

# North Mississippi Refuges Complex:

**Coldwater River,  
Dahomey, Tallahatchie**

*National Wildlife Refuges  
Hunting & Fishing  
Regulations 2016-2017*

**This is Not a Permit**



## **General Information**

In 1989, the North Mississippi Refuges Complex (Complex) was established to manage U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands in the northern twenty-six counties of Mississippi. With its headquarters in Grenada, the Complex is responsible for the management of Coldwater River, Dahomey and Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuges, plus smaller fee-title properties and floodplain and conservation easements. The habitat consists of bottomland hardwoods, early successional reforestation areas, agricultural fields, and moist soil units.

In order to provide traditional recreational opportunities, public hunting and fishing are permitted in designated areas during specific times of the year at a level compatible with the environment. Certain areas of the Complex may be closed for sanctuary or administrative purposes. Please refer to Refuge maps.

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting the North Mississippi Refuges Complex, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations.

## **General Refuge Regulations**

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuge areas as set forth in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing are in accordance with applicable state regulations subject to the following special conditions:

Individuals utilizing the Refuge are subject to inspection of permits, licenses, hunting and fishing equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by Service or state officers.

Each hunter must complete a Daily User Visitor Card (OMB Control Number 1018-0140) and display it on the dash of the vehicle so that the name is legible and clearly visible from the outside. Prior to leaving the Refuge, the card must be completed and deposited at one of the Hunter Information Stations. If hunting deer or turkey, record the number harvested ("0" if no game harvested) and the sex and size data in the appropriate blocks. If hunting any other species, write in the name of the species next to "other" and the number harvested ("0" if no game is harvested).

**Incorrect information reported on Daily User Visitor Cards or Daily User Visitor Cards that are not turned in after hunting could result in a Violation Notice and/or a seizure and/or forfeiture of harvested game.**

A hunter cannot possess more than one Daily User Visitor Card at a time.

All Refuge lands are open during daylight hours only with the exception of legal hunting activities.

### *Permit Information*

Hunters and anglers sixteen years of age and older are required to have a \$15 Refuge Hunting & Fishing Permit and all required state licenses in possession at all times while hunting or fishing on Refuge property. All waterfowl hunters sixteen years of age and older must possess a signed federal and a state waterfowl stamp.

All persons under 16 years of age, while hunting on the Refuges, must be in the presence and under the direct supervision of a licensed or exempt hunter at least twenty-one (21) years of age, when hunting. A licensed hunter supervising a youth as provided in this section must hold all required licenses and permits.

A North Mississippi Refuges Complex Hunting & Fishing Permit can be purchased from any state license vendor or from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks website at <http://www.mdwfp.com/license/hunting-license.aspx>.

When purchasing the North Mississippi NWR Permit ask for code 606. The permit is good one year from the date of purchase.

### *Hours*

General Refuge hours are sunrise to sunset. During hunting season, hunters may enter the Refuge at 4 am and must exit the Refuge no later than two hours after sunset except during raccoon and frog hunts.

### *Restricted and/or Closed Areas*

It is unlawful to hunt from or shoot into 100' zone along either side of designated roads and parking lots (see maps).

Vehicles must not obstruct roads, gates, turn rows, field access ramps, or fire lanes and must be only operated on designated roads.

Temporary or permanent closure of Refuge areas may occur due to unforeseen circumstances and not be in this brochure. Please check for on the ground signage and/or updates at check stations/kiosks and entry points.

### *Check Stations or Kiosks*

Kiosks are located at most points of entry into the Refuges. Brochures, Daily Visitor Use Cards, return boxes, and updates on Refuge regulations may be found at the kiosks.

### *All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV), Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) and Boats*

ATVs and/or UTVs cannot be used/possessed/carried in the back of trucks or trailers on Refuge lands.

Boats may not be stored overnight on the Refuge.

### *Mobility Impaired Persons*

Special facilities are available to mobility impaired hunters at Dahomey NWR only. A mobility impaired hunter is defined as a person (1) permanently confined to a wheelchair, crutches, or a walker or (2) a single- or double-leg amputee. Please contact the Complex headquarters for more information.

### *Pets/Animals*

Dogs are allowed for hunting migratory birds, squirrels, rabbits, quail, and raccoons during designated seasons only. The use of dogs is encouraged to retrieve dead or wounded waterfowl. Dogs must remain in the control of their handlers at all times. Dogs should be tagged with owner's name and contact information. Dogs are not allowed on Refuge properties outside of hunting season. All other domestic animals are prohibited.

### *Weapons*

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 regulations (50 CFR 27.42) and specific Refuge regulations (50 CFR Part 32).

All weapons authorized under state law are allowed for Refuge hunts.

### *State Bag Limits*

State season bag and possession limits apply unless otherwise stated. Consult current Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Regulations for details ([www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com)).

### *Big Game*

Buckshot may not be used for deer hunts.

### *Deer Stands*

It is illegal to construct or hunt from any permanent stands or blinds on the Refuge. Valid permit holders are allowed to possess and hunt from one portable stand or blind on the Refuge. All stands on the Refuge must be identified with hunter's name and phone number permanently and legibly written on or attached to the stand. Stands left on the area do not reserve hunting locations. Stands may be placed two days prior to the hunt and must be removed two days after the Refuge's deer season closes. Stands not in compliance with these regulations may be confiscated and disposed of by the Refuge staff.

Deer stands and/or steps cannot be nailed to trees nor can any blind or stand be attached to a tree by any metal object driven, screwed, or otherwise inserted into the tree.

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

### *Fluorescent-Orange*

During the Refuge deer firearm season to include primitive weapons and youth gun hunt all hunters and visitors on the Refuge except waterfowl hunters and nighttime raccoon hunters must wear in full view a minimum of 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange.

Deer archery hunters on the Refuge must also wear in full view a minimum of 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange from November 7-18.

When hunting quail or rabbit on a Refuge outside the Refuge's general gun and primitive weapon season, hunters must wear a fluorescent orange vest or cap.

### *Agriculture and Open Fields*

Deer hunting during general gun and primitive weapon seasons is prohibited in agriculture and open fields. See map for designated agriculture and open fields.

### *Small Game*

All hunters using shotguns for small game must use approved non-toxic shot. Small game also may be hunted with .22 magnum, .17 and .22 caliber rimfire rifles and archery equipment using arrows with points other than broadheads.

### *Migratory Game Birds*

Migratory game bird hunting (ducks, teal, mergansers, coots, and geese) is allowed during specified state season on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, thirty minutes before sunrise until noon. After duck, merganser, and coot season closes, light geese may be hunted on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays until noon during the time period and manner defined in the Light Geese Conservation Order. A free permit number (along with a Refuge permit) is required to hunt light geese during the Conservation Order. Permit numbers are issued by the State of Mississippi and obtained by calling (601/432 2199, Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm).

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

### *Decoys & Blinds*

Decoys, duck blinds and spent shells(hulls) must be removed from the hunting area following each day's hunt.

