



## *Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge* **Wilderness Trail Descriptions**

### **Wilderness Canoe Trails**

The trail system within the refuge is designated by a series of colors (orange, green, blue, red, brown, pink, purple). Each trail will be marked with a painted wooden sign with a mile number; in between the miles you may find directional wooden posts painted white on top to aid you in finding your way. At main intersections and distinct areas there may be wooden signs with names on them (i.e. Chesser Prairie, Minnies Lake, etc). These markers along with the refuge trail map, should help you in navigating the trails.

**Orange Trail** – Follow the historic Suwannee Canal, dug in the late 1800s, in an attempt to drain the swamp. Canal Run Shelter is a 10 mile paddle from the Suwannee Canal Recreation Area (east entrance). Past Canal Run Shelter are five miles of narrow, winding trail leading to Billys Island. Follow Billys Lake for 2 miles to Stephen C. Foster State Park. Low water levels between Canal Run and Billys Island can mean navigating stumps, peat blow-ups, and encroaching vegetation. This trail is generally considered an EASY paddle, while the area between Canal Run and Billys Island is MODERATE.

**Red Trail** – Kingfisher Landing to Maul Hammock is a long day of paddling 12 miles through scrub-shrub, marsh, and small lakes. The 9-mile stretch between Maul Hammock and Big Water goes through marsh, a narrow closed channel, and into a wider river channel surrounded by cypress. The Big Water Shelter is at the north end of Big Water. The last 11 miles to Stephen C. Foster State Park go through prairie, cypress forest, and Billys Lake. The slow current is with you as it travels towards the State Park. This trail is general considered DIFFICULT, due to the distance and conditions you must navigate through.

**Green Trail** - Kingfisher Landing to Bluff Lake is 8 miles along a channel originally cut for peat mining and across open prairies full of pitcher plants. The next 8 miles to Floyds Island takes you from Durdin Prairie to Territory and Chase Prairies. Between are narrow, close-sided channels that may be difficult paddling during low water levels. Floyds Island to Stephen C. Foster State park is 8 miles of marshes and cypress forests, ending in Billys Lake. This trail is general considered EASY to MODERATE, with some areas DIFFICULT.

**Brown Trail** – Campers access Mixons Hammock with an easy 2 mile paddle across Billys Lake. To reach Cravens Hammock, paddle 5 miles through the River Narrows to the Suwannee River Sill. Follow the trail an additional 5 miles through mixed cypress, bay, and gum swamp to an oak-covered hammock. Trail conditions vary with water levels. There can be a strong current in the River Narrows, which may make the return trip difficult. This trail is generally considered EASY (to Mixons Hammock), and MODERATE (to Cravens Hammock).

**Purple Trail** – This trail connects to the Orange Trail through Chase Prairie and back to the Blue Trail. Round Top Shelter, located within Chase Prairie, boasts a 360 degree view of the prairie. This trail is generally considered MODERATE.

**Blue Trail** – This trail connects the Orange Trail with the Green Trail and skirts the edge of Chase Prairie. The deeper holes you come across are good fishing areas. It is used mainly as a route from the Orange Trail to Floyds Island. This trail is generally considered MODERATE.

**Pink Trail** – Starts off of the Suwannee Canal, heading south into Chesser Prairie, then Grand Prairie, and ending at Monkey Lake. This trail goes through some of the most iconic open prairie where you will see alligators and wading birds, and plants such as water lilies and golden club. This trail is generally considered MODERATE.