

Washita National Wildlife Refuge

Auto Tour Route

A Few Simple Rules

While on the tour or on the refuge in general, please follow a few simple rules.

- Keep loud noises to a minimum
- Do not approach wildlife
- Do not litter
- Comply with 'Closed Area' signs

Washita National Wildlife Refuge

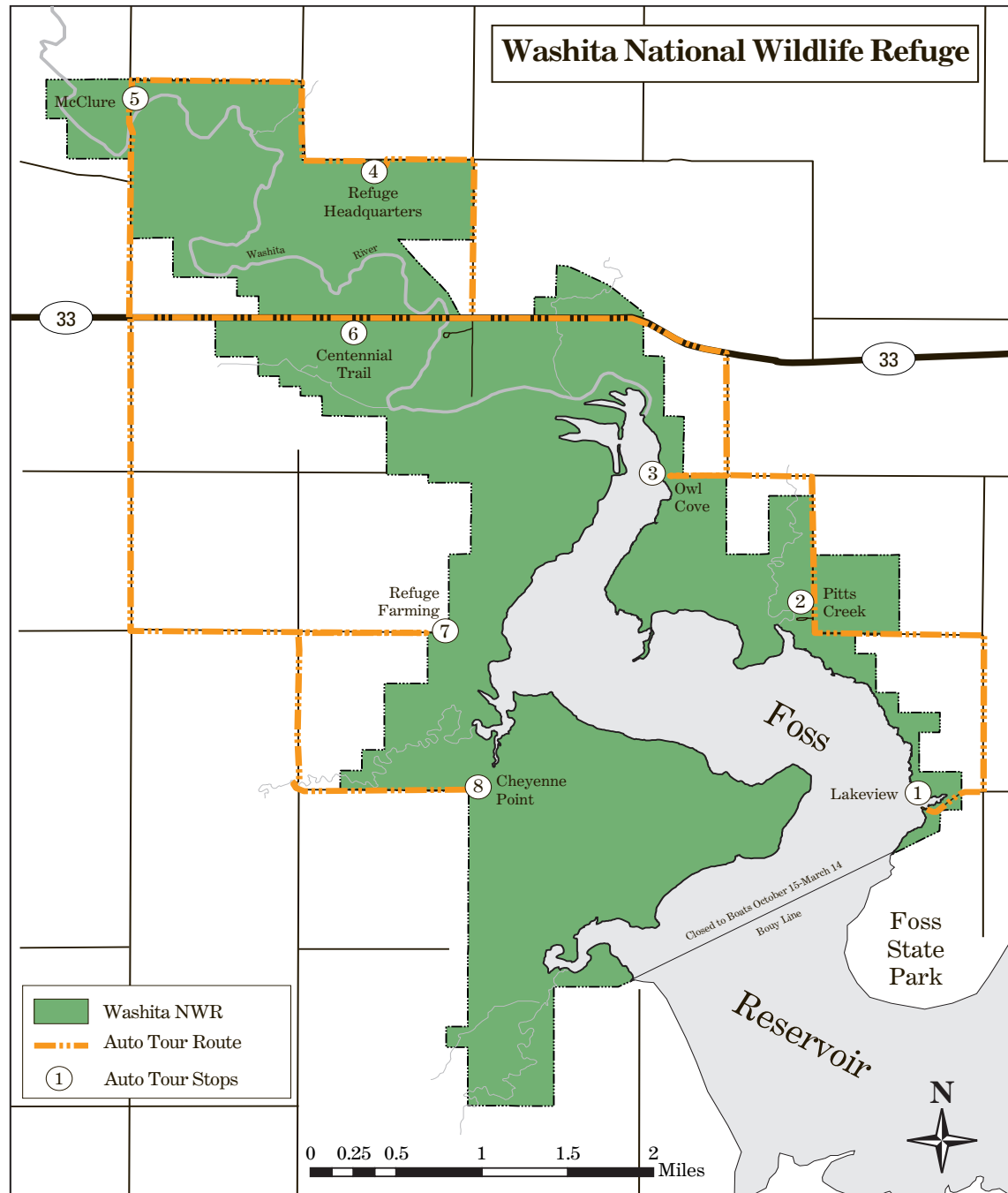
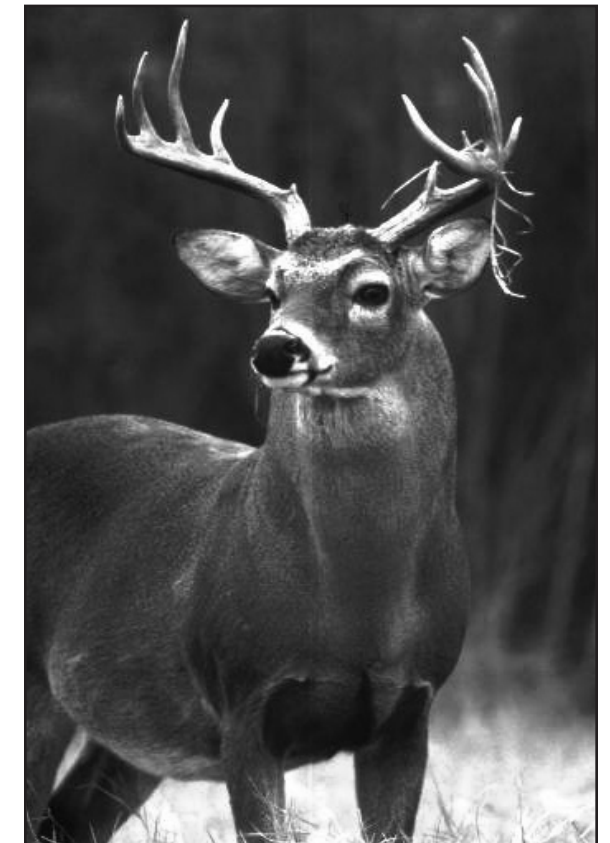
Route 1, Box 68
Butler, Oklahoma 73625
580/664-2205
580/664-2206 Fax

