

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Seneey

National Wildlife Refuge



In 1935 Seney National Wildlife Refuge was established as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. Today, Seney supports a variety of wildlife, including endangered and reintroduced species. Located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Seney is a great place to watch wildlife!



Visitor Center

Seney is for People, Too!

The Visitor Center is open daily from May 15 to October 15, 9:00 am-5:00 pm. Exhibits, an orientation slide show, a bookstore, and friendly staff will help you plan your visit.

Marshland Wildlife Drive

A 7-mile, one-way auto tour route takes visitors alongside wetlands and meadows and through forests. Three observation decks with viewing scopes make this a great wildlife watching opportunity.

Pine Ridge Nature Trail

Starting from the Visitor Center, this 1-mile looped trail takes visitors through a variety of habitats. Songbirds and beavers are common sightings along this trail.

Backcountry

Many miles of trails are available for hiking and biking through the backcountry of the refuge. For those who seek wildlife and solitude, these trails are for you. Certain roads may be closed to all entry during peak migration periods. Check with the visitor center concerning closed areas.

T. & J. Reuther



Canoeing

Enjoy a day of paddling along the Manistique River, which flows through the southern part of the refuge. Canoe outfitters are located in Germfask. Use is limited to daylight hours with no overnight camping allowed. Please, no canoes on refuge pools or marshes.

T. & J. Reuther



Nature Programs & School Groups

Programs and special events are offered during the season, May 15 to October 15. Call the refuge for a nature program schedule. Naturalist-led field trip programs are available on a reservation basis.

Highbush Cranberries.

T. & J. Reuther



Winter Activities

The Northern Hardwoods Cross-Country Ski Area offers over nine miles of groomed trails. Snowshoeing is allowed anywhere except on the ski trails.

Wilderness Area

For the more adventuresome, a 25,150-acre wilderness area is found on the western side of the refuge. Open to day use only, this truly wild section of the refuge is primarily wetland, and difficult to access.



T. & J. Reuther

Please Obey These Special Rules

- Daylight use only.
- Dogs allowed on a leash.
- No camping or overnight parking is allowed.
- Off-road vehicles are prohibited.
- Open fires are not allowed.

Other Refuge Activities

Anglers can fish along the 3-mile *Fishing Loop*, or at the accessible fishing pier. Fish species found on the Refuge include: northern pike, yellow perch, brown bullhead, brook trout, and pumpkinseed. To protect the trumpeter swan and common loon, lead sinkers cannot be used on the refuge. *See the fishing brochure for current regulations.*

Fishing



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Hunting

Ruffed grouse, woodcock, snowshoe hare, deer, and bear may be hunted during some state seasons. *Please see the hunting brochure for current regulations.*

Mushroom & Berry Picking

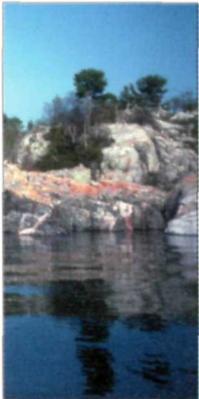
The refuge is open to the picking of morel mushrooms, blueberries, and other wild foods and fruits.

Spillway System



T. & J. Reuther

Wildlife Management Tools



Huron Island

Migratory Birds



Sandhill Crane
J. Mattson

Managing for Wildlife

Water levels on over 7,000 acres of refuge habitat are managed using a system of spillways, called water control structures, and dikes. Visitors on the wildlife drive see this management first hand as they drive by the pools and over the spillways.

High water levels protect fish populations during the winter; protect nesting birds from predation, and regulate vegetation growth. Low water levels create mudflats for cranes and other birds, enhance feeding opportunities for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds, and make fish more accessible to osprey and bald eagles.

Prescribed burns, river and wetland restoration, mowing, and forest management are used by the refuge to maintain healthy and diverse wildlife habitats.

Distant Refuges

Seney National Wildlife Refuge also manages distant refuges from the main office. Information about the following refuges can be obtained from the Seney staff.

- Huron Islands NWR - Lake Superior, established 1905
- Harbor Island NWR - Lake Huron, established 1983
- Whitefish Point NWR, established 1997

Seney is for Wildlife!

About the time the ice melts off the pools, Seney's summer wildlife residents are returning to their nesting grounds. Canada geese are usually the first to arrive in late-March to early-April. Their familiar honking is a welcome sign that spring is near. Close behind are sandhill cranes and red-winged blackbirds. Common loons arrive after all the ice has melted.



Eastern Kingbird,
Denomme

Success Stories



Trumpeter Swans
Denomme



Loon and Chick
©Carl Sams

Wildlife Watching



The refuge's many species of songbirds are some of the last to arrive. By the end of May, birdwatchers will be delighted with the variety of birds. The best time to listen for birds is late May to early June.

In the fall, peak waterfowl migration occurs from the end of September through October. Loons are some of the earliest to leave in September. By the end of October most migratory birds have left the refuge for their wintering grounds.

At Seney, the trumpeter swan is a true success story. In 1991 and 1992 captive-reared swans were released. Excellent habitat and food sources have allowed the swans to flourish. Today trumpeter swans, the largest North American waterfowl, are a common sight on the refuge.

Common loons have been banded and monitored on the refuge since 1987. Due to clear water, plentiful food, and areas with little disturbance, the refuge is a successful breeding ground. As increasing development threatens the loon's habitat, Seney refuge is a very important nesting area.

