

Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex Public Use Regulations 2020-2021

Hillside, Holt Collier, Mathews Brake, Morgan Brake, Panther Swamp, and Yazoo



This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and fishing on Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex. These regulations supplement regulations governing hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations and applicable State regulations. Violation of Refuge or State regulations may result in confiscation of Refuge Permit in addition to prosecution.

For additional information contact:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12595 Mississippi Highway 149
Yazoo City, MS 39194
662/836 3004

Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex (TR Complex)

Refuges are located south of State Highway 82 in the South Delta of Mississippi in the Lower Mississippi River Valley. Refuges are located from just south of Greenville, down towards Vicksburg, over to Yazoo City, and back up to Greenwood. TR Complex consists of seven refuges, Hillside, Holt Collier, Mathews Brake, Morgan Brake, Panther Swamp, Theodore Roosevelt and Yazoo National Wildlife Refuges. Resident species making their home among the woodlands, sloughs, and reforested areas include the American alligator, white-tailed deer, swamp rabbit, wild turkey, squirrel, and various small furbearers.

Visitors are encouraged to explore natural resources by way of birding, canoeing, hiking, photography and wildlife observation. TR Complex continually strives to better provide these opportunities. Most trails are open to foot traffic year round, please consult current Refuge Regulations.

Hunting License(s) and Regulations

Unless further restricted by refuge regulations, State bag, possession limits and regulations apply. Please consult current Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Park Regulations at www.mdwfp.com and Refuge Regulations posted in this brochure for details.

TR Complex Annual Public Use Permit

Each person 16 years of age and older participating in hunting (including calling, videoing, etc.) or fishing must possess a valid TR Complex Annual Public Use Permit which certifies they understand and will comply with refuge regulations contained in this brochure. This permit is non-refundable, non-transferable, must be signed and is required in order to be eligible to apply for Limited Draw Hunts. TR Complex Annual Public Use Permits (\$15 permit + \$5 convenience fee) are available at <https://trcomplex.recaccess.com> or may be obtained via check or money order (\$15 / permit) at the following locations: Panther Swamp NWR, Yazoo City, MS or Yazoo NWR, Hollandale, MS. Office hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 4 pm. Permits are valid August 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021

Daily Visitor Information Card

All visitors must obtain a Daily Visitor Information Card available at the Visitor Information Stations (see maps). This card must be displayed on the vehicle dash and submitted prior to leaving the Refuge. All harvested fish and game must be accurately recorded.

Limited Draw Hunts

Limited Draw Hunt selectees are selected by random computer drawing. Applicants must apply online at <https://trcomplex.recaccess.com>. Purchase of the TR Complex Annual Public Use Permit is required in order to apply. Applicants will be notified by email within two weeks after the close of applications. Selectees should receive their Limited Draw Permit two weeks prior to the date of the hunt. This permit is non-transferable and is required to be in your possession along with the TR Complex Annual Public Use Permit while participating in the designated hunt. Only selectees are allowed on the Refuge during Limited Draw Hunts. Yazoo Senior Citizen Limited Draw selectees are allowed to have one non-hunter assistant. Yazoo NWR Youth Hunt selectees are required to have an adult supervisor. Selectees must return the Limited Draw Permit with the requested information to be eligible for future Limited Draw Hunts on TR Complex.

Youth Hunters

All persons under 16 years of age, while hunting on TR Complex, must be in the presence and under direct supervision of a licensed or exempt hunter at least twenty-one years of age. Youth hunters are not required to possess a TR Complex Annual Public Use Permit, unless participating in a Limited Draw Hunt other than a Yazoo Youth Hunt. A licensed hunter supervising a youth hunter must hold all required licenses, stamps and the TR Complex Annual Public Use Permit and may supervise only one youth per hunt.

Youth Limited Draw Hunts

Yazoo NWR: Youth Deer and Youth Waterfowl Limited Draw Hunts are selected by a random computer drawing. Applicants must apply online at <https://trcomplex.recaccess.com>.

Prohibited Activities

- Operation of vehicles on “CLOSED” roads
- All commercial activities, including guiding or participating in a paid guided hunt
- Hunting in designated CLOSED or no hunting areas
- The use of artificial light, including vehicle headlights, to locate or take any animal except as authorized for raccoon and frog hunting
- Use or possession of toxic shot, including buckshot
- Use or possession of climbing spikes or hunting from a tree which has metal objects driven or screwed into it
- Use or possession of any drug or device for employing such drug for hunting

- Use of plastic flagging tape or other trail marking devices
- Use or possession of alcohol
- Camping
- Fires
- Horses and mules
- Organized drives for deer or hogs
- Baiting, possession of bait and hunting over bait
- Trail cameras
- Field dressing (skinning or processing) within 300' of any road, trail or parking lot
- Trapping
- Destroying any tree or plant
- Removal of any material, animal, plant or mineral unless otherwise stated

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42) and specific refuge regulations (50 CFR Part 32).

Closed Areas and Times

Temporary or permanent closure of TR Complex areas may occur due to unforeseen circumstances. Please check for on-the-ground signage and/or updates at Check Stations and entry points.

Vehicles must not obstruct roads, gates, trails, turn rows, field access ramps or fire lanes and may only be operated on designated roads (see maps).

It is unlawful to hunt from or shoot into open agricultural fields and a 100' zone along pipelines or power line rights-of-way, designated roads, trails or around parking lots (see maps).

