

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Sabine

*National Wildlife  
Refuge*



*Located in Cameron Parish in the southwest corner of Louisiana, Sabine National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 500 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*



*This blue goose, designed by J.N. Ding Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.*

The refuge was established in 1937 and is the largest coastal marsh refuge on the Gulf. The primary management objective is to preserve a large area of coastal wetlands for wintering and migrating waterfowl from both the Mississippi and Central Flyways. It is also a major nursery area for many estuarine-dependent marine species as well as being the home for alligators and other reptiles, mammals, and numerous wading, water, and marsh birds.

The refuge contains 124,511 acres; its marshes range in salinities from fresh water to almost sea-strength.



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### **Management Activities**

The refuge habitat is for the use of all wildlife, with special emphasis on waterfowl. The management of this 124,511 acre refuge is not as intensive as that found on smaller refuges.

Techniques used at Sabine include water level and water quality manipulation and burning. To facilitate water management activities the refuge has built ten major water control structures and over sixty-one miles of levees.

Because of many man-made and natural factors, habitat losses have occurred on an estimated 40,000 acres of the refuge. Major efforts are being taken to restore marsh habitat and to prevent further habitat loss.



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Larry W. Richardson

*Visitor's Center*

**Public Use – Where and When**

Open year-round.  
Weekends: 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.  
Weekdays: 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Office*

Open year-round.  
Weekdays only: 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Wetland Walkway*

Open year-round from sunrise to sunset.

*Highway 27*

Open year-round to public use. Roadside canal banks and parking areas along Highway 27 are open from sunrise to sunset.

*Interior Areas*

(Refuge impoundments and canals), open from March 15 to October 15; all canals, bayous, boat ramps, and impoundments are open from sunrise to sunset.

*Duck Hunting Units*

Check hunting leaflet for exact location of areas to hunt and special refuge regulations. Access to hunting units permitted from three hours before legal shooting time until noon on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday.



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Diane Borden Billiot

**A Vital Productive Area**

Between the Gulf's beach cheniers (oak ridges) and the coastal prairie lies a basin of wetlands that is one of the most productive and fertile areas of North America.

This is where the rivers fresh water and the Gulf's saline waters mix; where the abundance of all wildlife is dependent on the proportion of vegetation to water, with the amount of vegetation being the important ingredient. This area could be called an estuary, a marsh, a wetland; its name is Sabine National Wildlife Refuge.

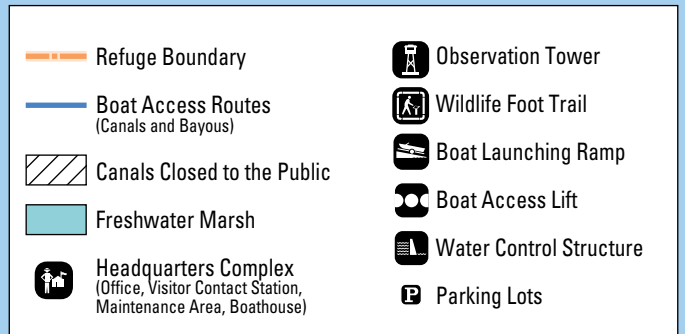
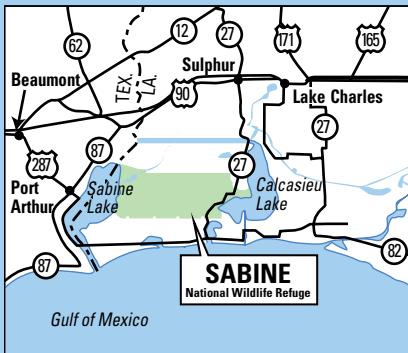
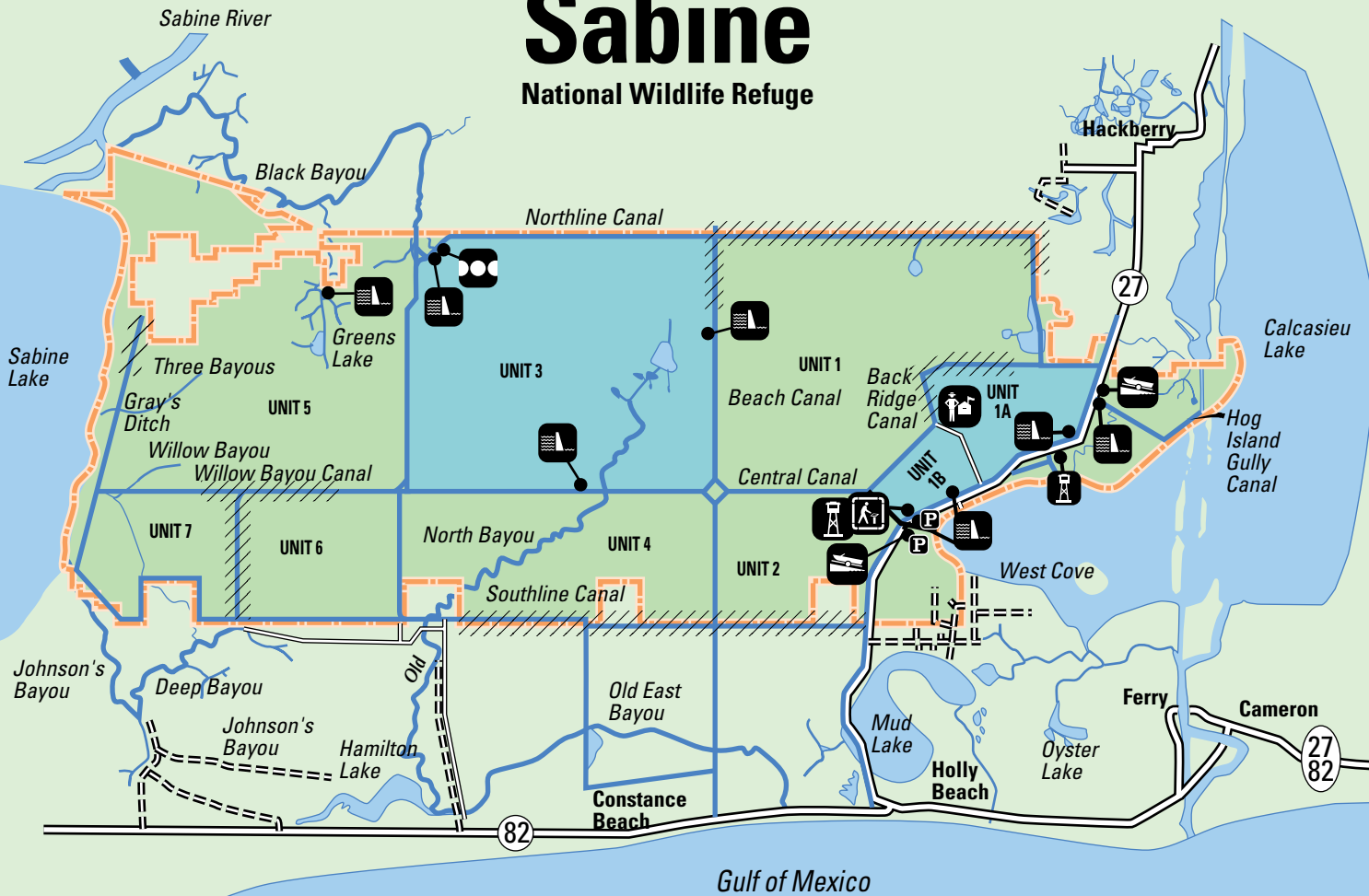
Here waterfowl, water and shore birds, furbearers, alligators, fresh and salt water fishes, and other marine species find a protective haven with abundant food and water. Some species are residents while others are seasonal visitors, but all need marshes for their existence.



