

Tensas River

National Wildlife Refuge

Welcome to Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge

Established in 1980, under the management of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge was acquired in an effort to preserve one of the largest privately owned tracts of bottomland hardwoods remaining in the Mississippi River Delta. Today the Refuge encompasses nearly 80,000 acres of bottomland hardwoods and oxbow lakes located within the Tensas River Basin in northeastern Louisiana. Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge is one part of a network of refuges devoted to preserving and restoring increasingly scarce habitat for native wildlife and migratory birds.

Rich in history and culture, the Tensas continues to serve as a vital asset to America's natural resources. Resting and feeding habitat for thousands of migrating and wintering waterfowl are provided by the Refuge. The state's largest population of the federally-listed threatened Louisiana black bear is found on the Refuge. The last sighting of the ivory-billed woodpecker, which is thought to be extinct by most scientists, occurred in the 1940's adjacent to what is now the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge.

Management Objectives

Management activities on Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge help maintain the diverse habitats that support a wide variety of wildlife species. The bottomland hardwood forest and cooperative farming units are managed to provide habitat for the threatened Louisiana black bear, neo-tropical songbirds, migratory birds and other resident wildlife.

Several management techniques are undertaken by foresters on the refuge to preserve and restore the bottomland hardwood forest. New trees are planted to restore land once converted to

agriculture. Selective thinning occurs in the bottomland hardwood stands to allow more sunlight to reach the forest floor and thus encourage growth of forage plants. Forest management techniques produce a healthier forest with trees of different ages and heights. Small plots of declining trees are removed to allow for habitat diversity that is important to the Louisiana black bear. Smaller openings throughout the forest are maintained by periodic mowing or discing. These areas provide cover and food for animals such as wild turkeys, deer and some songbirds.

Moist soil management and cooperative farming methods are used to provide additional food for thousands of wintering waterfowl. Management practices in moist soil areas include seasonal water level manipulation and mowing. Local farmers manage cropland on a share basis, leaving 20% of their crops in fields for wildlife. These activities stimulate growth of native wetland plants and an abundance of insects, crustaceans and mollusks, which are preferred foods of waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds.

Louisiana Black Bear

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge, in conjunction with federal, state, private and not-for-profit partners, is involved in plans to accelerate recovery of the threatened Louisiana black bear by reintroducing female bears and their cubs to an area that is currently unoccupied by, but historically known as black bear habitat. The ultimate goal of this project is to establish a population of bears in east central Louisiana, which would provide a connection between two existing subpopulations. Those two existing subpopulations are located in the northern part of Louisiana, on and near the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge and in the southern part of the state, within the upper Atchafalaya Basin.

The Louisiana black bear is listed as a threatened species under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. It is unlawful for anyone to take, harass, disturb, etc., any Louisiana black bear. If a bear approaches you, make loud noises and make yourself appear as large as possible. You may carry air horns to discourage curious bears.

NEVER FEED OR APPROACH BEARS.

Recreational Opportunities

Fishing

The refuge is open year-round for fishing. Current state and refuge fishing regulations and limits apply. Anglers commonly pursue perch, bream, catfish and bass and enjoy fishing on Africa, Rainey, Buck and Judd Lakes.

Hunting

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge offers a wide-variety of hunting opportunities. Specific seasons are available for white-tailed deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, woodcock, and ducks. The refuge offers archery, muzzleloader and quota modern gun hunts for white-tailed deer. Guided lottery hunts for deer are also offered for qualifying physically challenged individuals and youths between 8-15 years of age. All current state and refuge rules, regulations and limits apply. Anybody hunting or fishing on the refuge must obtain the refuge Public Use Regulations brochure and sign the Refuge Access Permit.

Please see the refuge Hunting and Fishing brochure for complete information.

Wildlife Observation and Photography

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge offers excellent opportunities for observing and photographing wildlife. A raised observation tower on the Hollow Cypress Wildlife Trail overlooks a moist soil management area where waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and deer can be seen using mounted binoculars. The Rainey Lake Trail contains a pier and observation areas overlooking Rainey Lake.