All other public activities on TR Complex are prohibited during firearm deer hunts and Limited Draw Hunts.

All lands managed under TR Complex, including Refuge roads, parking areas and boat ramps, are closed 1½ hours after sunset until 4 am. Refuge hours do not apply to individuals actively participating in Refuge raccoon and frog hunting seasons.

Where waterfowl hunting is allowed, shooting hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to noon. All decoys, blind material and boats must be removed from the hunt area no later than 1 pm each day.

Hillside NWR: All entry into Turkey Point Unit is prohibited from December 15 through March 1.

Mathews Brake NWR: In addition to Refuge hours, beginning the day before waterfowl season opens and ending the last day of waterfowl season (State Youth Hunt), Refuge waters are closed to all public use from 1 pm to 4 am each day. The designated Waterfowl Sanctuary is open to hunting and fishing until the day before waterfowl season opens (see map). Refuge resumes normal hunting hours during Waterfowl Limited Draw Hunts beginning at 1 pm each day, (ie, archery and small game).

Panther Swamp NWR: All entry into Lower Twist and Carter Ponds is prohibited from December 15 - March 1.

Theodore Roosevelt NWR: All entry is prohibited.

Yazoo NWR: All entry into Cox Ponds is prohibited from December 15 - March 1.

Hunter Orange

All deer hunters (including while in the stand) must wear at least 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange material visible above the waistline from November 7, 2020 - January 31, 2021.

Ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange visible from all sides.

Rabbit hunters must wear at least 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange material visible above the waistline from February 1-28, 2021.

Dogs

Dogs are allowed while hunting squirrel and during the February rabbit hunts.

Retrievers are allowed while migratory bird hunting (waterfowl and snow geese).

All Terrain Vehicles

ATVs are approved for use only on Hillside, Morgan Brake and Panther Swamp NWRs.

ATV use is allowed from September 15 through February 28 only on established, designated trails and is not allowed off trail for any purpose. Hunters may retrieve game with the use of game carts. E-bikes operated in the pedal assist mode shall be allowed where traditional bicycles are allowed.

Boats

Boats left unattended for more than 72 hours will be considered abandoned and will be subject to removal.

Yazoo NWR: Motorized boats are only authorized in Silver Lake Bayou.

Tree Stands and Blinds

Hunters are allowed to possess and hunt from one portable stand or blind on each refuge within TR Complex. Identifiable information must be displayed on all portable stands, tripods and blinds. Stands do not reserve hunting locations. Stands or blinds may be placed 48 hours prior to a hunt. Stands or blinds left unattended for more than 48 hours will be considered abandoned and will be subject to removal. All stands without proper identification are subject to removal.

While climbing a tree, installing a stand that uses climbing aids, or while hunting from a tree stand, hunters must use a fall arrest system that is manufactured to Tree Stand Manufacturers Association Standards.

Deer

Deer hunting within or adjacent to brushy fields and tree plantations less than five feet in height must be from a stand a minimum of 10 feet above ground.

Deer hunting in agricultural or open fields is prohibited.

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 15 inches OR one main beam length of at least 18 inches. **This applies to all hunters including youth.**

Prior to leaving the Refuge, all harvested deer must be checked at a Check Station (see map). Deer jawbones (including those intended for mounting) must be removed, tagged and placed in drop boxes at Check Stations.

Hogs may be taken only during Refuge Big Game season (deer and turkey) with weapons legal for those hunts.

State approved archery equipment is allowed.

Daily bag limit is one buck and one doe per day not to exceed State bag.

Deer Muzzleloader

Only muzzleloaders loaded with a single projectile and archery equipment are allowed. Breech-loading firearms of any type or caliber are prohibited.

Hillside, Holt Collier and Morgan Brake: open to deer muzzleloader during designated dates.

Panther Swamp NWR: Limited Draw Hunt. Applicants may apply for only one limited draw deer hunt at <https://trcomplex.recaccess.com>. Up to five applicants per application and must be submitted online by September 30, 2020. Hunt bag limit is one buck and two does.

Yazoo NWR: Limited Draw Hunt. Applicants may apply for only one of the two day muzzleloader hunts at <https://trcomplex.recaccess.com>. Up to two applicants per application and must be submitted online by September 30, 2020. Hunt bag limit is one buck and two does.

Deer Gun

Shotguns with rifled slugs only, muzzle-loading rifles, legal pistols and rifles, and archery equipment are allowed.

Panther Swamp NWR: Limited Draw Hunt. Applicants may apply for only one limited draw deer hunt at <https://trcomplex.recaccess.com>. Up to five applicants per application and must be submitted online by September 30, 2020. Hunt bag limit is one buck and two does.

Senior Citizen Deer Gun

Yazoo NWR: Limited Draw Hunt. Senior Citizens, 65 years of age and older, may apply at <https://trcomplex.recaccess.com>. Up to two applicants per application and must be submitted online by September 30, 2020. Selectees are allowed to have one non-hunter assistant. Hunt bag limit is one buck and two does.

Youth Deer Gun

Yazoo NWR: Limited Draw Hunt. Youth may apply at <https://trcomplex.recaccess.com>. One applicant per application and must be submitted by September 30, 2020. Hunt bag limit is one buck and one doe. Youth may harvest any size antlered deer during this hunt only. Only youth can hunt. All youth hunters and adults must check-in and check-out at Refuge headquarters.

