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CYPRESS CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Ullin, Illinois

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Calendar Year 1990

U. S. Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

CYPRESS CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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REVIEW AND APPROVALS

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Donald H. Updike

Refuge Manager

7/25/91

Date

Matthew A. Kusch

Refuge Supervisor Review

8.6.91

Date

Jim R. Eadie

Regional Office Approval

8/06/91

Date

INTRODUCTION

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge, 35,320 acres delineated, was established June 26, 1990 in the southern Illinois counties of Alexander, Johnson, Pulaski, and Union.

The Refuge was authorized under the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-645) for the primary purpose of wetlands protection and restoration: "...intensifying cooperative efforts among private interests and local, State and Federal governments for the management and conservation of wetlands;.....". 16 U.S.C. 3901. The Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact were signed by Regional Director James C. Gritman.

Topography of the 475,000 acre Cache River watershed varies from 890 feet above mean sea level in the northern hills to 280 feet msl at the Mississippi River. Climate is warm, humid, summers and cool to cold winters. Average annual precipitation is 46 inches, average annual snowfall is ten inches, and frost free days average 200 annually.

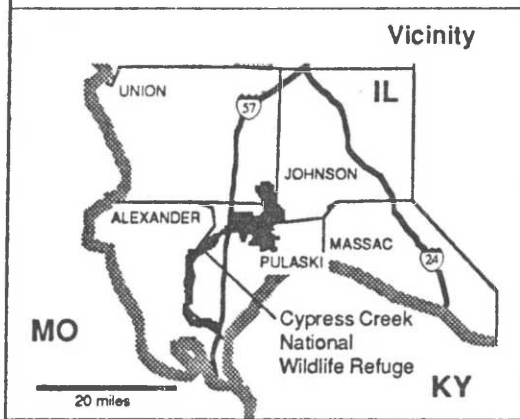
Habitat acquisition will be with Land and Water Conservation Funds from willing sellers. Broad habitat types within the Refuge delineation include: wetlands, bottomland forests, upland forests and agriculture.

Four physiographic regions of the United States come together within the Refuge area. The most dramatic region is the Gulf Coastal Plain with its bald cypress and tupelo gum swamps. Historically, vast tracts of naturally flooded bottomland hardwoods provided resting, nesting and feeding habitat for ducks, geese, and a variety of other migratory birds and resident wildlife.

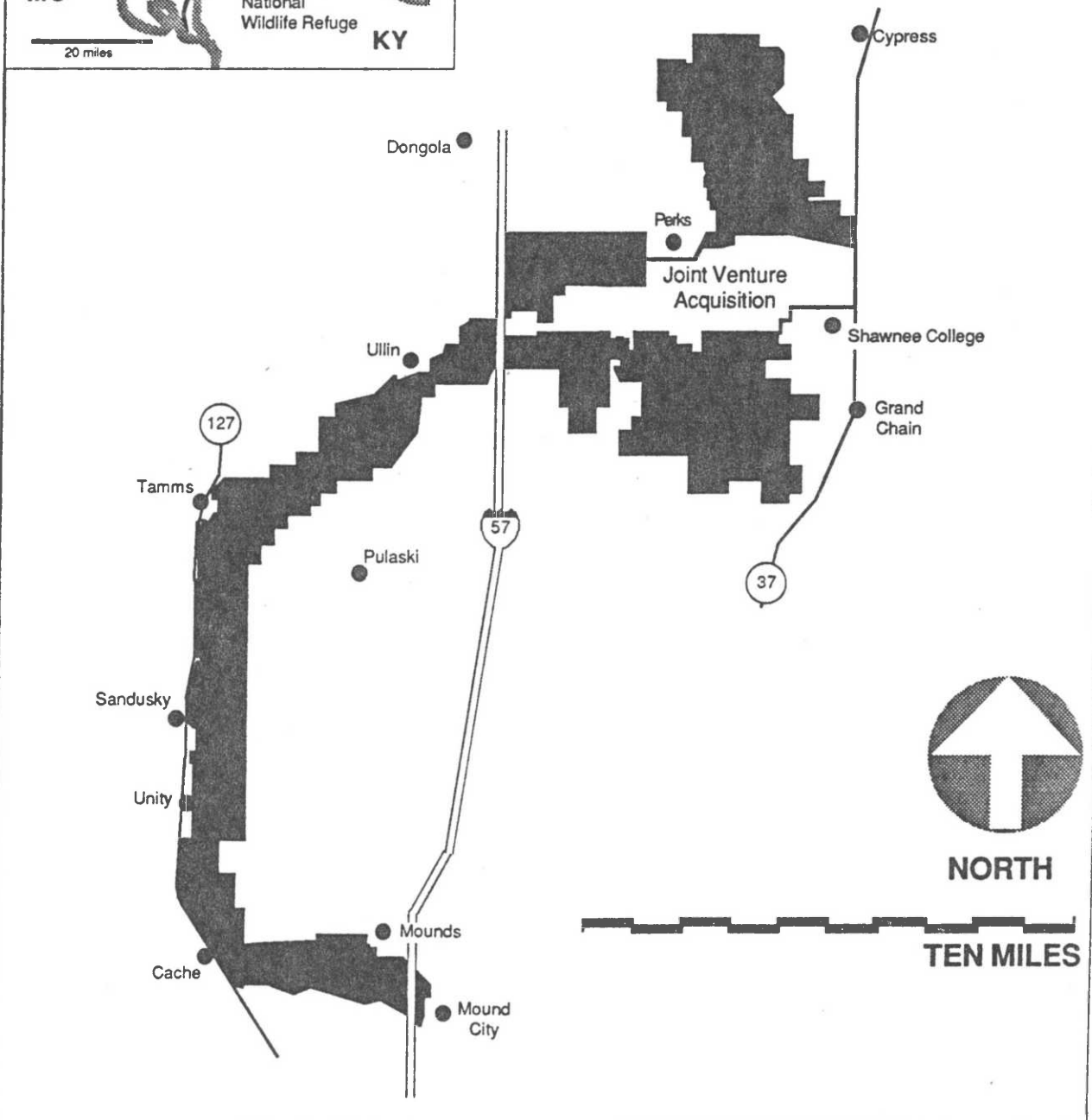
Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge is located within the New Madrid Wetlands Project of the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Cooperators in this Cache River Wetlands project include: Illinois Department of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, and Ducks Unlimited, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge

ILLINOIS



- PURCHASE BOUNDARY
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- JOINT VENTURE ACQUISITION
Illinois Department of Conservation
The Nature Conservancy
Ducks Unlimited



ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

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A. HIGHLIGHTS

Refuge Established Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge became a reality June 26, 1990, number 463 in the National Wildlife Refuge System! Regional Director James C. Gritman signed the Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact creating this 35,320 acre Refuge. (Section D.4)

First Land Acquisition The first land purchase was July 27, 1990 from The Nature Conservancy. This acquisition of 322 acres in Limekiln Slough Unit cost \$156,000. (Section C.1)

Staff Hired Jerry Updike, Refuge Manager, EOD June 3, 1990 and Jean Hinkle, Administrative Technician, EOD September 23, 1990. (Section E.1)

Office Operational Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge office opened November 13, 1990 on the campus of Shawnee Community College. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has leased this space for five years at a cost of \$1 per year. (Sections D.4, I.2, and J.1)



90-1 (5/91) Janet Updike

Refuge Manager Jerry Updike, Director John Turner, and Regional Director Jim Gritman representing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the time of Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge establishment.

B. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Precipitation generally exceeded the annual average by six inches; annual average at Anna, Illinois is 42 inches but the 1990 total was 47.27 inches. Late spring rains delayed planting but timely summer rains resulted in good farm crop yields. Heavy rainfall, 2.5 inches to four inches, on July 21-22, October 3, December 21, and December 28-29 caused flooding. November was the warmest November in 45 years. A severe ice storm occurred December 30. Winter rains resulted in flooding and waterfowl spread out over the entire area.

Weather data for 1990 from time of Cypress Creek Refuge establishment:

<u>MONTH</u> <u>1990</u>	<u>TEMPERATURES</u>		<u>PRECIPITATION</u> <u>INCHES</u>	<u>SNOWFALL</u> <u>INCHES</u>
	<u>HIGH</u>	<u>LOW</u>		
June	95	45	2.67	--
July	99	54	5.67	--
August	94	50	3.68	--
September	96	47	2.01	--
October	81	46	5.19	--
November	80	26	3.34	--
December	67	4	9.31	6



90-1A (12/90) Jean Hinkle

December 28 snowstorm from Refuge office.

