



The US Fish and Wildlife Service's Role in Management on the Illinois River

National Wildlife Refuge System

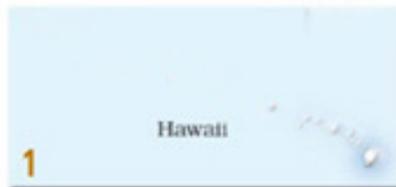
- 561 Refuges & 38 Wetland Management Districts within 8 Regions + HQ in Washington DC
- 150+ million acres of land and water
- Includes Pacific islands & reefs
- Habitat for 700+ species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 reptile and amphibian species and more than 1,000 species of fish.
- More than 380 threatened or endangered species

- Refuges in every state and territory
- Many refuges within 1 hr drive of major cities
- Provide recreational opportunities – hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, interpretation, and environmental education compatible with refuge purposes
- Refuges host 47 million visitors each year
- Generating \$1.7 billion in revenue
- Creating 27,000 jobs in local economies

Refuge System Regions



Pacific
Outlying Area 1



Midwest Region

Great Lakes & Big Rivers

- 55 National Wildlife Refuges
- 12 Wetland Management Districts
- 300,000+ acres in waterfowl production areas
- 6 National Fish Hatcheries
- 6 Fishery Resources Offices
- 2 Sea Lamprey Control Stations
- 8 Private Lands Offices
- 9 Ecological Services offices
- 18 Law Enforcement offices

Refuges In Illinois

Chautauqua , Emiquon, Meredosia, Crab Orchard, and Cypress Creek Refuges (82,500 acres) are wholly within the state

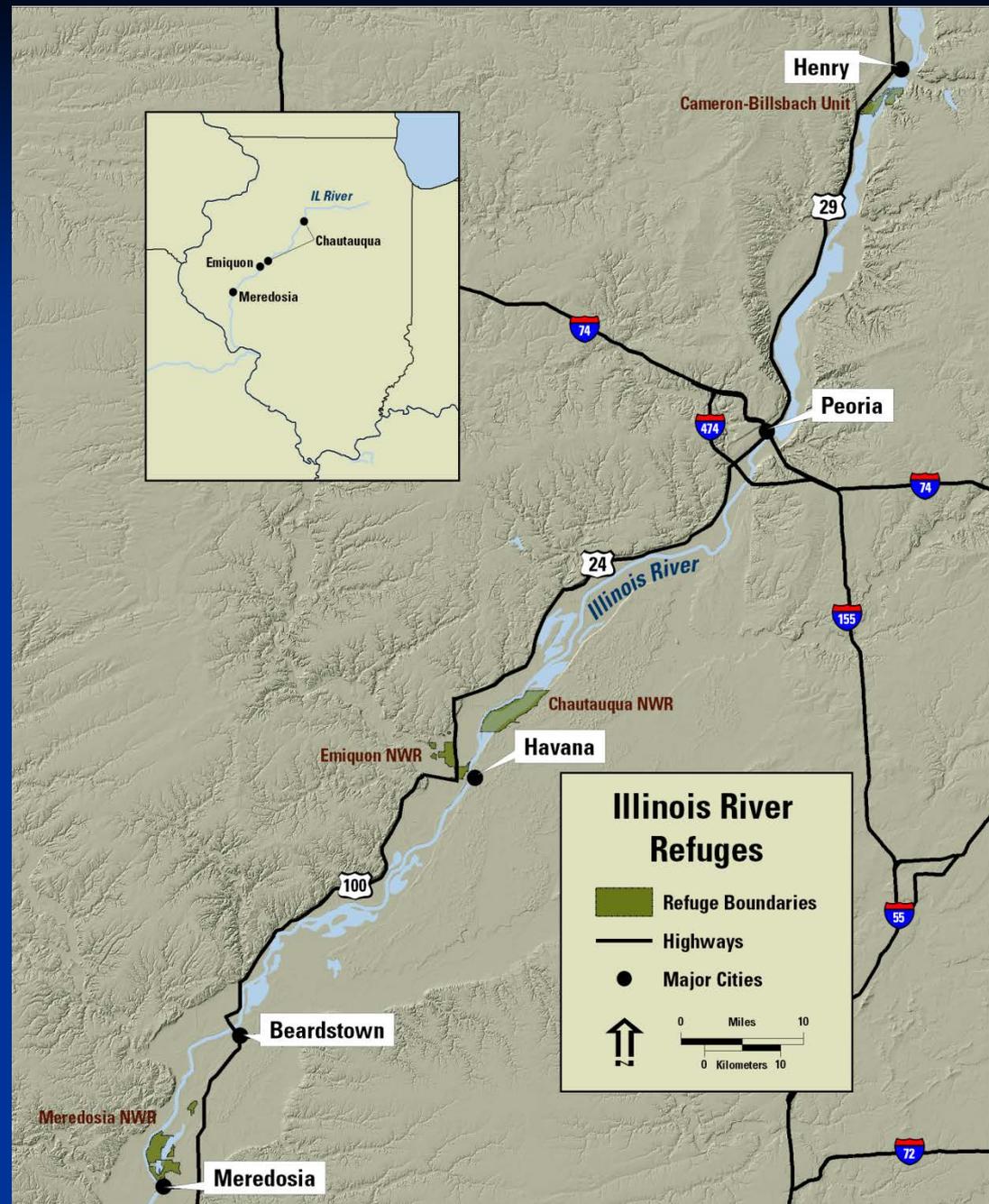
The majority of Two Rivers, and portions Hackmatack, Upper Mississippi River, Port Louisa, Great River, and Middle Mississippi River Refuges fall within Illinois; with 285,000+ acres of protected lands and water



