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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife  
Washington 25, D. C.

1962 PUBLIC USE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

The number of visitors on the National Wildlife Refuges in 1962 was almost identical with 1961. Approximately 11 million persons used these areas both years. This is the first year that failed to show an increase in visits. Since 1951, when public use figures were first compiled, the annual rate of increase has averaged between 8 and 11 percent. The unusually cool summer in 1962 throughout the mid-West resulted in a marked decline in boating use. The very restrictive waterfowl season accounted for a decline of more than 42 percent in waterfowl hunting on the Upper Mississippi Wild Life and Fish Refuge.

Primary consideration for public use on National Wildlife Refuges is given to sightseeing, nature observations and photography, interpretive programs, fishing, and hunting where such uses will have no appreciable effect on fish and wildlife. Secondary consideration is given to picnicking, swimming, and boating. There are very few opportunities for camping.

Wildlife observation, picnicking, swimming, and sightseeing were again the most popular uses, accounting for  $7\frac{1}{4}$  million visitors or about 67 percent of the total. This represents a decline of about  $\frac{1}{4}$  million visitors. Fishing accounted for about  $29\frac{1}{2}$  percent or  $3\frac{1}{4}$  million persons, a slight decrease from 1961. Hunting was enjoyed by 366,186 persons or about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  percent of the total use. Actually, this year there were 64,000 more hunters than last year which was attributable to increased hunting of big game and upland game on these areas.

In previous years public use on the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge, which extends for 284 miles along the river from Wabasha, Minnesota, nearly to Rock Island, Illinois, has accounted for one quarter of all public use on refuges. In 1962 the intensity of use dropped from nearly 3 million visitors to 1,837,550. This is a decline of more than a million persons using the river for water-activated recreation. Public use on the 44,000-acre Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge in southern Illinois also decreased slightly, from 1,484,000 to 1,353,000. On the 59,000-acre Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Oklahoma public use increased from 919,772 persons in 1961 to 1,102,155.

Refuges which are superimposed on Bureau of Reclamation, Corps of Engineers, and TVA reservoirs and flood control projects were again heavily used. These 24 cooperative refuges had over 2 million visitors in 1962. The intensity of use on these 24 refuges, together with 31 refuges on which the annual visitors exceed 30,000 persons is shown on page 6.

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The following tabulation of public use, arranged by regions, is based upon information submitted by all refuge managers.

REGION I (Pacific)

<u>Refuge</u>	<u>Total Use</u>	<u>Hunting Use</u>	<u>Fishing Use</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Use</u>
Benton Lake	990	--	--	990
Bowdoin	21,783	319	--	21,464
Camas	520	187	--	333
Clear Lake	3,510	--	--	3,510
Cold Springs	10,300	2,000	5,000	3,300
Columbia	73,060	4,680	41,380	27,000
Colusa	8,000	4,000	450	3,550
Deer Flat	193,955	3,000	40,000	150,955
Desert Game	206,000	3,500	1,500	200,000
Fort Peck	245,881	45,498	32,509	167,874
Hart Mountain	3,266	116	--	3,150
Kern	250	--	--	250
Klamath Forest	2,220	1,220	300	700
Little Pend Oreille	15,400	4,000	4,300	7,100
Lower Klamath	53,764	13,764	--	40,000
Malheur	12,000	364	1,200	10,436
McKay Creek	11,000	1,600	3,000	6,400
McNary	5,000	--	2,000	3,000
Medicine Lake	7,200	300	--	6,900
Merced	1,719	1,319	--	400
Minidoka	15,600	--	5,000	10,600
Modoc	6,125	1,680	875	3,570
National Bison	44,000	--	--	44,000
Nine-Pipe	5,000	--	3,000	2,000
Pablo	2,000	--	1,600	400
Pishkun	6,300	--	5,000	1,300
Pixley	40	--	--	40
Red Rock Lakes	2,550	195	455	1,900
Ruby Lake	13,600	100	6,000	7,500
Sacramento	15,000	--	250	14,750
Salton Sea	1,516	316	--	1,200
Sheldon	5,775	1,050	125	4,600
Snake River	700	300	150	250
Stillwater	4,500	1,500	500	2,500
Sutter	15,000	5,000	7,000	3,000
Tule Lake	76,620	13,620	--	63,000
Turnbull	4,500	--	--	4,500
Upper Klamath	12,000	500	7,000	4,500
Willapa	2,500	1,050	--	1,450
Willow Creek	9,500	--	8,000	1,500
Yellowwater	3,500	--	3,000	500
Total	1,122,144	111,178	179,594	831,372

