

CHEROKEE LOWLANDS

Cherokee Lowlands Wildlife Area is owned and managed by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The wildlife area currently consists of eight different tracts of land totaling 2,519 acres.

Seven of these tracts are located North and East of Chetopa, in Labette and Cherokee counties, on the Neosho River Floodplain. One tract is located along Cow Creek, in Northeast Cherokee County, south

of Pittsburg. Most of the wildlife area is in the physiographic region of Kansas known as Cherokee Lowlands, hence the name.

Cherokee Lowlands

Wildlife Area

HISTORY

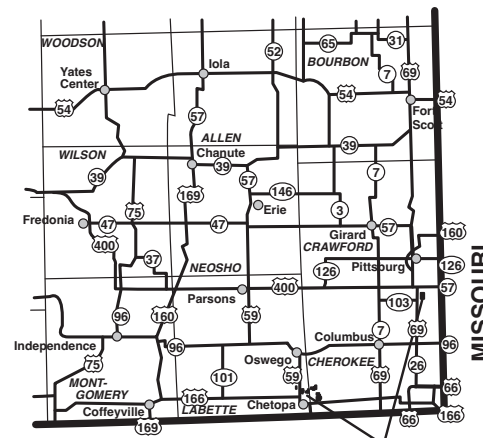
The Cherokee Lowlands Wildlife Area lies on lands located near the former Cherokee County Superfund site - an area that was once a mining region within the broader Tri-State Mining District. The area played a significant role in zinc and lead production in the United States from 1850 to 1970. Unfortunately, extensive mining activities have left thousands of acres of land and numerous stream miles heavily contaminated.

In 1995, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), initiated the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) program. Over the years, they have managed to recover several million dollars for the purpose of restoring the natural resources impacted by the Superfund site.

Initially, the FWS, KDHE, and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) joined forces to use the recovered NRDAR funds to purchase properties and rehabilitate the native habitat. KDWP acquired three properties in 2012, one in 2014, and another in 2021. FWS and KDHE took advantage of a unique opportunity to establish a partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in 2016, resulting in the acquisition of another property. In 2018, Ducks Unlimited (DU) also came on board as a partner, using NRDAR funds from previous acquisitions as matching funds for a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Grant. These properties were part of KDWP's Walk in Hunting Access (WIHA) program until they were eventually donated to KDWP in 2021. The collaborative efforts between FWS, KDHE, KDWP, TNC, and DU have successfully transformed these properties into what is now known as the Cherokee Lowlands Wildlife Area.

Most of the lands within the wildlife area were previously used for row-crop agriculture, which offered limited

resources for wildlife. These properties had been enrolled by previous owners into the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) program. Under this program, wetlands were constructed, shallow depressions were created, and native grasses and forbs were sown to enhance the area's grassland and wetland habitats.



Cherokee Lowlands WA's
General Area Map

Equal opportunity to benefit from programs described herein is available to all persons without regard to race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, military or veteran status, disability status, marital or family status, genetic information or political affiliation. Concerns of discrimination should be sent to KDWP, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612. 01/24



Mined Land Wildlife Area
7545 NW Belleview Rd.
Columbus, KS 66725

Area Office
(620) 827-6301

Regional Office
(620) 431-0380

www.ksoutdoors.com

WILDLIFE

Waterfowl, white-tailed deer, eastern turkey, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, rabbit and dove can be found throughout the area. Many furbearers can also be found including coyote, bobcat, raccoon, opossum, skunk, beaver, otter, muskrat and mink. Dove management at the Perkins tract attracts doves and provide a food plot for other wildlife. Wetlands are managed for early successional vegetation to provide resting and feeding areas for migrating waterfowl. Water levels in the wetlands are dependent on runoff from rain events. The native grasslands are frequently burned utilizing prescribed fire to provide quality habitat.

