

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge  
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<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee>

# News Release



**For Immediate Release**  
Date: January 23, 2018

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Supervisory Refuge Ranger

## **Partial Federal Government Ends Refuge Operations Resume**

Folkston, GA.....The Okefenokee and Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuges have resumed full operating capacity, after a partial government shutdown required the majority of refuge personnel to be furloughed from January 20 – January 22, until a continuing resolution was signed last night. In an effort to keep visitor impacts to a minimum, the refuge grounds and some facilities were able to continue operating during the shutdown. Today, all visitor facilities have reopened, including the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center.

“We are glad to be back to work for the conservation and management of our natural resources here at Okefenokee and Banks Lake”, says Michael Lusk, Refuge Manager.

Currently, the Main Entrance (Suwannee Canal Recreation Area) near Folkston is open to visitors daily from 30 minutes before sunrise to 5:30 p.m. The Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center is open Tuesday – Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Susan Heisey, Supervisory Refuge Ranger at 912-496-7366 ex 233 or [susan\\_heisey@fws.gov](mailto:susan_heisey@fws.gov).

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The Main Entrance (Suwannee Canal Recreation Area) to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is located 11 miles southwest of Folkston, GA off Hwy 121/23. 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](http://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](http://www.fws.gov). Connect with our Facebook pages at [www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge](http://www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge) or [www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast](http://www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast](http://www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast), watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast>.*