

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION BULLETIN**

### **Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge**

4055 Wildlife Way

Vero Beach, FL 32963

[EvergladesHeadwaters@fws.gov](mailto:EvergladesHeadwaters@fws.gov)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 15, 2021

Contact: Refuge Manager Oliver van den Ende, [oliver\\_vandenende@fws.gov](mailto:oliver_vandenende@fws.gov), 772 205 0697

### **Everglades Headwaters NWR Proposes Changes to Hunt Program Comments Due Mid to Late June 2021**

Hunting on national wildlife refuges is a tradition that dates back to the early 1900s. Today, more than 370 refuges are open to the public for hunting across the country. Here in the southeast, national wildlife refuges are a huge part of this tradition. We welcome sportswomen and men of all backgrounds and abilities to experience challenging hunting in amazing places.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is proposing to amend its 2020 Hunt Plan for Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) to include incidental hunting of non-native wildlife hunting on designated areas of the refuge in accordance with State regulations and applicable State Wildlife Management Area regulations. We are seeking comments on these proposed changes.

The refuge currently includes approximately 10,300 acres of easements and fee-title lands in Okeechobee, Osceola, and Polk Counties. The proposed rule would allow incidental hunting of non-native wildlife on current and future refuge tracts on fee title lands. The goal of the proposed rule is to help control current and future species of non-native wildlife. Non-native wildlife can be detrimental to native flora and fauna.

The draft Hunt Plan Amendment, draft Compatibility Determination, and associated Environmental Assessment will be available for public review and comment beginning April 15, 2021 on the Refuge's website at: [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/everglades\\_headwaters/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/everglades_headwaters/). Only written comments will be accepted. Comments may be submitted via the Refuge's email address: [evergladesheadwaters@fws.gov](mailto:evergladesheadwaters@fws.gov) or mailed to the listed address.

Everglades Headwaters NWR  
c/o Oliver van den Ende  
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The deadline for comments on the Proposed Action is 60 days following the publication of the rule in the Federal Register, which is anticipated to publish in mid to late April 2021. To ensure

consideration of your comments in the development of a final decision on this action, please submit your comments prior to this date. We will update the comment deadline on this site following the Federal Register publication.

Across the country, national wildlife refuges work closely with state agencies, Tribes, and private partners to expand access to hunting and fishing where it is compatible with refuge purposes. Hunting and fishing provide opportunities for families to enjoy the outdoors, create memories and pass on family traditions.

*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 <http://www.fws.gov>.*

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