

Theodore Roosevelt

National Wildlife Refuge Complex



photo: USFWS



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Refuge Facts

- Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex established in 2004 consists of seven refuges: Hillside, Holt Collier, Mathews Brake, Morgan Brake, Panther Swamp, Theodore Roosevelt and Yazoo National Wildlife Refuges.
- Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex Refuges are located south of State Highway 82 in the South Delta of Mississippi in what is known as the Lower Mississippi River Valley. The Complex consists of over 100,000 acres located in the following counties: Holmes, Humphreys, Leflore, Sharkey, Washington and Yazoo.
- Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuge is the first refuge named to honor an African American.
- Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge is the only refuge in the system that is named to honor the father of the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt established the country's first wildlife refuge on Pelican Island. since then, the National Wildlife Refuge System has grown to over 500 refuges.
- National Wildlife Refuges provide opportunities for six primary wildlife dependent recreational activities: hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, interpretation and environmental education.

Natural History

- Refuge habitat types consist of bottomland hardwood forests interspersed with numerous wooded sloughs, cypress-tupelo brakes and bayous.
- The area is historically known for large numbers of waterfowl.
- Over 300,000 waterfowl use the Complex annually.

Financial Impact

- Staff of 15 permanent and temporary employees help administer a \$1.8 million annual budget.
- Over 300,000 visits annually.

Objectives

- Provide quality habitat for waterfowl, migratory birds and other wildlife.
- Provide public use opportunities including hunting, fishing and wildlife observation.
- Provide environmental education opportunities.
- Protect threatened and endangered species.

Management Tools

- Wetland restoration.
- Moist soil management.
- Timber management.
- Reforestation.
- Research and surveys.
- Water management.
- Cooperative farming.
- Controlled public hunts.
- Law enforcement.
- Partnerships.
- Exotic plant and animal control.
- Education and interpretation.

Public Use Opportunities

- Hunting.
- Wildlife observation and photography.
- Environmental education and interpretation.
- Fishing.