Big Lake WMA, St. Francis Sunken Lands WMA and Big Lake NWR
Closed Monday, February 10 through Friday, February 14, 2020

JONESBORO – Big Lake WMA, St. Francis Sunken Lands, and Big Lake NWR will be closed to daytime public access on Monday, February 10 through Friday, February 14, 2020. With favorable weather, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services (USDA APHIS WS), in cooperation with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Missouri Department of Conservation, will be conducting aerial gunning operations aimed at reducing feral hog populations on the WMA.

Aerial operations are scheduled to begin Feb. 10 and continue through February 14. Public safety during the flights is the primary concern for the temporary closures. To provide safety for the public and comply with USDA regulations, access will not be allowed during ongoing operations.

Varying weather and site specific conditions will not allow for specific dates of the closures. The dates allow some flexibility to take advantage of resources over large contiguous tracts of habitat. In the event that access to the WMAs or NWR is restricted, AGFC and partnering agency staff will be on-site to maintain road and access closures.

The aerial operations are the result of planning and coordination of multiple partners, condensed into several days of actual operations. The AGFC, USFWS and USDA APHIS would like to thank the public in advance for their patience and understanding while these activities are underway and apologize for any inconvenience related to the operation.

For additional information please contact AGFC Assistant Chief Luke Lewis at (501) 223-6350. For additional information concerning the Big Lake FWS Refuge please contact Steven Rimer at (870) 564-2429.