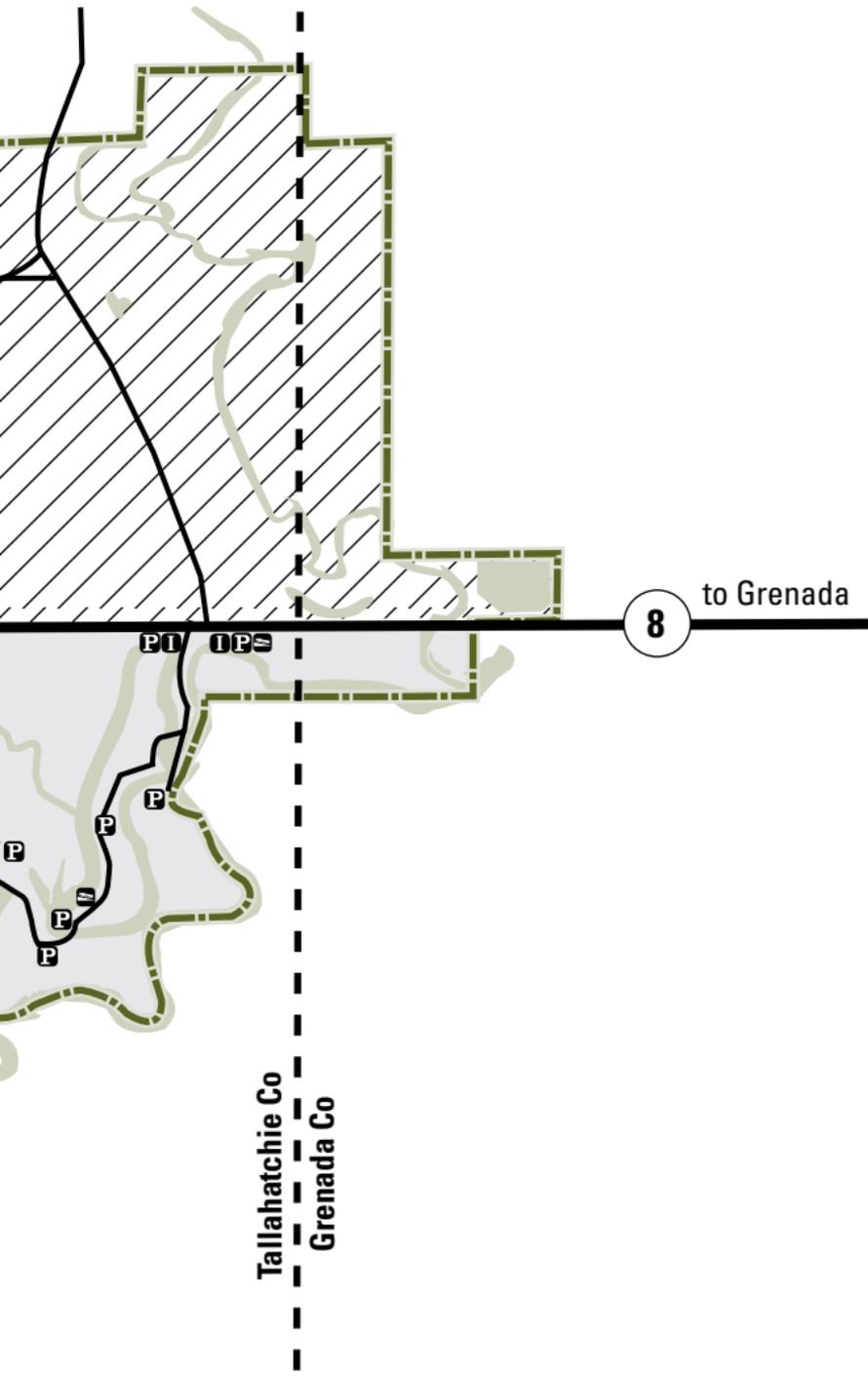


# Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge

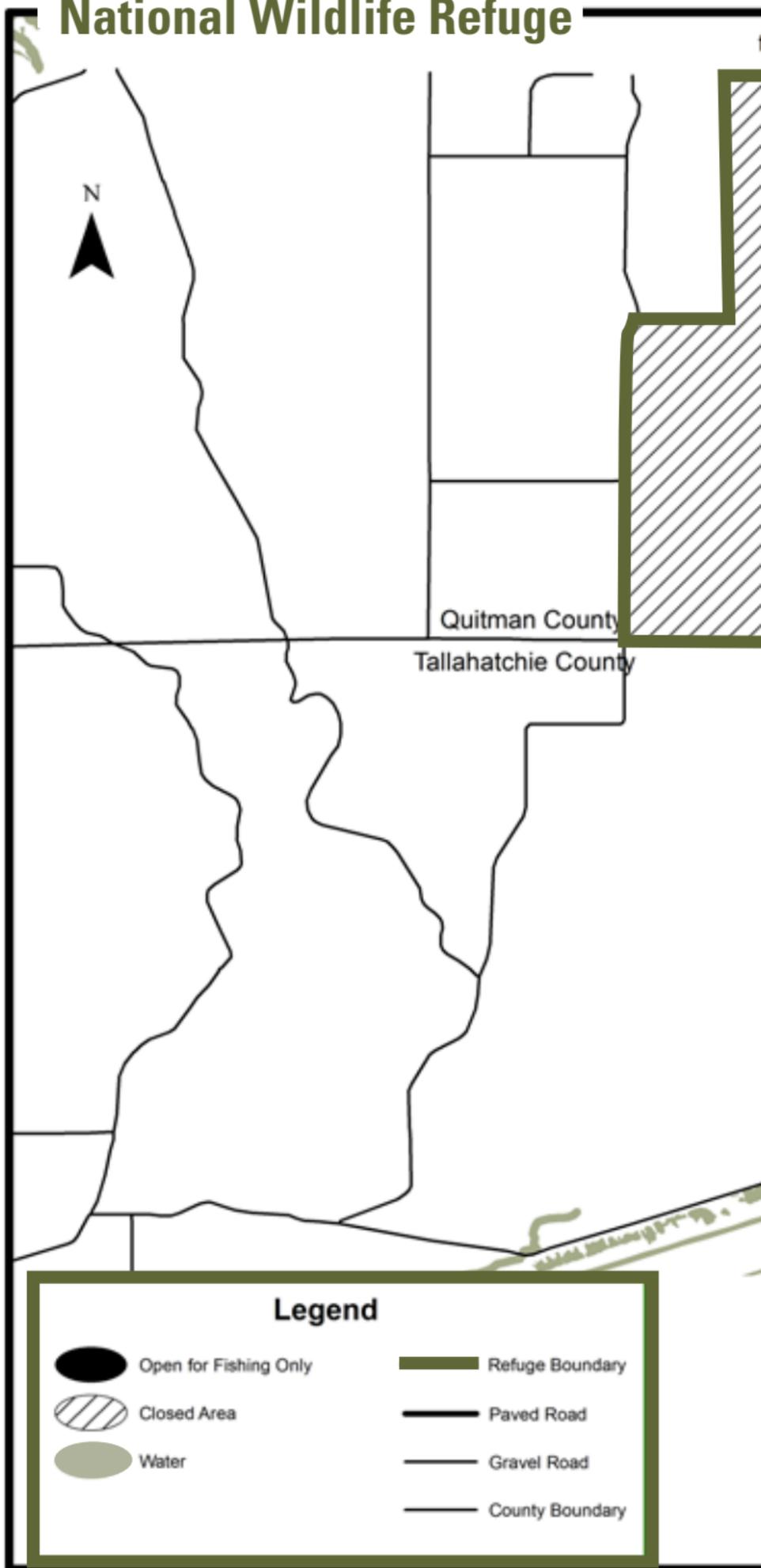


## Legend

- Refuge Boundary
- Open for Hunting and Fishing
- Closed Area
- Water
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- County Boundary
- Hunter Information Station
- Parking
- Boat Ramp



# Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge





**North Mississippi Refuges Complex**  
**P.O. Box 1070**  
**2776 Sunset Drive**  
**Grenada, MS 38901**  
**Phone: 662/226 8286**  
**Fax: 662/226 8488**  
**<http://southeast.fws.gov>**

**Department of the Interior**  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**1 800/ 344 WILD**

**July 2013**

