

## Enjoy Your Visit

### Headquarters/Visitor Center

The visitor center is located four miles east of Dover, Tennessee off Highway 49. The center is open 7 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The entire refuge is open to the public during daylight hours from March 16 through November 14. During the remainder of the year, all Refuge roads are closed to the public to minimize disturbance to wintering waterfowl.

### Wildlife Observation/Photography

A 10-mile long gravel road following the Cumberland River on the south side of the refuge provides vehicle access for viewing wildlife from March 16 through November 14. Refuge species lists are available at the office or visitor center.

### Fishing

Fishing opportunities can be found on South Cross and Elk reservoirs and along the many miles of Lake Barkley's shoreline on Lake Barkley. Popular species include bluegill, crappie, largemouth bass, catfish, and white bass. All fishing is in accordance with (TWRA) Lake Barkley regulations. See the refuge Hunt/Fish Brochure for additional information.

### Hunting

Hunting is allowed at Cross Creeks with opportunities to hunt squirrels, white-tailed deer or turkey. All hunting occurs in the fall with the exception of the spring turkey and squirrel seasons. The refuge also provides limited hunting for resident Canada geese during an early season. Refuge deer hunts are open to statewide seasons through November 14. State bags limits apply and harvested deer count towards the statewide bag limit. See refuge Hunt/Fish Brochure for specific information and regulations.



Waterfowl credit USFWS/Richard Hines



credit USFWS/Jeremy Curtis

### Boating or Paddling

Boating is allowed from March 16 - November 14 in the refuge pools and reservoirs. Boating is allowed year round in Lake Barkley/Cumberland River waters and areas accessible directly from Lake Barkley. Additional information can be found in the refuge Hunt/Fish regulations brochure available at the refuge office. To protect the shoreline, all refuge impoundments are idle

speed/no wake zones. Kayak fishing and paddling are popular on the refuge, see Regional Blueway Watertrail signs for good put in/take out locations.

### Vehicles

Automobiles are allowed only on designated roads.

### Other Refuge Regulations

Refuge boundary signs delineate refuge property which is behind the sign. "Area Closed" signs are erected to minimize disturbance to waterfowl or other wildlife or for public safety.

Firearms are permitted in accordance with state laws.

Disturbing, feeding or collecting wildlife or plants is strictly prohibited.

Pets on a leash are permitted.

Camping is prohibited.

Open fires are prohibited.

Surface collecting or digging for archaeological historical and/or Native American artifacts is prohibited.

ATV's, UTV's, and Golf carts are not allowed on any refuge roads or lands.

Bicycling is permitted on established roads during open periods.

Horseback riding is allowed on refuge roads open to vehicle traffic.

## Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge

643 Wildlife Road

Dover, TN 37058

Phone: 931/232 7477

[www.fws.gov/refuge/cross\\_creeks](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/cross_creeks)

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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# Cross Creeks

## National Wildlife Refuge



credit: USFWS/Clayton Ferrell



*Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 560 refuges within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's refuge system that stretches from the Arctic Ocean to the subtropical waters of the Caribbean. The 8,862 acres of land managed as Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge are a part of this magnificent system managed especially for wildlife and its habitat as well as for the people to enjoy. Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge is located four miles east of Dover, in Stewart County, Tennessee, and is approximately 75 miles northwest of Nashville, Tennessee.*

### Introduction

Established on November 9, 1962, Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge lies within the floodplain of the Cumberland River, which is now Lake Barkley. Upon construction of Lake Barkley, the new reservoir flooded a majority of the now closed Kentucky Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge, which had been established in 1938. Cross Creeks mission was to replace the loss of waterfowl habitat on both the Kentucky Woodlands Refuge as well as private lands along the river when Lake Barkley was impounded.

The refuge's name originates from the intersection of North Cross Creek and South Cross Creek on the refuge at its midpoint.

