

Dahomey

National Wildlife Refuge



photo: Becky Rosamond



photo: Becky Rosamond



photo: Becky Rosamond

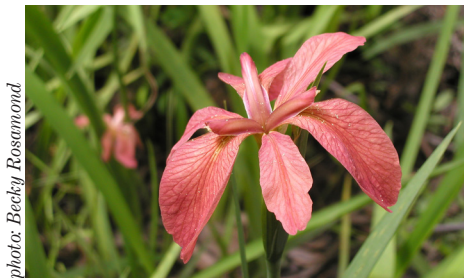


photo: Becky Rosamond

Stephen W. Gard, Project Leader
Amber Breland, Refuge Manager
Dahomey NWR
831 Hwy 446
Boyle, MS 38730
Phone: 662/742 9331
Fax: 662/742 3378
FW4RWNorthMSRefuges@fws.gov

Refuge Facts

- Established in 1990
- Size: 9,691 acres in Bolivar county, Mississippi
- Currently staffed by one refuge manager and one engineering equipment operator.
- Location: located on Hwy 446, approximately 8 miles west of Boyle and about 15 miles southwest of Cleveland, MS.

Natural History

- The refuge is the largest contiguous tract of bottomland hardwood forest in northwest Mississippi, outside of the mainline levee.
- Flooded forests provide important habitat for overwintering waterfowl. Flooding recharges vernal pools and provides important habitat for a variety of amphibians.
- Large numbers of migratory songbirds including red-eyed vireos, painted buntings, and prothonotary warblers are attracted to the forest in summer months.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Approximately 7,600 visitors annually, primarily hunting and birdwatching.

Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory birds.
- Restore, enhance, and manage the values and functions of the wetland habitats within the refuge.

Management Tools

- Forest management, including reforestation.
- Moist soil management.
- Hunting.
- Law enforcement.

- Partnerships, particularly with research organizations, to use the best available science to meet goals and objectives.

Public Use Opportunities

- Hunting – October–April. Includes seasons for: deer, squirrel, rabbit, quail, turkey, waterfowl, raccoon, and wild hog. Also includes youth hunts, following state seasons. Requires a refuge hunting/fishing annual permit. Please see the North MS Refuges Complex Hunting and Fishing Regulations for specific details. Regulations are published annually.
- Fishing – Year-round. Requires a refuge hunting/fishing annual permit. Please see the North MS Refuges Complex Hunting and Fishing Regulations for specific details. Regulations are published annually.
- Wildlife viewing – Thirty-five miles of roads and hiking trails provide access to the various habitats on the refuge.
- Wildlife photography.
- Environmental Education/ Interpretation – Programs available upon request.

Calendar of Events

March – June: Neotropical migrants arrive and fill the forest with their songs. Copper iris (*Iris fulva*) blooming along forested creeks (April). Mississippi kites return and can be seen soaring over the treetops (April).

July – August: Shady forests provide some relief from the unrelenting summer heat—but watch out for the mosquitoes!

September – October: Marbled salamanders begin moving to breeding sites and laying eggs under logs.

November – February: Waterfowl concentrate to feed in flooded farm fields and roost in flooded bottomland hardwood forest.

Questions and Answers

Are permits required for hunting and fishing?

Yes, permits are required, they cost \$15.00, and the number is unlimited.

Are internal refuge roads open to vehicular traffic?

Yes, weather permitting, all internal refuge gravel roads are open to vehicular traffic. These roads may be closed during the summer season (May 1 - August 31).

Are handicapped facilities available?

Yes, following the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks definition of handicapped, two handicapped blinds are available for deer hunting, one with all weather gravel road access, and one with four-Wheeler access.

Is waterfowl hunting permitted?

Yes, beginning with the 1998-99 season, with the \$15.00 refuge hunting permit, waterfowl hunting is allowed.

Is the refuge open to turkey hunting?

Yes, with the \$15.00 refuge hunting permit, the refuge is open to turkey season although the opening date is not always the same as the statewide season.