1 800/344-WILD

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/oklahoma/washita/index.htm>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

June 2006



Welcome to the Washita National Wildlife Refuge Auto Tour.

The auto tour is approximately 22 miles from start to finish. You can start and stop at any point along the route. The refuge headquarters/visitor contact station is located at Stop 4. Interpretive panels located at each stop provide additional information.

#1: Lakeview

This popular fishing spot was once home to the Spencer family before the lake filled. Wet a hook, learn about fish found in Foss Lake, or just enjoy the view. Other activities at this location include hunting, bird-watching and picnicking.

#2: Pitts Creek

A shallow wetland forms where this tributary joins Foss Lake. This area attracts all kinds of shorebirds and small mammals that take advantage of the abundant and varied resources of the site. Look for tracks in exposed mudflats to see who – or what – visited here before you.



Greater Yellowlegs
FWS Photo

#3: Owl Cove

Get a bird's eye view of the mouth of Foss Lake from the observation tower. Waterfowl and sandhill cranes roost here in the winter and pelicans and songbirds dwell here year round. A favorite spot for bald eagles in the winter time!

#4: Refuge Headquarters

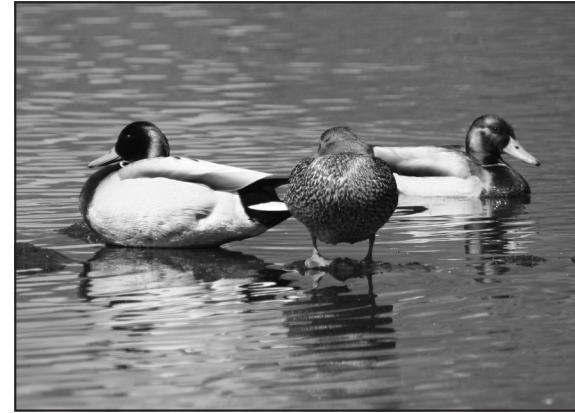
In the headquarters area you can find our prairie dog town and an overlook where you can watch deer, turkeys, geese and songbirds. The Washita River winds through the farmland to the south of the overlook, supporting wildlife and people as it has for centuries.



Black-tailed Prairie Dogs
FWS Photo

#5: McClure

Envision the old ghost town of McClure as it was in its heyday as a stock yard and railroad station. The cattle pens, grain elevator, general store, and homes are gone but remnants of the past like the old bridge remain. Learn about the wall of water that descended on residents during the Flood of April, 1934.



Mallards
FWS Photo

#6: Centennial Trail

The National Wildlife Refuge System celebrated its 100th anniversary on March 14th of 2003. This accessible nature trail was dedicated on that date as a lasting monument to our farsighted forefathers who recognized the value of nature and wildlife. A boardwalk with a view of a wetland and access to a photo blind is provided on this National Recreation Trail. Use the spotting scopes at the end of the boardwalk to enjoy viewing wildlife.

#7: Refuge Farming

Check out the farm fields planted for wildlife! Unlike most farmers, we plant crops to feed wildlife and don't take our harvest to market. And feed wildlife we do – the fields on the refuge provide enough wheat to feed up to 100,000 geese! Depending on what time of year you visit, you will see these fields in various stages of production.

#8: Cheyenne Point

From inland sea, to a sea of grass – examine the fossilized evidence from a time when an ocean covered western Oklahoma. Prairie grasses now cover what geologists tell us was formerly the bottom of the ocean floor. A wide variety of wildlife including white-tailed deer thrive in this mix of grassland and agricultural fields.



Collared Lizard
FWS Photo

Thank you for visiting the Washita National Wildlife Refuge and our auto tour. If you have any additional needs or questions, feel free to visit our headquarters area during normal business hours.