

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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## PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED ON RESULTS OF WILDERNESS STUDY IN TEXAS

The results of a study of the wilderness potential of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Cameron and Willacy Counties, Texas, will be considered at a public hearing October 15 in Harlingen, Texas, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The refuge encompasses 45,150 acres located near the southern tip of Texas along the Gulf of Mexico in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The area qualifying for consideration as wilderness comprises the northern one-fifth of the refuge. It is a roadless and undeveloped area of low coastal ridges, old stream channels and extensive tidal mud flats. The area possesses general characteristics of a wilderness but also has development potential for waterfowl and other wildlife.

A map and other information are available from the Refuge Manager, Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 739, San Benito, Texas 78586, or the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, 500 Gold Avenue SW., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103.

Oral or written statements may be submitted at the hearing or written comments can be sent to the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Albuquerque, by November 30, when the hearing record will be closed.

Notice of the October 15 hearing was published in the Federal Register on August 12. The hearing begins at 9 a.m. at the Hub Room of the Harlingen National Bank, 115 Van Buren in Harlingen, Texas.

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