

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

For Release to PMs April 5, 1971

Carroll 343-5634

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF ROUGH TERRAIN VEHICLES  
WILL BE CONSIDERED BEFORE WILDLIFE REFUGE AREAS ARE OPENED

The Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife announced today that the environmental effects of motorized rough terrain vehicles, including snowmobiles and dune buggies, will be considered before any national wildlife refuge area is opened for these uses.

Possible effects of such use on wildlife, habitat, recreational values, and physical resources will be determined by on-site investigations conducted by the refuge staffs. When permitted, motorized vehicles may be operated only in designated areas or on clearly marked routes.

Refuge managers may close any area to this type of use if it becomes necessary to protect resources and if off-road activities conflict with the primary purposes for which the national wildlife refuges were established.

X X X

32512-71