

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alligator River/Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge
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[Back to News Home Page](#)

News Release

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Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge will “Open Roads” for the July 4th Holiday Weekend



Photo credit: Jeff Lewis

The bald eagles that have traditionally nested on Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge hatched three chicks this year. The family of eagles is still using Middle Pool, which can easily be viewed during Open Roads Days.

Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge Manager Mike Hoff announced today that Open Roads Days will be held from 7:30 am until sunset on June 30 and July 1, 2007. The public will be allowed to drive around the refuge impoundments at the end of Mackay Island Road which are normally closed to vehicular traffic. Other activities available include hiking, bicycling, fishing, wildlife observation and photography. The refuge speed limit is 15 mph, and visitors are asked to park in safe, suitable locations. Mackay Island Road is located 6.2 miles south of the NC state line on Hwy. 615 on Knotts Island 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.

For more information about Open Roads Days, please contact the refuge Office at 252-429-3100 or email mike_hoff@fws.gov.

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.