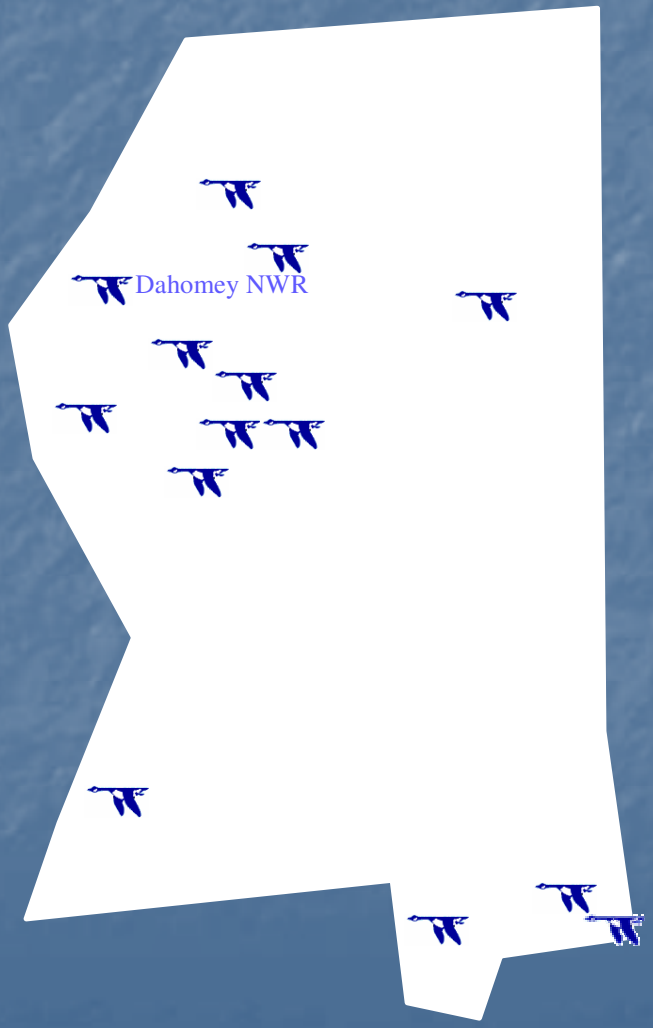
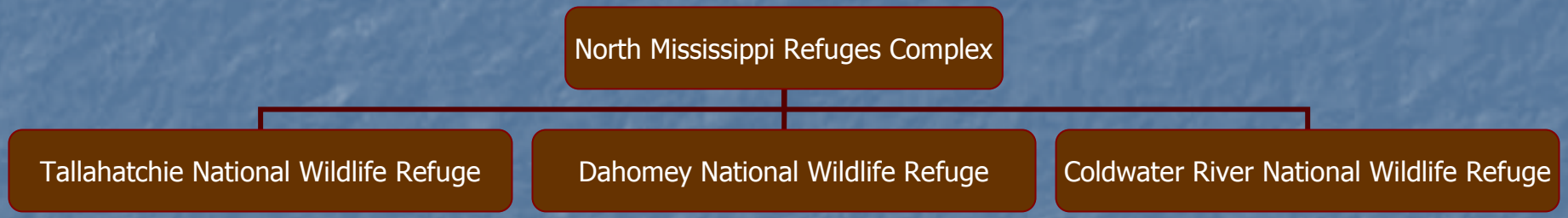
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge

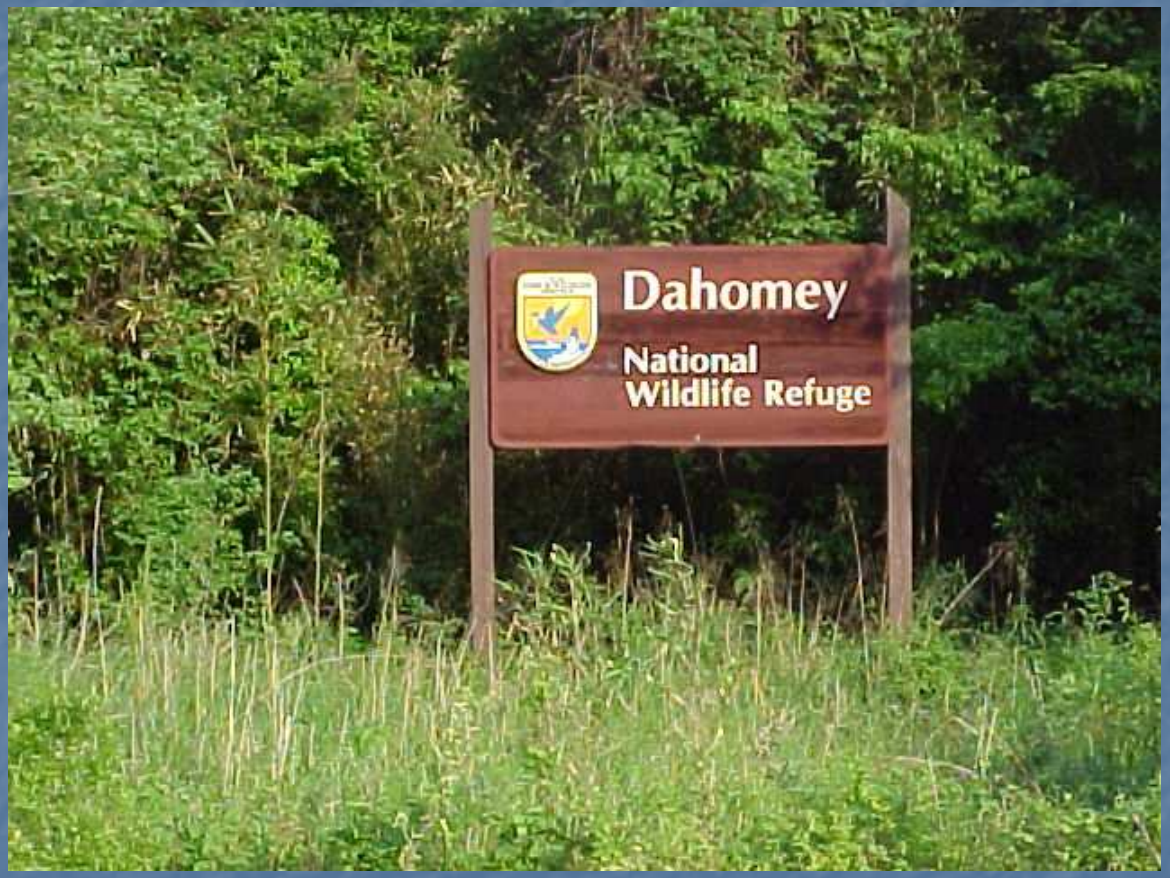
Dahomey is one of 15 National Wildlife Refuges in the state of Mississippi