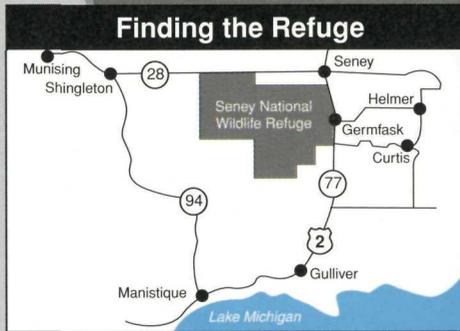
Wildlife abounds in the refuge's forests, marshes, pools, creeks, rivers, and bogs. Wildlife enthusiasts may see beaver, river otter, white-tailed deer, black bear, coyote, fox, muskrat, mink, snapping and painted turtles, frogs, and insects. Patience and knowing where to look for these creatures is key to seeing them. Refuge staff and volunteers at the Visitor Center will gladly provide you with helpful wildlife watching tips.

Doe and Fawn (above)
Denomme

Painted Turtle
K. Sommerer

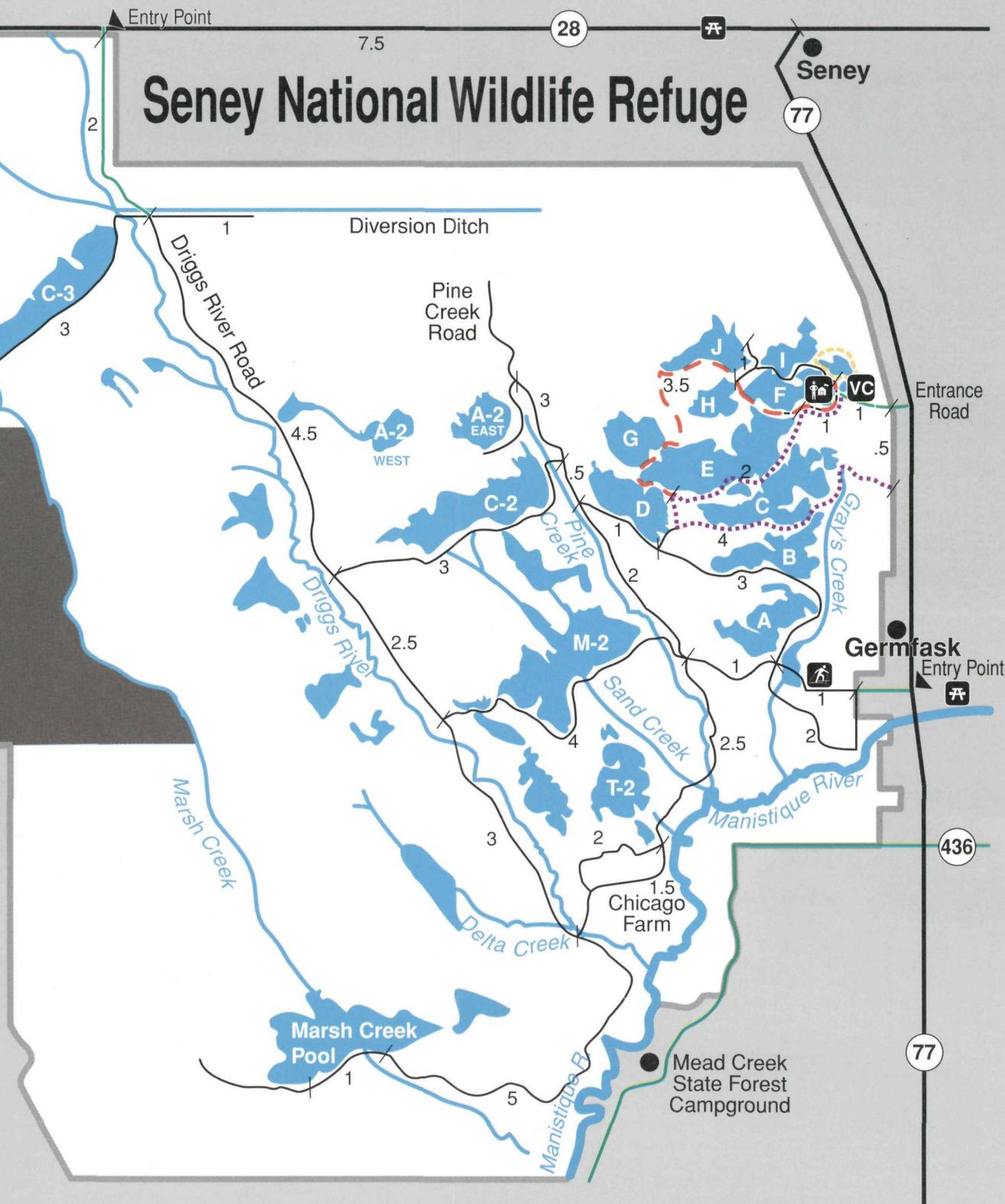
Seney National Wildlife Refuge

Wilderness Area



Getting Around Seney

- Refuge Boundary
- Roads Open to Biking
- Pine Ridge Nature Trail
- State Highways
- Roads Open to Motor Vehicles**
- Roads Allowing 2-Way Traffic
- Marshland Wildlife Drive
- Fishing Loop
- VC Refuge Headquarters/Visitor Center
- Northern Hardwoods X-Country Ski Area
- Distance Between Markers Measured In Miles



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Seney

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Seney National Wildlife Refuge
HCR #2, Box 1
Seney, MI 49883
906/586 9851

TTY users may reach Seney through
Michigan's State Relay Service at
1-800/649 3777 or,
if outstate, 1-800/855 2880

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>



Loon and Chick
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