### **Prohibited Activities**

- All commercial activities including guiding or participating in a paid guided hunt.
- Searching for or removing any object of archeological or historical significance including arrowheads, pottery, or other artifacts, as well as any natural materials such as plants, mushrooms, berries, and antler sheds.
- Commercial fishing.
- 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 any drug or device for employing such drug for hunting.
- Use of flagging tape, bright eyes, or other trail marking devices.
- Use or possession of alcohol.
- Fire, camping, or littering.
- Organized drives for deer/big game.
- Baiting, possession of bait in the field, and hunting over bait.
- Removal or destruction of any trees, or part of tree to include removal of tree limbs, plants, or other vegetation on the Refuge for any reason.

- Overnight parking.
- Target shooting.
- Any form of snagging of fish.
- Field dressing game (hogs included) within 300 feet of any road, trail or parking lot.
- Leaving personal property except legal deer stands on Refuge.

### **Youth Hunts**

Youth eligible to participate are those under sixteen (16) years of age. Youth may use a rifle during the Refuge's deer primitive weapon season. Other Refuge hunts may occur during the youth hunt date if the hunting season is open (see attached hunting season dates).

### **Other Regulations**

Hunting and fishing north of Mississippi Highway 8 is prohibited on Tallahatchie NWR.

Beaver, nutria, coyote, and feral hogs may be taken during Refuge hunts with the appropriate weapon for that hunt.

### **Other Refuge Lands**

Approximately 4,500 acres acquired through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and open to small game hunting of rabbit, squirrel, and quail only.

All hunting regulations apply. Properties include:

Bolivar County – Goss (543 acres), Hester III (386 acres) & Watts (214 acres)

Quitman County – Trainor (228 acres), Trainor (219 acres), Starr (750 acres), Starr (320 acres), & Savage (40 acres)

Tallahatchie County – Schiele (40 acres) & Castleberry (94 acres)

Sunflower County – Lindsey (204 acres), Povall (180 acres), Povall (80 acres), Povall (422 acres) & Walker (42 acres)

Marshall County – Smith (232 acres)

Leflore County –Robertson (655 acres), Scott (80 acres). Please see maps.

## **General Fishing Regulations**

All federal and state regulations governing boating, creel limits, and license requirements must be followed by Refuge anglers.

Trotlines, yoyo's and limb lines are permitted for recreational use only. All trotlines, yoyo's and limb lines must be checked every 24 hours.

End of trotlines must be attached by a length of cotton line which extends into the water. Trotlines lacking cotton line or having exposed hooks are subject to removal by the Refuge staff.

## **Specific Fishing Regulations**

### *Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge*

Fishing is permitted south of Mississippi Highway 8 only.

### *Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge*

Fishing is permitted in the borrow pits only.

### *Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge*

Fishing is permitted in Happy Hollow Lake. Only unmotorized boats maybe used.

### *Other Refuge Lands*

Fishing is permitted north of the Corps levee on the Robertson (655 acres) tract in Leflore County, Trainor (219) tract, Lindsey (204) tract in Sunflower County, and Starr (750) tract in Quitman County.

## Signs Protect Visitors and Resources

Millions of people visit National Wildlife Refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs help control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the Refuge. Please respect the following signs:



This sign delineates the Refuge boundary. Entry is permitted only for authorized uses in accordance with Refuge regulations. It is your responsibility to know where the property lines are and hunt within the boundaries.



This area is closed to all entry. No roads or trails are open to the public.

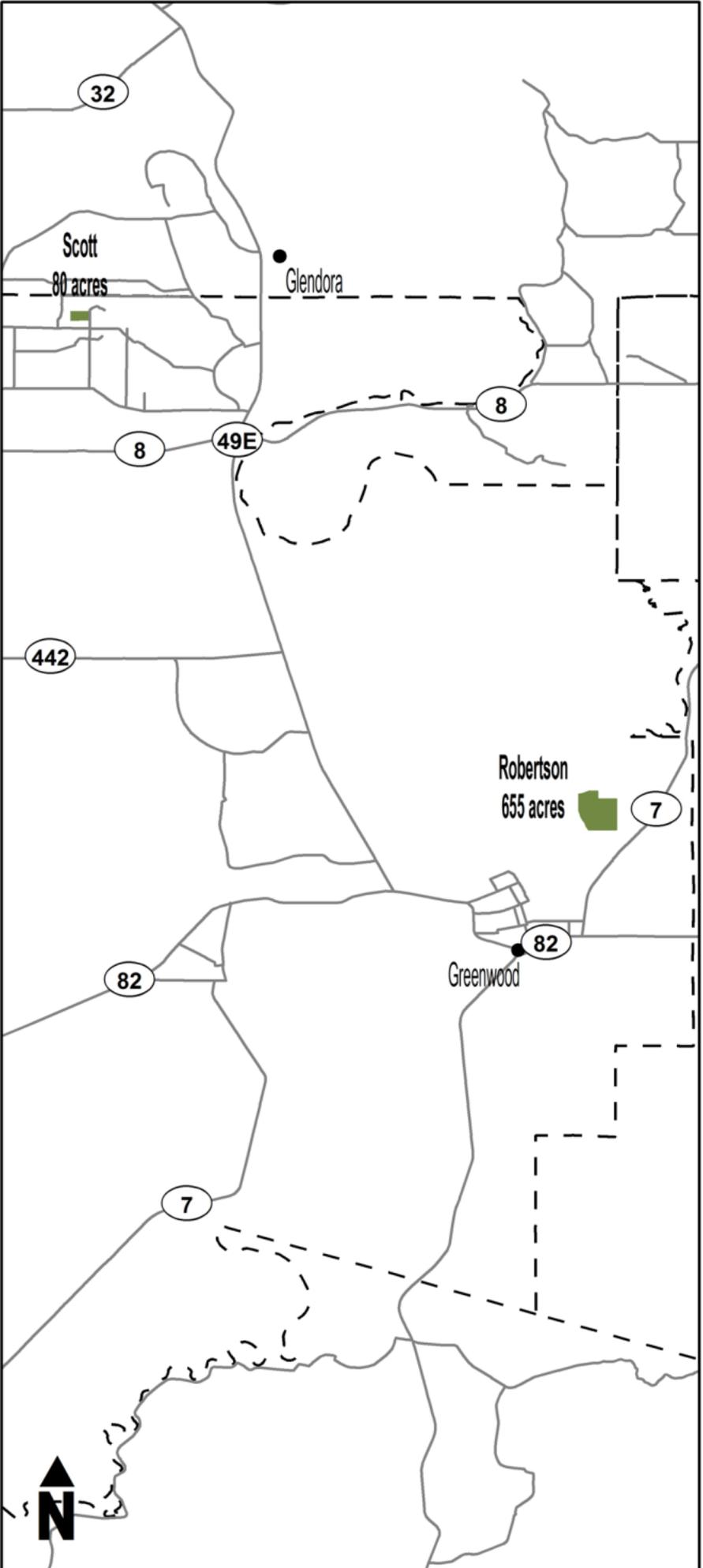


This area is closed to all hunting. Firearms and archery equipment are strictly prohibited.

