

Hatchie

National Wildlife Refuge



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1964.
- Acres: 11,556.
- Located entirely within Haywood County, TN.
- Other management: Conservation Easement: one in Hardeman County, TN totaling 359.93 acres in two tracts.
- Location: one mile south of Brownsville, TN on the south bank of 23.5 miles of the state—designated Hatchie Scenic River. Bisected by I-40 and TN Highway 76 about 50 miles east of Memphis and 130 miles west of Nashville, TN.
- Permanent staff: five.

Natural History

- About 90 percent of the Refuge lies within the floodplain of the Hatchie River. The Hatchie is the last unchannelized river of its type in the Lower Mississippi River Valley and still functions under near normal wetland cycles. About 9,400 acres of bottomland hardwoods are located on the refuge and are flooded by headwater flows of the Hatchie.
- The headwaters of the Hatchie in Mississippi are channelized as are 33 major tributaries.
- Alterations are causing drastic changes in flooding patterns and deposition of inordinate amounts of silt and sand in refuge timberlands. Wind deposited soils on the surrounding highlands with intensive farming practices (cotton) combine causing erosion rates to soar to as high as 120 tons/acre/year. Current timber losses amount to about 100 acres per year.
- Concentrations of ducks (primarily mallards), shorebirds, wading birds and neotropical songbirds.
- Open water 270 acres, wetland 10,000 acres, woodlands 9,800 acres, cropland 1,000 acres, and grasslands 31 acres.

Refuge Objectives

- Provide forested habitat for migratory waterfowl and other birds.
- Provide nesting habitat for wood ducks and hooded mergansers.
- Provide recreation and environmental education for the public.
- Maintain representative flora and fauna characteristic of bottomland hardwood forests of Western Tennessee.

Management Tools

- Water management for migratory waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and other birds.
- Cooperative farming.
- Prescribed fire.
- Mechanical / chemical control of noxious plants.
- Deer management with public hunting.
- Education / interpretation.
- Law enforcement.
- Partnerships.

Public Use Opportunities

- Wildlife observation.
- Hunting, including youth hunts.
- Fishing, including a prototype accessible fishing project.
- Photography.
- Boating access to the Hatchie River.
- Auto tour route.

Calendar of Events

April: spring turkey hunting.

September-October: archery deer hunting.

September-February: small game hunting.

September and December-January: waterfowl hunting.

October and November: quota deer gun hunting.