

<http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=31753>

Squaw Creek Wildlife Refuge Closed January 4th & 5th

(KLZA) -- The Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge will be closed to the general public Saturday and Sunday January 4 & 5 for the annual muzzle loader white-tailed deer hunt.

Only those drawn for the hunt will be permitted on the refuge during these days. Refuge hiking trails east of State Highway 159 will be open. The 10-mile auto tour will also be closed.

More than 300 hunters applied for permits for the annual muzzle loader hunt. Only 50 were selected by random drawing to participate.

The Squaw Creek deer hunts started in January 1988 to reduce a rapidly expanding deer herd that was causing considerable damage to refuge habitats. It also helps reduce the number of deer-vehicle collisions along State Highways 118, 159 and Interstate 29.

The refuge auto tour and Eagle Pool Overlook hiking trail will close at sunset Friday, January 3rd and reopen at sunrise on Monday, January 6.

Many Signals Communications