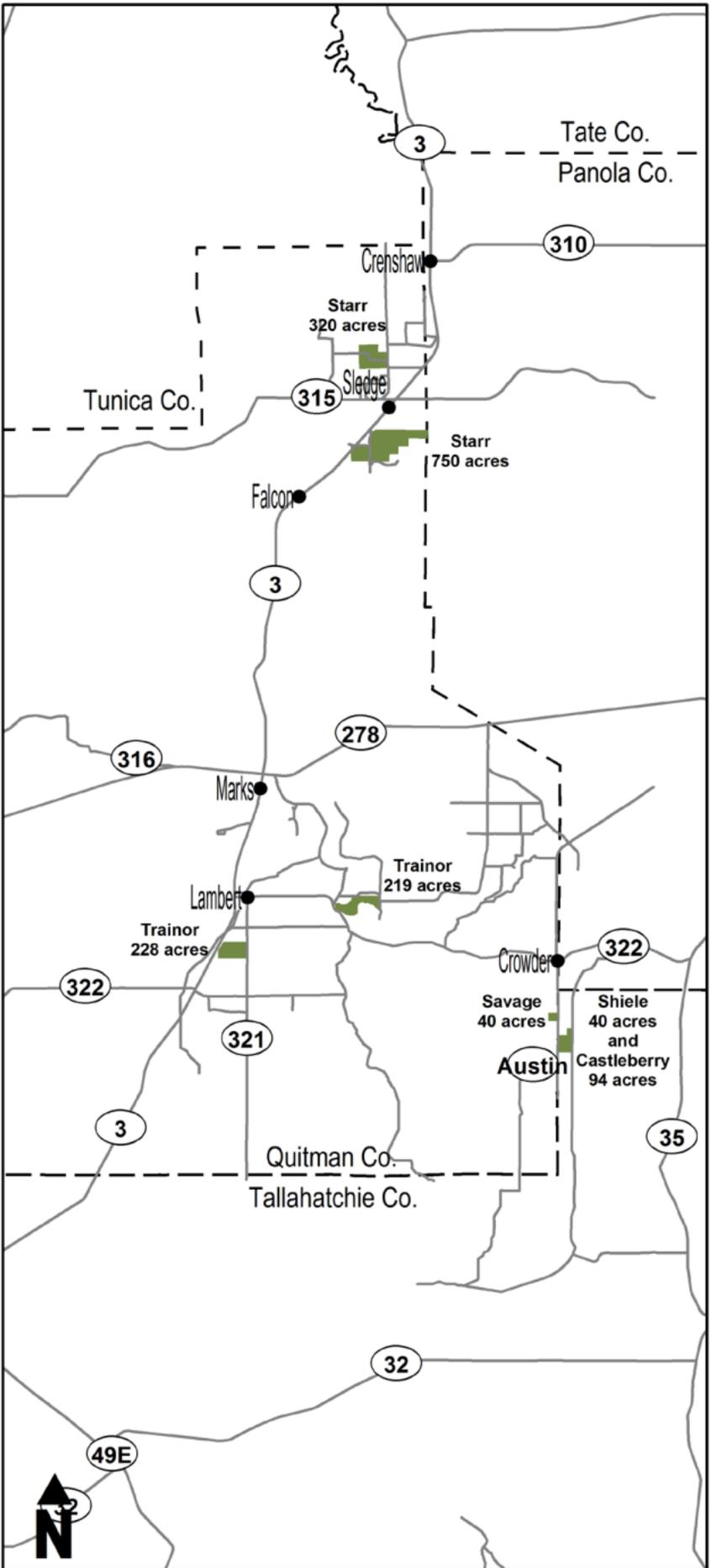
## 2016-2017 N Mississippi Refuges Complex Hunting Season

Species	Season Dates	Specific Regulations
Squirrel	October 1, 2016 - February 28, 2017 May 15 - June 1, 2017	
Squirrel – Youth Hunt	State Season	See Youth Section
Rabbit	State Season	
Raccoon	January 1 - February 28, 2017	Dogs required. Special Use Permit required. Contact Refuge Manager.
Quail	State Season	
Frogs	April 1, 2017 - September 30, 2017	Special Use Permit required. Contact Refuge Manager.
Deer Youth Hunt	November 26 - 27, 2016	General Gun - Either sex.
Deer Archery	October 1 - November 18, 2016	Either sex. Fluorescent orange requirement November 9 - 20, 2016
Deer Primitive Weapon	December 3 - 18, 2016	Either sex.
Deer General Gun	December 19 - January 1, 2017	Either sex.
Turkey	Closed	Dahomey NWR only
Migratory Game Birds: Ducks, Teal, Mergansers, Coots, and Geese	State Season	Open <b>Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday</b> ; 30 minutes before sunrise until noon. Only approved non-toxic shot may be used or possessed. After duck, merganser, and coot season closes, light geese may be hunted daily until noon as specified in the Light Geese Conservation Order (see Migratory Game Birds section for more information).
Waterfowl Youth Hunt	State Season	Same regulations apply.
Feral Hogs, Coyotes, Beaver, and Nutria		May be taken incidental to an open hunt with weapon appropriate for that hunt.