### Migratory Birds

Cross Creeks provides needed feeding and resting habitat for migrating waterfowl in the Tennessee-Kentucky portion of the Mississippi flyway. It provides wintering habitat and protection for large numbers of waterfowl including puddle ducks and diving ducks. The Refuge has always been an important wintering location for the American black duck and management efforts for this species receives high priority. Historically the refuge has held up to 10% of the total black duck population wintering in the Mississippi flyway.



*Refuge visitors enjoy kayaking on one of the many impounded waters at the refuge, credit: USFWS/Joan Howe; Eastern box turtle, credit Craig Pelke; Raccoon, credit Richard Graves; Prothonotary warbler, credit USFWS/Richard Hines; and Tiger Swallowtail on Buttonbush, credit Richard Graves.*

Cross Creeks NWR is one of three critical wintering areas in the South for Canada geese, therefore habitat management actions to benefit geese are also a high priority. In addition to the thousands of migrating and wintering ducks and geese that visit each year, the refuge also serves as a nesting area for wood ducks and a small number of resident Canada geese.

Each spring large numbers of neotropical migratory songbirds either use the refuge as a stopover on their migration journey or nest on the refuge during the summer months. With such a variety of habitat, over 251 species of birds have been observed on the refuge over time.

### Managing the Habitat

In order to provide food and resting areas for migrating waterfowl and other wildlife, staff members and local farmers at Cross Creeks work throughout the year to provide crops, green browse and native natural foods that are available for wildlife consumption during the winter months.

In addition, water levels in the refuge reservoirs and impoundments are controlled to stimulate the growth of natural plant species that support an abundance of insects, crustaceans, and mollusks, all of which are highly favored food of migratory waterfowl.

### Sanctuary

One of the most important management tools is sanctuary. From November 15 through March 15 the refuge lands and roads are closed to the public to provide a place free from disturbance for wintering waterfowl.

### Endangered/Threatened Wildlife

Although no longer endangered, the bald eagle remains a favorite for visitors at Cross Creeks. One of Cross Creeks claim to fame happened in 1983 when the first documented and successful bald eagle nest, since 1961, occurred not only in Stewart County, but in Tennessee.

Since 1983 bald eagles have been seen nesting along numerous stretches of the Cumberland River. Cross Creeks supports numerous wintering bald eagles and an occasional golden eagle. Wintering eagles arrive as early as October and peak wintering population occurs late January to mid-February.

### Other Wildlife

The diversity of habitats including upland deciduous woodlands, river bottoms, creeks, fields, and shrub enables a host of wildlife species to make Cross Creeks their home. A variety of wading birds, shorebirds, raptors, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects are found throughout the year.

### A Look into the Past

Cross Creeks and the surrounding area in Stewart County, Tennessee is rich in history. 8,000 year ago, the Cumberland River was once home to native American hunters and gatherers called "the Warioto."

During the 1850's, much of the nation's iron industry was centered in Tennessee. Up until 1862, two charcoal iron furnaces operated on lands that are now within the Refuge: Bellwood and the Rolling Mill Furnaces. These furnaces would smelt "pig iron" from ore. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, portions of the Bellwood Furnace remain standing on the northern portion of the refuge.

