

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

For Release Sunday, May 24, 1970

Carroll 343-5634

DESIGNATED NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES TO HAVE USER FEES BEGINNING MAY 25

The Interior Department announced today that user fees will be charged on 22 of Uncle Sam's 328 national wildlife refuges beginning May 25.

The refuges affected are those where special facilities or services are provided. There will be no fees charged on other refuges. Annual permits at \$5 per vehicle or \$2 per individual will be available, as well as daily fees of \$1 per vehicle or 50 cents per individual.

The user fees are designed to replace charges that were formerly in effect under the Federal Government's Golden Eagle Passport program.

Director John S. Gottschalk of Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, which runs the refuge system, points out that many refuges will have improved hunting facilities, including blinds, this year. Special user fees for this activity will vary depending upon services provided. He said that camping facilities in connection with hunting are available in several places.

Observation towers, interpretive programs, and sanitary facilities now are available on many of these national wildlife refuges.

Dr. Gottschalk said: "We believe our refuge managers and their staffs are performing a first-class job, and we would like to show people what they are doing. The public is always welcome."

Last year, more than 16 million persons visited the national wildlife refuges for varied recreational activities.

National wildlife refuges designated for user fees:

Alabama: Eufaula
California: Kern
Delaware: Bombay Hook
Florida: Merritt Island
Georgia: Blackbeard Island
Illinois: Crab Orchard
Iowa: De Soto
Massachusetts: Parker River
Michigan: Shiawassee
New Jersey: Brigantine
New Mexico: Bitter Lake
New York: Montezuma
Oklahoma: Wichita Mts.
South Carolina: Cape Romain, Carolina Sandhills
South Dakota: Gavins Point (fish hatchery)
Texas: Santa Ana, Aransas, Buffalo Lake
Utah: Bear River
Virginia: Chincoteague, Presquile

A directory and other information on user fees at specific refuges may be obtained by writing to the Bureau's regional offices at:

730 N.E. Pacific Street, P.O. Box 3737, Portland, Oregon 97208

Federal Building, U.S. Post Office & Court House, 500 Gold Avenue, SW., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Federal Building, Fort Snelling, Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111

Peachtree-Seventh Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30323

U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Boston, Massachusetts. 02109

x x x