



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

News Release

Mingo National Wildlife Refuge

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573-222-3589

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pilot Knob National Wildlife Refuge guided hikes

PILOT KNOB, MISSOURI –The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff in September will lead three guided hikes to the top of Pilot Knob National Wildlife Refuge. One hike on Wednesday, September 25 and two hikes on Saturday, September 28. On Wednesday, September 25, participants will meet at 9:00 a.m. at Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site for a hike approximately two miles in length. During the hike, volunteers and staff from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will discuss how past mining has created critical habitat for the endangered Indiana bats. In addition to habitat, this important refuge holds unique geology and mining history. Two additional hikes will take place September 28, 2024, in conjunction with Battle of Pilot Knob Reenactment. On Saturday September 28, hikes will take place at 9:00 am and 12:30 pm. These groups will meet at the Save-a-Lot Parking lot at 1370 N Hwy 21 in Ironton. The hikes will explore the refuge and local history during the battle and current bat hibernaculum and habitat.

Space is limited - participants must register for any of the three available hikes by calling the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge at 573-222-3589. Hikers will walk up steep terrain with loose rock and uneven footing. Participants must be physically able to make this hike. It is recommended that hikers wear long pants and boots for the rugged conditions. Additional details on time and meeting location will be provided to registered participants.

Pilot Knob National Wildlife Refuge is in Arcadia Valley near the junction of Missouri Route 21 and Missouri Highway W. Pilot Knob National Wildlife Refuge is managed by the staff at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. For more information about the refuge, contact 573-222-3589 or email the refuge at mingo@fws.gov. Visit the refuge's website at www.fws.gov/refuge/pilot_knob for refuge updates.

Pilot Knob National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1987. This 90-acre refuge located at the top of Pilot Knob Mountain was a donation from the Pilot Knob Ore Company. After being heavily mined in the 1800s, the iron mine shafts became less active with miners and more active with a different critter... bats! Upon establishment of the refuge, the mission became to protect the important hibernation sites in the abandoned mine shafts for the federally endangered Indiana bat and other bat species. To avoid risk of disturbing the refuge environment and of spreading diseases to bats, the refuge is typically closed to all public access.

The National Wildlife Refuge System, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is the world's premier system of public lands and waters set aside to conserve America's fish, wildlife, and plants. Since President Theodore Roosevelt designated Florida's Pelican Island as the first wildlife refuge in 1903, the system has grown to more than 150 million acres, 590 national wildlife refuges and other units of the Refuge System plus 38 wetland management districts. Visit www.fws.gov.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov and connect with us on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter), [LinkedIn](#), [Flickr](#), and [YouTube](#).

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