

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED ON WILDERNESS PROPOSAL IN LOUISIANA

A proposal to designate as wilderness 9,432 acres within the Breton National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana will be discussed at a public hearing November 12, in Chalmette, La., the Department of the Interior announced today.

The session will provide citizens an opportunity to help determine suitability as wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Breton Refuge consists of a major portion of the Chandeleur Islands and the two parts of Breton Island, separating Chandeleur Sound from the Gulf of Mexico, approximately 30 miles east of New Orleans.

The refuge, which has low-growing mangrove and black rush interspersing a maze of ponds, inlets, and marshes, provides sanctuary for thousands of shorebirds during the summer months and is a valuable feeding and resting area for waterfowl throughout the winter. Visitors use the islands for shelling, beachcombing, fishing, and other primitive forms of recreation. Breton Refuge remains one of the few segments of wild shoreline under protection along the northern Gulf of Mexico.

A map and other information about the Breton Wilderness proposal is available from the Refuge Manager, Gulf Islands National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 165, Biloxi, Miss. 39533, or the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Peachtree-Seventh Building, Atlanta, Ga. 30323.

Oral or written statements may be submitted at the hearing or written comments can be sent to the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in Atlanta by December 27, when the hearing record will be closed.

Notice of the November 12 hearing, which begins at 9:00 a.m. at the St. Bernard Courthouse, Annex in Chalmette, La., was published in the Federal Register on September 3.

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