Illinois River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Complex

Illinois River NW&FR

- 3 separate Refuges
 - Chautauqua
 - Emiquon
 - Meredosia
- 124 miles along the Illinois River
- 12,875 acres



Refuge Purposes

- Chautauqua and Meredosia Refuges – “...for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for other management purposes, for migratory birds.” Migratory Bird Conservation Act
- Emiquon Refuge – “...the conservation of wetlands...to help fulfill international obligations contained in various migratory bird treaties and conventions...” Emergency Wetlands Resources Act

Chautauqua NWR

- Established in 1936
- 4,793 acres
- Historically important waterfowl refuge in the Illinois River Valley
- Major challenges include frequent flooding and Asian carp
 - Cameron/Billsbach Unit
1,823 acres





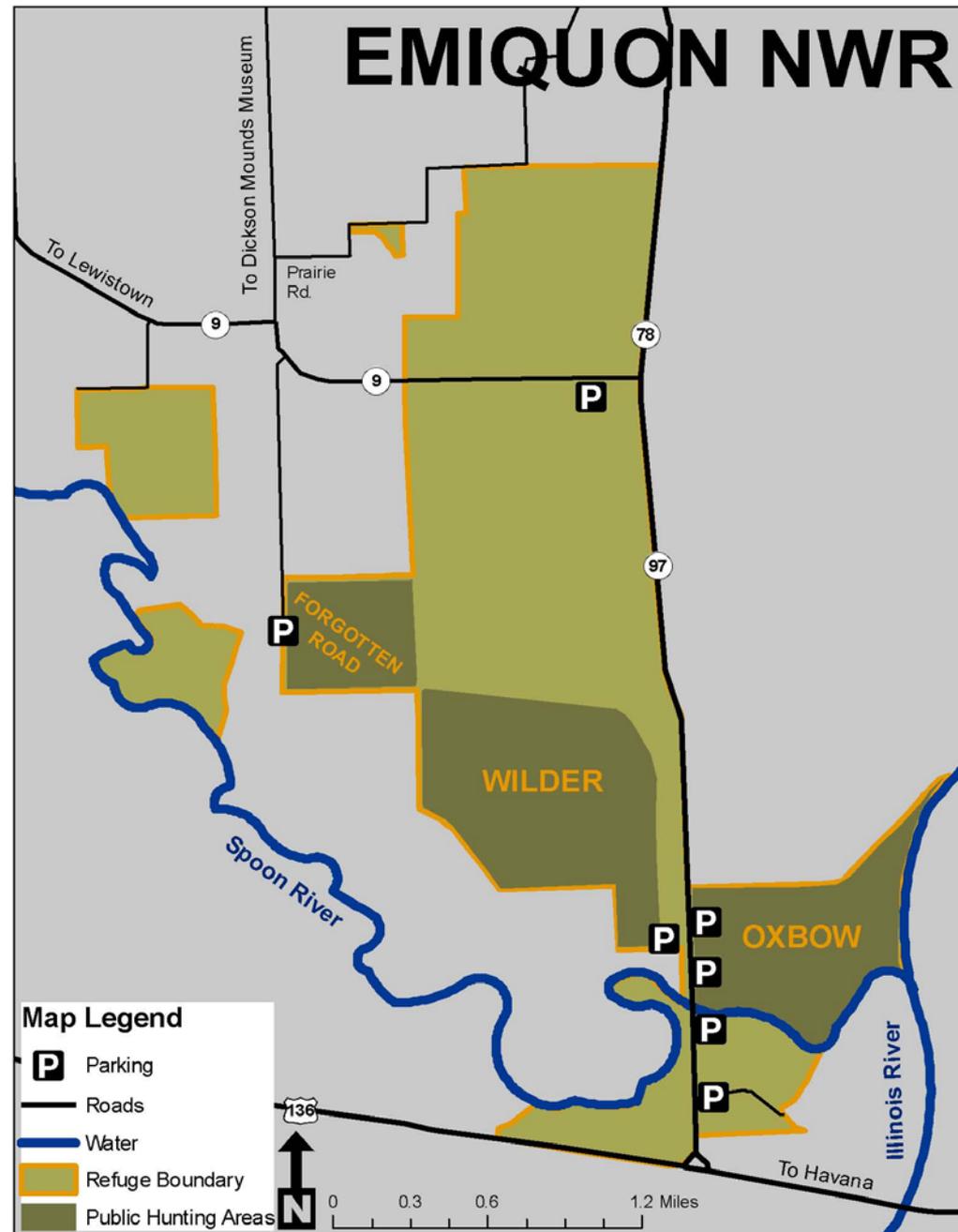
Rice Lake

Clear Lake



Emiquon NWR

- Established in 1993
- 2,631 acres of 11,122
- Priorities
 - Wetland Development
 - Prairie Improvement





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Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Eastern National Wildlife Refuge

Wading Bird
Wading birds are a group of birds that are adapted for life in shallow water. They have long, thin necks and long, thin bills. They are found in a variety of habitats, including wetlands, marshes, and coastal areas. Wading birds are important for the food chain and are also a popular sight for birdwatchers.

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Meredosia NWR

Established in 1973

- 3,852 acres of 5,255
- Variety of habitats including bottomland hardwood forest & various wetlands
- Interspersed with private duck clubs & state managed area





Meredosia National Wildlife Refuge

From Sea to Shining Sea

The National Wildlife Refuge System provides the opportunity to visit all 48 states, visit a refuge, camp, hunt, fish, and make deposits to state education. There are over 500 National Wildlife Refuges throughout the United States. Starting your visit, visit the list of all Refuges.

National Wildlife Refuge System



Regulations

Refuge open **January 15 through October 15**
* Designated portions are closed October 16 through January 14.

Permitted Activities:

- Wildlife Observation
- Sport Fishing
- Mushroom, nut, and berry picking
- Motorized Vehicles: Restricted to designated roads and parking areas.
- Boat launching at designated boat ramp only.

Prohibited Activities:

- Camping
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Fires
- Fireworks
- Littering