C. LAND ACQUISITION1. Fee Title

The first Cypress Creek Refuge land purchase was July 27 from The Nature Conservancy, 322 acres (parcels B29, B34, and B35), in Limekiln Slough Unit at a cost of \$156,000.

Cypress Creek Refuge realty status at the end of 1990:

<u>STATUS</u>	<u>LANDOWNERS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>COST</u>
Fee Title	1	322	\$ 156,000
Offer Made	11	3,150	1,732,900
Being Appraised	12	1,600	
Declined Offer	2	180	

There are 240 landowners within the 35,320 acre Refuge purchase boundary. Approximately 70 landowners expressed an interest to sell during the first five months. Landowners were invited to the new Refuge office December 7 and this resulted in ten individuals, representing 1,500 acres, expressing an interest to sell.

Based upon available willing sellers, \$5-million could be spent on land acquisition in fiscal year 1992.

4. Farmers Home Administration Conservation Easements

The Tom Goins parcel of 37 acres, NW, SE, Section 31, T.13 S. R.4 E., Johnson County, was evaluated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service having no interest in this land.



90-2 (12/90) Jerry Updike

Contaminants Specialist Randy Routan, Twin Cities, Minnesota, checking farm dump on the Gilbert Eddleman property. Soils testing showed no contamination.

D. PLANNING

3. Public Participation

The Cypress Creek Refuge Final Environmental Assessment calls for a Refuge advisory committee to provide public input during the establishment and development process. Representatives from conservation and agricultural groups, elected officials, and interested citizens representing 28 groups were invited to participate. Eighteen representatives expressed an interest and the first meeting was held October 10. This has been shown to be an excellent method for providing and exchanging information.

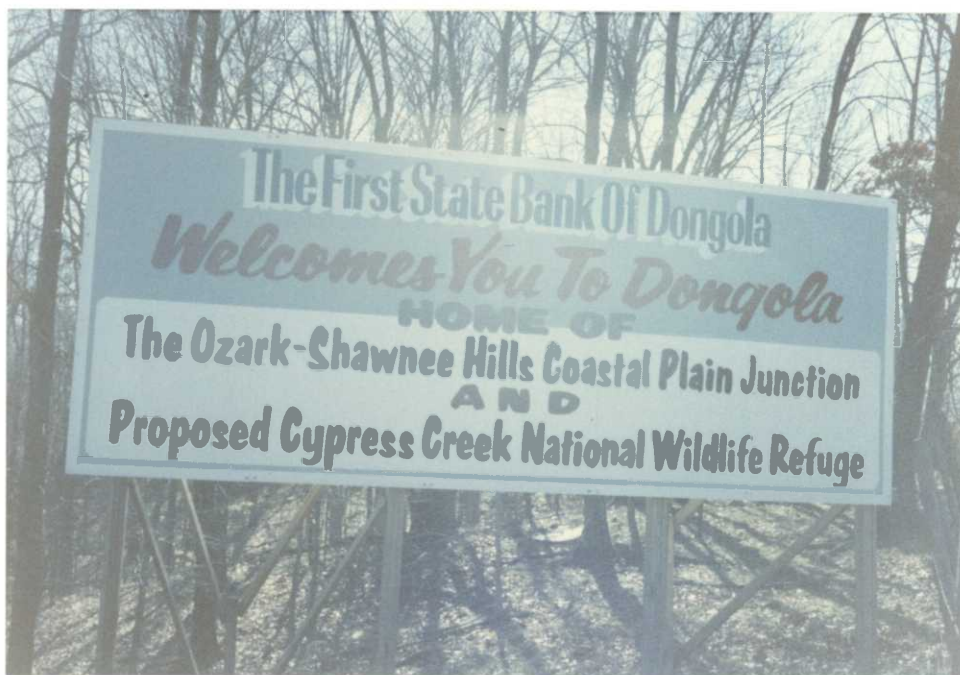
4. Compliance with Environmental and Cultural Resource Mandates

Refuge Establishment - (see also CYPRESS CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, 1990, 236 pages) Cypress Creek Refuge was established June 26, 1990 by signing of the Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact by James C. Gritman, Regional Director, Region 3.

The Refuge was authorized by authority of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-645 signed November 11, 1986). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service studied seven alternatives ranging from "no action" to a potential refuge of 42,000 acres. Alternative 4 Amended, was selected with a purchase boundary of 35,200 acres in Alexander, Johnson, Pulaski, and Union counties, Illinois.

The primary purpose of Cypress Creek Refuge is for: "....intensifying cooperative efforts among private interests and local, State and Federal governments for the management and conservation of wetlands;.....". 16 U.S.C. 3901.

Credit belongs to Andrew French, Wildlife Biologist, Ascertainment and Planning, Minneapolis Regional Office, for the study/approval of Cypress Creek Refuge. Without Andy's ability to include the input of varied interest groups and consider all the issues in detail, the Refuge would not have been approved as it was.



90-3 (12/90) Jerry Updike

Local sign showing support for Refuge during establishment (top) and the first entrance type sign to be installed on the Refuge (bottom). Sign will be used for the Dedication event.



90-4 (5/91) Janet Updike

The Gazette-Democrat

The Talk And Cobden Review

Volume 141, Number 23

Anna, Illinois

Thirty-Five Cents

June 28, 1990

Decision Announced On Cypress Creek

Fish And Wildlife Service Goes With 35,320-Acre Refuge

By Gary Wolf

Egypt has a new refuge.

Late Tuesday afternoon, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FWS, made its decision on the Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge, an effort to protect and restore wetlands and bottomland forest along the lower Cache River.

The refuge will run the length of the lower Cache from the town of Cypress on Illinois Route 37 to Mound City on the Ohio.

Final environmental assessments have been mailed to everyone who received a copy of the draft issued in January, including anyone who owns land in the potential purchase area. Detailed maps are included.

James C. Gritman, FWS regional director, approved a 35,320-acre refuge, approximately 80 percent of the original study area. His decision included a "finding of no significant environmental impact," so no environmental impact statement will be required.

The refuge boundary will curve southwest with the Cache across four counties: Johnson, Union, Pulaski and Alexander. But the bulk of it, more than two-thirds, is

in Pulaski County.

Eighty percent of the refuge, less than 29,000 acres, is privately held. The rest is made up of parcels owned by the Illinois Department of Conservation, Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy, which originated the refuge proposal.

A 30-day waiting period follows the signing of the decision document before any refuge management activity or negotiations on land purchases with willing sellers can begin.

With some amendments, the boundaries will follow Alternative 4 of the draft environmental assessment.

Just downstream from the state preserves at Heron Pond and Little Black Slough, the core unit of the refuge is the "long reach" of the Cache. To the north, Cypress Creek flows through Hogan's Bottoms on its way to the Cache. Also included is Limekiln Slough south of the Cache. The Butter Ridge Unit along the Cache towards Ullin completes the refuge's northern division.

From Ullin, a mile-wide ribbon of refuge will bump along section

lines down the last 20 miles of the Cache. This corridor, all of which is currently in private hands, straddles the old winding and straightened new channels of the river all the way to the Ohio through the Indian Camp Creek, Sandy Creek, Lake Creek and Old Channel units.

The refuge will be 2,004 acres larger than Alternative 4 in the draft environmental assessment, according to Andy French, who devised the proposal as FWS project leader.

The Butter Ridge Unit was expanded to include the southern portion of the Big Creek Unit from near the Perks Road to the Cache. In addition, a closer check of plat books for property in Butter Ridge and the core Cache unit turned up some sections that were larger than the standard 640 acres. No lines were moved, French said, but acreage was gained.

Some farmland, on the other hand, was excluded.

"We deleted quite a bit of better farmland in the corridor below Ullin," he said, "the higher and drier land in Sandy Creek and In-

dian Camp Creek.

"We dropped out as much of the good farm ground as we could."

Elevation was an important consideration, he said, so that bottomland and wetlands crucial to the management of the refuge would be included in the potential purchase area.

"Some good farm ground was also included to match the objectives of the refuge, to provide a source of food (for waterfowl) and reduce degradation" on neighboring farm fields, he added.