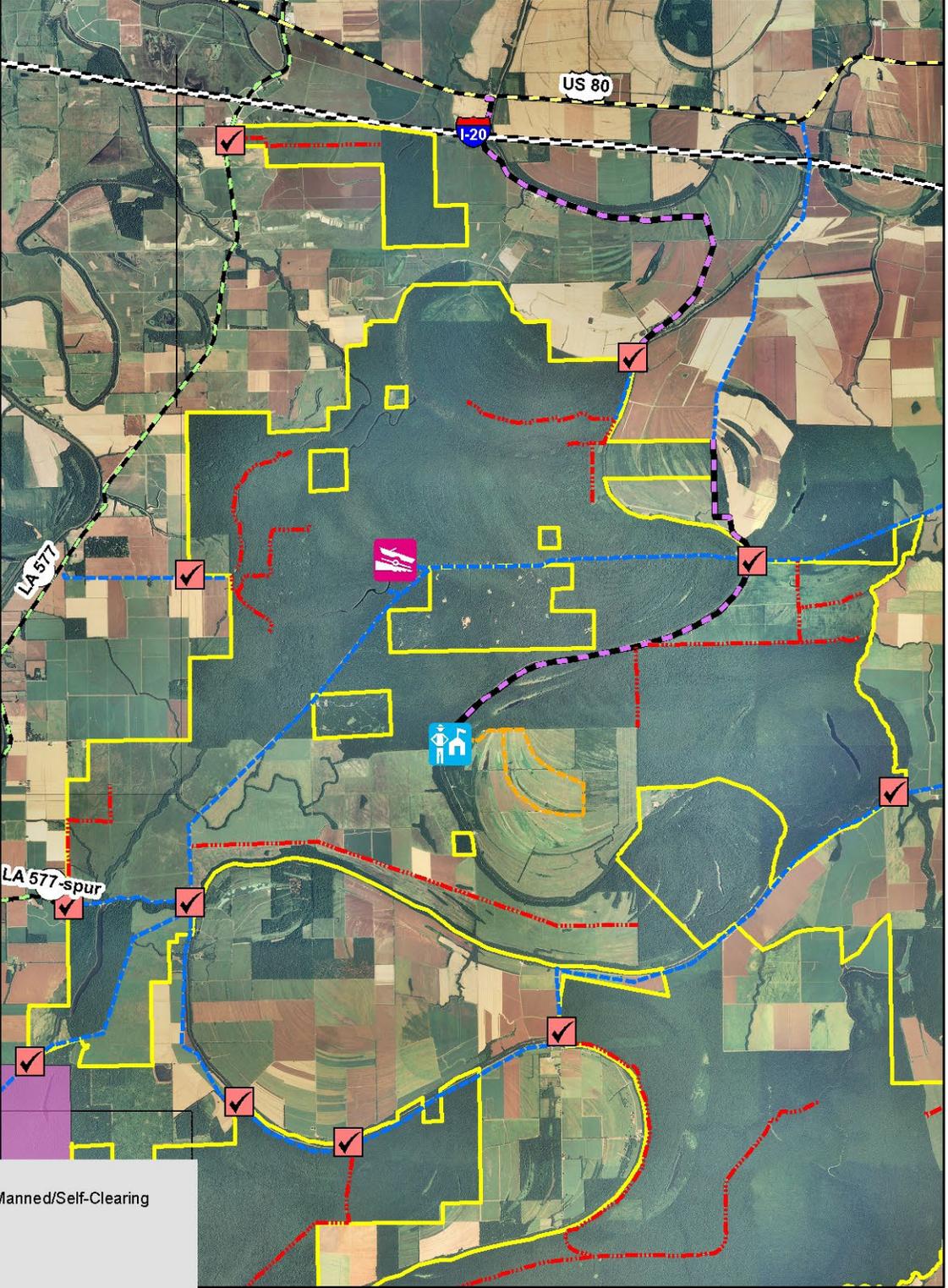
Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge
2312 Quebec Road, Tallulah, LA 71282
318/574 2664
<http://southeast.fws.gov>
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
February 2013

TENSAS RIVER NWR- NORTH

Alligators, herons, egrets, woodducks, snakes, turtles and many other species are often seen from the pier and observation areas along this scenic lake. The trail meanders through a bottomland hardwood forest where wildlife may be seen or heard. More birding and wildlife viewing opportunities can be found while driving along a four mile autotour road that winds through moist soil management areas.