Dahomey is administered by the North Mississippi Refuge Complex



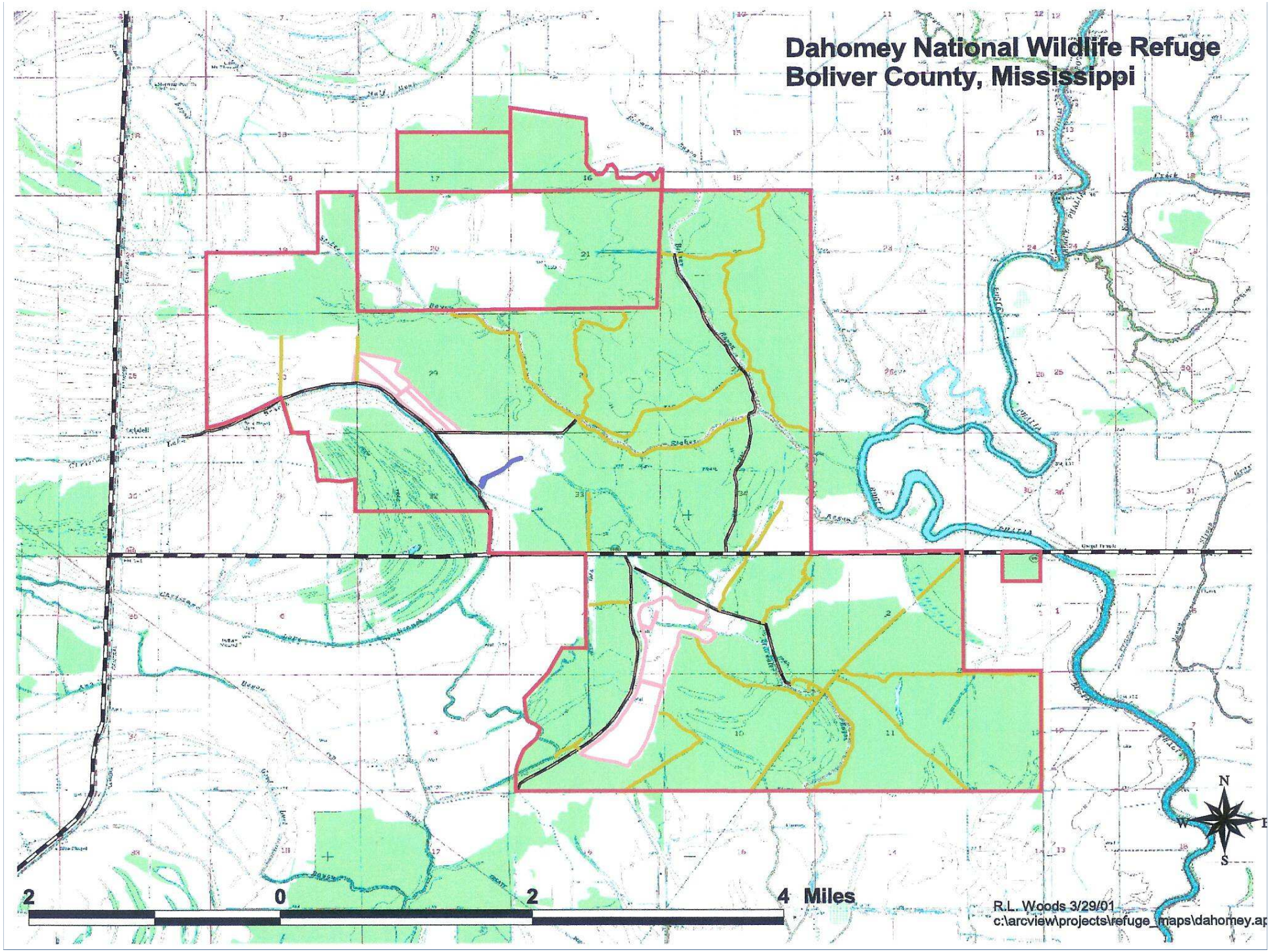
Dahomey was established in 1990



Dahomey is located about 10 miles west of Boyle on Hwy 446.

Refuge Purpose

- "…for use as and inviolate sanctuary, or any other management purpose, for migratory birds."
- "…for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources."
- "…the conservation of wetlands of the Nation in order to maintain the public benefits they provide and to help fulfill international obligations contained in various migratory bird treaties."


Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge
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What does the refuge have to offer?

Economic Impact to Bolivar County

- Estimated 10,000 visitors annually
- NMRC FY ’05 budget $1,740,000
- Refuge Revenue share $18,000

Public Uses

HUNTING

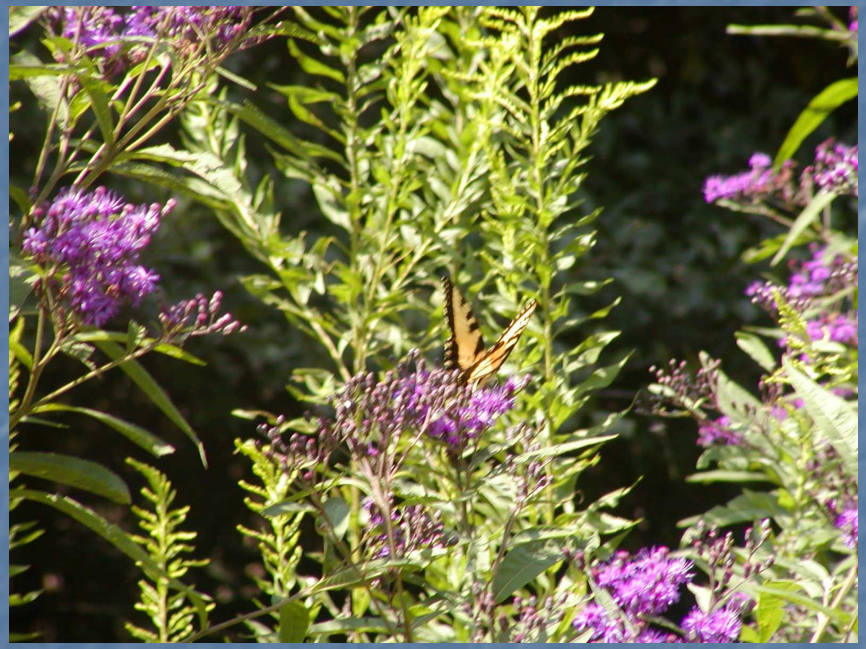
FISHING

Wildlife Drives

TRAILS

WILDLIFE OBSERVATION

Wildlife Photography



Environmental Education

Interpretation

Friends of Dahomey

National Wildlife Refuge, Inc.

