



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
SOURIS RIVER BASIN NWR COMPLEX
J. CLARK SALYER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
681 SALYER RD.
UPHAM, NORTH DAKOTA 58789



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Wildlife Refuge Week at Souris River Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Give Wings to Your Wild Side

National Wildlife Refuge Week reminds Americans how nature enriches our lives and adds to the beauty of our country. Celebrated during the second full week of October since 1996, Refuge Week highlights the National Wildlife Refuge System – the network of lands and waters that protect wildlife and their habitats. National wildlife refuges have been part of America’s proud natural heritage since the first refuge was established in 1903.

The Souris River Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex will celebrate Refuge Week this year with two free family friendly events.

Saturday, October 8: J Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge will host the Big Sit at the Sandhills Picnic Area from 8am~10am. “The Big Sit! is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher’s Digest and founded by the New Haven (Connecticut) Bird Club.” The goal of the big sit is to identify as many bird species as possible from a 17 foot diameter circle in one day. Bring your lawn chairs and join us for a good time. *for more info on the Big Sit please visit: <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit/about.php>

- To locate the Sandhills picnic area take ND-14 about 3.5 miles south of Upham, ND. Turn east onto 77th St N onto the south end of the Scenic Trail Auto Tour route, drive about 6 ¼ miles and take a left (across from the Sandhills walk) at the two-track.

Thursday, October 13: Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge will host a high tech GPS scavenger hunt from 6pm-Dark. Bring your own unit or borrow one of ours. We will do a brief how to and then hike out on the 1 mile trail for some wildlife and habitat discovery.

- To locate Upper Souris NWR, take Highway 52 to 1 mile northwest of Foxholm, then north 7 miles on County Road 11. The Refuge can also be reached by traveling 18 miles north of Minot on Highway 83, then west 12 miles on Country Road 6. The Oxbow Nature Trail is located at the Outlet Fishing Area about 1 mile southwest of the office off of County Road 11.

The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.