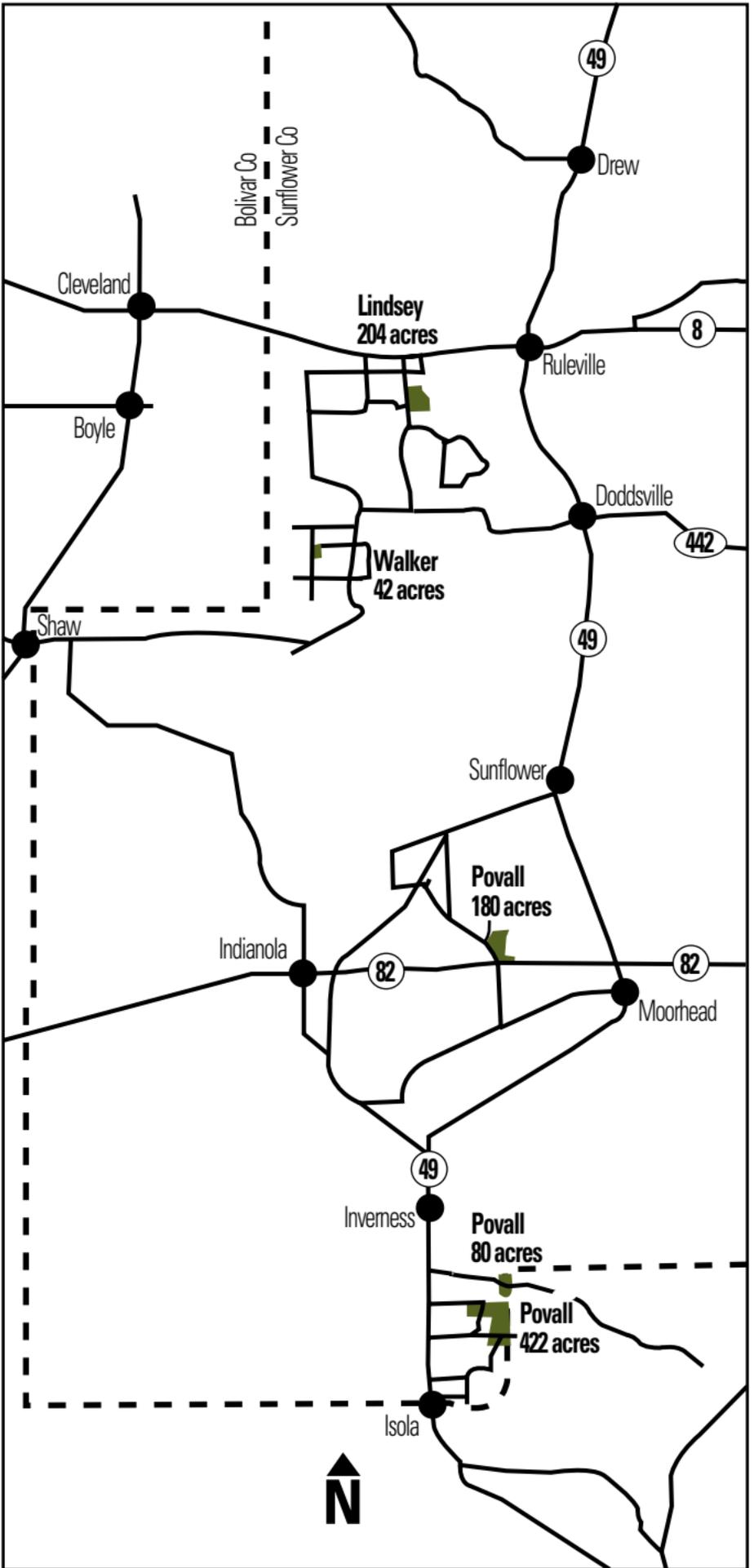
All deer hunting on Refuge lands is closed other than dates listed above.



