

# Collector's Journal

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## 2015 Kisatchie National Forest Quarter – Louisiana

### *Twenty-Seventh in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection*

Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana is featured on the second of five America the Beautiful Quarters issued in 2015. The coin is also the twenty-seventh in the overall collection, which started in 2010 and will continue until 2021 with a unique coin for each of the 50 states, the national capital (Washington, D.C.), and the five overseas U.S. territories.

The America the Beautiful Quarters are issued at the rate of five per year, although only one coin is produced at a time and each coin is a limited edition of about 10 weeks. Coins are released in the order in which the sites were set aside by the federal government.

All but eight of the sites featured on the coins are under the authority of the National Park Service, including National Parks, National Military Parks, National Memorials, and National Historical Parks. Six are overseen by the U.S. Forest Service, while the remaining two are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Each coin in the series is struck for circulation at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints; they are identified by a small “P” (Philadelphia) or “D” (Denver) mint mark under “In God We Trust.”

Kisatchie National Forest is the only National Forest in Louisiana. Named after a tribe of Kichai Native Americans from the Caddoan Confederacy and established in 1936, the forest covers more than 604,000 acres divided between five separate sections across central and northern Louisiana. It is reminiscent of Louisiana in the late 1800's, when virgin forests covered 85 percent of the state.

Due to its wide area of coverage, the forest includes a great diversity of landscapes, from rolling hills to hundreds of acres that



preserve some of the last remaining natural prairies in the state, and from lazy bayous to bald cypress groves and forests of bottomland hardwoods and upland old growth pines.

The forest is also home to immense numbers of birds and other wildlife, including rarely-seen Louisiana black bears, coyotes, bobcats, and wild boars. Hiking along the numerous trails is one of the most popular activities, and many people enjoy searching for the wild orchids that are abundant within the forest. Many parts of the forest are also open to fishing and hunting.

The design of the Kisatchie National Forest Quarter features a wild turkey in flight to represent the wildlife that can be found in the forest. It is flying over bluestem grass, with a longleaf pine forest in the background.

Working with representatives from Kisatchie National Forest, the U.S. Mint originally prepared eight prospective designs for this coin before the final image was selected by the advisory committees that review all U.S. coin designs. One other design showed two wild turkeys walking on the edge of the forest, while five designs included red cockaded woodpeckers, which are commonly found in Kisatchie's longleaf pine forests. The final design depicted a man fishing from a canoe in a cypress swamp.

The Kisatchie National Forest Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in April, 2015.

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