"It's still a biological line that we have, but we tried to make it sensitive to the issues that were raised" during the public comment period on the draft proposal, said French, whose attention now turns from

Cypress Creek to a proposed refuge in Iowa.

Jerry Updike, recently named manager of the Cypress Creek refuge, hopes to be working out of an office at Shawnee Community College soon.

He will be assembling a local citizens advisory group immediately. It will include representatives of groups interested in the management of the refuge, including the Farm Bureau, Soil and Water Conservation districts, drainage districts, local governments along with environmental groups such as the Citizens Committee to Save the Cache and The Nature Conservancy and sportsman groups such as Ducks Unlimited.

Among its first tasks will be to decide how to convince the federal government to build a visitor's center at the refuge and to decide where it would be.

A squeezed federal budget is a problem, Updike admitted, but he said the new refuge would be a prime candidate for a visitor's center.

After the waiting period ends July 26, FWS realty officers will be contacting some landowners and talking with any in the purchase area who might be willing to sell. FWS pays for appraisals.

"The regional director decides where the purchase boundary will be," French said, "but the landowners will decide where the refuge will be."

Land Acquisition Plan - Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition Priority Plan, by Andrew French, July 1990, 32 pages. Prepared for landowners and the public prior to beginning the acquisition process.

Section 404 Permit - Application was made September 11 to the Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, for a permit to create 170 acres of moist soil habitat in Limekiln Slough Unit (The Nature Conservancy acquisition).

5. Research and Investigations

The following project is being undertaken by Southern Illinois University at their expense. There is the possibility of a grant From Ducks Unlimited to cost share in this research.

"Restoration of Southern Bottomland Hardwood Forests Along the Cache River, Southern Illinois", by Dr. Beth Middleton, Department of Plant Biology. A seed bank study to determine what plant seeds remain in the soil and a prediction of how successful restoration can be in sites drained for various lengths of time. The research schedule is; 1990-April 1991 - collect seed, set up greenhouse, and set permanent markers for vegetation survey of reflooded farmland; November 1991-May 1992 - GIS quantification of drained farmland from aerial photographs; August 1992 - vegetation survey of reflooded farmland; and May 1991-April 1993 - analysis and write-up. Results are expected to be published in the Canadian Journal of Botany or Aquatic Botany.

This study will establish whether or not bottomland hardwood forest can be restored after drainage for various lengths of time relying on the seed bank alone, or if reseedling or replanting of wetlands species is required. Also, this study will provide a framework for future work on the nature of succession following natural disturbance.

E. ADMINISTRATION

1. Personnel

Gerald H. Updike, Refuge Manager, GS-485-13. EOD June 3. Transfer from Crab Orchard Refuge.

Jean R. Hinkle, Administrative Technician, GS-303-5. EOD September 23. Local hire through Office of Personnel Management.

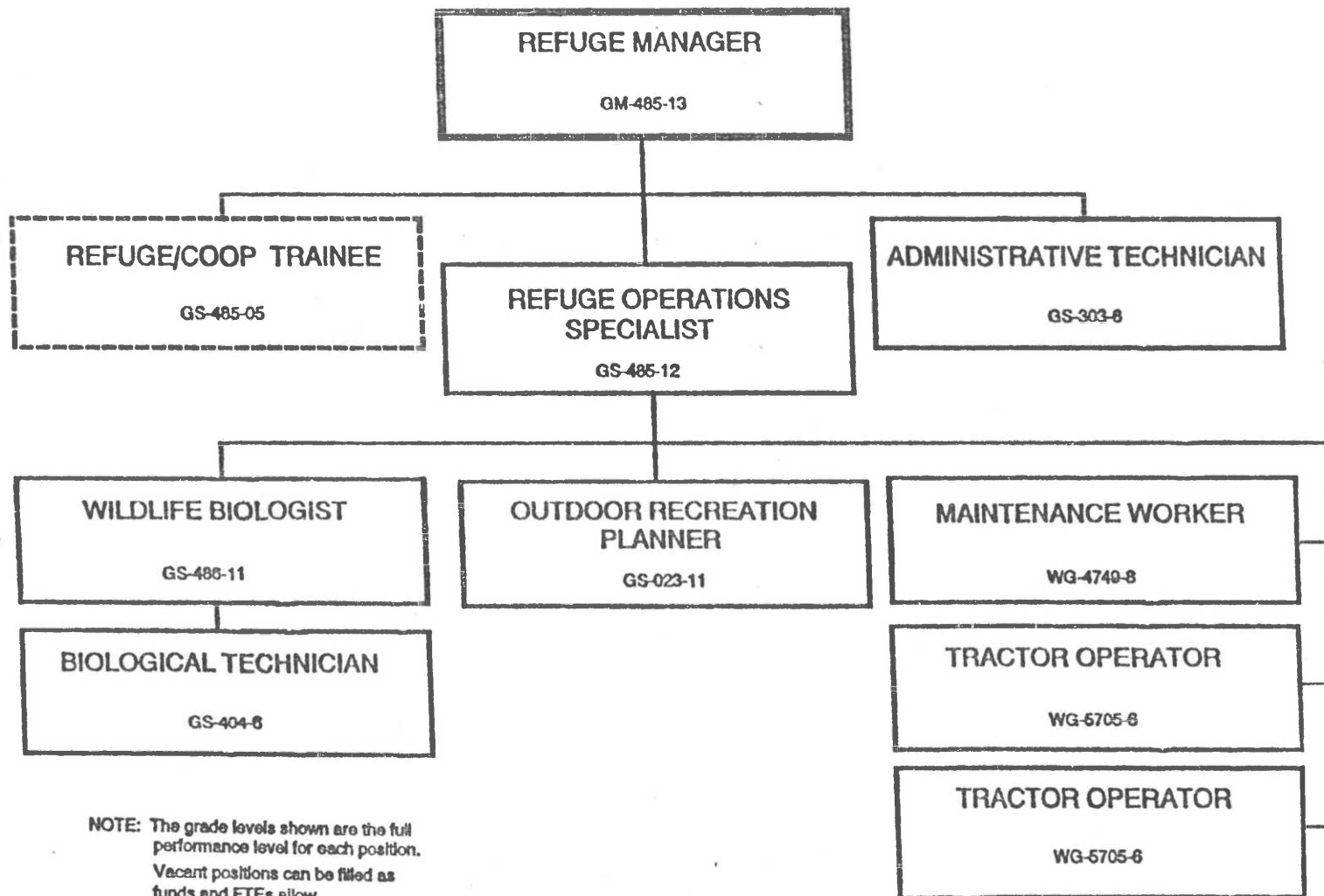


90-5 (6(91) Al Novara

First staff members, Refuge Manager Jerry Updike and Administrative Technician Jean Hinkle.

Local recruitment through the Office of Personnel Management for a WG-8 Maintenance Worker resulted in 150 applications to their Chicago office. The Wildlife Biologist, GS-486-11, position was advertised through the federal vacancy system. Betty Persson, Litchfield Acquisition Office, transferred to the Minneapolis Regional Office to handle the Cypress Creek Refuge realty function.

CYPRESS CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



NOTE: The grade levels shown are the full performance level for each position. Vacant positions can be filled as funds and FTEs allow.

5. Funding

Cypress Creek Refuge funds received for fiscal year 1990:

Land Acquisition -		\$1,000,000
Establish Station & Realty	8421	82,500
Operations & Maintenance	1261	18,500

Matching funds, \$25,000, from the 8421 account were not utilized as the Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, did not initiate a survey of the existing Big Creek #2 Drainage ditch system as scheduled. Funds designated for this purpose will be re-programmed for fiscal year 1991.

Land acquisition funding for fiscal year 1992 is \$2-million.

6. Safety

There were no accidents or serious incidents. This station received a safety award for 1990.

8. Other

Office Establishment - The Cypress Creek Refuge office opened November 13 on the Shawnee Community College campus. A media day event was held November 30 with seven television stations and newspapers represented.

Donations for the new office included: "Southern Illinois Wetlands" framed print (12/100) by Robert Eschenfelat donated by the Illinois Department of Conservation through Dave Cooper; "The Singing Winds" framed print (1322/5600) by Ron Van Gilder donated by Wesley Wright on behalf of the Shawnee Community College Board of Directors; and the "Conservation Edition" framed wood duck print and stamps (1020/5500) by David Maass donated by Ducks Unlimited through Dave Kennedy.

