



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 20, 2015
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Minor Modification to Boating Restrictions at Havasu Wildlife Refuge Change addresses public safety concerns and impacts to sensitive wildlife habitat.

Effective immediately backwater portions of Havasu National Wildlife Refuge closed to water skiing, tubing, wake boarding, or towing of other recreational crafts has been extended by ½ mile south. The area closed to these activities is from the north buoy line at Interstate 40 to the south buoy line near Catfish Bay in Lake Havasu City.

This change is being implemented due to increased safety concerns from wake-causing activities in the area, such as water skiing. High-speeds in the area create unsafe operating conditions for canoes, kayaks and other non-motorized watercraft utilizing the area and impact sensitive wildlife habitat.

Additionally, **all** watercraft traveling in backwaters off of the Colorado River are restricted to wakeless speeds. These areas provide important wildlife habitat and some of the last remaining nesting areas for the Ridgway's clapper rail. As a unique way to experience the refuge and its wildlife, the refuge features a 4-mile canoe and kayak trail from Castle Rock to Mesquite Bay Central. Recreational boating in these areas is regulated to conserve these important natural resources.

Enforcement of boating restrictions on this portion of the refuge is provided for by existing federal regulations and consistent with the jurisdictional authorities of the refuge to regulate recreational activities on Havasu refuge, including this portion of the Colorado River.

Recreational boaters are asked to respect regulatory buoys and signs.

Please visit www.fws.gov/refuge/Havasu/ for information about these changes and a full description of visitor activities.

The refuge was established in 1941 to provide migratory bird habitat. It is comprised of 37,515 acres along the lower Colorado River in Arizona and California and protects 30 river miles. It encompasses 300 miles of shoreline from Needles, California to Lake Havasu City, Arizona.