Small Game

Raccoon, opossum, coyote, beaver, bobcat and nutria may be taken during Refuge hunts within the State Season and limit for each species with weapons authorized for the specified Refuge hunt.

All hunters using shotguns for small game must use approved non-toxic shot.

Small game may also be hunted with .22-mag, .17 and .22 caliber rim-fire rifles and archery equipment using arrows with points other than broadheads.

Migratory Birds

Snow Geese

Yazoo NWR: Snow Geese may be taken beginning February 1 during the State Light Goose Conservation Order. Contact the Yazoo NWR office for details.

Waterfowl (Duck, Goose, Merganser and Coot)

Shooting hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to noon.

All decoys and blind material must be removed from the hunt area no later than 1 pm each day.

Waterfowl hunters are allowed no more than 25 shotshells per person.

There is no early teal season.

Hillside NWR: State season except closed December 2-15, 2020. Hunting is allowed only in the designated Waterfowl Hunt Area (see map).

Mathews Brake NWR: State season Monday through Friday, except first two days of season. Limited Draw Hunt: Applicants may apply for the first two days and all weekends of the State season at <https://trcomplex.recaccess.com> no later than November 1, 2020. The Limited Draw Permit is valid for the applicant, who must be present, and up to three additional guests (maximum four per party). Hunting is allowed only in the designated Waterfowl Hunt Area (see map). One boat per party. All Limited Draw Hunt participants must launch and return to the USFWS boat ramp. **Vehicles waiting in line to launch must be attended at all times by a member of the hunt party.**

Morgan Brake NWR: State season except closed December 2-15, 2020. Hunting is allowed only in the designated Waterfowl Hunt Area (see map).

Panther Swamp NWR: State season except Thursdays. Closed during all firearm deer hunts. Hunting is allowed only in Unit 1 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Hunting is allowed only in Unit 2 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Waterfowl hunting is not allowed on any other area of the refuge.

Youth Waterfowl (Duck, Goose, Merganser and Coot)
Youth Waterfowl Hunting is allowed only in the designated Waterfowl Hunt Areas (see maps) on Hillside, Mathews Brake, Morgan Brake and Panther Swamp NWRs.

Yazoo NWR: Limited Draw Hunt. Youth may apply for only one youth waterfowl hunt at <https://trcomplex.recaccess.com>. One applicant per application and must be submitted November 1 - December 15, 2020. Adults will be allowed to hunt, but they must possess valid license, stamps, and permits. All youth and adult hunters must check-in and check-out at the Check Station.

Spring Turkey

Legal hunting weapons include shotguns loaded with non-toxic shot and archery equipment.

Hillside NWR: Limited Draw Hunt. Applicants may apply at <https://trcomplex.recaccess.com> by February 15, 2021. Limited Draw Hunt Applications may have up to two applicants. Hunt bag limit is 2 adult gobblers.

Panther Swamp NWR: Daily bag limit is 1 adult gobbler, and the season bag limit is 2 adult gobblers.

Fishing

Bowfishing is permitted on Hillside, Mathews Brake, Morgan Brake and Panther Swamp NWRs during regular refuge hours.

Trot lines, limb lines, jugs, seines and traps are prohibited.

Hillside NWR: Fishing is permitted March 1 through November 15. The borrow ponds along the north levee are open throughout the year except closed during the muzzleloader deer hunt and spring turkey hunt.

Mathews Brake NWR: Fishing is permitted throughout the year except closed in the Waterfowl Sanctuary one day prior to the beginning of waterfowl season through March 1 (see map).

Morgan Brake NWR: Fishing is permitted throughout the year except closed during the muzzleloader deer hunt, and the Providence Ponds are closed one day prior to the beginning of waterfowl season through March 1. See informational kiosk for creel limits at Providence Ponds.

Panther Swamp NWR: Fishing is permitted throughout the year except closed during limited draw hunts and in Lower Twist and the Carter Ponds from December 15 – March 1. Office Pond is open year round.

Frog

Harvesting frogs is permitted on Hillside, Mathews Brake, Morgan Brake and Panther Swamp NWRs in accordance with State regulations.

Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) Tracts

Deer and rabbit hunting are allowed on the Brown Tracts (east of the Sunflower River).

