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Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge will “Open Roads” December 6-7, 2008

Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge Manager Mike Hoff announced today that Open Roads Days will be held from 7:00 am until sunset on December 6 and 7, 2008. The public will be able to drive the roads around the refuge impoundments at the end of Mackay Island Road. The Refuge Headquarters/Visitor Center area will be closed for these Open Roads Days. Other activities may include hiking, bicycling, fishing, and wildlife observation and photography. This time of year is excellent for observing the numerous waterfowl that spend the winter on the refuge. The refuge speed limit is 15 mph and visitors are asked to park in safe, suitable locations. The Open Roads are located 16.2 miles south of the North Carolina state line on Hwy. 615, Knotts Island, NC and are marked by a large refuge sign. Knotts Island may be reached by traveling south on Princess Anne Road from Virginia Beach, VA or by taking the free ferry from Currituck, NC.

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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