DONGOLA TRI-COUNTY RECORD

DONGOLA, UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1990

Refuge Office Opens

Offices of the Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge and The Nature Conservancy opened at Shawnee Community college near Ullin November 30.

On behalf of Shawnee Community college, Alan Schaffer, acting president, welcomed Refuge manager Jerry Updike and Lower Cache River Preserve manager Dave Maginel to the campus.

Wesley Wright, representing Shawnee college board of directors, donated a canvasback duck print for the office. Dave Kennedy of Ducks Unlimited, Inc., presented a wood duck print donated by their organization. A Southern Illinois Wetlands print was donated earlier by the Illinois Department of Conservation.

The telephone number for Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge is (618) 634-2231 and the mailing address is Route 1, Box 53D, Ullin, IL 62992. The telephone number for The Nature Conservancy is (618) 634-2524 and their mailing address is Route 1, Box 53E, Ullin, IL 62992. Jean Hinkle, Dongola, handles administrative duties and a wildlife biologist and maintenance worker will join the staff in January of 1991. The Refuge office will be at Shawnee college until a permanent facility can be constructed.

The Refuge was authorized in June 1990 with a purchase boundary of 35,200 acres along the Cache river. Fish and Wildlife Service land acquisition activities began in July and 12 options, totaling 1800 acres, have been signed by land owners. The Service made 11 additional offers this past week. The acquisition process includes an interested seller, land appraisal, price offer, signed option if agreeable to the land owner, and final payment. There are 250 land owners within the Refuge purchase boundary.

The Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge is part of the Cache River Wetlands Joint Venture. Others working to preserve and restore wetland habitat in the Cache river basin include Illinois Department of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Nature Conservancy is a private nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to protecting endangered species and unique natural areas. The Nature Conservancy has been actively involved in protecting the outstanding natural resources of the Cache basin for 20 years, completing its first land purchase at Little Black Slough in 1970. Since that time The Nature Conservancy has identified and monitored significant natural areas, developed innovative restoration and management techniques, promoted the joint venture concept, and continued its land acquisition program. The Nature Conservancy presently owns approximately 800 acres in the joint venture project, much of which has been restored to native hardwoods.

F. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

1. General

The following page shows habitat type by wetlands, bottomland forest, upland forest, and agriculture for lands within the Cypress Creek Refuge purchase boundary.

3. Forests

Forest areas along the Cache River, within the Cypress Creek Refuge purchase boundary, contain a number of record size trees. A survey of a portion of the Cache River in 1980 by John White, Natural Land Institute, 320 South Third Street, Rockford, Illinois 61108, revealed the following Illinois state record trees:

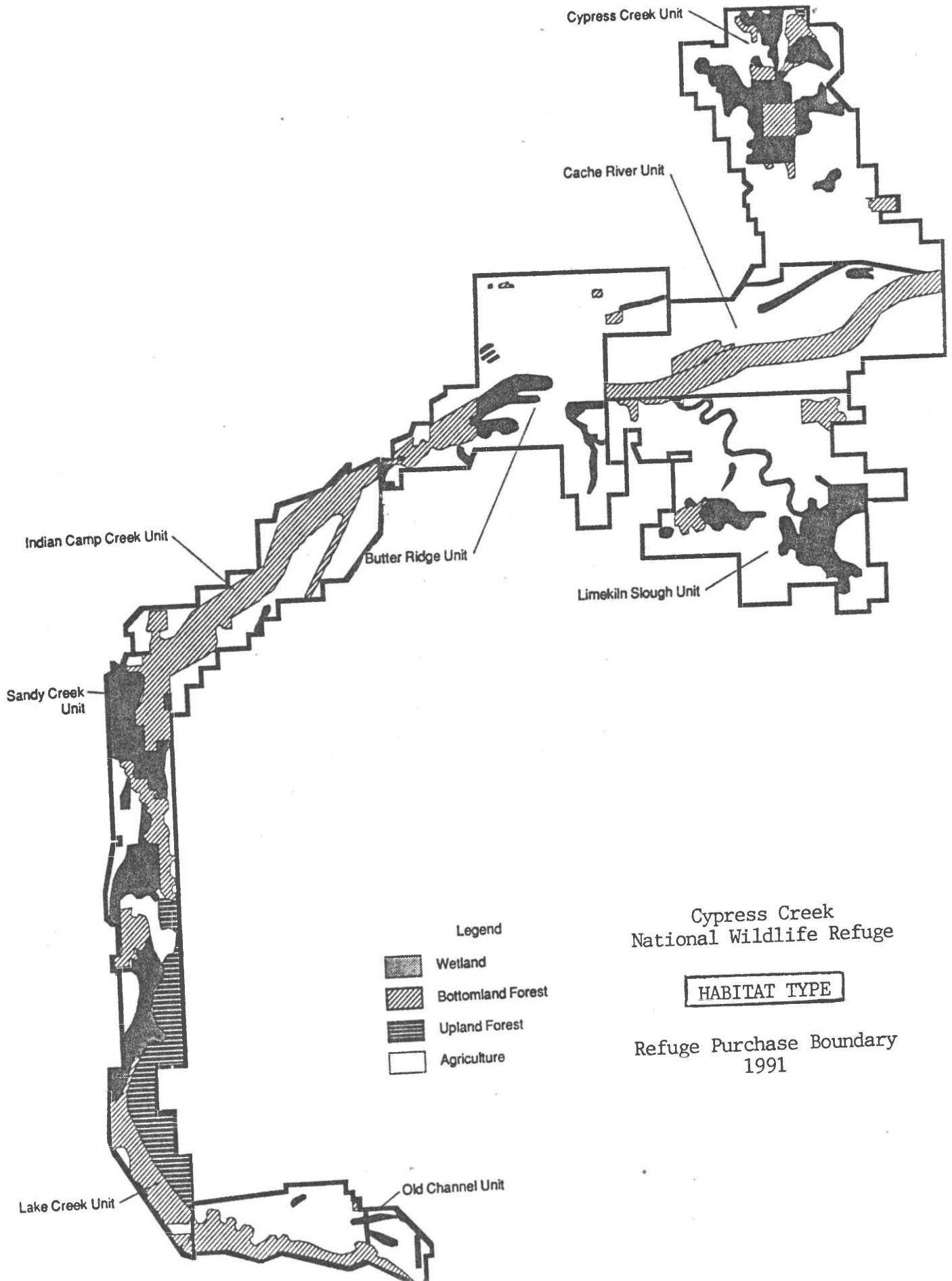
Bald cypress	Pumpkin ash
Deciduous holly	Swamp privet
Green hawthorn (*)	Swamp red maple
Musclewood	Water elm
Overcup oak	Water hickory
Water locust (*)	Water tupelo

The two kinds of trees marked with an asterisk (*) above break or establish new national records. They are larger than any other individual known for the species anywhere in the United States.



90-6 Ned Trovillion

Habitat in Buttonland Swamp area of Cache River between Perks and Karnak, Illinois. State property within the Refuge delineated area.



G. WILDLIFE

2. Endangered and/or Threatened Species

The following two pages list both the federal and Illinois endangered and threatened species which are known to occur or may occur in the Cypress Creek Refuge area.

3. Waterfowl

The first fall migrating Canada geese arrived September 20. In the Cache River area there were 42,000 geese on December 31, 80,000 geese on January 14, 1991, and 40,000 geese on January 22, 1991. In addition, 1,000 snow geese were observed in Limekiln Slough Unit in late December. A peak of 800,000 geese were counted on January 14, 1991 in southern Illinois.

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

The following federally listed threatened or endangered species may be present within the Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge purchase boundary.

E = Endangered P = Proposed T = Threatened

<u>Status</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
E	<u>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</u>	Bald eagle
E	<u>Lampsillis orbiculata</u>	Pink mucket pearly mussel
E	<u>Myotis grisescens</u>	Gray bat
E	<u>Myotis sodalis</u>	Indiana bat
E	<u>Plethobasis cooperianus</u>	Orange-footed pearly mussel
E	<u>Sterna antillarum</u>	Interior least tern
PE	<u>Scaphirhynchus albus</u>	Pallid sturgeon
PT	<u>Apios priceana</u>	Price's potato bean

Source:

Biological Assessment of Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species, Proposed Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge. September, 1989. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities, Minnesota.