What is the Friends of Dahomey?

The Friends of Dahomey is a support group for the refuge that works with the refuge staff on common goals.

A Brief History

- Established in 2004
- Started with a 12 person interim board
- Achieved Non-profit status in 2004
- In 2005 an "official" board was elected and meets once a month
- Has grown to over 30 members

Volunteers

The Friends group provides volunteer help and organizes volunteer workdays with organizations willing to help.

Outreach

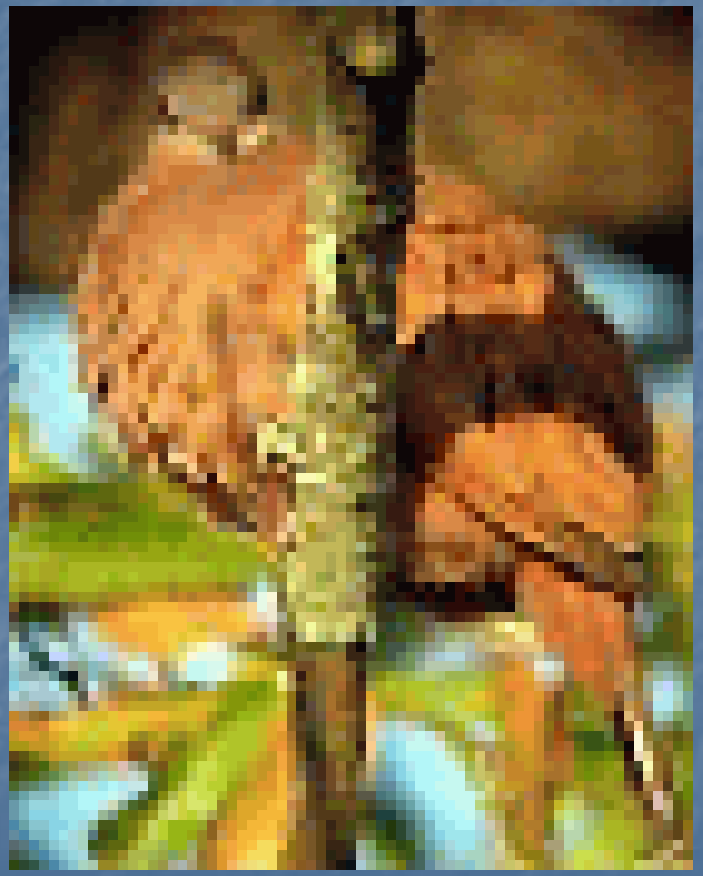
- The friends group has been active in outreach by setting up an information booth at local events such as the Crosstie Festival, Octoberfest and the 4-H wildlife jamboree.
- Provide programs for civic clubs and other organizations

Habitat management

The friends group has installed 20 bluebird boxes and monitor their success annually.

Citizen Science

- December 14, 2004
- First Christmas bird count in Bolivar County
- Ruddy Ground Dove was recorded for the first time east of the Mississippi



Interpretation/Education

The friends group supports the interpretation efforts of the refuge by volunteering to lead group tours and nature walks.

Fundraising

- In 2004 the Friends group received a $5,000 start up grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- The group also earns money through shirt and hat sales, donations and membership dues.
- Fundraising efforts are ongoing and we are currently seeking additional grants, corporate sponsors and donations.

Current Projects

- Constructing a 1 mile all weather walking trail
- Planning a hummingbird/butterfly garden in front of the Dahomey office
- Seeking a grant to build a photo blind on the refuge
- Improving interpretive signs on the refuge
- Long range planning document

For more information

- Visit the Friends of Dahomey website at www.friendsofdahomey.org
- Contact the refuge office at 662/742-9331
- e-mail info@friendsofdahomey.org
- Write to Friends of Dahomey

  P.O. Box 803

  Boyle, MS 38730