



Friends of Seney National Wildlife Refuge

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Invite Your US Representative and Senators to the November 15 Refuge Expo on Capitol Hill

The National Wildlife Refuge Association and the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement are hosting the 2023 National Wildlife Refuge Expo in Washington D.C. on November 15. The goal of the Expo is to build awareness among members of Congress about the crucial role played by national wildlife refuges like Seney in the conservation and protection of our country's unique natural heritage. **Friends of Seney National Wildlife Refuge will be featured in a virtual presentation that is part of the day-long celebration of national wildlife refuges.** We are very excited to be a part of this event and are asking for your help in making sure our elected representatives take time to attend the event.

You can support Friends of SNWR and the Seney Refuge by encouraging your US representative and senators to attend the Refuge Expo. A copy of the invitation with details about the event is available [here](#). Let your elected officials know how much Seney National Wildlife Refuge means to you, your community, and to Michigan. A few talking points are available below to help you get started on your message.

For Michigan residents, it's especially important for Senators Stabenow and Peters to hear from us. Senator Debbie Stabenow serves on the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and is a member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus. Senator Gary Peters serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, and is a member of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. In these roles, both senators have the power to impact the national wildlife system in the legislation they propose and in how they vote. In addition to contacting these senators, consider letting your representative in the US House of Representatives know about the Refuge Expo, as they impact the refuge system with their votes on appropriation and conservation bills. If you're not a Michigan voter, inviting your home state's Congressional representatives to the Expo will benefit the national refuge system by educating them on the value and enjoyment that national wildlife refuges bring to our entire nation. **You'll find contact information for your representative and senators here:**

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

<https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

Key Points to Help Tell the Seney Story to Your US Representative and Senators

- Seney National Wildlife Refuge, with its 95,212 acres of diverse habitats, serves as a sanctuary for a wide range of wildlife, including bald eagles, trumpeter swans, loons, and a variety of waterfowl, which are integral to the ecological balance of the region.
- Seney National Wildlife Refuge offers countless recreational and educational opportunities for residents and visitors from all over the world. The refuge provides a space for birdwatching, hiking, biking, wildlife photography, and environmental education. By connecting people with nature, the refuge fosters a deeper appreciation for our environment and promotes conservation awareness.
- The Seney Refuge is not only a source of pride for our community but also contributes to the local economy through tourism and outdoor activities. In doing so, it supports jobs and businesses in the region.
- Inadequate funding for national wildlife refuges has led to the loss of over 800 permanent positions since 2011, threatening the refuge network's ability to protect biodiversity and provide recreational opportunities for all. We need the support of our elected officials to ensure adequate funding is in place to protect the nation's largest network of lands and waters dedicated to wildlife conservation.
- *Friends of Seney NWR* has supported the refuge since 1987. Members have funded numerous educational programs and internships, and donated equipment, supplies and programs that enhance refuge visitor experiences. The generosity of our members has recently enabled a gift of over \$127,000 to build educational exhibits that will be installed in our new visitor center.

Interested in learning more about how you can help protect the national wildlife refuge system? The National Wildlife Refuge Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving our refuges <https://www.refugeassociation.org/>