

# News Release



South Arkansas Refuge Complex  
5531 Hwy 82 West  
Crossett, Arkansas 71635  
870-364-3167, Fax: 870-364-3757  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 23, 2015

CONTACT: Michael Stroeh  
870-364- 3167

---

## **Public invited to provide comments on how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages habitat on Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has completed a draft Habitat Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (draft HMP/EA) as stepped down from the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The public is invited to comment on the proposed management plan.

The proposed plan will benefit migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, resident wildlife, bottomland hardwood, wetland, and upland forest. A key purpose of this HMP is to refine/revise management objectives and strategies. Successful conservation strategies will recognize the dynamic nature of bottomland and upland forested systems as a continuing, on-going condition. The HMP addresses significant issues associated with water management of the Felsenthal pool, moist-soil and sanctuary management, red-cockaded woodpecker management, nuisance animal management, and water quality. Three different management alternatives are evaluated.

For comments to be considered in the preparation of the final plan, **comments must be submitted by November 27, 2015**. You may submit comments in writing to the refuge office or by email at [tina\\_chouinard@fws.gov](mailto:tina_chouinard@fws.gov). Comments will also be taken at three public meetings.

The first public meeting will be held on *Thursday, November 5, 2015*, at the El Dorado Conference Center – Murphy Hall I, 311 South West Avenue, El Dorado, AR. The second meeting will be held on *Tuesday, November 10, 2015*, at the Warren Court House – Old Courtroom, 101 East Cedar, Warren, AR. The third meeting will be held on *Thursday, November 12, 2015*, at the First Baptist Church Multi-Ministry Center, 703 Pine St., Crossett AR. These meetings will be held from 6:00-8:00 pm, with a presentation starting at 6:15 pm. There will also be two informal open houses held on *November 7 and 14, 2015* at the Felsenthal Visitor Center, 5531 Hwy 82 West, Crossett, AR from 10am-2pm.

To obtain a copy of the Draft HMP/EA please:

- Visit <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/felsenthal/> to download the Draft HMP/EA; or
- telephoning (870)364-3167 for an electronic copy via CD.

For more information or to speak with our staff, contact Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge, (870)364-3167.

*\*\*\* The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to these meetings for all participants. Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in any of these meetings should contact the number above. In order to allow sufficient time to process requests, please contact us for assistance by close of business November 1, 2015. \*\*\**

*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.  
For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov/](http://www.fws.gov/).*