

News Release

A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Visitor Services Plan Finalized for the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to announce the Visitor Services Plan (VSP) for the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The VSP identifies the goals, objectives, and strategies to reach over the next 15-years. It includes implementing and managing existing, new, and expanded wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities to meet the purpose of the Refuge and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System as a whole.

In early 2018, the Service invited the public to provide input on the planning process through a public scoping period which included two public meetings. The draft VSP was released in the Fall of 2018 and the refuge staff had a 60-day public review period including a public meeting. Over 400 comments were received. A summary of comments and Service Responses can be found in Appendix I of the VSP. A copy of the VSP is available online by visiting: www.fws.gov/refuge/arm_loxahatchee/.

This VSP addresses compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses on the Refuge including hunting, frog gigging, bowfishing, fish gigging, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation, hiking and biking, concessionaire operations, motorized and non-motorized watercraft, horseback riding, pet walking, ceremonies, instructor-led small group activities, camping, and commercial uses.

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: www.fws.gov/refuge/arm_loxahatchee/
Connect with our Facebook page at 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.

