

# News Release



Office of Communications  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS-330  
Arlington, VA 22203

---

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Bruce N. Decker  
703-358-2521  
bruce\_decker@fws.gov

## **Service cancels Refuge Week events at National Wildlife Refuges due to Federal Government lapse in appropriations**

Because of the lapse in appropriations that has caused the federal government shutdown, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) today announced that all Refuge Week events at national wildlife refuges across the country are cancelled because the Service cannot meet the logistical requirements to support them. Refuge Week occurs annually from October 13-19.

Facilities and operations on refuges across the country remain shuttered as a result of the lapse in funding for the fiscal year that began October 1. The current lack of funding affects all activities on national wildlife refuges, including wildlife-related recreation, such as hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, hiking, boating, and conservation education.

Additional updates during the shutdown will be available at [www.DOI.gov/shutdown](http://www.DOI.gov/shutdown).

*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.*

-- FWS --