

LEGAL NOTICE: 20080822

Public Hearing for Piney Creek Restoration Project Notice of Availability, Environmental Assessment

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will convene a town hall meeting at 7:00 p.m. and a public hearing at 8:00 p.m. on September 18, 2008, in Brinkley, Arkansas, at the Brinkley Convention Center, regarding restoration of Piney Creek from destruction by the northern snakehead fish.

Representatives from Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) will be available during the town hall meeting to answer questions about the proposed action to restore the Piney Creek watershed from destruction caused by the invasive, non-native, northern snakehead fish. The AGFC will also describe how this action will be accomplished. The meeting will be held at the Brinkley Convention Center, 1501 Weatherby Drive, Brinkley, AR.

The Service will provide approximately \$150,000 of in-kind assistance to the state supporting its efforts to restore native fish populations in the Piney Creek watershed. It has also prepared an Environmental Assessment to evaluate the potential impacts to the environment and people.

During the public hearing, immediately following the town hall meeting, the Service will receive comments related to the Environmental Assessment on the Piney Creek watershed restoration project in Monroe and Lee Counties, Arkansas.

The Service is requesting public comments on the proposed federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). After a 30-day comment period, ending on September 22, 2008, the Service will consider all public comments received and determine if it is appropriate to reach a finding of no significant impact on the proposed federal action.

The Environmental Assessment is available on the web at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/>. You may request a copy of the Environmental Assessment by phone at 501/513-4470, or by fax at 501/513-4480, by e-mail at Mark_Sattelberg@fws.gov, or by mail at: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services Field Office, ATTN: Snakehead fish comments, 110 South Amity Rd. Ste. 300, Conway, Arkansas, 72032.

For more information on the town hall meeting, please contact Keith Stephens AGFC 501/223-6342 or Mark Sattelberg, Field Supervisor at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Conway Field Office at 501/513-4470.