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# Sabine

## National Wildlife Refuge





*If you enjoy trails or learning about wildlife...*

*Visitor's Center (Interpretative Exhibits)*

*...or does observing wildlife give you pleasure?*

*Do you like to use boats?*

### Activities to Enjoy

**Walk the Wetland Walkway:** Located four miles south of the visitor center on the west side of Highway 27. This trail is 1.5 miles long and is designed for all visitor access. Insect repellent may be needed.

Interpretative panels and four marsh dioramas depict the various habitats found on the refuge and provide visitors with some insight into a coastal marsh environment.

**Wildlife Observation:** During winter months geese may usually be seen between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. from the Blue Goose Trail Observation Tower. Many types of wildlife may be seen year-round from Highway 27, but best viewing is from the Wetland Walkway.

**Boating:** Over 150 miles of refuge canals, bayous, and waterways are open to boat travel for your investigation.



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*Are you hooked on fishing? Many types are possible on Sabine...*



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*If you prefer waterfowl hunting...*

**CAUTION:** Open marsh may be entered only by paddling or push-poling. The operation of trolling motors is permitted. Visitor access by boat may be restricted during some seasons.

**Fishing:** Recreational only—no commercial usage. See fishing leaflet for specific regulations on all water related activities. Canal usage by visitors may be restricted during some seasons.

**Fresh water:** Three impoundments totaling 33,000 acres are open to the public. Management Units 1A and 1B are open to non-motorized boats only. Boat and motor are needed to fish Management Unit 3. Bass, crappie, catfish, and bream may be taken. Fishing license is required.

**Salt water:** Seasonally, flounder, redfish, croaker, and speckled trout (weakfish) may be caught in refuge canals adjacent to Highway 27. Fishing license required.

**Crabbing:** Blue crabs may be taken year-round with cotton hand lines or dropnets up to 24" outside diameter. No license required for state residents.

**Shrimping:** Castnetting—recreational only—no commercial usage. Brown and white shrimp are seasonally available in refuge canals. Special Cast Netting Permit and license required.

**Waterfowl hunting:** During the teal and regular duck seasons hunting is permitted on 34,000 acres. Consult hunt brochure for areas, times, and specific regulations.

Ask if it is permitted before doing any activity not listed above.



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### Camping

#### Restricted Activities

Camping is not allowed on the refuge because of the limited space available for public use. Local camping areas: Sam Houston Jones State Park, north I-10, Westlake, Louisiana, Intracoastal Park-Highway 27, and Holly Beach.



### Littering

Help keep these marshes beautiful by taking all your litter home. You are saving wildlife dollars.



### Fires

A major danger to man and wildlife; please help preserve the refuge. Do not light fires.



### Collecting

Do not gather or carry away plants, flowers, shells, etc., which make up the natural beauty of the marsh. Please leave them for others to enjoy. Permits are issued for special activities.



### Firearms

Except for duck hunters during waterfowl season, no weapons are permitted on the refuge.



### Harassing Wildlife

The refuge is home to all wildlife; please help us protect it by only looking. The alligators on the refuge are not tame. *Please do not feed or approach the alligators.*

### Pets

If you do bring pets with you, only those on leashes are legal. Do not let pets run free. *Beware: alligators regard pets as food.*



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Diane Borden Billiot

Take pride in your refuge! Protect and enjoy its wildlife.

Sabine National Wildlife Refuge  
3000 Holly Beach Highway  
Hackberry, LA 70645  
337/762 3816  
r4rw\_la.sbn@fws.gov

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

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CELEBRATING A  
**CENTURY**  
of CONSERVATION