State Listed Threatened and Endangered Species - ILLINOIS

State threatened or endangered species reported from the four counties encompassing the Cypress Creek study area.

E = Endangered T = Threatened

*Species known to occur within the project area.

Status	Scientific Name	Common Name
PLANTS		
E*	<i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i> var. <i>hastata</i>	Virginia snakeroot
T	<i>Asplenium bradleyi</i>	Bradley's spleenwort
T*	<i>Asplenium resiliens</i>	black spleenwort
E*	<i>Bartonia paniculata</i>	screwstem
E	<i>Botrychium biternatum</i>	southern grape fern
E*	<i>Carex decomposita</i>	sedge
E	<i>Carex gigantea</i>	sedge
E*	<i>Carex intumescens</i>	sedge
E*	<i>Carex oxylepis</i>	sedge
E	<i>Carex physorhyncha</i>	sedge
E	<i>Carex prasina</i>	sedge
E	<i>Carex striatula</i>	sedge
E	<i>Carya pallida</i>	pale hickory
E	<i>Castanea dentata</i>	American chestnut
E	<i>Cladrastis lutea</i>	yellowwood
E*	<i>Clematis crispa</i>	blue jasmine
E*	<i>Clematis viorna</i>	leatherflower
E*	<i>Cyperus lancastriensis</i>	galingale
T*	<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	hay-scented fern
E*	<i>Dryopteris celsa</i>	log fern
T*	<i>Euonymus americanus</i>	strawberry bush
E*	<i>Eupatorium incarnatum</i>	thoroughwort
E*	<i>Fimbristylis baldwiniana</i>	Baldwin's fimbriatylis
E	<i>Glyceria arkansana</i>	Manna grass
E*	<i>Habenaria flava</i>	Tuberled orchid
E*	<i>Halesia carolina</i>	silverbell tree
T*	<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	narrow-leaved sunflower
E	<i>Heteranthera reniformis</i>	mud plantain
T*	<i>Hydrastis canadensis</i>	golden seal
E*	<i>Hydrolea uniflora</i>	one-flowered hydrolea
E*	<i>Hypericum densiflorum</i>	St. John's wort
E*	<i>Iresine rhizomatosa</i>	bloodleaf
T*	<i>Iris fulva</i>	swamp red iris
E*	<i>J. ovata</i>	water willow
E	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>	Trailing juniper
E*	<i>Lysimachia radicans</i>	Creeping loosestrife

E*	<i>Melanthera nivea</i>	white melanthera
E*	<i>Melothria pendula</i>	squirting cucumber
T*	<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	ginseng
E	<i>Panicum hians</i>	panic grass
E	<i>Panicum joorii</i>	panic grass
E	<i>Panicum ravenelii</i>	panic grass
E	<i>Panicum stipitatum</i>	panic grass
E	<i>Panicum yadkinense</i>	panic grass
E	<i>Paspalum bushii</i>	hairy bead grass
E	<i>Paspalum dissectum</i>	bead grass
E*	<i>Paspalum lentiferum</i>	bead grass
E	<i>Pinus echinata</i>	shortleaf pine
T*	<i>Planera aquatica</i>	water elm
E	<i>Plantago heterophylla</i>	small plantain
E*	<i>Polygonum longistylum</i>	smartweed
E	<i>Potentilla millegrana</i>	cinquefoil
E*	<i>Ptilimnium costatum</i>	mock bishop's weed
E*	<i>Ptilimnium nuttallii</i>	mock bishop's weed
E	<i>Puccinellia pallida</i>	grass
E	<i>Pycnanthemum albescens</i>	white mountain mint
E	<i>Pycnanthemum torrei</i>	mountain mint
E*	<i>Quercus nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's oak
T*	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	willow oak
T	<i>Quercus prinus</i>	rock chestnut oak
E	<i>Rhynchospora macrostachya</i>	beak rush
E	<i>Rubus enslenii</i>	arching dewberry
E*	<i>Sagittaria longirostra</i>	arrowhead
T*	<i>Salvia azurea</i> subsp. <i>pitcheri</i>	blue sage
T*	<i>Scirpus polyphyllus</i>	bulrush
E*	<i>Scirpus verecundus</i>	bulrush
E	<i>Solidago arguta</i>	goldenrod
E	<i>Sparganium chlorocarpum</i>	green-fruited burreed
E	<i>Spiranthes vernalis</i>	spring ladies' tresses
E	<i>Stachys clingmanii</i>	hedge nettle
T	<i>Stenanthium gramineum</i>	grass-leaved lily
T*	<i>Styrax americana</i>	storax
E*	<i>Styrax grandifolia</i>	bigleaf snowball bush
E*	<i>Tilia heterophylla</i>	white basswood
E*	<i>Thalia dealbata</i>	powdery thalia
E	<i>Thelypteris phegopteris</i>	long beech fern
E	<i>Trillium cuneatum</i>	trillium
T	<i>Trillium viride</i>	green trillium
E*	<i>Urtica chamaedryoides</i>	nettle

MAMMALS

T*	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	bobcat
T*	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>	river otter
E	<i>Neotoma floridana</i>	eastern woodrat
T*	<i>Ochrotomys nuttalli</i>	golden mouse
T*	<i>Oryzomys palustris</i>	rice rat

BIRDS

E*	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's hawk
E	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	Bachman's sparrow
E*	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	red-shouldered hawk
E	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	great egret
E*	<i>Circus cyoneus</i>	northern harrier
E*	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	Mississippi kite
T*	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	loggerhead shrike
T*	<i>Limothlypis swainsonii</i>	Swainson's warbler
T*	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's wren
E*	<i>Tyto alba</i>	barn owl

AMPHIBIANS

E*	<i>Desmognathus fuscus</i>	dark salamander
T*	<i>Pseudacris streckeri</i>	Strecker's chorus frog

REPTILES

E*	<i>Thamnophis sauritis</i> subsp. <i>septentrionalis</i>	Eastern ribbon snake
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FISH

T*	<i>Lepisosteus spatula</i>	alligator gar
T*	<i>Lepomis symmetricus</i>	bantam sunfish
E*	<i>Notropis hubbsi</i>	bluehead shiner

Sources:

Balliett, A.L. July 1983. Alexander and Pulaski Counties Water Resources Investigation Planning and Report. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Initial Evaluation of the Water Resources Problems of the Streams and Tributaries in Alexander and Pulaski Counties, Illinois. March, 1984. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District.

Phillipi, M.A., B.M. Burr, R.A. Brandon. August, 1986. A Preliminary Survey of the Aquatic Fauna of the Cache River in Johnson and Pulask Counties, Illinois. Southern Illinois University.

H. PUBLIC USE

1. General

The Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited produced a seven minute video, "Cache River Wetlands", for use primarily during the Cypress Creek Refuge establishment public comment period. This high quality professional video is still being used for public presentations.

Andrew French, Wildlife Biologist, Minneapolis Regional Office, appeared on a segment of the CBS television show "Good Morning America" to explain the importance of the Cache River wetlands.

Southern Illinois Outdoors newspaper personnel produced a 28-minute video called "The Making of a Refuge" which depicts the history of the area and establishment of Cypress Creek Refuge.

A photo and short description of the project appeared in the December 1990 issue of Waterfowl 2000.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Pulaski/Alexander Farm Bureau jointly hosted a landowners meeting at Shawnee Community College on September 5 to explain the acquisition process and answer questions. Bob Hietikko, Supervisory Realty Specialist, Minneapolis Regional Office, and Jerry Updike, Refuge Manager, Cypress Creek Refuge, represented the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There were 125 people in attendance.

8. Hunting

The 1990-91 Southern Illinois Quota Zone (Alexander, Johnson, Union, and Williamson counties) harvest was set at 71,000 Canada geese with a 70-day split season. Warm weather, late arriving geese, a high adult to immature goose ratio, and flooding made for a poor hunting season. Goose kill in the quota zone was 37,000.

As a result of Cypress Creek Refuge establishment, several parties became interested in goose hunting club opportunities. They speculated that the Cypress Creek Refuge would be closed to waterfowl hunting and that in-holdings would be a valuable source of hunter revenue. As established under the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act, the Refuge can remain open to hunting. Any waterfowl sanctuary area should be moved around for the acquisition program to succeed.



