



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Southwest Region



# New Administration Center to be Built in Okmulgee American Recovery and Reinvestment Act FACT SHEET

### Project Description

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will construct a new administration building using Recovery Act funds at Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. The Service is currently accepting bids on the project which is budgeted between \*\$500,000 and \$1,000,000, and is expected to be complete by June 2011.



Deep Fork NWR; Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Preliminary plans call for a 2,800 square foot, single-story, slab construction office building with an associated parking lot. Currently the Service is holding a public comment period on an Environmental Assessment (EA) outlining the physical, biological and personal impacts of the building construction. The comment period ends on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Pending public support for the project, as proposed, construction should begin this summer.

Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1993 to protect the bottomland hardwood forest lands of eastern Oklahoma and the wildlife which utilize them. At least 147 species of birds, including a wide variety of migrating and wintering waterfowl, fifty-one species of mammals, fifty-four species of reptiles and thirty-eight species of amphibians, inhabit the bottomland forest and associated wetlands.

### Project Benefits

The Service expects the Deep Fork NWR Administration Building project to create work for up to ten people. In addition, the new administrative facility will include office space for staff and volunteers of the Refuge, as well as provide more accessible service and convenience to the public, as visitors will be able to meet with refuge staff at the new facility instead of in the Post Office in Okmulgee.

### Total Budget Information for All Projects

Deep Fork NWR: Up to \$1,000,000

### For More Information

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\*Source – [http://recovery.doi.gov/press/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/fws-arra-project-list\\_10-08-09.pdf](http://recovery.doi.gov/press/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/fws-arra-project-list_10-08-09.pdf)