

NEWS from the National Wildlife Refuge System

Have a WILD Time with WILD THINGS!

COUNTDOWN TO CENTENNIAL: CELEBRATE AMERICA'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES AT EVENTS NATIONWIDE

From two to five *billion* wild and raucous visitors are expected in October at America's National Wildlife Refuges--and you're invited, too. It's a nationwide celebration, the first ever, of National Wildlife Refuge Week, October 8-14.

Not to worry about overcrowding. The two to five billion visitors are the winged variety--birds, that is, on the wing from the north's impending chill to more hospitable climes until the spring thaw beckons them back.

The other visitors--the kind on two feet--are also a special breed: they're wildlife enthusiasts who seek out these special and quiet places for wild things, America's national wildlife refuges. These are the only public lands in America where people go simply to enjoy wildlife.

"National Wildlife Refuge Week serves to remind us of this Nation's enduring and exceptional commitment to wildlife conservation," said Mollie Beattie, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which operates the refuge system. "As we celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week, I urge everyone to visit one of these unique places. Many are holding special events to welcome the public. Take a close look at what makes--and keeps--a wild place wild."

President Theodore Roosevelt established the Nation's first national wildlife refuge in 1903 on Pelican Island in Florida to begin what has become the world's greatest system of lands dedicated to wildlife. Today, 504 national wildlife refuges dot our land, from Key Deer in Florida to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, from Hanelai refuge in Hawaii to Moosehorn in Maine.

Many are within an easy drive of most metropolitan areas and are celebrating National Wildlife Refuge Week with open houses, wildlife art shows, birding festivals, tours, and other interesting and exciting activities.

The following list shows some highlights. For additional information, please check with the national wildlife refuge nearest you.

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AMERICA'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES...
where wildlife comes naturally!