90-7 (10/90) Jerry Updike

With Refuge establishment came interest in hunting club opportunities. Plans are for the Refuge to be open to hunting so large numbers of geese will not occur.

I. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

2. Rehabilitation

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leased the north one-half of building D from Shawnee Community College, 3,000 square-feet, at a cost of \$1 per year. This will be a temporary office shared with The Nature Conservancy personnel. Renovation included: sheetrock walls/ceilings, electric wiring and fixtures, heat/cool system, and water/sewer hookup. The Nature Conservancy paid for installation of the sheetrock and heat/cool system. Government cost was minimal with Crab Orchard Refuge personnel accomplishing much of the work.



90-8 (5/91) Janet Updike

Office of Cypress Creek Refuge on Shawnee Community College campus, nine miles east of Ullin, Illinois and six miles east of exit 18, Interstate 57.



90-9 (10/90) Jean Hinkle

Cypress Creek Refuge office before and after renovation. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy paid for all the work but the space is leased for only \$1 per year.



90-10 (11/90) Jean Hinkle

4. Equipment Utilization and Replacement

Two vehicles were acquired for temporary use; a General Service Administration, St. Louis, pickup truck and Crab Orchard Refuge passenger car. Four vehicles, a van and three pickup trucks, were ordered for delivery in 1991. A Savin 7230 copy machine was purchased - \$2,980. All office furnishings came from the Minneapolis Regional Office as new furniture was purchased there.

5. Communications Systems

A Merlin telephone system was purchased from and installed by AT&T - \$5,480. Three mobile and three portable Refuge frequency radios were purchased and installed at a total cost of \$2,510.

6. Computer Systems

Two computers, a Dell and a Northgate, and one Hewlett Packard Laser Jet III printer were purchased and installed - \$8,850.

J. OTHER ITEMS1. Cooperative Programs

Cache River Wetlands Partners - There is no "formal" joint venture agreement but the following occurred during 1990. The Nature Conservancy hired Dave Maginel, Land Steward, Cache River Preserve, in June. Maginel shares office space (cooperative agreement 14-16-003-91-921 Service/TNC) with and is considered a part of the Refuge staff. The Illinois Department of Conservation opened a Cache River State Natural Area office at Belknap, Illinois in May. Jim Waycuilis is Site Superintendent and A.E. Corzine is Wildlife Technician. The program is administered from the Ferne Clyffe State Park office. Ducks Unlimited is represented locally by Dave Kennedy, Anna, Illinois. Their administrative office is in Jackson, Mississippi.



90-11 (12/90) Jerry Updike

Cache River Wetlands logo and agencies/organizations symbols of those participating in this cooperative effort to preserve and restore 60,000 acres within the watershed.



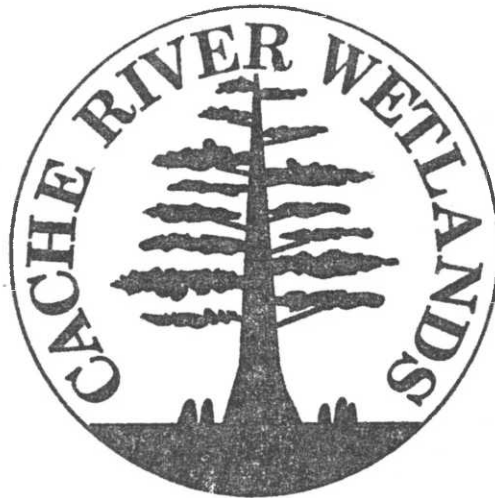
90-12 (11/90) Ned Trovillion

Land Steward Dave Maginel, The Nature Conservancy, and Refuge Manager Jerry Updike near Perks Road bridge. Photo was used in December 1990 issue of Waterfowl 2000.

Shawnee Community College Lease - The College Board, administration, and staff have been most helpful and cooperative in providing temporary office space and assisting the Cypress Creek Refuge staff in establishing this base of operations. Office space of 3,000 square-feet, overlooking the surrounding countryside, is provided for five years at a cost of \$1 per year (lease 14-16-0003-91-924 Service/Shawnee Community College). Cypress Creek Refuge will provide a place for college intern and biology programs. Building renovation will be of benefit to the college when the Refuge moves to permanent facilities.

Cypress Creek Refuge/Cache River Wetlands Dedication - Congressman Glenn Poshard worked with all parties to establish a dedication committee. This group met in December and began planning the event to be held May 17-18, 1991. Members of this committee are: Jerry Reppert, chairman, Robert Cheek, Sarah Jane Clarke, Marti Clarke, Janis and A.E. Corzine, Carol Hanson, Carl Hileman, Brenda King, Rick Linton, Betsy Modglin, Neal Needham, Pat Ryan, and Wesley Wright. Assisting are: Nancy Bridges, Dave Cooper, Jean Hinkle, Dave Kennedy, Dave Maginel, Karl Maple, William Tollar, Victor Turner, and Jerry Updike.

Cache River Wetlands Logo - The following logo was designed by Rick Linton, Illinois Tourism Bureau, for use in conjunction with the cooperative aspects of the Cache River Wetlands. The logo is also to be used for the May 18, 1991 Dedication event.



3. Items of Interest

Awards - The Citizens Committee to Save The Cache River, a local group of 75 with 10 voting directors, was nominated for the Director's Wetlands Conservation Award. The group has been active since 1979 to preserve the Cache River Wetlands resource.

The Crab Orchard Refuge staff was recommended for a group performance award for their work in establishing the Cypress Creek Refuge office and staff training.

Training - Updike attended the National Association of Landscape Architects convention in San Diego, October 26-31 and the WAM/JAM session in Northfield, Minnesota, August 20-23. Hinkle received Regional Office orientation training in Minneapolis, December 11-13.

Earthquake - An earthquake of magnitude 4.6 occurred September 26 with an epicenter near New Madrid, Missouri. There was no local damage. The catastrophic earthquake predicted for December 3 by Dr. Ian Browning did not occur. However, this prediction did more for earthquake awareness in six months than public agencies have been able to do in 15 years.

4. Credits

Updike prepared this report and Hinkle typed and assembled this narrative report. Photo credit is given by name with each photograph.

K. FEEDBACK

New National Wildlife Refuges - It is extremely important to keep the momentum going after the excitement of a refuge authorization. Having staff in place and interacting with the local community can dispel rumors and false ideas. Also, land acquisition can move forward at a fast and positive pace with staff in place.

Another important factor is local hiring. There is the extra coordination required to "walk" people through the Office of Personnel Management "maze" but it can be worth the effort. There are good and well qualified people in our local communities who would be proud to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Many new refuges have received priority status and this has produced results. All in authority need to continue this support of new National Wildlife Refuges.

Contaminants - Most land parcels in rural areas contain some type of household dump and/or fuel tank. There needs to be a quicker and more efficient method of evaluating lands for contaminants and taking action to correct any problems. Waiting several months to complete simple testing results in lost purchase opportunities. This may also affect other potential willing sellers.

The Refuge Manager, or designated U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Realty Office personnel, should have the authority to contract directly with testing firms through some type of open purchase order. Field testing for small potential contaminants could then be completed in a few days.

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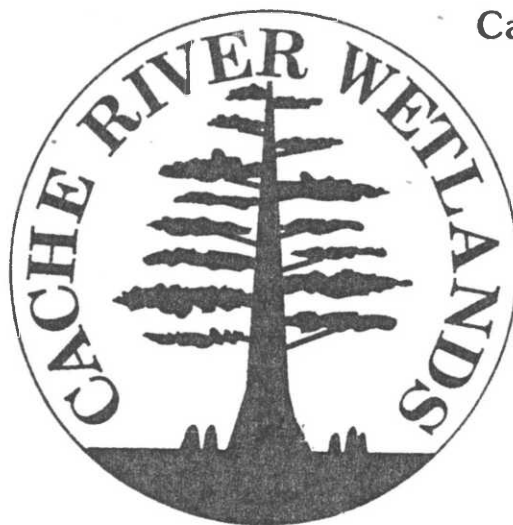
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May 18, 1991

held at Shawnee Community College campus

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge
Frank Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve
Cache River State Natural Area
Lower Cache River Preserve