Deer Archery

October 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021

Rabbit without Dogs

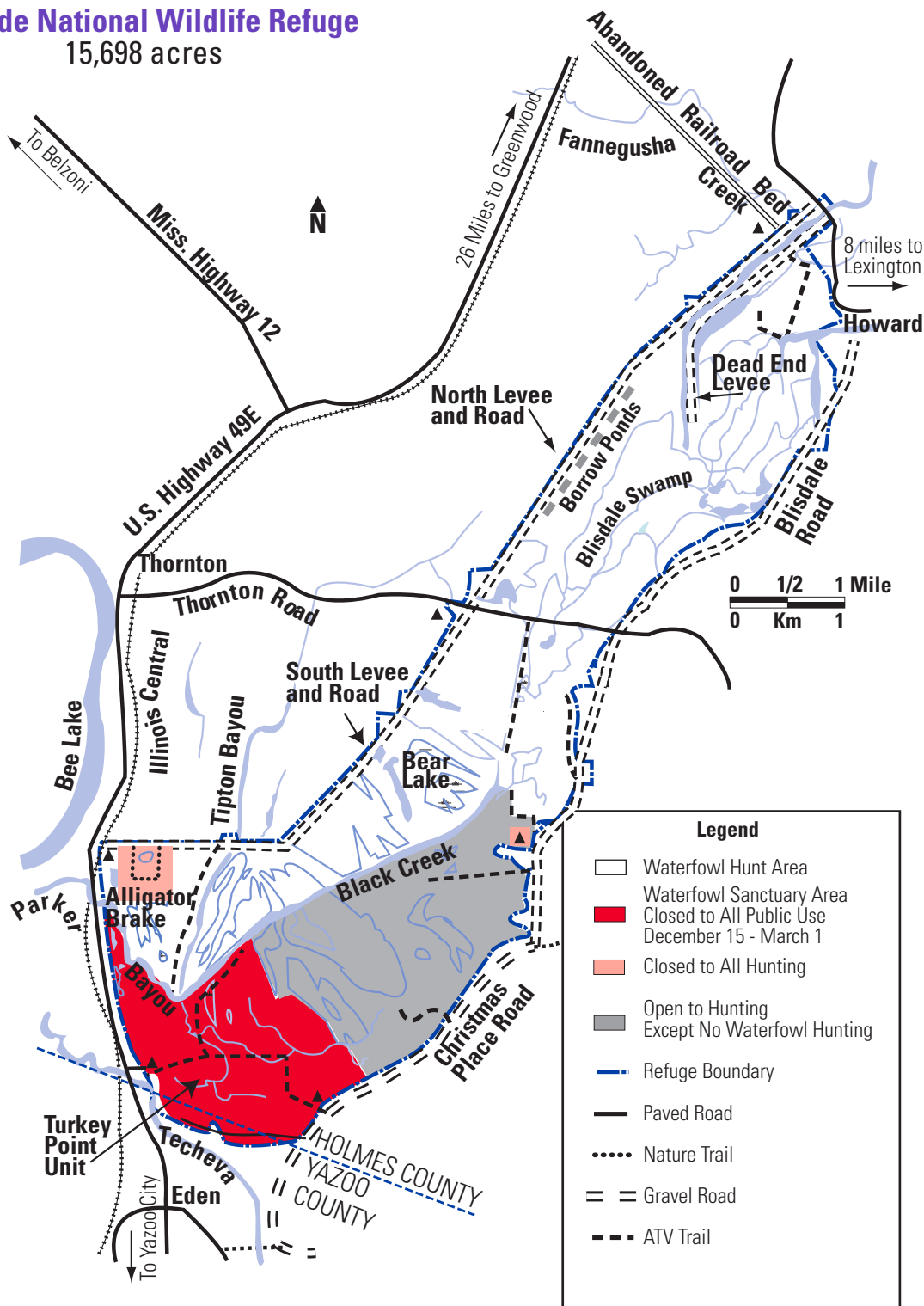
October 17, 2020 - February 28, 2021

Rabbit with Dogs

February 1-28, 2021

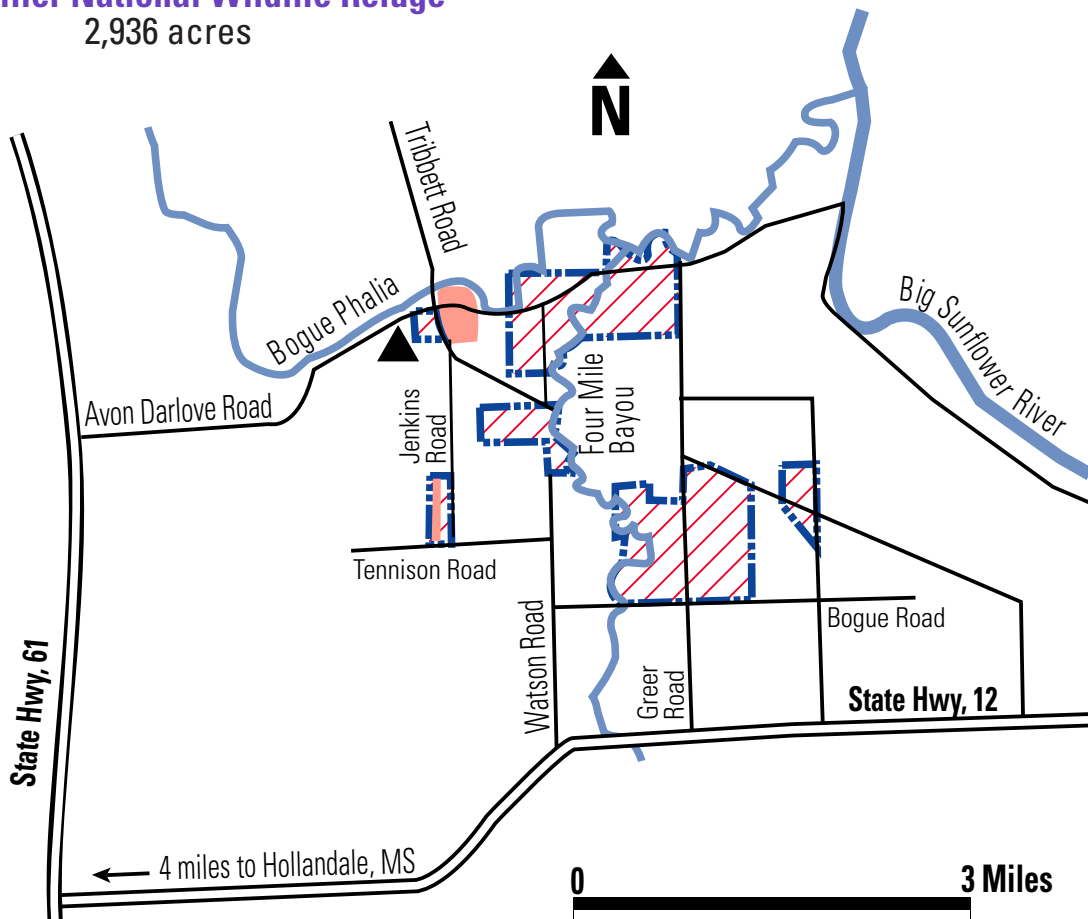
Hillside National Wildlife Refuge

15,698 acres








Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuge

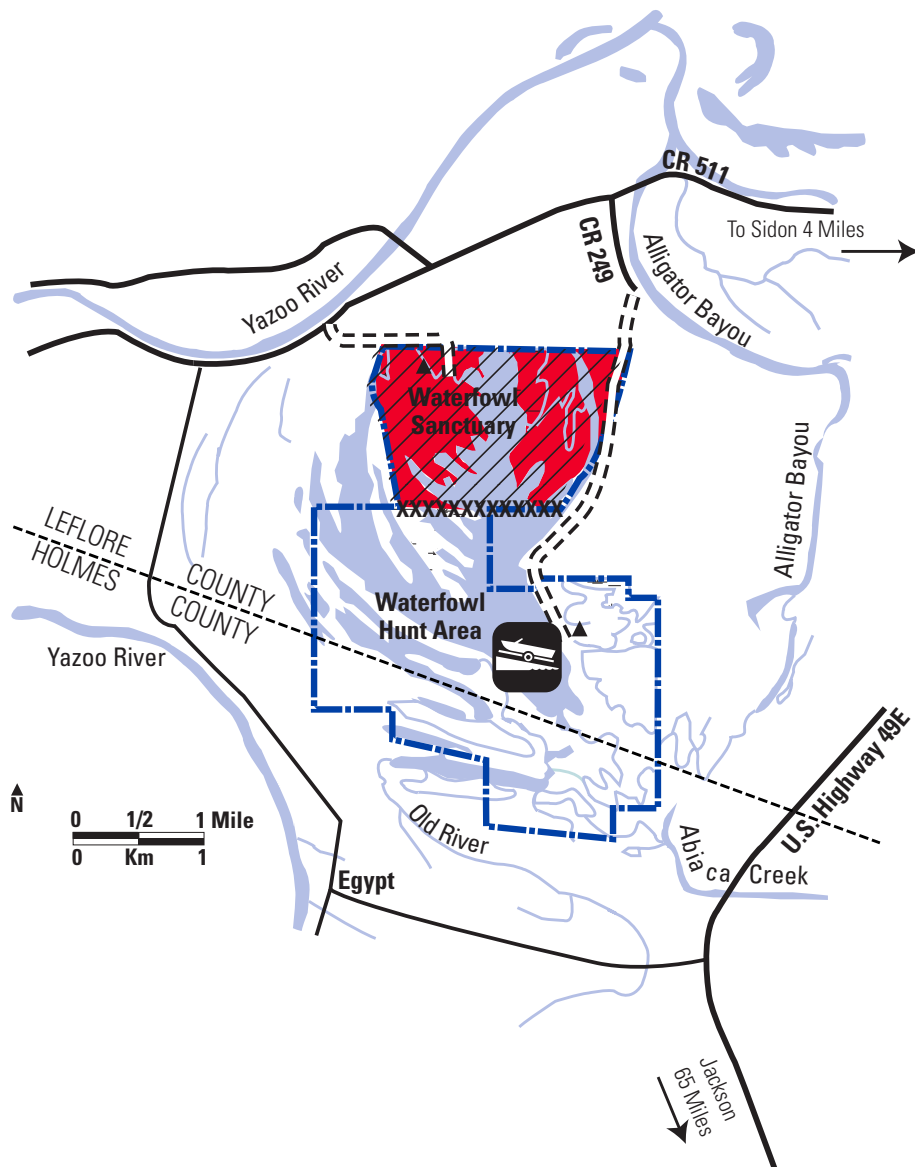
2,936 acres










Legend

-  Areas closed to hunting
-  Hunt Area
-  Holt Collier Refuge Boundary
-  Gravel Road
-  Big Sunflower River
-  Other Streams
-  Highways
-  Hunt Information Check Station