REGION 2 (Southwest)

<u>Refuge</u>	<u>Total Use</u>	<u>Hunting Use</u>	<u>Fishing Use</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Use</u>
Aransas	18,296	--	--	18,296
Bear River	18,973	3,700	1,500	13,773
Bitter Lake	8,508	120	4,664	3,724
Bosque del Apache	2,000	--	500	1,500
Buffalo Lakes	333,900	--	85,000	248,900
Burford Lake	150	--	--	150
Cabeza Prieta	1,500	--	--	1,500
Fish Springs	3,834	34	--	3,800
Hagerman	169,654	--	91,089	78,565
Havasu Lake	556,443	600	295,000	260,843
Hutton Lake	50	--	--	50
Imperial	150,984	2,000	59,100	89,884
Kirwin	137,470	924	96,091	40,455
Kofa	8,010	375	--	7,635
Laguna Atascosa	25,000	--	22,600	2,400
Monte Vista	5,218	643	75	4,500
Muleshoe	4,200	--	50	4,150
National Elk	107,850	--	1,600	106,250
Ouray	400	100	--	300
Pathfinder	20,500	1,000	14,000	5,500
Quivira	450	--	--	450
Salt Plains	260,675	--	19,500	241,175
San Andres	1,650	1,500	--	150
Santa Ana	6,250	--	--	6,250
Tishomingo	22,178	1,468	9,875	10,835
Washita	250	--	100	150
Wichita Mountains	<u>1,102,155</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>64,143</u>	<u>1,038,012</u>
Total	2,966,548	12,464	764,887	2,189,197

REGION 3 (North-central)

Agassiz	31,679	1,629	--	30,050
Arrowwood	10,500	300	200	10,000
Bear Butte	7,000	--	500	6,500
Belle Fourche	6,100	--	750	5,350
Chautauqua	46,042	320	41,612	4,110
Crab Orchard	1,353,000	20,000	68,500	1,264,500
Crescent Lake	3,200	--	2,700	500
Des Lacs	10,580	580	--	10,000
De Soto	76,625	425	13,000	63,200
Fort Niobrara	35,000	--	--	35,000
Horicon	269,400	7,100	60,000	202,300
Lacreek	7,500	700	1,800	5,000
Lake Andes	20,435	60	20,000	375

<u>Refuge</u>	<u>Total Use</u>	<u>Hunting Use</u>	<u>Fishing Use</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Use</u>
Lake Ilo	7,500	--	2,000	5,500
Long Lake	850	500	150	200
Lostwood	845	355	--	490
Lower Souris	6,250	4,300	100	1,850
Mark Twain	43,753	420	31,500	11,833
Mingo	27,500	--	20,000	7,500
Necedah	100,000	30,000	10,000	60,000
Ottawa	500	--	--	500
Pocasse	12,200	--	--	12,200
Rice Lake	2,900	400	1,000	1,500
Sand Lake	5,755	155	600	5,000
Seney	47,500	2,500	2,000	43,000
Shiawassee	14,400	2,900	4,500	7,000
Slade	34,400	400	4,000	30,000
Snake Creek	323	120	--	203
Squaw Creek	13,240	--	1,256	11,984
Sullys Hill	45,000	--	--	45,000
Swan Lake	54,000	9,900	9,100	35,000
Tamarac	17,850	2,450	200	15,200
Tewaukon	13,083	83	9,500	3,500
Union Slough	3,825	--	800	3,025
Upper Mississippi	1,837,555	25,640	876,485	935,430
Upper Souris	91,700	1,500	60,000	30,200
Valentine	8,750	--	2,200	6,550
Waubay	6,625	25	--	6,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,273,365</b>	<b>112,762</b>	<b>1,244,453</b>	<b>2,916,150</b>

REGION 4 (Southeast)

Back Bay	9,830	--	1,800	8,030
Big Lake	24,000	25	1,738	22,237
Blackbeard Island	7,597	1,414	4,500	1,683
Blackwater	24,600	--	600	24,000
Cape Romain	6,000	273	1,800	3,927
Carolina Sandhills	4,590	--	1,500	3,090
Catahoula	3,800	--	2,500	1,300
Chassahowitzka	6,840	40	6,000	800
Chincoteague	22,000	--	6,000	16,000
Cross Creek	7,475	1,825	4,925	725
Delta	1,317	50	700	567
Great White Heron, Key West, and Key Deer	75,000	--	60,000	15,000
Gulf Island	65	--	--	65
Harris Neck	680	--	640	40
Holla Bend	1,400	--	300	1,100
Kentucky Woodlands	121,900	3,900	50,000	68,000