DEDICATION

PROGRAM

Welcome by Master of Ceremonies.....	Jerry L. Reppert, Chairman, Dedication Committee
Invocation.....	Reverend Lucien Bozarth
National Anthem and Presentation of Colors.....	Local Band Members Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts of America
Introduction of Platform Guests.....	Master of Ceremonies
Introduction of Speakers.....	The Honorable Glenn Poshard, U.S. Representative
Remarks.....	Honored Guests
Dedication Address.....	John F. Turner, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge
Introduction of Illinois Department of Conservation.....	Master of Ceremonies
State Nature Preserve Dedication.....	John Comerio, Deputy Director Illinois Department of Conservation G. Tanner Girard, Chairman Nature Preserves Commission
Benediction.....	Reverend Scott Hamer
Ribbon Cutting.....	John Turner Jim Gritman

PLATFORM GUESTS

Illinois Governor Jim Edgar; U.S. Senator Paul Simon; U.S. Congressmen Glenn Poshard, Carroll Hubbard, Jr.; U.S. Department of the Interior, Frank Bracken, Deputy Secretary; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, John Turner, Director, Jim Gritman, Regional Director, Jerry Updike, Refuge Manager; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jim Corbin, Colonel; Illinois Senators Ralph Dunn; Illinois Representatives David Phelps, Larry Woolard; Illinois Department of Conservation, John Comerio, Deputy Director, John Tranquilli, Office Director, Natural Resources; Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, G. Tanner Girard, Chairman, Dr. Brian Anderson, Executive Director; The Nature Conservancy, Richard Weinstein, Chairman, Board of Governors, Russ Van Herik, Vice-President, Midwest Region; Ducks Unlimited, Hunt Eldridge, Director of Development; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Charles Collins, Executive Director; Shawnee Community College, Dr. Jack Hill, President; and Jerry Reppert, Master of Ceremonies.



Sponsors

The Cache River Wetlands Dedication Committee is honored by the generosity of the following for their contributions to this celebration: Anna State Bank, Citizens Committee to Save the Cache, Laborer's International Union, Anna National Bank, Best Western Cheekwood, Charter Bank of Anna, Dow Chemical U.S. A., First Bank and Trust Company of Cairo, First State Bank of Dongola, Tamms State Bank and Unimin Specialty Minerals, Inc.

The *CACHE RIVER WETLANDS* project is a cooperative joint effort between governmental agencies, organizations and individuals to preserve and restore wetlands of southern Illinois. This project is an important component of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge was established June 26, 1990, with a purchase boundary of 35,200 acres along the Cache River and Cypress Creek. Acquisition will total 3,000 acres, including signed options, the first year. A temporary office is at Shawnee Community College.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION Cache River State Natural Area including Heron Pond, Wildcat Bluff, Section 8 Woods Nature Preserve, and portions of Buttonland Swamp. Acquisition/preservation efforts began in 1970 and today total 8,200 acres. The headquarters is located north of Belknap.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY Active in preservation and restoration efforts in the Cache River basin since 1970. Presently establishing the Lower Cache River Preserve of 2,000 acres in the Limekiln Slough area. Preserve personnel share temporary office space at Shawnee Community College.

DUCKS UNLIMITED Acquired 1,000 acres east of Interstate 57 in 1988 and presently developing waterfowl management units. The organization is assisting with land acquisition and development projects in the Cache River basin.

FRANK BELLROSE WATERFOWL RESERVE A 2,100 acre area within the Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge is to be restored, developed, and managed for wood duck production and migrating waterfowl use in honor of Frank Bellrose. Funding is being secured through efforts by The Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited.

THE FUTURE Land acquisitions, planning and development of wildlife and public use facilities will progress. Lands will be planted to trees, managed for waterfowl, or farmed for wildlife. Private lands initiatives, trash collection and re-cycling could all help improve the Cache River basin ecosystem.



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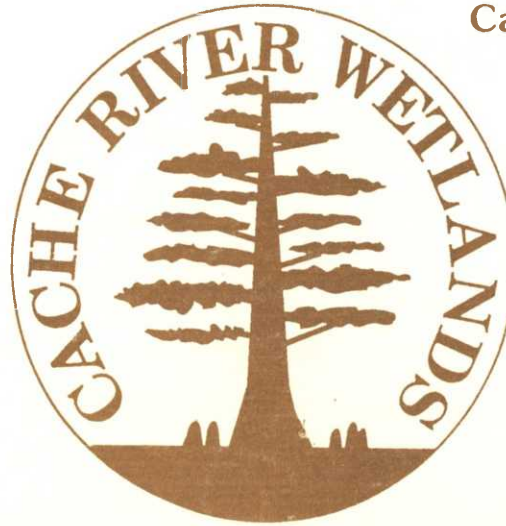
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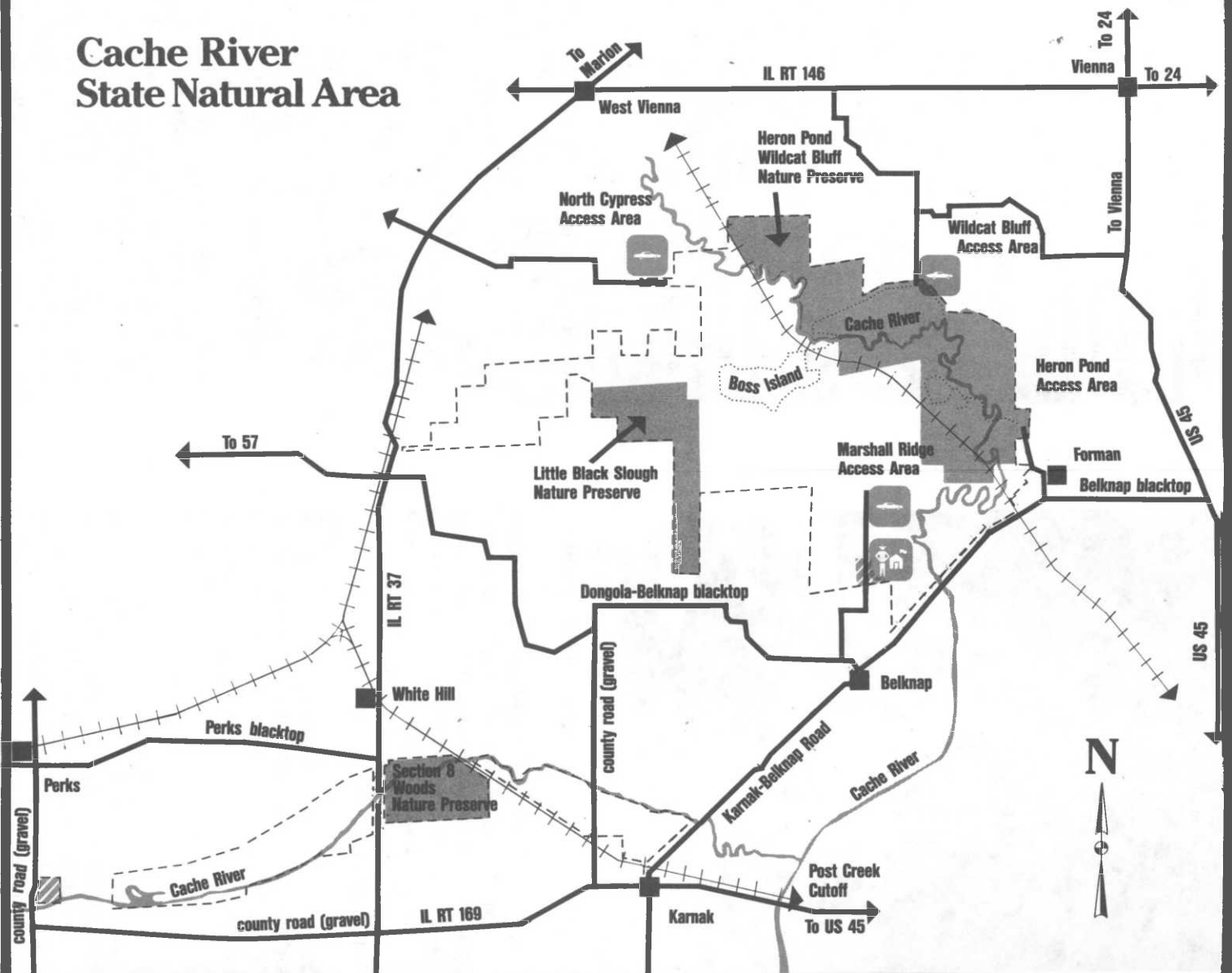
Cache River STATE NATURAL AREA