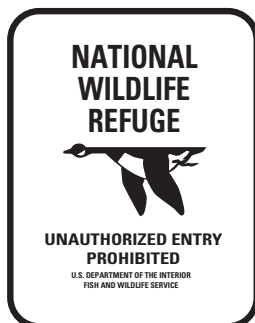
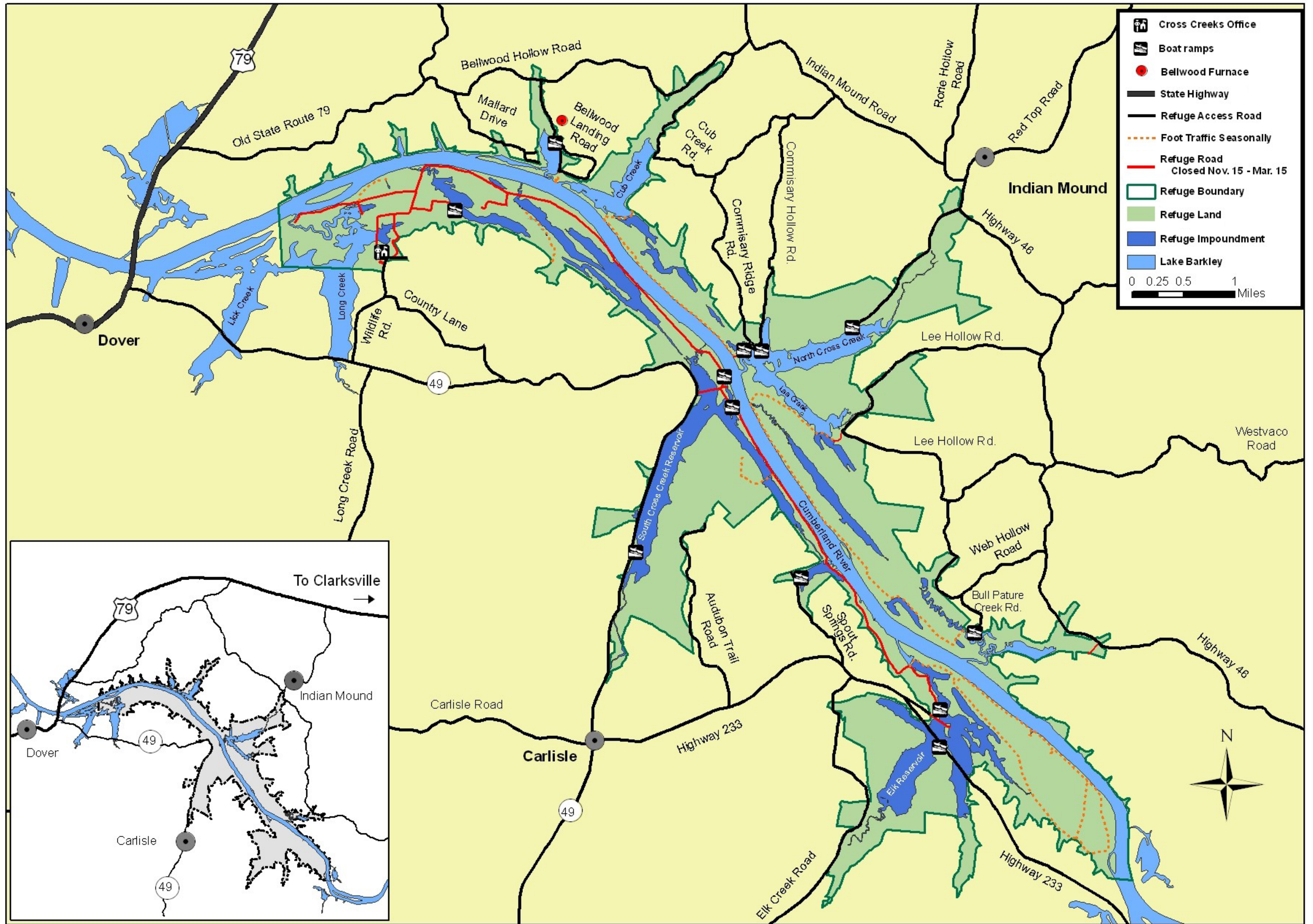
Another interesting historical structure on the refuge is the South Cross Creek Bridge. Constructed in 1901 the "Pratt Truss" Bridge is one of the older metal truss bridges remaining not only in the state of Tennessee but in the U.S. This bridge was part of the original highway leading from Dover to Cumberland City.

### Volunteer Program

The refuge offers individuals or groups an opportunity to volunteer their time and talents to various tasks on the refuge. The Refuge Visitor Center remains open thanks in part to dedicated volunteers. The volunteer program is a way for people to become involved with the refuge as well as provide a worthwhile contribution to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For volunteer opportunities, please contact the refuge office.



# Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge Map



This sign and yellow paint clearly marks all refuge property.



This area is seasonally closed to all entry. No roads or trails beyond this sign are open to the public.



This area is closed to all vehicles and horseback riding. Entry is only permitted by foot or bicycle.



The refuge is closed to all camping.