

COPAN

Copan Wildlife Area is located a half mile west of Caney on 6th Street. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has a license from the Corps of Engineers on 2,360 acres for fish and wildlife management.

The wildlife area in Kansas is part of an overall U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers project with a dam located near the town of Copan, Oklahoma. Copan Lake (located in Oklahoma) has 5,000 acres at conservation pool. Although none of the conservation pool is located on the Kansas side of the project, periods of peak flooding will inundate low areas along the river.

The Little Caney River bisects the wildlife area and provides excellent fishing opportunities. The riparian habitat provides an abundance of wildlife species. Area maintenance and development projects are funded through the sale of fishing and hunting licenses and federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment.

FISHING

The Little Caney River provides excellent stream fishing. White bass and crappie travel upstream from Copan Lake for spawning in the spring and provide area anglers with excellent fishing. A low-water dam on the wildlife area provides a barrier to fish moving upstream, providing excellent spring fishing with minnows and artificial jigs.

Boating is confined to small craft or canoes due to the numerous log-jams on the river. A dirt boat ramp located near the 6th Street bridge provides river access for small boats.

Channel and flathead catfish can be taken with rod and reel or setlines using live or prepared bait. During mid-summer, grasshoppers are excellent bait for channel cat, with an occasional bonus of largemouth or spotted bass. The numerous stumps and overhanging trees provide excellent "fishing holes" for all species.

Largemouth and spotted bass inhabit the Little Caney River. Both species are taken in the spring using minnows and jigs. October can be a very productive month for bass using jigs or minnows around tree roots or stumps.

WILDLIFE

Hunters will find many opportunities and diversified habitat, including riparian, woodlands, native grass, cropland, and numerous waterfowl marshes. White-tailed deer, turkey, squirrels, bobwhite quail, waterfowl, and rabbits are abundant. Five waterfowl marshes have been constructed to attract migrating waterfowl along the Little Caney River. The waterfowl marshes were previously borrow areas for fill dirt in the Caney levee, and often have naturally occurring vegetation, such as smartweed, to attract waterfowl. Deep water near the dike make chest waders a necessity. Non-toxic shot is required while hunting waterfowl.

Bobwhite quail and cottontail rabbits also inhabit the area. Their populations fluctuate annually due to the high frequency of flooding, but they recover quickly.

Birdwatchers, photographers and wildlife enthusiasts will find many unique viewing opportunities. The large pileated woodpecker is common among the mature

trees along the Little Caney River. The sandstone outcroppings along the bluff northeast of the city dam provide excellent scenery for hikers.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

The numerous block of woodlands interspersed with cropland provide excellent hunting. Many firearm hunters take a stand along one of the woodland fingers that border the cropland. Early-season bowhunters have excellent success using the same areas.

SQUIRRELS

Squirrel hunters can also find an abundance of fox and gray squirrels in the numerous oaks and hickories.

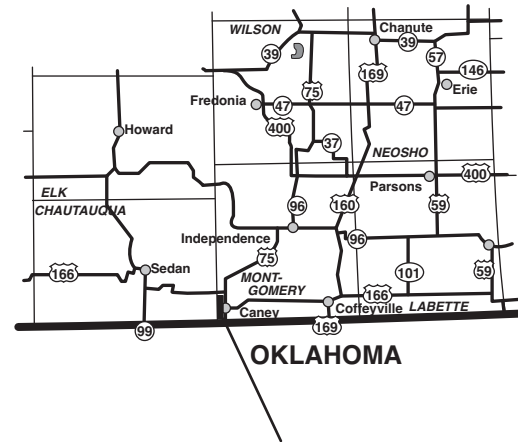
Many hunters prefer the .22 caliber for hunting squirrels, but shotguns are often used to bag the nervous gray squirrel, especially early in the season. Fox squirrels can be found in the Osage orange hedgerows and field borders.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Vehicles are permitted on maintained roads only.

Primitive camping is permitted, but please take your trash with you.

Consult area information signs for additional rules and regulations on the area.

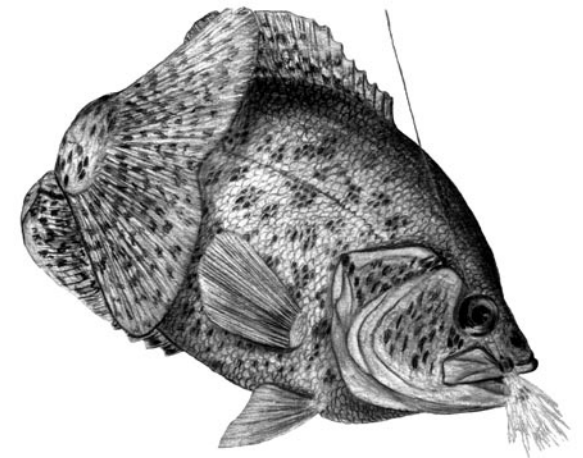


Copan Wildlife Area

General Area Map

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Copan Wildlife Area



Elk City WA
5089 Co. Rd. 2925
Independence, KS 67301

Area Office
(620) 331-6820

Regional Office
(316) 683-8069

www.ksoutdoors.gov

COPAN WILDLIFE AREA

LEGEND

Hunting Area	
Paved Roads	
Gravel Roads	
Unimproved Roads	
Railroad	
Town	
Parking Lot	
Marshes	
Boat Ramp	

