

H-Lake, as the name implies, is an "H" shaped lake located in the South Unit of the White River National Wildlife Refuge (see back for directions). The southern two arms of the lake are nearly connected. With a short portage you can canoe or kayak a loop trail which makes a great day trip for any visitor to the Big Woods.

H-Lake offers ample opportunities for fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing. Waterfowl, upland birds, small mammals, white-tailed deer, and American black bear are common.

Visitors may stay in the camping area located next to the lake. From the campground, there is a convenient boat ramp and an ATV trail that parallels the lake and provides additional wildlife viewing opportunities. There are no facilities, so bring your own water and plan to pack out your trash!

Roads on the South Unit where H Lake is located are seasonally closed December 15 to March 1. These roads are also subject to being closed when flooded.

Directions to H Lake

From AR Hwy 1 near St. Charles, take AR Hwy 17 south for 8.5 miles, and turn left (Refuge Rd.) at the Ethel Post Office and General Store located on the left side of the road.

Follow signs (Smokehouse Hill) and pavement 2.7 miles to the Smokehouse Hill entrance of the refuge.

Take a right towards campground H (Smokehouse Hill/ Escronges Lake Road).

After 1.3 miles, turn left on Essex Bayou and continue on Smokehouse Hill Road approaching Burnt Lake (campground J).

After 2.4 miles, turn right towards Columbus Lake (campground M).

After 2.6 miles, turn left onto H Lake access road and continue to H Lake.

This project is a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Hendrix College

H Lake Canoe Trail



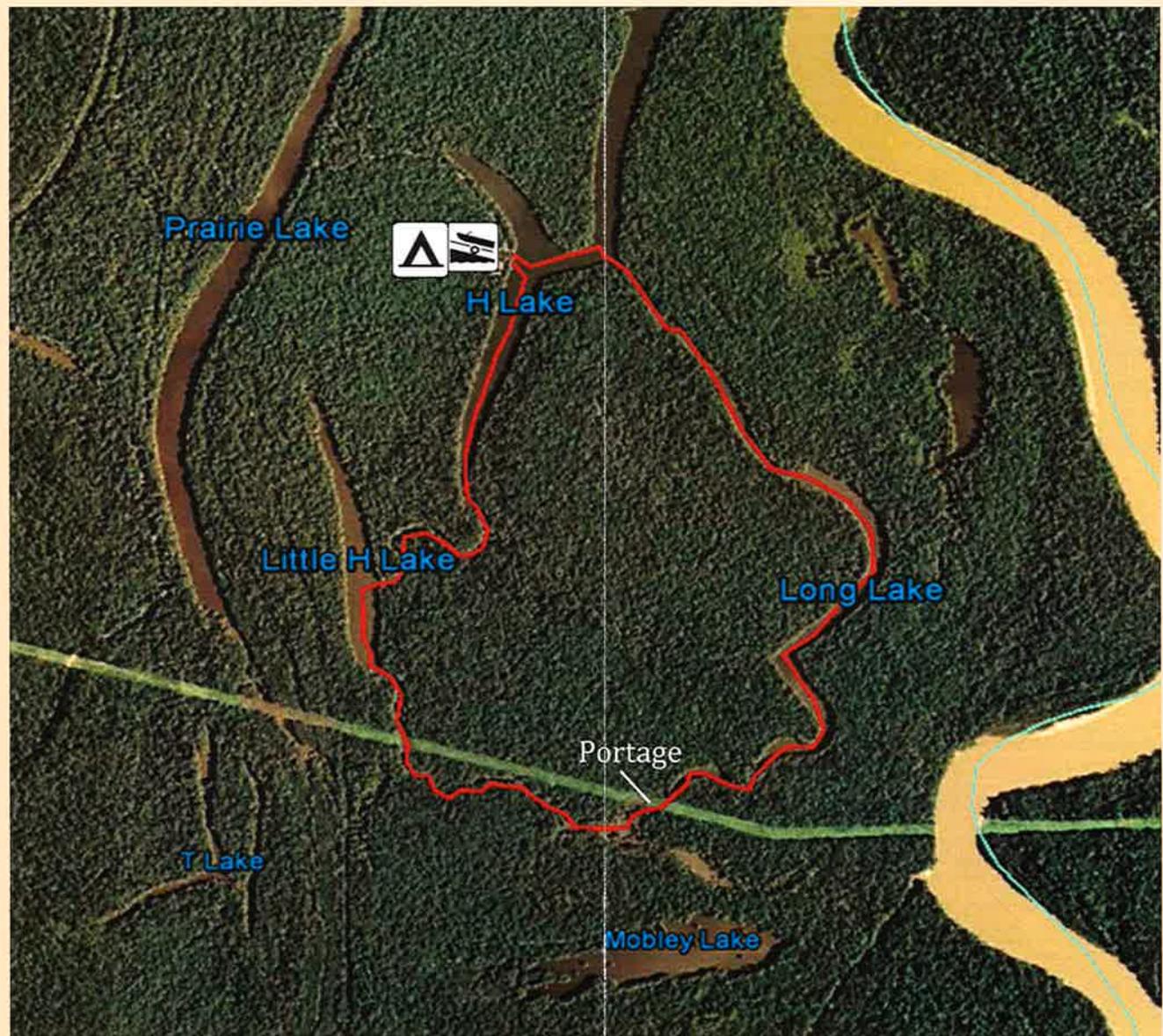
White River National Wildlife Refuge

Plant Communities

Along the edge of the lake is swamp forest, dominated by Bald Cypress and Water Tupelo. Common in the surviving wetlands of the Mississippi Alluvial Plain, these trees do well in areas inundated by water most of the year. On slightly higher ground is bottomland forest, which experiences seasonal flooding. Several species of Oaks and Hickories are common in this biological community. Bottomland forest is one of the most productive habitats in North America and supports healthy animal populations.

Trail Directions

- Launch at the H-Lake campsite boat launch.
- Paddle south in open water for 0.4 miles until the lake narrows.
- Follow this portion for 0.5 miles until you reach Little H-Lake.
- Turn left (south) and paddle Little H Lake for 0.3 miles until the waterway narrows. Follow for 0.5 miles, passing under a powerline, until you come to a small pond.
- Turn left and paddle back to the powerline where a small ditch connects to the southeast arm of the lake (0.1 miles). A short portage is usually required.
- Continue through a narrow portion of the lake for 0.2 miles
- Follow open section for 1.1 miles.
- Turn left at the lake junction and go 0.2 miles to the launch to complete the loop.



Total Distance: 3.3 miles
Estimated Time: 3 hours

Key	
	Canoe Trail