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION 









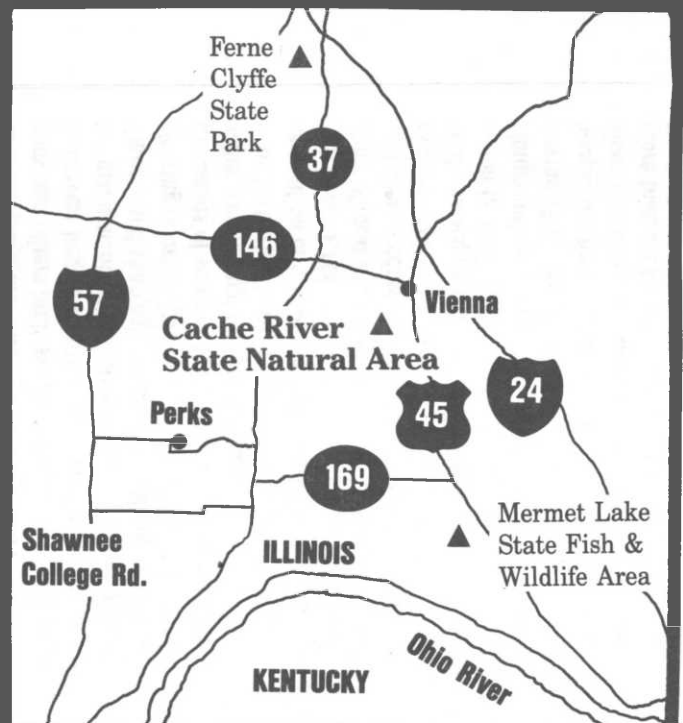
open spaces... family places

Cache River State Natural Area



Legend

-  Site Headquarters
-  Access Area
-  Dedicated Nature Preserve (No Hunting)
-  Railroad Tracks
-  Trail
-  Park Boundary



Vegetation

There are many different plant species to be found on the Cache River State Natural Area. This diversity is primarily due to the variety of land forms found on the area and the convergence of northern and southern floras at this biological midpoint of North America.

The Lower Cache primarily is cypress and tupelo swamps and areas of open water with large scattered cypress trees. Floating or submersed plants like pondweed, coontail and duckweed can be seen in the river, swamp and pond areas. The swamp border and low floodplain forests contain such trees as Drummond's red maple, red elm, pumpkin ash, overcup oak, pin oak and swamp white oak. The low ridges are a striking contrast to the wetlands with sweetgum, cherrybark oak, tulip tree, white oak, red oak, black oak and several species of hickories. Poison ivy is a common understory species in these areas. Not many remnants of the original open grassy barren lands remain along the Cache. These areas, once found on dry knobs and hard claypan soils, were covered with native grasses such as little bluestem and indian grass and had scattered post oak and blackjack oaks. The Department of Conservation is attempting to restore some of these barrens on dry sites in addition to planting abandoned fields with native trees.

Little Black Slough also has impressive stands of cypress and tupelo in the swamps. The most impressive and popular areas for visitors is the Heron Pond area with a floating boardwalk that leads the visitors out into the pond. In addition to the cypress and tupelo swamps, Little Black Slough contains the low floodplain forests as well as upland forests, dry blufftop woods and hillside barrens. The swamp border and low floodplain woods contain such trees as Drummond's red maple, red elm, pumpkin ash, overcup oak and pin oak. The surrounding hilly areas have such species as tulip trees, sweetgums, spicebush and most of the oaks and hickories native to all of southern Illinois. Poison ivy is the most common understory species. Well developed limestone barrens with many prairie herbs and grasses occur on Wildcat Bluff. Little bluestem, side oats grama, big bluestem, prairie dock and indian grass can be seen on the barrens.

Wildlife

The Cache River State Natural Area offers a wide variety of habitat for many types of wildlife. This area provides an excellent opportunity for birding and other wildlife observation.

The great blue heron, green heron and the rare yellow-crowned night heron and egrets are regularly found here.

Pileated woodpeckers, and black and turkey vultures often are encountered. Migrating ospreys and overwintering bald eagles occasionally are seen. Many species of waterfowl are seasonal visitors and wood ducks nest in hollow trees throughout the swamps. Many species of warblers and other songbirds frequently are seen along the river border and in the forests, during migration periods and the nesting season. Wild turkeys were released in 1989 and appear to be making a comeback.

Visitors may encounter various mammals such as red and gray foxes, fox and gray squirrels, mink, muskrat, beaver, swamp and cottontail rabbits, deer and coyotes. On rare occasions, signs of endangered bobcats and river otters can be seen. At dusk, one may glimpse bats as they sweep over the water in search of insects. There are three threatened or endangered bats known to inhabit the area. Many types of fish are found in the area. Bowfin, grass pickerel and channel catfish are common. Some rare aquatic species known to inhabit the area include the green treefrog, banded pygmy sunfish, cypress minnow and bird-voiced treefrog. Also notable are the three venomous snakes common to extreme southern Illinois: the copperhead, timber rattler and cottonmouth snakes. While they are potentially life-threatening, it is best to simply be observant and cautious while visiting the area.

Trails

There presently are 9 miles of designated foot trails on the Cache River Natural Area. As the opportunity presents itself, the Illinois Department of Conservation plans to develop more trails on this site.

Heron Pond Trail (1.5 miles)

This easy trail's highlight is the floating boardwalk that allows the visitor access to the heart of the swamp.

Look Out Point Trail (1 mile)

This easy hike takes the visitor along the edge of high quality hillside barrens and provides an overlook of the Cache River valley and its swamps and floodplain forests.

Little Black Slough Trail (6.5 miles)

Bald cypress and tupelo swamps, sandstone bluffs, floodplain forests and hillside glades highlight this moderately difficult trail.



The acquisition and establishment of the Cache River State Natural Area was due to successful cooperation between private, governmental, and commercial groups working together to protect this unique natural resource. All plants, animals and natural features of the area are protected by law to ensure its existence for future generations. Scientific and educational use of the area is allowed by permit, issued by the Illinois Department of Conservation. Hunting and fishing are allowed in areas outside of the nature preserves as designated on the attached map and on hunter fact sheets. For information about the area, contact Site Superintendent, Cache River State Natural Area, Rt. 2, Box 2, Belknap, IL 62908 (618) 634-9678. For more information on other Illinois Department of Conservation areas, write the Illinois Department of Conservation, Office of Public Information, 524 South Second Street, Springfield, IL 62701-1787.

In addition to the Illinois Department of Conservation efforts, three other conservation agencies and organizations are working to conserve natural resources in the Cache River watershed. For information on the efforts of these other conservation entities working in the Cache River valley please write:

The Nature Conservancy

Rt. 1, Box 53E
Ullin, IL 62992
(618) 634-2524

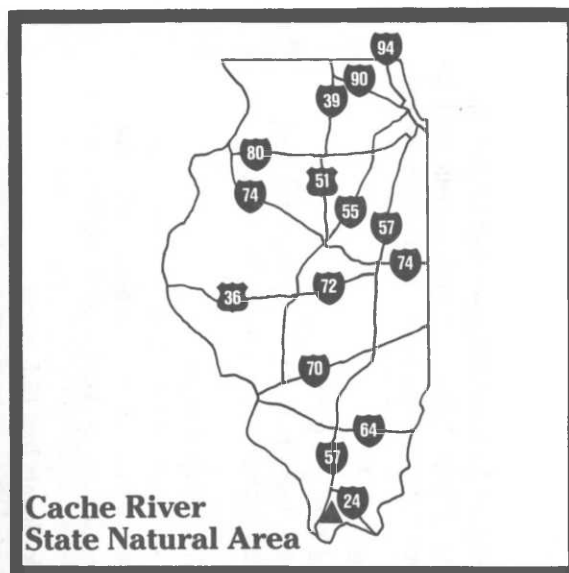
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Rt. 1, Box 53D
Ullin, IL 62992
(618) 634-2231

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

1 Waterfowl Way
Long Grove, IL 60047
(708) 438-4300



Cache River State Natural Area
Rt. 2, Box 2, Belknap, IL 62908, (618) 634-9678

- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities. Please call ahead to the park office before you make your trip.
- We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks write to the Illinois Department of Conservation, Office of Public Information, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL, 62701-1787, or call (217) 782-7454.



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