

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED ON WILDERNESS PROPOSALS IN ARIZONA, OREGON, MISSOURI

Public hearings to discuss results of wilderness studies involving national wildlife refuge areas are scheduled in Arizona, Oregon, and Missouri in June, the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

Specific times and the areas involved are:

- I. Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, Yuma County, Arizona, and Imperial County, California, 9,475 acres, hearing June 30 at 9 a.m. at Palo Verde Unified High School, Blythe, Calif., continued July 1 at 9 a.m. at City-County Library, Yuma, Ariz.

The refuge lies along the Lower Colorado River about 40 miles north of the Mexican border. Its marshes and desert lands support varied native wildlife and serve thousands of wintering and migrating birds.

A map and other information about this proposal is available from the Refuge Manager, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 1032, Yuma, Arizona 85364, or the Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, 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 by July 11, when the hearing record will be closed.

- II. Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Clatsop, Coos, Curry, Lane, Lincoln, Tillamook Counties, 459 acres, hearing June 10 at 9 a.m. at Marine Science Center Auditorium, Oregon State University, Newport, Oregon.

The coastal islands, rocks, and reefs of the refuge are distributed along nearly the entire Oregon coastline. Proposed for inclusion in the wilderness system are 30 islands under the administration of the Fish and Wildlife Service as well as 26 islands proposed for addition to the refuge. These islands, along with the existing Three Arch Rocks Wilderness and the present Oregon Islands Wilderness, would be consolidated into one area known as the Oregon Island Wilderness.

A map and other information about this proposal are available from the Refuge Manager, William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, Route 2, Box 208, Corvallis, Oregon 97330, or the Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 3737, Portland, Oregon 97208.

Oral or written statements may be submitted at the hearing or written comments can be sent to the Regional Director by July 10, when the hearing record will be closed.

- III. Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Wayne, Stoddard Counties, 21,646 acres, hearing June 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Puxico High School, Puxico, Missouri.

The refuge, established in 1944, lies in an old channel of the Mississippi River within Wayne and Stoddard Counties. It provides a major migrational and wintering stop for ducks and geese. Resident game species, particularly white-tailed deer and turkeys, also have flourished.

Public use has expanded as facilities have been developed. Wildlife observation, fishing, and hunting are major activities.

An informational brochure describing the proposal is available on request from the Refuge Manager, Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Puxico, Missouri 63960, or from the Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Building, Fort Snelling, Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111.

Oral or written statements may be presented at the public hearing or submitted in writing to the Regional Director by July 28, when the hearing record will be closed.

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