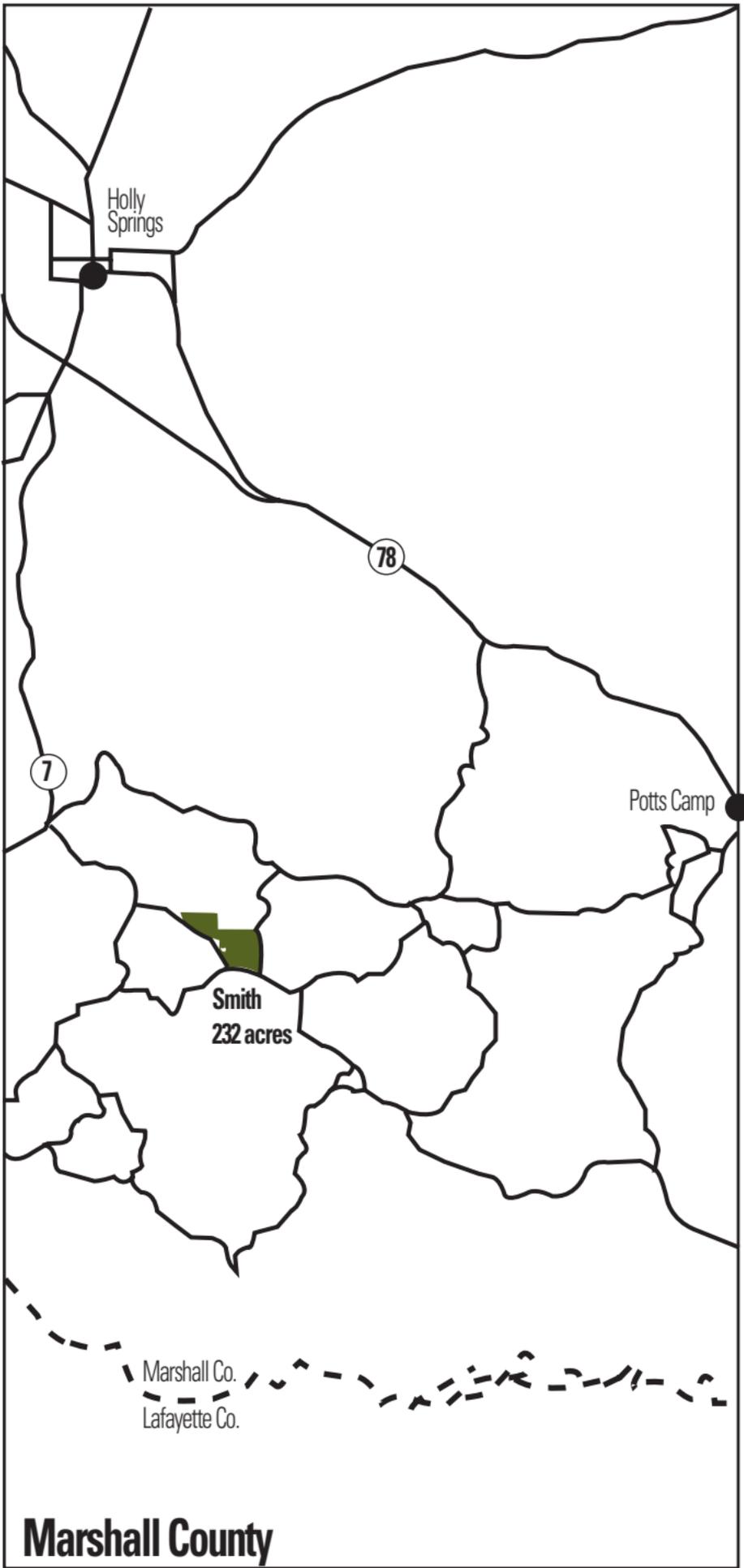
**Leflore County**



## Quitman and Tallahatchie Counties



# Sunflower County



Holly Springs

78

7

Potts Camp

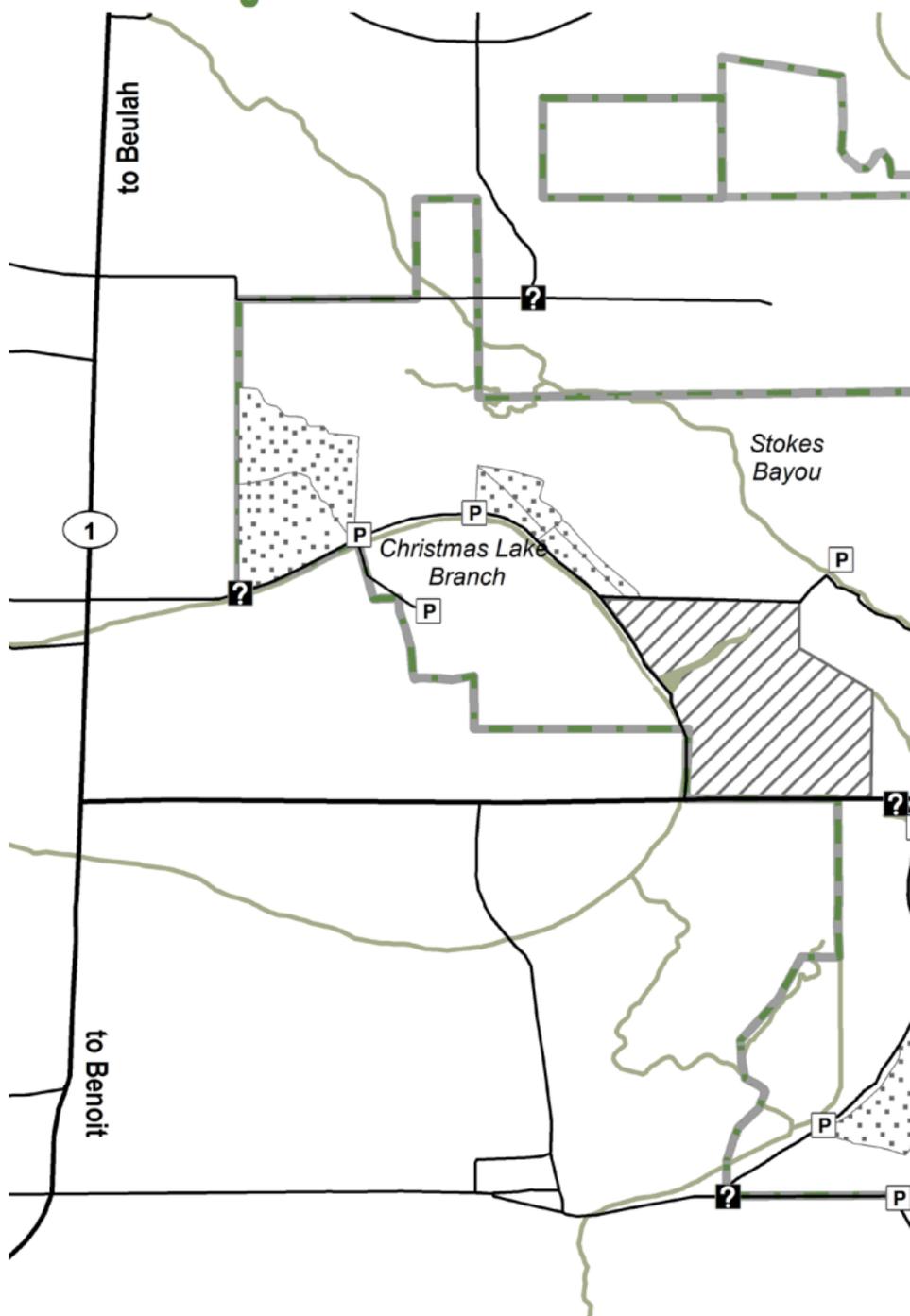
Smith  
232 acres

Marshall Co.  
Lafayette Co.

**Marshall County**



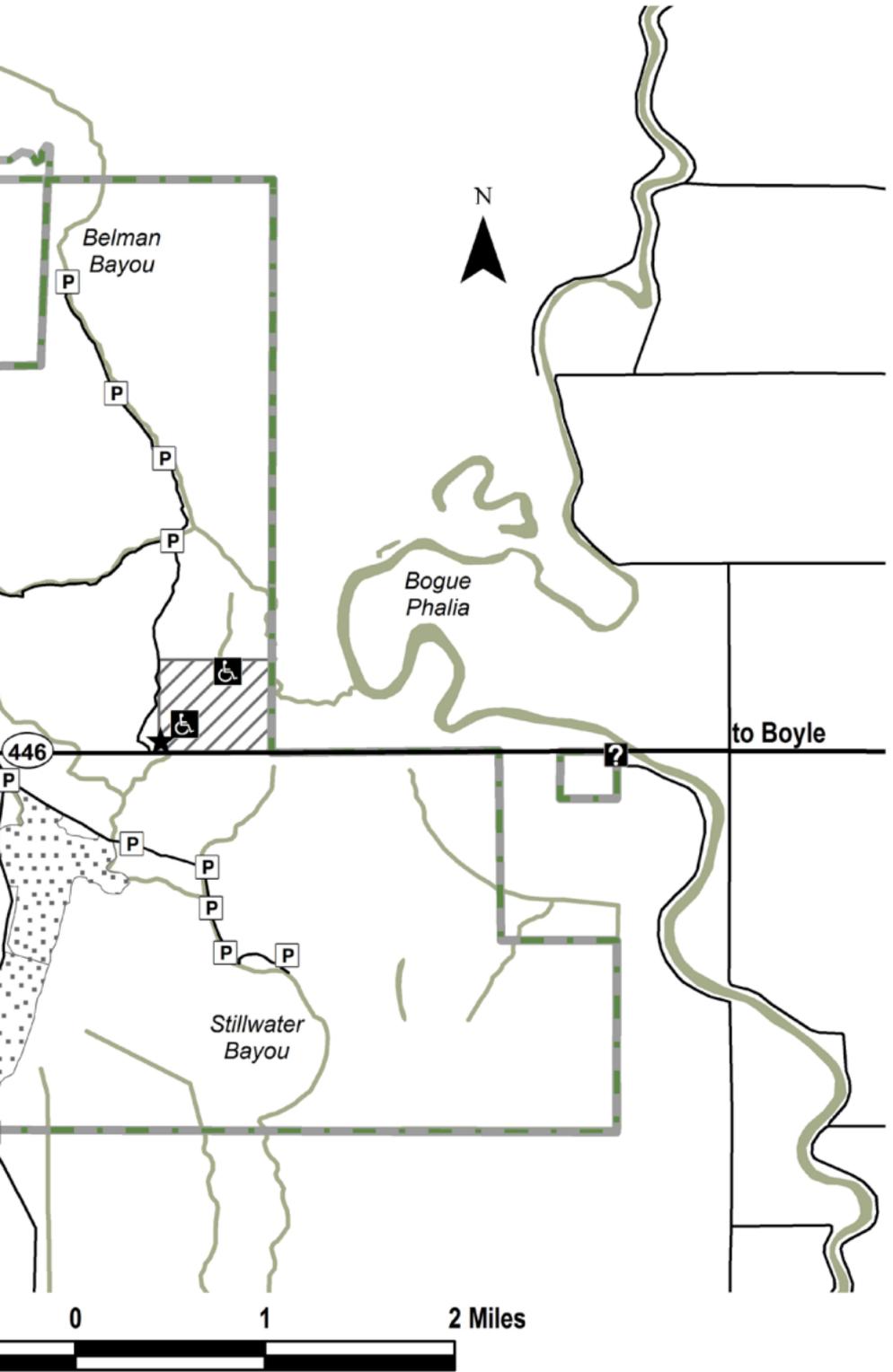
# Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge



## Legend

- |   |                            |   |                           |
|---|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
|   | Closed to Hunting          |  | Refuge Boundary           |
|   | Water                      |  | Paved Road                |
|   | Open Field                 |  | Gravel Road               |
|  | Refuge Headquarters        |  | Parking                   |
|  | Hunter Information Station |  | Handicapped Hunting Blind |





