

# Information Bulletin

*Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge*

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**10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach, FL 33473**

**561/734-8303 Fax: 561/369-7190 [www.fws.gov/refuge/arm\\_loxahatchee/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/arm_loxahatchee/)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 1, 2021

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## **Refuge Accepting Public Comments on Proposed Fees for Camping and Airboating**

**Boynton Beach, FL.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is accepting written public comments on proposed fees for camping and airboating at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). A 30-day public comment period will take place from February 1, 2021 to March 2, 2021. Camping and airboat opportunities are two new recreational uses that were approved in the Refuge's 2019 Visitor Services Plan.

Overnight camping provides unique opportunities to see and hear nocturnal wildlife and observe the night sky away from the nearby urban lights. All campsites will provide a primitive, backcountry experience and will be accessible by foot, bike, or boat. Airboating opportunities will provide visitors access to designated areas for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, education, and more. By offering new camping and expanded boating opportunities, we hope to expose more of our neighboring communities to the biodiversity of the Everglades ecosystem, the beauty of nature, and the unique setting of Loxahatchee within the National Wildlife Refuge System.

A fee analysis has been conducted to ensure that proposed fees are comparable to the fees charged on nearby public lands for similar opportunities. The Refuge currently retains nearly 100% of fees collected which are used for recreation program improvements at the Refuge. Typical projects paid for by recreation fee funds include educational programming, infrastructure maintenance, brochures, passes and envelopes, trail improvements, and interpretive signage.

The Refuge proposes the following fees for campsites and airboating permits: \$15 per night for a primitive campsite, \$25 per night for a canoe trail platform campsite, \$35 per night for a group campsite, and \$100 per annual airboating permit.

We are interested in hearing from you regarding the proposed fees for camping and airboating and are requesting public comments from February 1, 2021 to March 2, 2021. Please submit any comments to [armloxahatchee@fws.gov](mailto:armloxahatchee@fws.gov) or by mail to A.R.M. Loxahatchee NWR, ATTN: Rec Fees, 10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach, FL 33473. All comments will be reviewed and considered before a final decision is made.

The Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge was established under a License Agreement with the South Florida Water Management District in 1951 as an inviolate sanctuary for migratory birds. The vision of the Refuge is to serve as an outstanding showcase for ecosystem management that restores, protects, and enhances a portion of the unique north Everglades biological community. This public asset provides for the enjoyment and enhanced quality of life for present and future generations. To learn more about the Refuge visit:

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/arm\\_loxahatchee/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/arm_loxahatchee/)

Connect with our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ARMLoxahatcheeNWR/>

*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](http://www.fws.gov).*

