

Cold Springs NWR • Columbia NWR • Conboy Lake NWR • Hanford Reach National Monument
McKay Creek NWR • McNary NWR • Saddle Mountain NWR • Toppenish NWR • Umatilla NWR



NEWS RELEASE



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Refuge Reminds Boaters of Islands Status

With the approach of summer boating season, the McNary National Wildlife Refuge is reminding recreational boaters that Refuge islands in the lower segment of the Columbia River Hanford Reach are not open to recreational use. The islands provide critical nesting and brood areas for shorebirds and waterfowl; fawning areas for deer; and roosting, foraging and resting areas for a wide range of raptors, passerines, wading birds, and mammals.

The six Refuge islands are located between River Miles 341 and 351, or the 10-mile stretch of river ending just upstream of Snyder Street boat launch. The islands are posted with Refuge signs indicating that they are closed to visitation.

“We’re finding that most people know about the rules and are abiding by them,” says Refuge Manager Lee Albright, “These islands provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat as well as outstanding wildlife observation opportunities for boaters. Providing these safe places for wildlife to rest, forage, and raise young will help ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy and appreciate them as well.”

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