Belman Bayou

Bogue Phalia

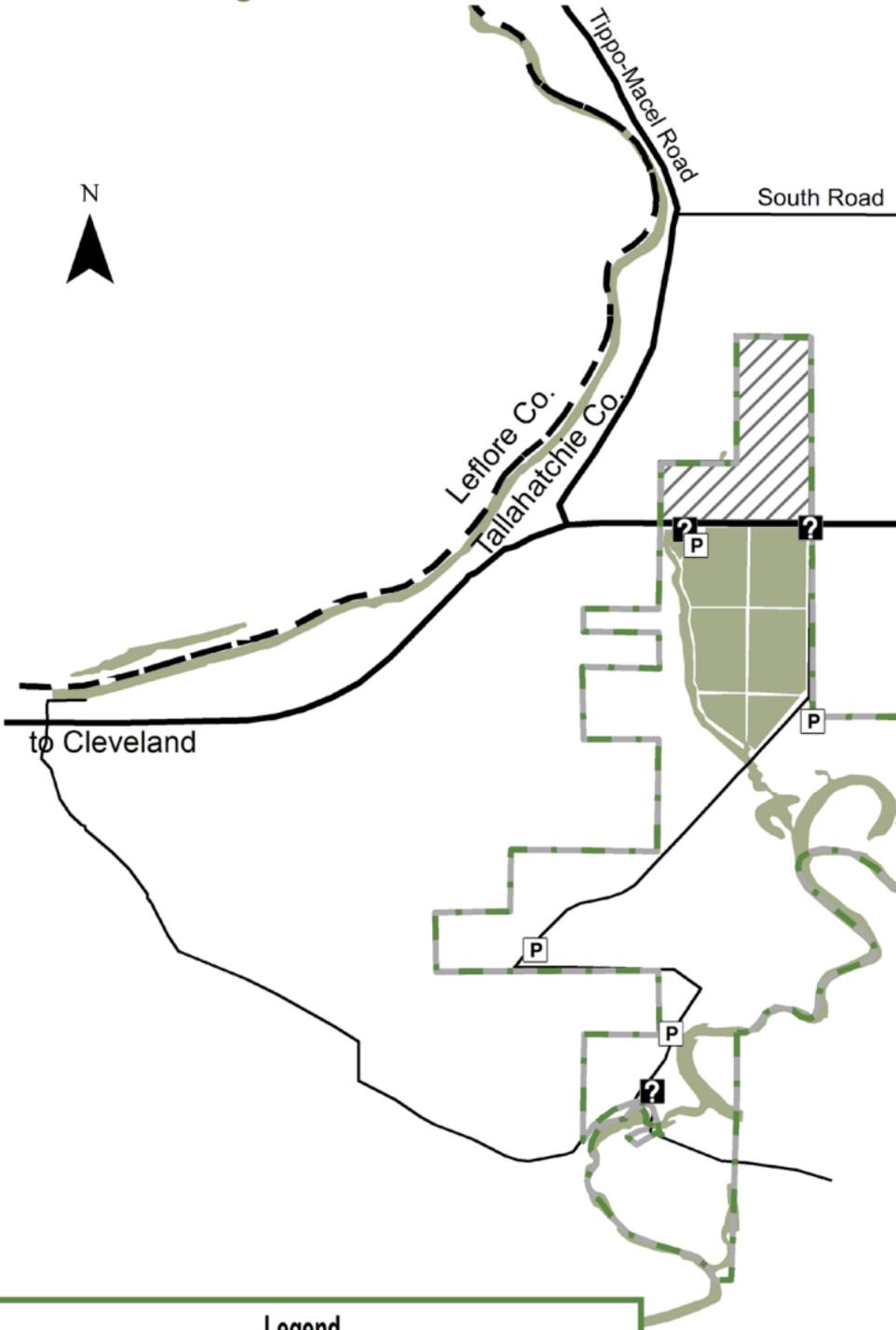
Stillwater Bayou

to Boyle

446

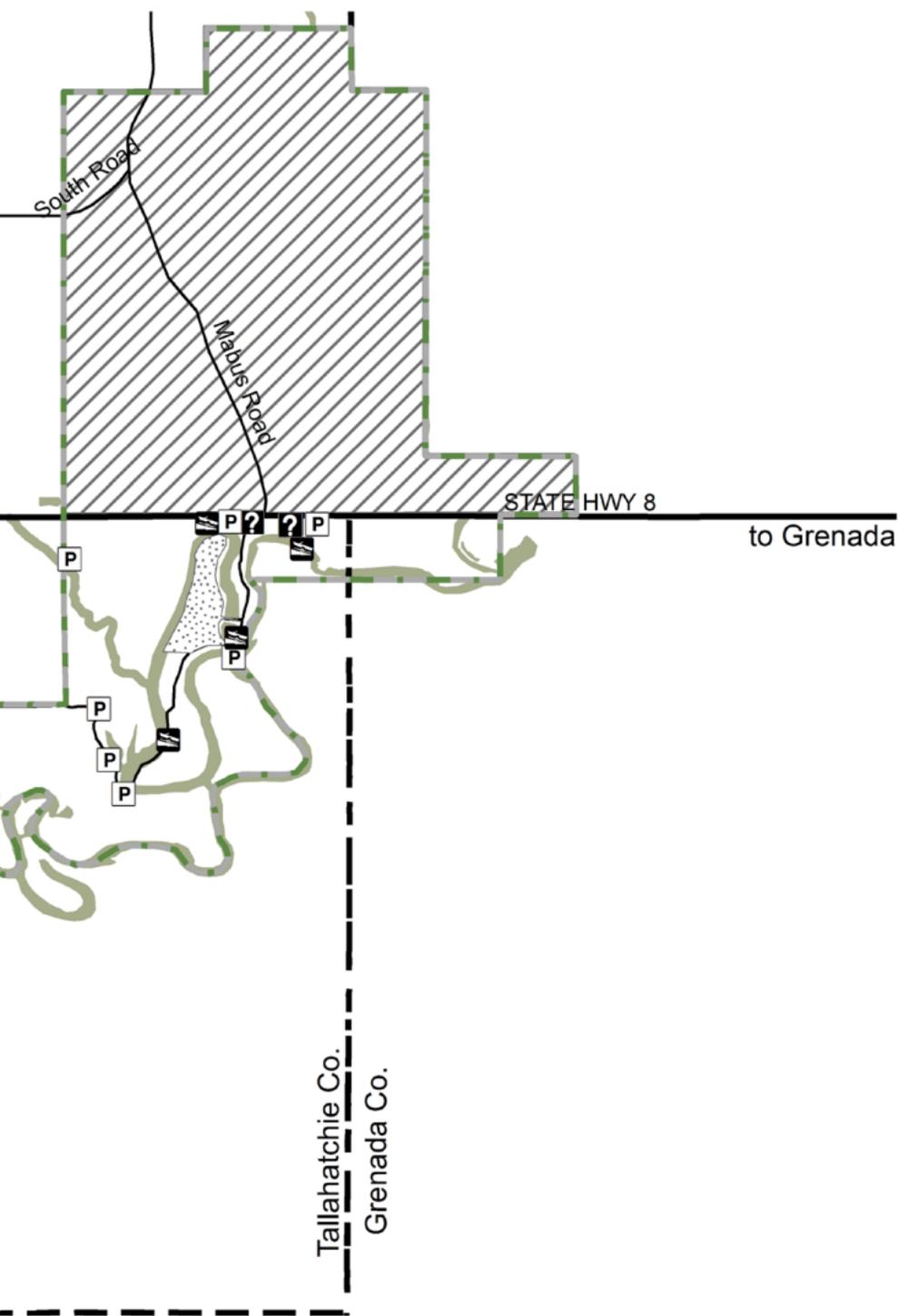
