



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Imperial National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 72217
Yuma, AZ 85365

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****NEWS RELEASE****

For public safety reasons, all shoreline, side channels, backwaters, and lakes on the Colorado River will be closed between Island Lake and Catfish Cove due to the Island Lake Fire. Picacho State Recreation Area is also closed. The main river channel remains open.

Approximately 3,200 acres of vegetation in the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge and Picacho State Recreation Area along the Colorado River was burned during the Island Lake Fire. This includes lands in Arizona and California. Even though the fire is nearly contained, there are vegetation pockets within the perimeter of the fire that could ignite over the next several days.

A variety of hazards exist even after a wildfire is contained. The ground and burned vegetation remain hot, and burned trees can fall without warning. Smoldering stump holes may also be present. Fire can smolder underground for several weeks, and stepping into a hidden stump hole may cause severe burns.

These closures are in effect until further notice. For information regarding Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, please call 928-783-3371. For information about Picacho State Recreation Area, please call 760-996-2963.

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 www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/USFWSSouthwest, follow our tweets at http://twitter.com/USFWS_Southwest, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

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