



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Announces

129 Projects in Southwest Region

Under President's Economic Recovery Plan

From the deserts of Arizona to the Gulf Coast of Texas, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will undertake more than 129 construction, energy efficiency, habitat restoration and other improvement projects at national wildlife refuges, fish hatcheries and other public and private lands to create jobs and ensure our nation's fish and wildlife resources, treasured landscapes, and rich heritage are conserved for future generations, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced in April. These projects total approximately \$29.9 million for improvements within the Southwest.

Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) received funding under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 to construct a new administrative facility on the Refuge. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Refuge will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project. The new administrative facility will include office space for staff and volunteers of the Refuge. The facility will be approximately 2700 square feet and will be constructed south of Okmulgee at the Cussetah Bottoms Boardwalk area. In addition to the office building, utility lines, parking lots, and a new driveway will be constructed in this area. The 911 address for the area is: 21844 S. 250 Road, Okmulgee, OK 74447. This office building is being constructed on the Refuge to assist the Refuge in meeting its mission of providing more accessible service and convenience to the American taxpayer.

Through the scoping process, the Refuge is seeking public input to facilitate early identification of issues and concern. Your comments will be considered during alternative development to the extent practicable. A draft EA will be developed and provided to the public for review and comment following the scoping period.

The Refuge will collect public input through December 15, 2009. Please provide any comments, questions, or concerns to:

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The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.