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# News Release



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## "Pintail Boardwalk Reopens Following Second Arson Fire at Ankeny NWR"

For the second time in as many months, staff at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge are announcing the reopening of Pintail Boardwalk and Observation Blind, located off Wintel Road. Just hours after the Blind reopened in late February following repairs from the first arson fire, a second fire in the same structure created even more damage than before.

Undaunted, volunteer Dan Gilmour wasted no time in offering to repair the blind again. After another day's work and some additional lumber materials provided by the Refuge, the blind is once again ready to offer shelter and wildlife watching over Pintail Marsh. Refuge staff are anticipating lots of visitors will take advantage of the reopened Observation Blind due to the forecast of upcoming warm, sunny days and the abundant bird species present on the Refuge. Pintail Marsh is a seasonal wetland that provides habitat for thousands of wading birds, waterfowl, and other wildlife.

Refuge staff have increased prevention measures to ensure both the safety and security of the visiting public and refuge facilities. Measures include increasing visibility of the parking area, increased law enforcement presence, and monitoring by a security company. Visitors are reminded that the refuge is open only from sunrise to sunset. "We want to provide people with quality opportunities to see wildlife. It's part of our mission. We're aware of illegal activities that have been occurring on the refuge and are taking steps to discourage future occurrences," stated Deputy Project Leader Jim Houk.

In a statewide effort to fight arson in Oregon, and to send a strong, unified message that "Oregonians will not stand by and allow arsonists to get away with such devastating crimes against lives and property", the Oregon Council Against Arson (OCAA) maintains an anti-arson cash awards program. This program provides cash awards to citizens who provide information to law enforcement that leads to the arrest and conviction of arsonists.

The Oregon Council Against Arson is a joint task force of the Oregon Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators, NW Insurance Council, and Oregon law enforcement, fire service, government and insurance communities. Working together to educate the public about the nature of the arson problem, they are equally committed to reducing the incidence of arson by promoting greater citizen involvement in solving such crimes. In addition to the cash rewards, the OCAA sponsors a

hotline to encourage citizens to provide information (anonymous, if requested) on arson crimes, that may lead to the arrest and conviction of arsonists. The toll-free statewide number is 1-800-452-7888.

For more information on this particular arson crime, please contact Refuge Law Enforcement Officer Kolleen Irvine at 971-832-1730.

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