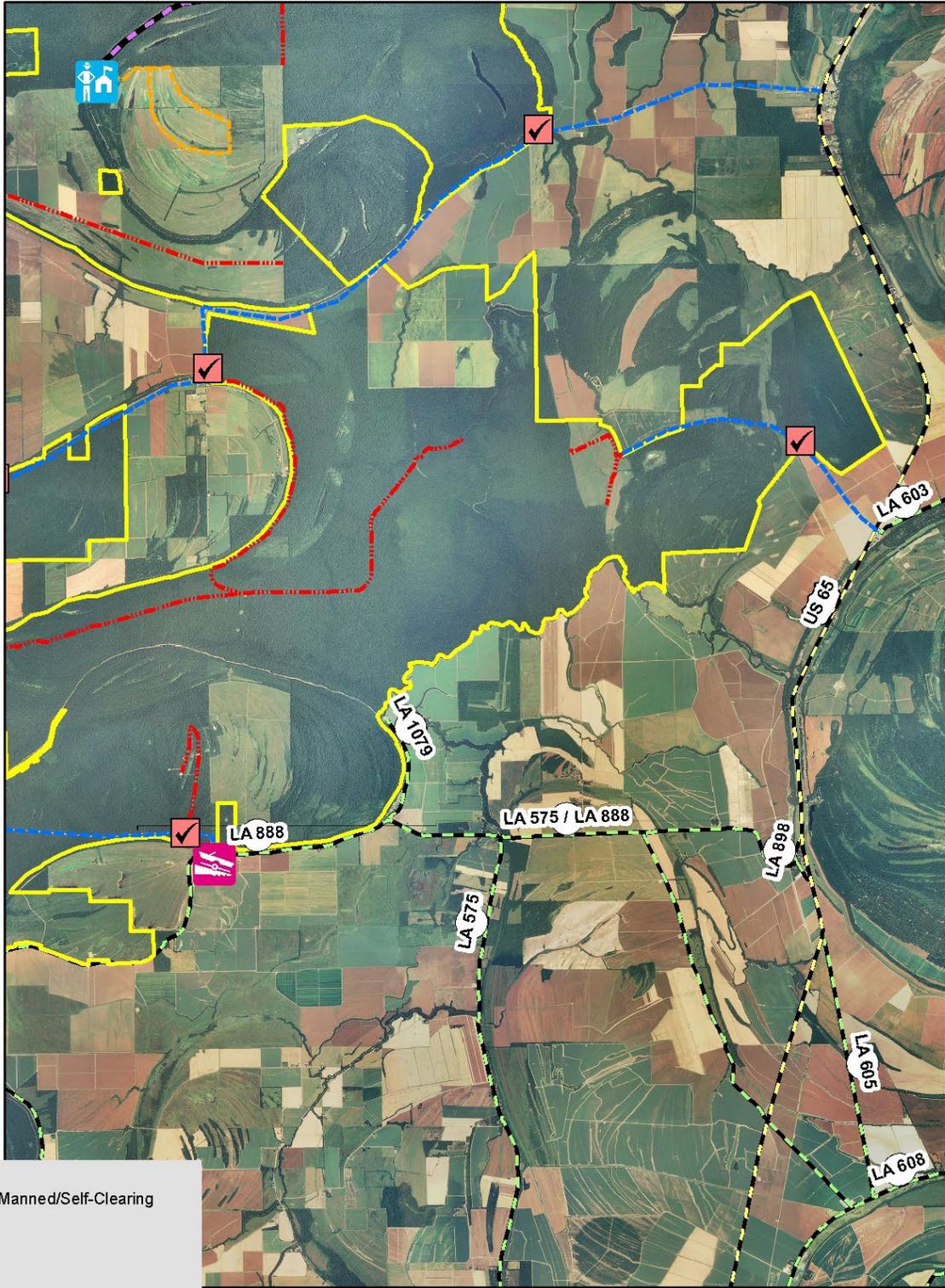
Environmental Education
Environmental education programs are offered to a variety of groups, clubs and civic organizations. The refuge hosts school groups and specialty groups of all ages. If you are interested in an educational program, please contact the visitor center to schedule your visit. Special education events, such as National Hunting and Fishing Day are hosted by the refuge annually.

Refuge Headquarters
Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge is located in three parishes of northeast Louisiana. The visitor center and headquarters are located approximately 60 miles east of Monroe, Louisiana, and 35 miles west of Vicksburg, Mississippi in Tallulah, Louisiana. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 8 am- 4 pm. The refuge is open year round during daylight hours.