<u>Refuge</u>	<u>Total Use</u>	<u>Hunting Use</u>	<u>Fishing Use</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Use</u>
Lacassine	32,550	--	20,000	12,550
Loxahatchee	36,016	750	23,000	12,266
Mackay Island	3,500	--	1,000	2,500
Mattamuskeet	32,754	3,754	24,000	5,000
Noxubee	79,400	16,000	20,000	43,400
Okefenokee	152,000	--	24,000	128,000
Pea Island	18,000	--	6,000	12,000
Piedmont	30,780	26,300	250	4,230
Presquile	182	--	--	182
Reelfoot-Lake Isom	40,250	175	36,000	4,075
Sabine	21,330	--	21,000	330
Sanibel	169,000	--	40,000	129,000
Santee	216,500	--	175,000	41,500
St. Marks	35,825	75	5,000	30,750
Savannah	11,500	--	6,500	5,000
Susquehanna	8,500	--	4,500	4,000
Swanquarter	20,000	--	12,000	8,000
Tennessee	328,800	--	160,000	168,800
Wapanocca	4,000	--	4,000	--
Wheeler	183,600	3,800	160,000	19,800
White River	240,250	37,000	100,000	103,250
Yazoo	<u>733</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>700</u>
Total	1,982,564	95,414	985,253	901,897

REGION 5 (Northeast)

Bombay Hook	24,430	962	505	22,963
Brigantine	86,275	1,428	20,000	64,847
Erie	3,100	1,150	300	1,650
Great Meadows	3,200	2	--	3,198
Killcohook	215	--	--	215
Missisquoi	2,425	300	500	1,625
Monomoy	13,000	--	4,350	8,650
Montezuma	18,656	556	7,000	11,100
Moosehorn	14,200	2,000	2,500	9,700
Morton	7,700	--	--	7,700
Oak Orchard	5,820	3,670	200	1,950
Parker River	<u>232,500</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>26,400</u>	<u>206,100</u>
Total	411,521	10,068	61,755	339,698

REGION 6 (Alaska)

Aleutian Islands	3,750	400	1,000	2,350
Kenai	108,000	22,000	40,000	46,000
Kodiak	<u>2,650</u>	<u>1,900</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>--</u>
Total	114,400	24,300	41,750	48,350

GRAND TOTALS	<u>10,870,542</u>	<u>366,186</u>	<u>3,277,692</u>	<u>7,226,664</u>
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INTENSITY OF PUBLIC USE ON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES IN 1962

A. Areas With Greatest Public Use:

Upper Mississippi		1,837,555
Crab Orchard		1,353,000
Wichita Mountains		<u>1,102,155</u>
	Total	4,292,710

B. Refuges Superimposed on Bureau of Reclamation, Corps of Engineers, TVA Reservoirs, or other Flood Control Projects:

Havasu Lake	556,443	Loxahatchee	36,016
Tennessee	328,800	Bowdoin	21,783
Fort Peck	245,881	Pathfinder	20,500
Santee	216,500	Minidoka	15,600
Deer Flat	193,955	Upper Klamath	12,000
Wheeler	183,600	McKay Creek	11,000
Imperial	150,984	Cold Springs	10,300
Kirwin	137,470	McNary	5,000
Kentucky Woodlands	121,900	Stillwater	4,500
Tule Lake	76,620	Clear Lake	3,510
Lower Klamath	53,764	Salton Sea	1,516
Mark Twain	43,753	Snake Creek	<u>323</u>
		Total	2,451,718

C. Other Refuges With More Than 30,000 Annual Visitors:

Buffalo Lakes	333,900	Necedah	100,000	Sullys Hill	45,000
Horicon	269,400	Upper Souris	91,700	National Bison	44,000
Salt Plains	260,675	Brigantine	86,275	Reelfoot	40,250
White River	240,250	Noxubee	79,400	St. Marks	35,825
Parker River	232,500	De Soto	76,625	Ft. Niobrara	35,000
Desert Game	206,000	Key Deer, etc.	75,000	Slade	34,400
Hagerman	169,654	Columbia	73,060	Mattamuskeet	32,754
Sanibel	169,000	Swan Lake	54,000	Lacassine	32,550
Okefenokee	152,000	Seney	47,500	Agassiz	31,679
Kenai	108,000	Chautauqua	46,042	Piedmont	30,780
National Elk	107,850				
				Total	3,341,069
				Subtotal	<u>10,085,497</u>

D. Public Use on Remaining 96 Refuges:

	<u>785,045</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u><u>10,870,542</u></u>