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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
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PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED ON WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS IN OKLAHOMA AND ALASKA

Public hearings on wilderness studies covering almost 53,000 acres on National Wildlife Refuges in Oklahoma and Alaska have been announced by the Department of the Interior. They include part of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge near Lawton, Okla., and three Alaska island refuges.

A public hearing on the 5,000-acre Charons Garden unit in the southwestern part of the Wichita refuge is scheduled for 9 a.m. April 18 in the Hotel Lawtonian, 501 S. Fourth St., Lawton, Okla. Information about Charons Garden is available from the Refuge Manager, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 448, Cache, Okla 73527, or the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, N.M. 87013.

The public hearing on the wilderness proposals in Alaska is scheduled for 10 a.m. April 25 at the Bureau of Land Management conference room, Cordova Building, Anchorage.

One of the Alaska island refuges, the Tuxedni National Wildlife Refuge in Cook Inlet near Anchorage, lies due north of Kodiak Island. It is primarily a nesting area for colonial seabirds. The area involved is approximately 6,400 acres.

The second Alaska island, remote and uninhabited Bogoslof National Wildlife Refuge, is 30 miles north of Umnak Island in the Aleutian Chain. The 390-acre area has a large colony of sea lions and is an important seabird rookery.

The third Alaska area, the 41,113-acre Bering Sea National Wildlife Refuge, includes St. Matthew and Hall Island, 250 miles west of the Alaska mainland. The refuge has a colonial seabird nesting area that extends for five miles. The rare McKays bunting is known to nest only on the uplands of St. Matthew Island.

Information on these island refuges may be obtained from the Associate Supervisor, Alaska Wildlife Refuges, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, P.O. Box 500, Kenai, Alaska 99611, or the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, P.O. Box 3737, Portland, Ore. 97208.

Individuals or organizations may express their views on these wilderness studies orally or in writing. Written comments for the official record may be sent to the Regional Directors concerned before the hearing dates.

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