



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE

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COMMENT PERIOD ON REFUGE ENTRANCE FEES EXTENDED

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has extended for 15 days the public comment period on charging entrance fees at certain national wildlife refuges. The extension and a list of 20 refuges where fees would be charged appeared in the June 10, 1987, Federal Register.

The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 authorized the Service to charge entrance fees at refuges. Proceeds will fund refuge operations and acquisition of wetlands for addition to the Refuge System.

Under the proposal, the nominal fees would vary by refuge and there would be no charge for those under 16 years of age. Also, in lieu of paying an entry fee, a current Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp--commonly known as the Duck Stamp--could be used as an annual pass by the purchaser and those accompanying him or her in a single, private vehicle. The Golden Eagle, Golden Access, and Golden Age passports (now purchased primarily by visitors to National Parks) would also be valid for entrance.

The original comment period was scheduled to end June 10. With the extension, it will now close on June 25, 1987. Comments concerning the proposal should be directed to: Assistant Director-Refuges and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Room 3248, 18th and C Streets, NW., Washington, DC 20240.