



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Washita

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Auto Tour Route

#### Welcome

Washita National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1961 to protect the land for migrating waterfowl. Its namesake, the Washita River, flows through the 8,075-acre land into the Foss Reservoir. Washita NWR's many creeks and wetlands draw tens of thousands of birds during fall migration from November to February. Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese, White-tailed Deer, and Armadillos can be spotted at this serene spot in western Oklahoma.

#### About the Auto Tour

The auto tour is approximately 22 miles from start to finish. You can start and stop at any point along the route. The refuge headquarters and visitor contact station is located at Stop 4. Interpretive panels located at each stop provide additional information.

**Washita National Wildlife Refuge**  
20834 E. 940 Rd.  
Butler, OK 73625  
580/664-2205  
<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/washita>

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October 2022

**Each stop, numbered below, corresponds to a number on the map located on the other side of this sheet.**

#### 1. Lakeview

This popular fishing spot was once home to the Spencer family before the lake filled. Wet a hook, learn about fish found in Foss Lake, or just enjoy the view. Other activities at this location include hunting, bird-watching and picnicking.

#### 2. Pitts Creek

A shallow wetland forms where this tributary joins Foss Lake. This area attracts all kinds of shorebirds and small mammals that take advantage of the abundant and varied resources of the site. Look for tracks in exposed mudflats to see who—or what—visited here before you.

#### 3. Owl Cove

Waterfowl and sandhill cranes roost here in the winter, and pelicans and songbirds dwell here year-round. A favorite spot for bald eagles in the wintertime. Try identifying the wildlife tracks pressed into the paved trail!

#### 4. Refuge Headquarters

In the headquarters area you can find an overlook with spotting scopes where you can watch deer, turkeys, geese, and songbirds. The Washita River winds through farmland south of the overlook, supporting wildlife and people for centuries.

#### 5. McClure

Envision the ghost town of McClure as it was in its heyday as a stock yard and railroad station. The cattle pens, grain elevator, general store, and homes are gone but remnants like the old bridge remain. Learn about the wall of water that descended on residents during the April 1934 flood.

#### 6. Centennial Trail

The National Wildlife Refuge System celebrated its 100th anniversary on March 14th, 2003. This accessible National Recreation Trail was dedicated on that date as a lasting monument to our forefathers who recognized the value of nature. Walk the paved loop to a boardwalk that provides access to spotting scopes and a photo blind to get a closer glimpse of wetland life.

#### 7. Refuge Farming

Check out the farm fields planted for wildlife! Our cooperative farmers plant wheat that feeds up to 100,000 geese. Our staff plant additional food plots to benefit pollinators, deer, quail, turkey, and other native birds. Visiting throughout the year will introduce you to different stages of the field's production.

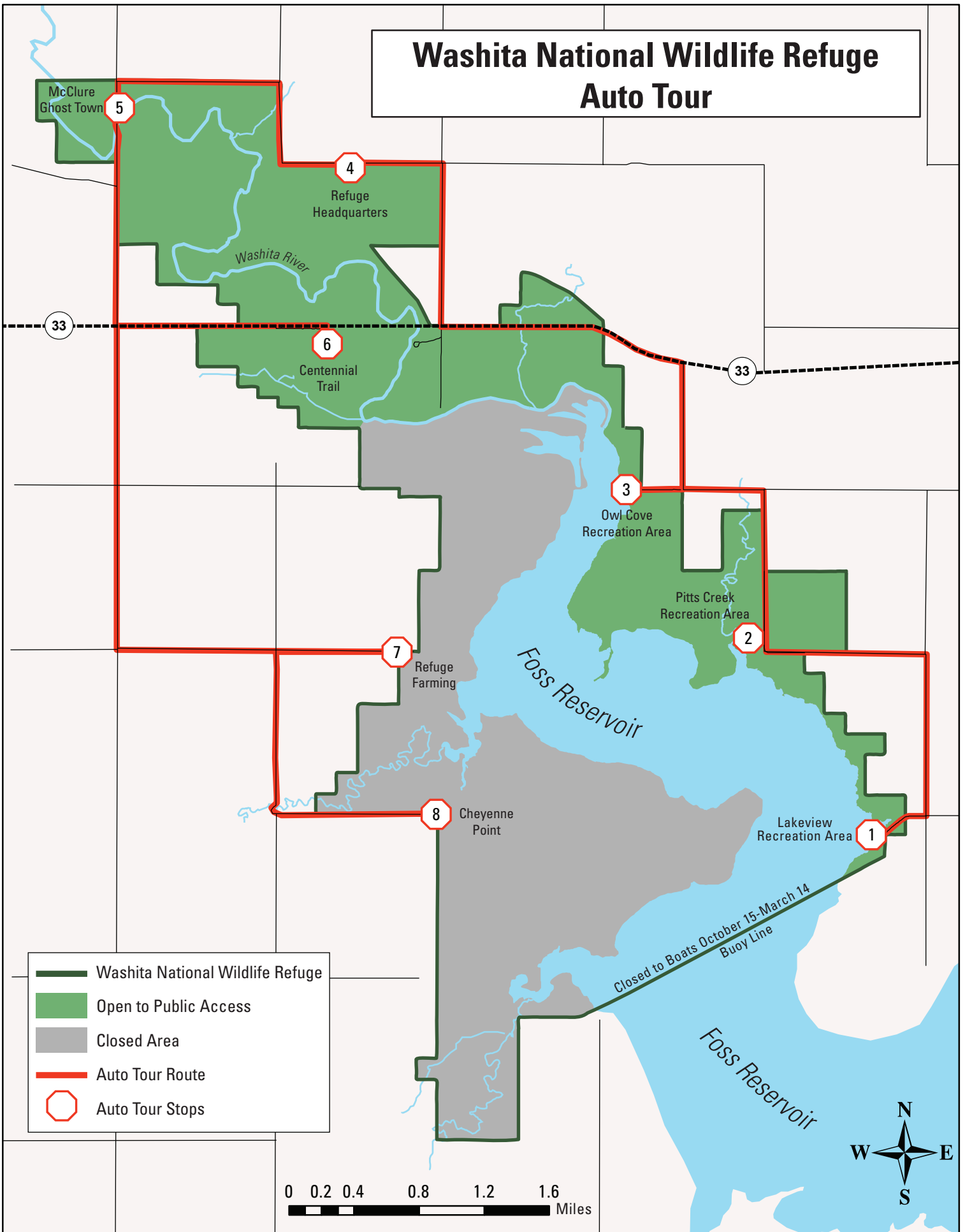
#### 8. Cheyenne Point

From inland sea, to a sea of grass. Prairie grasses now cover what used to be the floor of a vast ocean. Today, a variety of wildlife including white-tailed deer thrive in this mix of grassland and agricultural fields.

This is a unit of the National Wildlife  
Refuge System, a network of lands  
and waters managed for the benefit of  
wildlife and people.



# Washita National Wildlife Refuge Auto Tour



- Washita National Wildlife Refuge
- Open to Public Access
- Closed Area
- Auto Tour Route
- Auto Tour Stops

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6 Miles

