

# News Release



South Arkansas Refuge Complex  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Draft Compatibility Determination Available for Public Comment and Review

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has completed a draft Trapping Plan and Environmental Assessment (draft HMP/EA) as stepped down from the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Overflow National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Pond Creek National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The public is invited to comment on the proposed management plan. In addition, each refuge has updated the necessary compatibility determinations associated with each Refuge. The public comment period will extend from March 18 through April 18, 2016. Interested parties are encouraged to review the draft plan, EA and compatibility determinations and provide written comments to the Refuge Manager.

The proposed Trapping Plan covers trapping in accordance with State and refuge regulations for badger, beaver, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, red fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, raccoon, river otter, spotted skunk, striped skunk and weasel. Furbearer trapping has been a traditional use throughout south Arkansas and is an important element of wildlife management programs within the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC), as well as, the National Wildlife Refuge System. The program is designed to manage furbearer populations, reduce impacts and damage to refuge infrastructure and private property, and provide a recreational opportunity on the refuge during the trapping season. This document includes refuge specific regulations and an overview for trapping throughout the refuges.

**For comments to be considered in the preparation of the final plan, comments must be submitted by April 18, 2016. You may submit comments in writing to the refuge office or by email at [Michael\\_Stroeh@fws.gov](mailto:Michael_Stroeh@fws.gov).**

To obtain a copy of the Draft Trapping Plan/EA and CD's please visit our website <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/felsenthal/> to download.

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

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*USFWS is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American public. In addition to maintaining the 94-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, it operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid Program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.*