

Lake Isom

National Wildlife Refuge

photo: USFWS



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1938.
- Acres: 1,850.
- Location: Lake Isom NWR shares a common headquarters with Reelfoot NWR, located 15 miles southwest of Union City, TN on Highway 157 near the Walnut Log Community.

Natural History

- Refuge habitat created by a series of violent earthquakes from December 1811 to February 1812.
- Concentrations of ducks, geese, raptors, wading birds and shore birds.
- Eagle and osprey nests.
- Habitat acreage:
 - Open water: 592.
 - Wetlands: 222.
 - Woodlands: 537.
 - Croplands: 499.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Staffed by Reelfoot NWR employees.
- 16,500 visitors annually.
- Base funding is from Reelfoot NWR Complex budget.

Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and other birds.
- Provide habitat and protection for endangered species.
- Provide recreation and environmental education for the public.

Management Tools

- Water management for waterfowl and other birds.
- Cooperative farming for wildlife.
- Mechanical/chemical control of noxious vegetation.
- Big and small game management with public hunting.
- Education/interpretation.
- Law enforcement.
- Partnerships.
- Volunteers.

Public Use Opportunities

- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.
- Hunting.
- Fishing.

Calendar of Events

January: waterfowl concentrations of up to 100,00 ducks and 50,000 geese.

March: bald eagles nesting.

August: squirrel hunt.

October: archery deer hunt and raccoon hunt.