FISHING

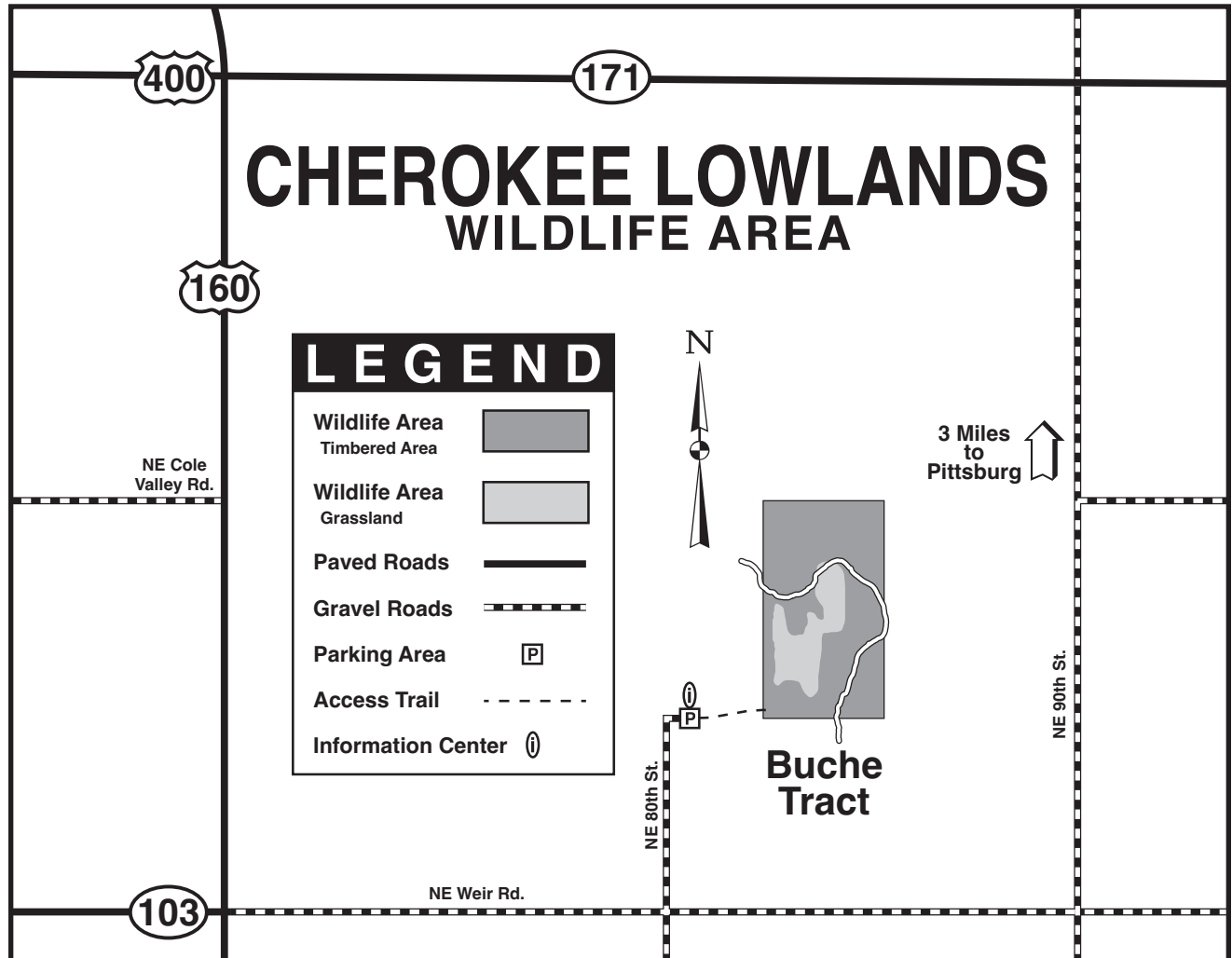
Limited angling opportunities may be found in deeper pools of Fly Creek that runs through Mitchelson and Chesnutt tracts and Cow Creek that runs through Buche tract. The low head dam on the Neosho River at Chetopa's East River Park provides excellent fishing for channel catfish, blue catfish, flathead catfish and rough fish at different times throughout the year. White bass and crappie can be caught in good numbers during early spring, depending on river flow and water clarity. Paddlefish snagging is also allowed during season in a designated area below the dam and is a unique and popular angling opportunity.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

