



News Release



For Release: IMMEDIATE

Contacts: Jose Viramontes, 505/248-6404, 505/550-3113 or joseviramontes@fws.gov
Breanna Anderson, 505/468-7344, 505/414.0485 or bbanderson@bernco.gov

RESCHEDULED REFUGE WORKSHOPS ANNOUNCED

Workshops will allow residents to offer comments on proposal to establish Urban Refuge.

Albuquerque, NM – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and Bernalillo County have rescheduled three previously postponed public workshops to discuss the establishment of a National Wildlife Refuge in central New Mexico. All three meetings will be held in Albuquerque.

The revised workshop schedule is as follows:

Monday, February 7; 6-8 p.m.
Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center
9800 4th Street Northwest

Wednesday, February 9; 3-5 p.m.
Mountain View Community Center
201 Prosperity Avenue Southeast

Saturday, February 12; 10 a.m. – noon
South Valley Multipurpose Center
2008 Larrazolo Rd. Southwest

BACKGROUND:

The Service and Bernalillo County are studying the feasibility of establishing a national wildlife refuge along the Rio Grande just a few miles south of downtown Albuquerque. Three public workshops will be held to discuss the idea with members of the public. The workshops are designed to provide information, respond to questions, and listen to the community's ideas, issues, and concerns about the proposed urban refuge.

As proposed, the urban refuge would consist of the 570-acre site formerly operated as *Price's Dairy* and would be the only urban wildlife refuge in the Southwest. In addition to conserving bosque habitat and open space the urban refuge would provide extensive outdoor education opportunities for youth throughout central New Mexico. The preliminary vision for the site includes an active place-based learning program that can accommodate large school groups each day.

The three previously scheduled workshops were canceled due to record-breaking temperatures and resulting business closures. Additionally, natural gas outages throughout the state displaced many residents and some County buildings were designated by FEMA as *Warming Facilities* for those without heat.

To learn more about the proposed refuge visit www.fws.gov/southwest/.