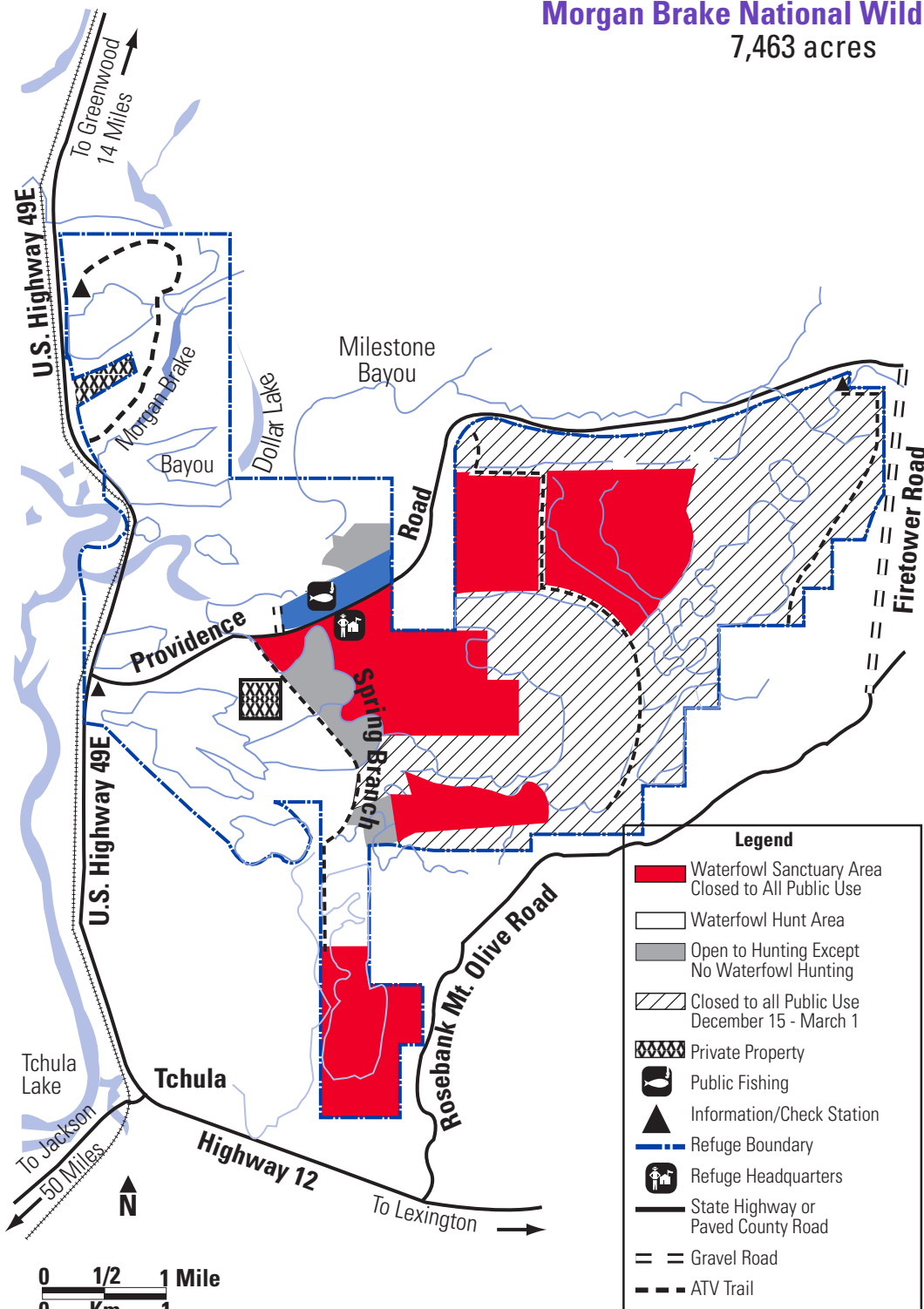
Mathews Brake National Wildlife Refuge
2,414 acres



Legend

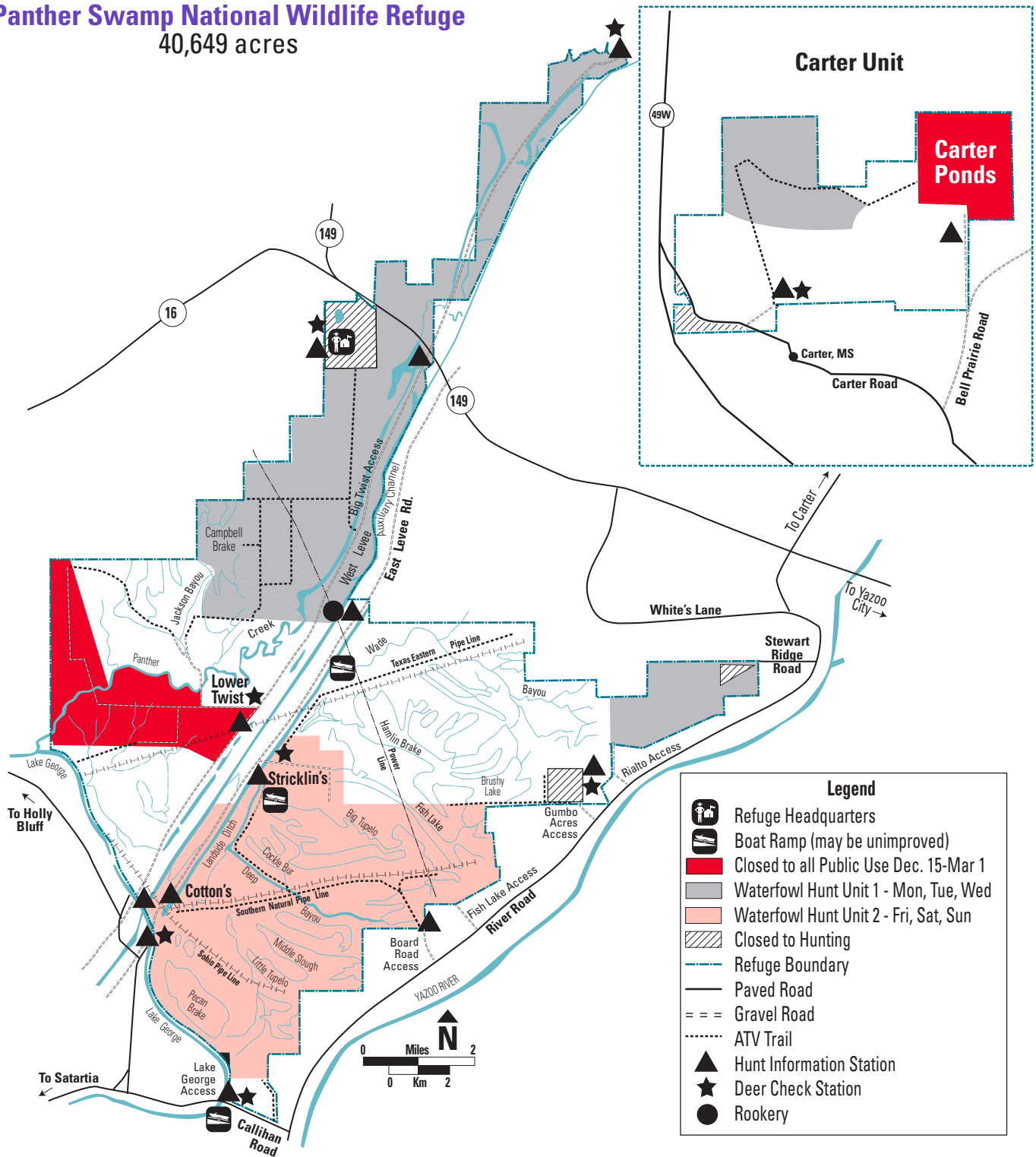
-  Waterfowl Sanctuary Area closed to all Public Use one day prior to the beginning of Waterfowl Season - March 1
- XXXX** Waterfowl Sanctuary Boundary
-  Waterfowl Hunt Area
-  Information/Check Station
-  Public Boat Ramp
-  Refuge Boundary
-  Paved Road
-  Gravel Road

