

The Three Bend Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge Area was established in 1999 on 3,000 acres of the Oak Ridge Reservation consisting of Freels, Gallaher, and Solway Bends on the north shore of Melton Hill Lake in Anderson County. Three Bends present a diverse mosaic of field and woodland with substantial opportunities for enhancement of conservation values and wildlife habitat. The area provides important habitat and home for numerous threatened, endangered, and rare animal species, including bald eagles, ospreys, and migrant songbirds. The Refuge Area also contains the 80-acre recreational area known as Clark Center Park and the historic Freels Cabin, built in the 1820s and one of the earliest settlements in the area. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, in consultation with DOE and the Oak Ridge community, prepared a cooperative agreement to serve as a natural resources management plan for the Three Bend Area. The plan established guidelines for managing the area to preserve and enhance its natural attributes and to promote recreation and education. In dedicating this land in June 1999, Secretary Richardson proclaimed, "From today on, 3,000 acres within the Oak Ridge Reservation's buffer zone will be committed to the pursuit of conservation and wildlife management."