0 1 2 Miles

# Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge

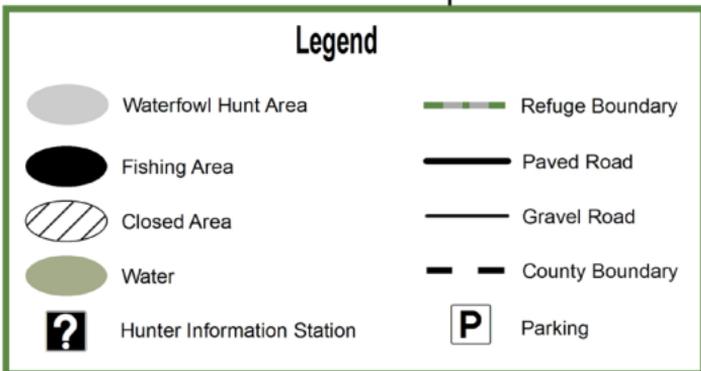
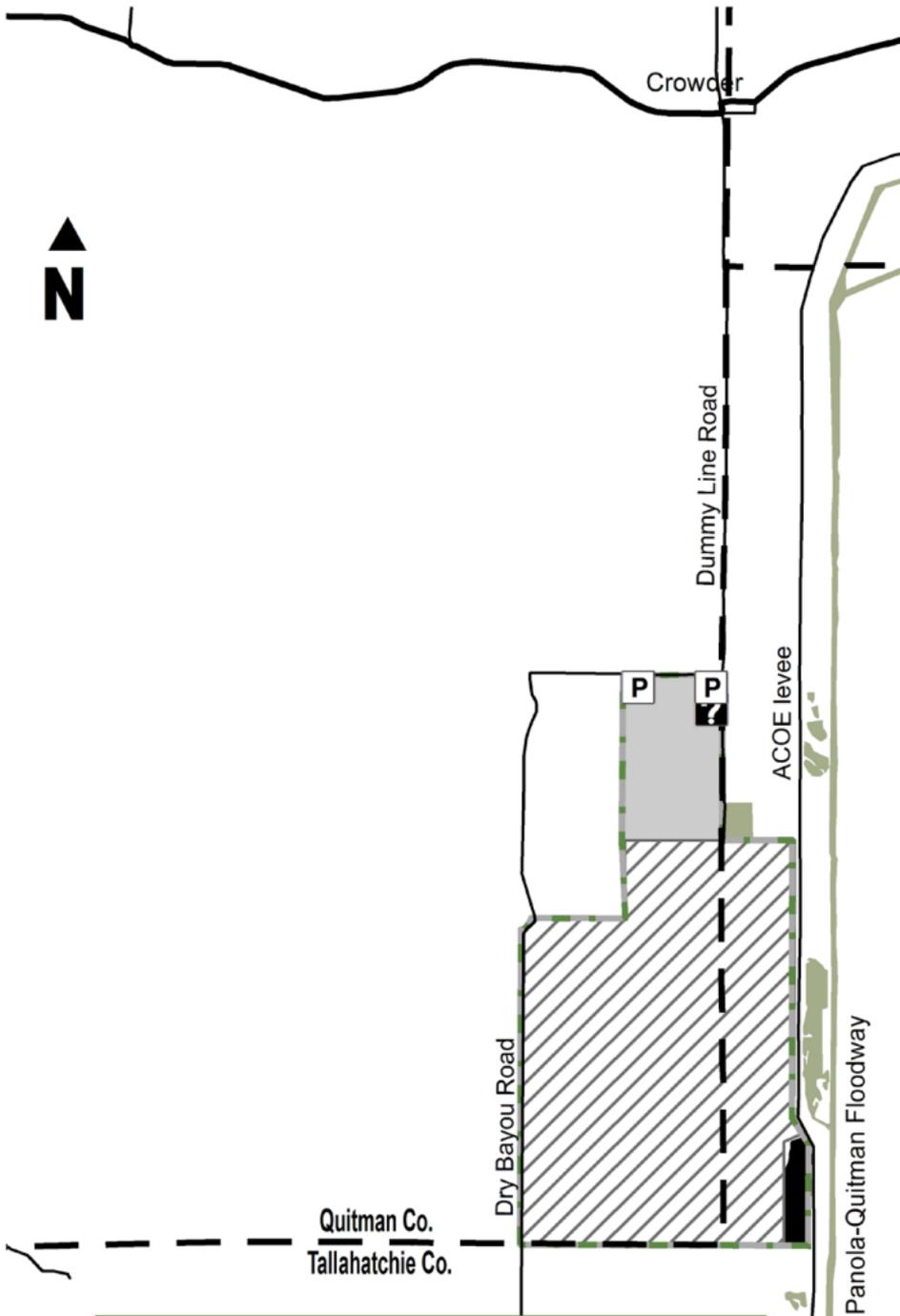