Morgan Brake National Wildlife Refuge
7,463 acres



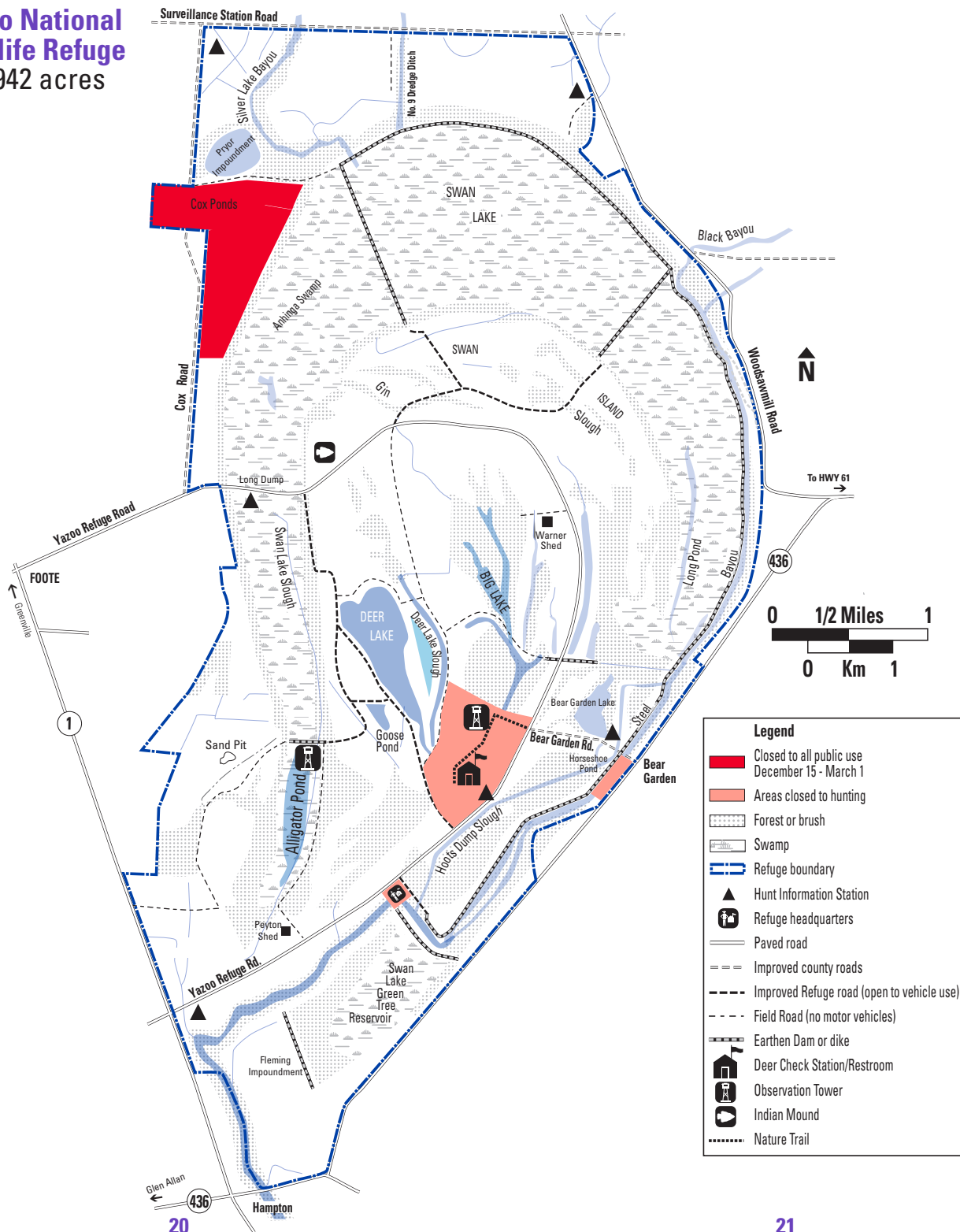
Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

