

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Department of the Interior / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge  
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For Immediate Release:  
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Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge canceling "Open Roads" October 8-9, 2011.

Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge Manager Mike Hoff announced today that "Open Roads" days scheduled for October 8-9, 2011 will be canceled. This announcement is being made to inform the public they will not be able to drive the roads normally closed to vehicular traffic around the refuge impoundments at the end of Mackay Island Road as previously planned. "We have these scheduled Open Roads Days regularly, and we know lots of people keep up with the dates and really look forward to coming," Hoff explained. "Hopefully, we'll be able to get the roads back into shape before the next Open Roads Days."

While the roads are closed to vehicular traffic, they are still open for hiking, bicycling, fishing and wildlife observation and photography. The area is located 6.2 miles south of the NC state line on Hwy. 615, Knotts Island, NC and is marked by a large refuge sign. Knotts Island may be reached by traveling south on Princess Anne Road from Virginia Beach or by taking the free ferry from Currituck, NC.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System that encompasses more than 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. The agency also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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