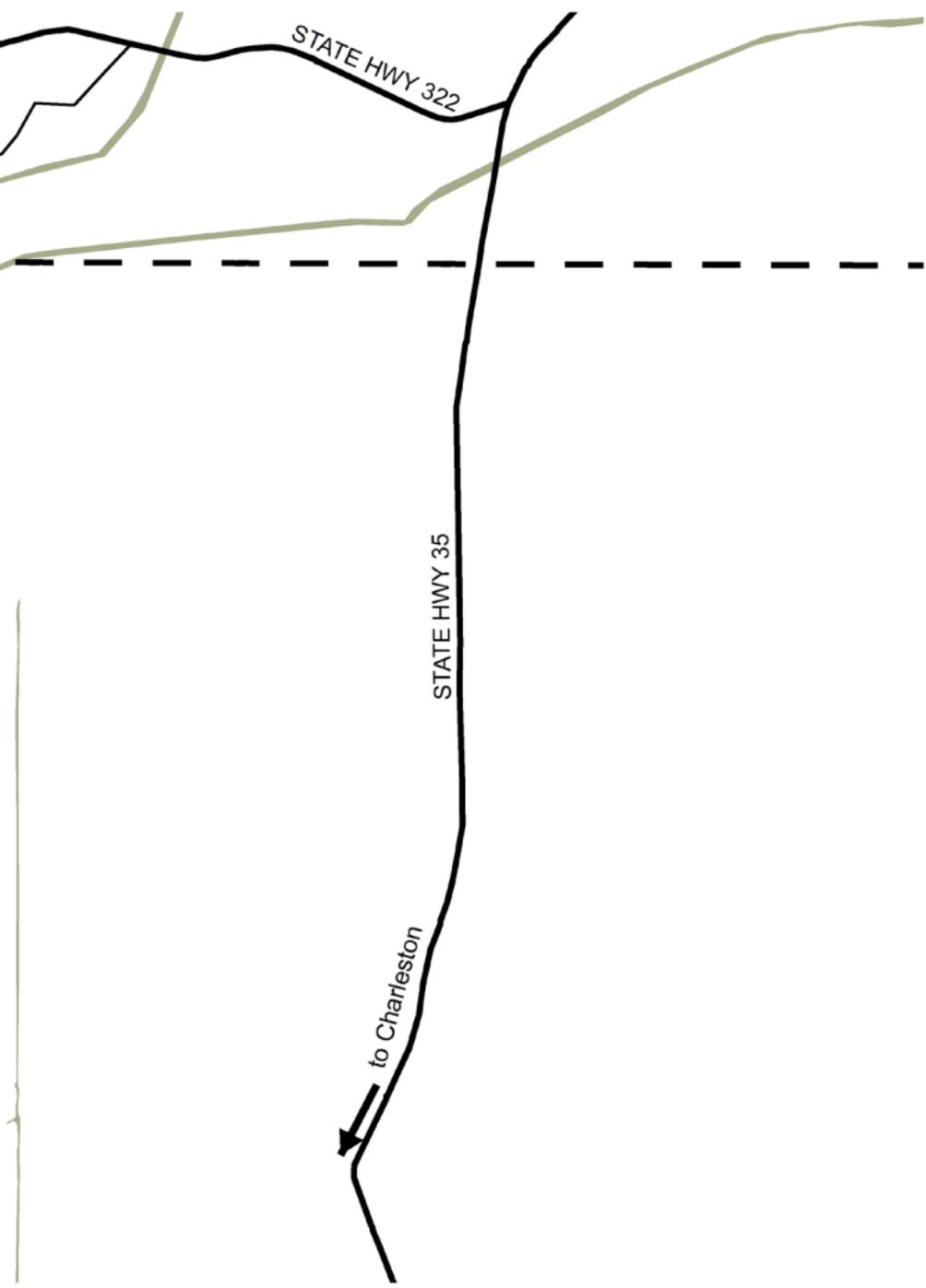
Legend			
	Closed Area		Refuge Boundary
	Water		Paved Road
	Open Field		Gravel Road
	Boat ramp		County Boundary
	Hunter Information Station		Parking





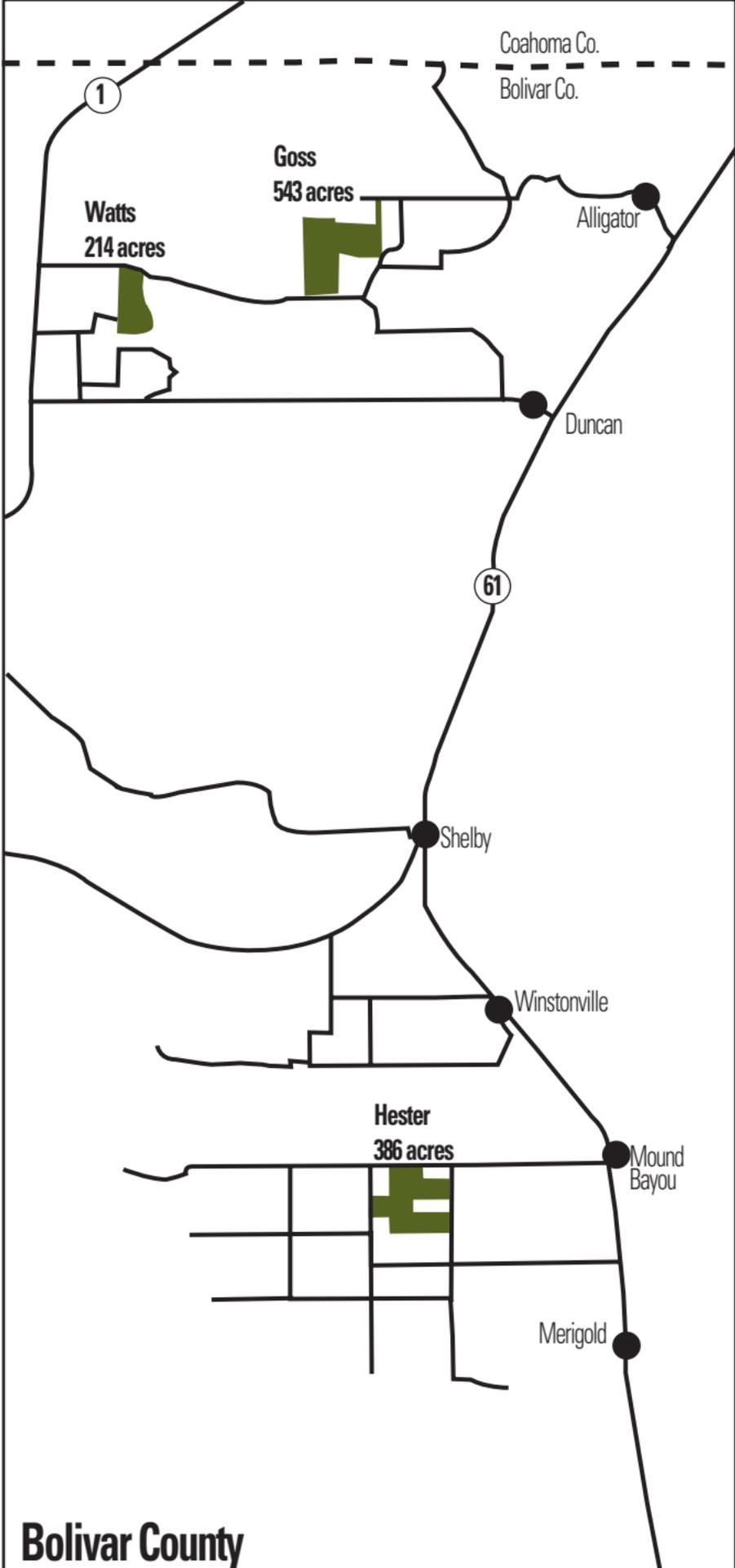
# Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge





0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles





**Bolivar County**



**North Mississippi Refuges Complex**  
**P.O. Box 1070**  
**2776 Sunset Drive**  
**Grenada, MS 38901**  
**Phone: 662/226 8286**  
**Fax: 662/226 8488**  
**<http://southeast.fws.gov>**

**Department of the Interior**  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**1 800/ 344 WILD**

**July 2016**