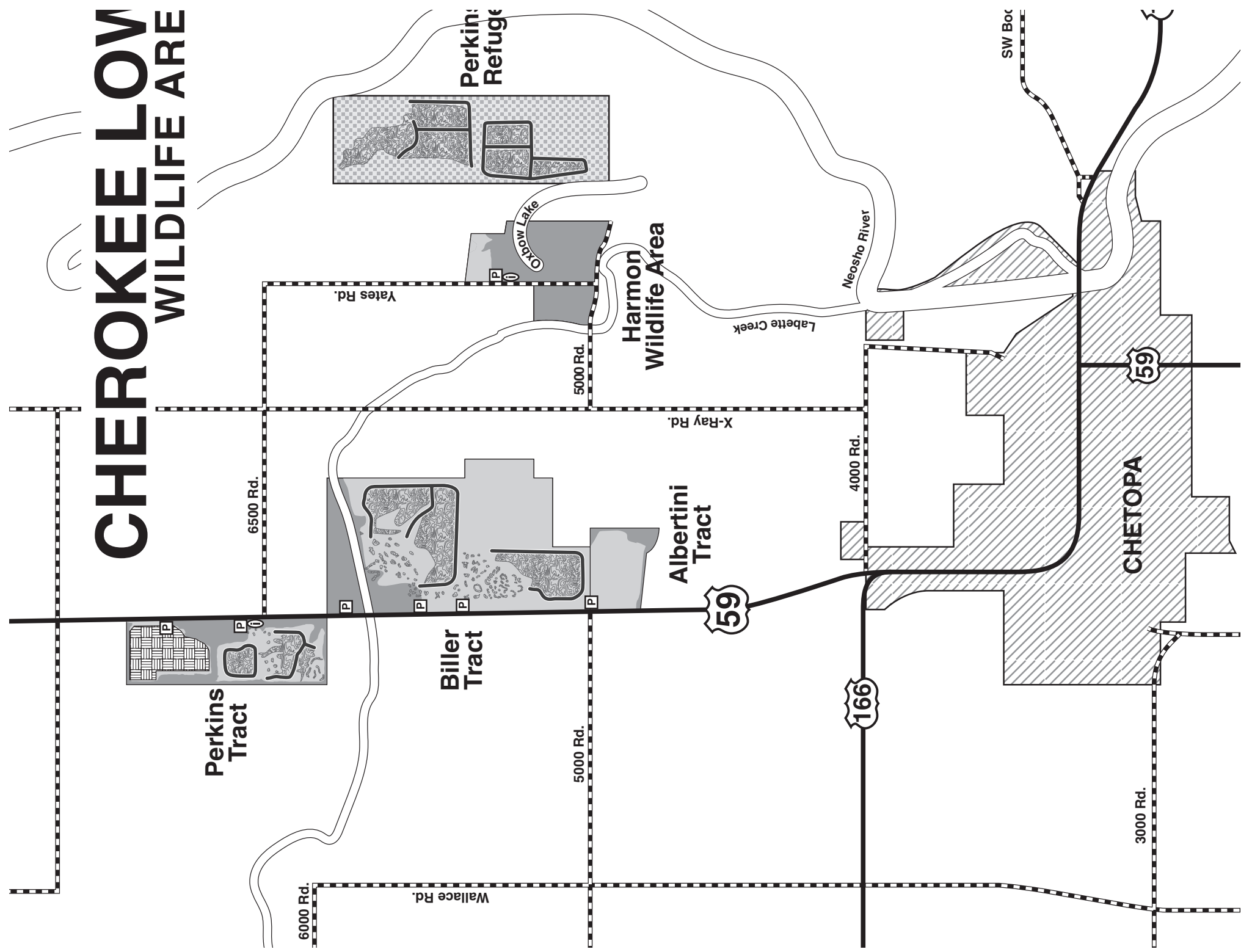
Refuge areas are closed to all activities year-round
Archery-only for deer and turkey hunting
Non-toxic shot only
Vehicles are restricted to maintained parking areas
Off-road vehicle use is prohibited
No trash policy is in effect, please take your trash with you, including shotgun hulls
Camping is not allowed on the wildlife area
Cherokee Lowlands Wildlife Area is subject to all state laws and regulations regarding hunting, fishing and public use. Pertinent information is posted. For further information about the area, contact the office listed on front of brochure.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES













Birdwatching, furharvesting, hiking, wildlife viewing and photography. Please be respectful of all public land users to ensure everyone has a high-quality outdoor experience. Please follow all rules, regulations and posted notices.



CHEROKEE LOW WILDLIFE ARE



WILDLANDS AREA

LEGEND	
	Town Boundaries
	Wildlife Area
	Timbered Area
	Wildlife Area Grassland
	Refuge Area NO Hunting
	Wildlife Area Wetland/Depression
	Cropland
	Levees
	Paved Roads
	Gravel Roads
	Parking Area
	Information Center



**Bogner
Tract**

SW 120th St.

SW Black Jack Rd.

SW 110th St.

**Mitchelson
Tract**

SW Greenlawn Rd.

SW 107th St.

**Chesnutt
Tract**

SW 122nd Terr.

SW Boone Lake Rd.

166

rkins
fuge

