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**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**



# News Release

**Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SQUAW CREEK REFUGE**

### **FISH SNAGGING SEASON OPENS**

**Mound City, Missouri** -- Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge announces open fish snagging season on the refuge from March 15 to May 15, 2009. Fish snagging will be in conjunction with the release of water from Eagle Pool. Winter water levels are beyond proposed refuge management goals for the early spring season. The water level in Eagle Pool will be lowered beginning in mid-March with the goal of having this pool drawn down by the end of spring. Excess water is being released from the south portion of the water control structure located at Eagle Pool. Other open public access areas along the auto tour route are authorized for fishing in addition to the Eagle Pool water control structure. There are no special federal permits required to fish at Squaw Creek Refuge only a valid Missouri State Fishing License. Only non-game fish as stated in the Missouri Fishing Regulations may be snagged on the refuge during the regulation season. The only other fishing method permitted on the Squaw Creek Refuge is pole and line. Longbows, crossbows (archery equipment), and gigs are not permitted on the Refuge.

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Migratory bird activity has increased for duck numbers during the past weeks and a record number of snow geese were surveyed utilizing the refuge in March. Snow Geese numbers exceeded more than 1- million birds in early March. Snow Geese numbers have decreased through the week as warmer weather develops. The resident pair of eagles may be observed near the nest at Pintail Pool along the auto tour route.

The headquarters weekend open house has started and will end on Sunday, May 10, 2009. Squaw Creek Refuge headquarters' visitor contact station weekend hours are from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The ten-mile auto tour route is open from sunrise to sunset. Please call (660) 442-3187 to obtain further information. Squaw Creek Refuge is located 5 miles south of Mound City and 30 miles north of St. Joseph, Missouri. To reach the refuge, take I-29 to exit 79, then two and ½ miles west on Highway 159.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages more than 100-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 547 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 63 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

For further information about programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region, please visit the Squaw Creek Refuge website at [www.fws.gov/midwest/squawcreek](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/squawcreek).