

# Delta

## *National Wildlife Refuge*



photo: USFWS



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### Refuge Facts

- Established: 1935.
- Acres: 48,800.
- Located in Lower Plaquemines Parish, LA. Nearest town is Venice, LA. Refuge sub-headquarters are located in Venice. Actual refuge location is seven miles south of Venice. Access is by boat only. It requires traveling and crossing the Mississippi River.

### Natural History

Refuge is part of the currently active delta of the Mississippi River. Formation of what is now the refuge began in mid 1800's at Cubit's Gap. Refuge was established as a bird sanctuary. An abundance of ducks, geese, raptors, wading birds, shorebirds, and several bird rookeries are on the Refuge. Refuge is composed of marsh habitat.

### Financial Impact of Refuge

- Approximately 7500 visitors in fiscal 2009.

### Refuge Purposes

- Provide wintering habitat and sanctuary for waterfowl and other migratory birds.
- To protect and enhance endangered species.
- To restore and preserve marshland habitat.
- To provide compatible consumptive and non-consumptive public use.

### Management Tools

- Habitat restoration through Crevasse Program.
- Law enforcement.
- Environmental education.
- Partnerships.

### Public Use Opportunities

- Canoeing.
- Boating.
- Bird watching.

- Fishing.
- Hunting.
- Photography.

### Questions and Answers

*What are the regulations and seasons for hunting on Delta NWR?*

Please see the refuge hunting and fishing regulations brochure for the current season. A free refuge permit, contained in the brochure, is required for hunting on Delta NWR.

*Where is the best place to hunt on the refuge?*

Only the areas north of Main Pass and south of Raphael Pass are open to hunting. Of these, the most productive hunting areas are the splays and bayous north of Main Pass.

*Are commercial fishing, crabbing and shrimping allowed on the Refuge?*

No! All commercial activities are prohibited on the Refuge.

*Is camping allowed on the refuge?*

Camping is not allowed on the refuge.

*What conditions might I encounter when visiting the refuge?*

Access to the refuge requires crossing and navigating the Mississippi River by boat. The river is very busy with large ocean going vessels that create large wakes. Combine that with strong currents, weather and seasonal dense fog and travel to the refuge can be difficult. Once on the refuge, many waterways are very shallow. There are few landmarks and the network of waterways is complex.