

News Release

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Pacific Regional Office

911 NE 11th Ave, #1, Portland, Oregon 97323

Phone: 503-231-6123

<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/>



For Immediate Release

August 25, 2016

Contact: Megan Nagel, 503-231-6123 or megan_nagel@fws.gov

Guam National Wildlife Refuge Reduces Days of Operation from Seven to Four Days a Week

PORTLAND, Ore. — Guam National Wildlife Refuge is reducing visitor services at the Refuge from seven to four days a week. The Refuge will be open on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, from September 14, 2016, to March 17, 2017. Hours of operation will remain the same, from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. After a trial period of six months, the reduction in hours will be reassessed to see if it is possible to reopen on a six or seven day a week schedule.

“The Refuge does not have the capacity to do the necessary work both for wildlife and support a seven-days-a-week, high-quality visitor experience, said Barry Stieglitz, Pacific Islands Refuge and Monuments Supervisor. “The reduction in hours of operation is necessary to ensure that the Refuge can manage sustainably to both provide conservation for wildlife and a safe, quality experience for visitors.”

The Refuge will be closed to visitors on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week, beginning Wednesday, September 14, 2016. These weekdays were selected because they have the least amount of visitors throughout the week.

Guam National Wildlife Refuge provides some of the best, last remaining native habitat on Guam for multiple endangered species. The Guam NWR is comprised of three units: the Andersen Air Force Base Overlay Unit (Air Force Overlay Unit), the Navy Overlay Unit, and the Ritidian Unit. The Ritidian Unit, known to the Native Chamorro (Chamoru) people as Puntan Litekyan, is located on the northern tip of Guam and encompasses approximately 1,217 acres, including 385 terrestrial acres and 832 acres of submerged areas offshore.

The Ritidian Unit was established in 1993, in response to the 1984 listing of six species as endangered, and was designated critical habitat in 2004 for three of these species: the Mariana fruit bat, the Guam Micronesian Kingfisher, and the Mariana crow.

###

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov/pacific, or connect with us through any of these social media channels at www.facebook.com/USFWSPacific, www.flickr.com/photos/usfwspacific/, www.tumblr.com/blog/usfwspacific or www.twitter.com/USFWSPacific.