40,649 acres



Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge

12,942 acres



Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex 2020-2021 Hunt Seasons • T R Complex Annual Public Use Permit Required. Limited Draw Hunts are highlighted • only drawn selectees are allowed on the Refuge on those dates.

Species	Hillside	Holt Collier	Mathews Brake	Morgan Brake	Panther Swamp	Yazoo
Youth – Deer Gun	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	11/27/20-11/28/20
Youth – Waterfowl	2/06/21-2/07/21	Closed	2/06/21-2/07/21	2/06/21-2/07/21	2/06/21-2/07/21	1/23/21 1/30/21
Senior Citizen – Deer Gun	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	12/18/20-12/19/20
Deer – Archery	10/01/20-12/01/20 12/16/20-1/31/21	10/01/20-12/01/20 12/16/20-1/31/21	10/01/20-1/31/21	10/01/20-12/01/20 12/16/20-1/31/21	10/01/20-11/20/20 11/24/20-12/01/20 12/15/20-1/31/21	10/01/20-11/20/20 1/02/21-1/15/21
Deer – Muzzleloader	12/02/20-12/15/20	12/02/20-12/15/20	Closed	12/02/20-12/15/20	12/02/20-12/07/20 12/09/20-12/14/20	12/04/20-12/05/20 12/07/20-12/08/20 12/11/20-12/12/20
Deer – Gun	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	11/21/20-11/23/20	Closed
Squirrel	10/01/20-12/01/20 12/16/20-2/28/21	Closed	10/01/20-2/28/21	10/01/20-12/01/20 12/16/20-2/28/21	10/12/20-11/20/20 11/24/20-12/01/20 12/15/20-2/28/21	10/12/20-11/20/20 2/01/21-2/28/21
Rabbit without Dogs	10/17/20-12/01/20 12/16/20-2/28/21	10/17/20-12/01/20 12/16/20-2/28/21	10/17/20-2/28/21	10/17/20-12/01/20 12/16/20-2/28/21	10/17/20-11/20/20 11/24/20-12/01/20 12/15/20-2/28/21	10/17/20-11/20/20 2/01/21-2/28/21
Rabbit with Dogs	2/01/21-2/28/21	2/01/21-2/28/21	2/01/21-2/28/21	2/01/21-2/28/21	2/01/21-2/28/21	2/01/21-2/28/21
Raccoon - Dogs Required	10/01/20-12/01/20 12/16/20-2/28/21	Closed	10/01/20-2/28/21	10/01/20-12/01/20 12/16/20-2/28/21	10/01/20-11/20/20 11/24/20-12/01/20 12/15/20-2/28/21	1/29/21-1/31/21
Turkey	3/26/21-3/28/21 4/9/21-4/11/21 4/23/21-4/25/21	Closed	Closed	Closed	4/01/21-5/01/21	Closed
Waterfowl	11/27/20–11/29/20 12/16/20-1/31/21	Closed	12/4/20 12/9/20-12/11/20 12/14/20-12/18/20 12/21/20-12/25/20 12/28/20-1/01/21 1/04/21-1/08/21 1/11/21-1/15/21 1/18/21-1/22/21 1/25/21-1/29/21	11/27/20-11/29/20 12/16/20-1/31/21	11/27/20-11/29/20 12/15/20-12/16/20 12/18/20-12/23/20 12/25/20-12/30/20 1/01/21-1/06/21 1/08/21-1/13/21 1/15/21-1/20/21 1/22/21-1/27/21 1/29/21-1/31/21	Closed
Frog	4/01/21-9/30/21	Closed	4/01/21-9/30/21	4/01/21-9/30/21	4/01/21-9/30/21	Closed

Mathews Brake Waterfowl – Limited Draw 11/27-11/29; 12/5-6; 12/12-13; 12/19-20; 12/26-27, 2020; 1/2-3; 1/9-10; 1/16-17; 1/23-24; 1/30-31, 2021. Refuge resumes normal hours beginning at 1PM during these dates.

US Fish & Wildlife Service
Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex
yazoo@fws.gov

Panther Swamp NWR
12595 MS Highway 149
Yazoo City, MS 39194
662/836 3004
www.fws.gov/refuge/panther_swamp

Morgan Brake NWR
1562 Providence Road
Cruger, MS 38924
662/235 4989
www.fws.gov/refuge/morgan_brake
www.fws.gov/refuge/hillside
www.fws.gov/refuge/mathews_brake

Yazoo NWR
595 Yazoo Refuge Road
Hollandale, MS 38748
662/839 2638
www.fws.gov/refuge/yazoo
www.fws.gov/refuge/holt_collier
www.fws.gov/refuge/theodore_roosevelt

July 2020