- Off-road Vehicles

Information

Refuge Hours: **Day Use Only - Sunrise to Sunset**

Meredosia National Wildlife Refuge
19031 E. County Road 2110 N
Havana, Illinois 62644



Parking Area



Meredosia A Year-round Attraction



The refuge is a great stop and home to wildlife. The spring and summer months are the best time to visit. Summer months are the best time to visit. Summer months are the best time to visit. Summer months are the best time to visit.

For more information visit www.fws.gov. Call 800-852-6842 for more information.

Custom-Made for Waterfowl



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Refuge Planning

- Still have over 10,000 acres within the acquisition boundaries to purchase from willing sellers when funds/lands become available
- Currently developing habitat management plan for all 3 refuges; will include monitoring plan for wildlife and habitats
- Management options limited by annual flooding regime



Habitats

- Chautauqua – 3,670 ac Moist Soil/Wetlands, 720 ac Bottomland Forest & 120 ac Upland Forest
- Cameron-Billsbach - 930 ac Backwater Lakes & 880 ac Bottomland Forest
- Emiquon – 1,250 ac Moist Soil/Wetlands, 900 ac Bottomland Forest & 350 ac Prairie
- Meredosia – 1,240 ac Moist Soil/Wetlands, 2,400 ac Bottomland Forest & 480 ac Prairie/Savanna



Management

- Moist Soil - managed using annual draw-downs, pumping, water control structures
- Upland Forest – control of invasive honeysuckle
- Bottomland Forest – tree planting
- Savanna - grass/forb/tree planting & fire
- Prairie - grass/forb planting & prescribed fire



Refuge Recreation

- More than 1,400 acres open for hunting
- More than 4,000 acres open for fishing
- Three nature trails plus some levees are open to seasonal foot travel for birding, observation, photography.
- Upland areas open for mushroom, nut, & berry picking
- Annual Eagle Days event plus 2 auto tours
- Environmental education opportunities with various staff





Emiquon Partnership

- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Dickson Mounds Museum
- The Nature Conservancy
- Illinois River Biological Station
- Illinois Natural History Survey Forbes Biological Station
- University of Illinois-Springfield



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Special Designations

- Important Bird Area
- Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network
- Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance

Questions?

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<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Chautauqua/>