

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 39  
316 Marsh Causeway  
Knotts Island, NC 27950



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## News Release

October 8, 2008

### "OPEN ROADS DAYS"

Mike Hoff, the Refuge Manager at Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge, announces "Open Roads Days" Saturday, October 11th and Sunday, October 12th, 2008. "Open Roads Days" allows the public to drive through the portion of the refuge that is normally closed to motorized vehicles. Motor vehicle entry will begin at 7:00 am and end at 7:00 pm. Refuge maps and brochures are located at any refuge kiosk.

Wildlife-dependent activities that visitors may enjoy while visiting the refuge include biking, hiking, fishing, and wildlife photography and observation. A North Carolina fishing license is required however to fish while on the refuge. A universally-accessible fishing pier is available on the East Pool Impoundment. Management is requesting that visitors pull over and park in safe, suitable locations while fishing or viewing wildlife. The refuge speed limit is 15 mph. For more information on this event and other refuge activities, contact the refuge office Monday through Friday, 7:30 am – 4:00 pm at (252) 429-3100 or go on line at <http://www.fws.gov/mackayisland>.

Wildlife refuges provide unparalleled outdoor activities, including fishing, hunting, environmental education, wildlife observation, and photography, making them special places for all Americans to connect with nature. Many refuges also offer opportunities for nature hikes, bird tours, wildlife drives and other activities. There are wildlife refuges in every state, and at least one within an hour's drive of most major cities.

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 which 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. It 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.