



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Midwest Region

# News Release

Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SQUAW CREEK REFUGE CLOSED**

### **JANUARY 7-8, 2012 FOR DEER HUNT**

**Mound City, Missouri --** Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge **will be closed to the general public on Saturday, January 7 and Sunday, January 8, 2012** for the annual muzzle loader white-tailed deer hunt. **Only those drawn for the hunt will be permitted on the refuge during these days.** Refuge hiking trails east of State Highway 159 will be open including the Bluff Trials and Callow Memorial Trail located near the refuge headquarters. The refuge headquarters is currently closed on weekends for the winter then reopens for the spring bird migration in Mid-March. Refuge headquarters will close for Christmas observed Monday, December 26 and New Year's Day observed Monday, January 2. Current headquarters visitor contact station open hours are weekdays from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. **The refuge ten-mile auto tour will be closed during the deer hunt primarily for visitor safety and hunter success.**

Deer hunts were initiated in January 1988 to reduce a rapidly expanding deer herd that was causing considerable damage to refuge habitats. In addition, reduction of the deer herd will help reduce deer-vehicle collisions along State Highways 118, 159, and Interstate-29. The annual firearm muzzle loading deer hunt is a continuing effort by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Missouri Department of Conservation to provide quality hunting opportunities through resource management programs.

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The deer hunt has been a popular event and continues to generate an interest in muzzle loading firearms for deer hunting. The refuge auto tour and Eagle Pool Overlook hiking trail will be closed at sunset on Friday, January 6 and then reopen at sunrise on Monday, January 9. Information regarding the deer hunt can be obtained by calling the Squaw Creek Refuge at (660)442-3187.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 100-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 550 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 63 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitats such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts.

For further information about programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region, please visit our national website at: <http://midwest.fws.gov>. The Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge website is: [www.fws.gov/midwest/squawcreek](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/squawcreek).

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