-  Checkstations/Manned/Self-Clearing
-  Boat Ramp
-  Tensas Headquarters and Visitor Center
-  ATV Trails
-  Gravel
-  Paved Refuge
-  TRNWR Boundary
-  US Highways
-  I-20
-  Louisiana State Highways
-  TRNWR Wildlife Drive
-  Louisiana WMA

TENSAS RIVER NWR- SHARKEY/McLEMORE

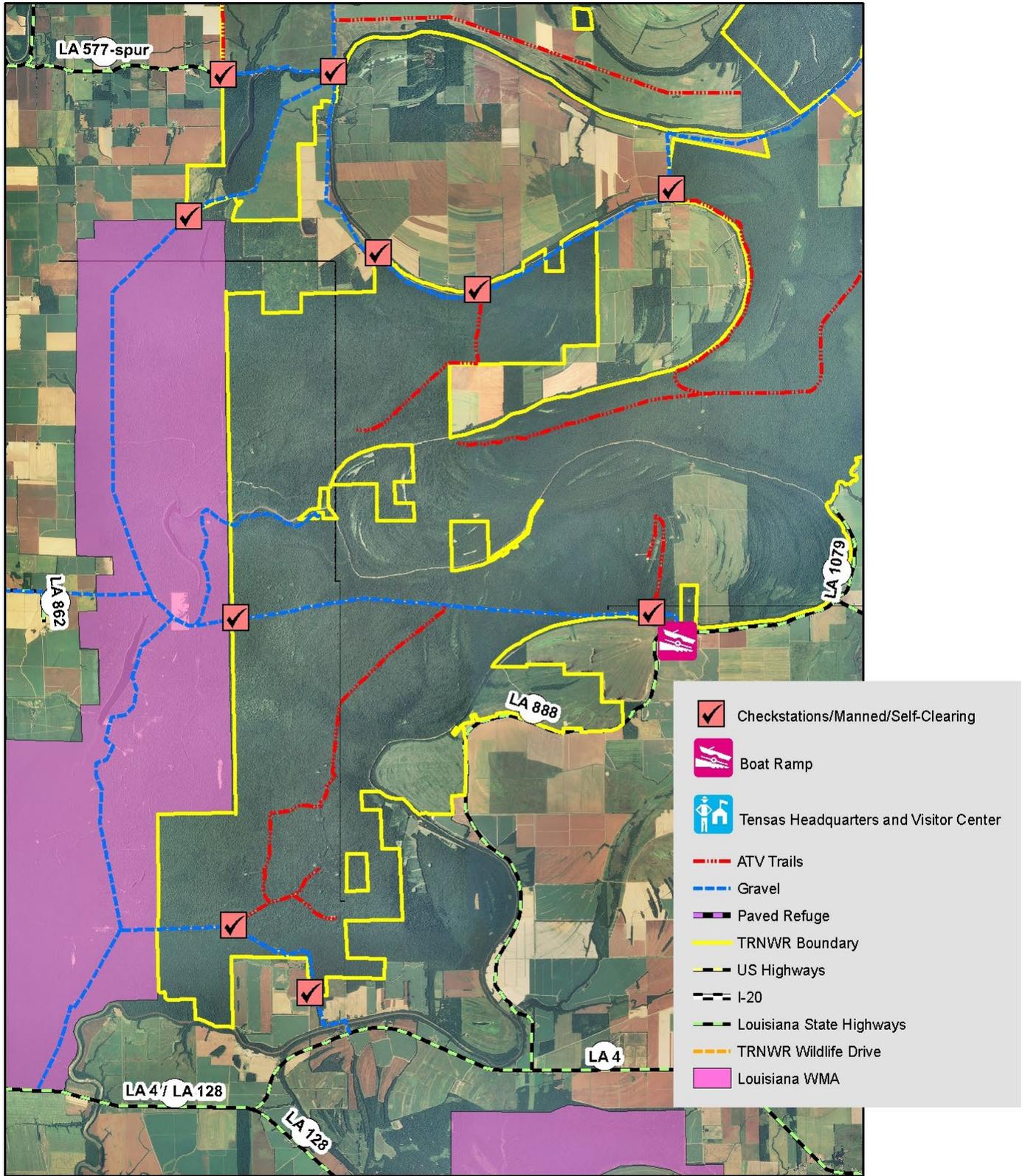


-  Checkstations/Manned/Self-Clearing
-  Boat Ramp
-  Tensas Headquarters and Visitor Center
-  ATV Trails
-  Gravel
-  Paved Refuge
-  TRNWR Boundary
-  US Highways
-  I-20
-  Louisiana State Highways
-  TRNWR Wildlife Drive
-  Louisiana WMA

1:120,000



TENSAS RIVER NWR-SOUTH



1:120,000

