

News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



FOR RELEASE: June 1, 2007

Contact: Ralph Webber, Refuge Manager
Kim Strassburg, Visitor Services Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
19255 SW Pacific Highway
Sherwood, Oregon 97140
Ph:(503) 590-5811 Cell:(503) 539-5194

May 15th, 2007

PROPOSED ENTRANCE FEE Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

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Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in Sherwood, Oregon proposes to implement a visitor entrance fee. Fees collected under the program directly benefit the public use amenities and programs the Refuge provides to the visiting public. An important attribute of the fee program is that at least 80% of the funds collected are retained by the Refuge and are exclusively expended to support visitor facilities, programs, and safety. These funds are integral to developing, operating, and maintaining high quality visitor services, with a focus on wildlife-dependent recreation and education.

The proposed daily entrance pass per private vehicle is \$4.00. An annual pass of \$15.00 per private vehicle will also be offered. Individuals entering on foot, by bicycle, or as part of a tour group will be charged \$2.00 per person. Youth ages 15 and under are free. All fees are waived for school groups participating in the Refuge's environmental education field trip program. Other federal recreational passes such as the Federal Duck Stamp and the America the Beautiful Passes, formerly the Golden Passes, will be honored.

The Refuge is seeking your input on the fee program. The complete proposal can be found on the Refuge's website at www.fws.gov/tualatinriver or by calling 503-590-5811 to request a copy be mailed to you. Please submit written comments or suggestions by June 30th, 2007. Send emailed comments to: kim_strassburg@fws.gov; include "Fee Program" in the subject line. Comments can also be mailed to: Fee Program, Tualatin River NWR, 19255 SW Pacific Highway, Sherwood, OR 97140.

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 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses 547 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 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 habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.