

Tallahatchie

National Wildlife Refuge



photo: Ramsey Russell



photo: Fred Broerman



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Stephen W. Gard, Project Leader
Tallahatchie NWR
P.O. Box 1070
2776 Sunset Drive
Grenada, MS 38902
Phone: 662/226 8286
Fax: 662/226 8488
E-mail:
FW4RWNorthMSRefuges@fws.gov

Refuge Facts

- Established: 1990.
- Acres: 4,083 acres in Grenada and Tallahatchie counties, Mississippi.
- Refuge is unstaffed and managed by North Mississippi Refuges Complex in Grenada, MS.
- Location: Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge is on Highway 8, nine miles west of Holcomb and lies along Tippo Bayou.

Natural History

- All refuge lands were agricultural lands upon acquisition. Nearly 1,300 acres of the refuge have been reforested with bottomland hardwood species.
- Large concentrations wintering waterfowl use Tippo Bayou and its oxbows and agriculture lands of the refuge.
- Two hundred and ninety acres of the refuge is managed in fallow fields for grassland birds and moist soil habitat for wintering waterfowl.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Currently unstaffed; development is conducted by North Mississippi Refuges Complex.
- 2500 visitors annually. Visitation has increased with the opening of the refuge to hunting in 1997.
- Current budget (FY 02) \$728,800 included in the North Mississippi Refuges Complex.

Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory waterfowl, and create a woodland corridor along Tippo Bayou for migratory neotropical song birds.
- Convert marginal agriculture land to hardwood forests.
- Provide fallow field habitat for wintering grassland birds.

Management Tools

- Create moist soil wetlands and permanent wetlands.
- Bottomland hardwood wetland forest management and reforestation.
- Cooperative farming.
- Prescribed burning.
- Partnerships.
- Deer management using public hunting.
- Law enforcement.

Public Use Opportunities

- Fishing.
- Hunting, including youth hunts.
- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.

Calendar of Events

May: Migratory Bird Day.

October: National Wildlife Refuge Week.

October-November: archery and primitive weapon deer hunting.

October-February: rabbit hunting.

November-March: waterfowl hunting.

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Questions and Answers

Will the Service continue reforestation activities on the refuge?

Yes. The long range goals call for reforestation to native water tolerant bottomland wetland tree species on most of the agriculture fields that are not irrigable.

Will the Service condemn land to expand the size of the refuge?

No. While the Service has an ongoing acquisition program, all lands acquired have been and will continue to be on a willing seller basis.

Is the refuge open to public hunting including waterfowl hunting?

Yes. With a \$12.50 refuge hunting permit issued in unlimited numbers, south of Highway 8 is open to waterfowl hunting, archery and primitive deer hunting and rabbit hunting.

Is the refuge open to fishing?

Yes. With a \$12.50 refuge fishing permit issued in unlimited numbers. Fishing is allowed only on the south side of Highway 8. A boat ramp was constructed in 1997 for access into Tippo Bayou.