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Forsythe Refuge Announces Environmental Assessment and Public Meeting for Cedar Bonnet Island Habitat Restoration and Management Plan

Stafford, NJ – Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge has announced the availability of a draft Environmental Assessment for public review and comment as well as the date and time of a public presentation regarding a proposed project at Cedar Bonnet Island, along Route 72 in Stafford Township.

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) is proposing to restore and enhance 45 acres located within the southeastern portion of Cedar Bonnet Island, part of the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. The purpose of the project is to mitigate for impacts to intertidal/subtidal shallows and riparian zones associated with the implementation of the NJDOT Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges Project.

The NJDOT and Service will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at the Stafford Township Municipal Building from 7 pm to 9 pm. A presentation will occur at 7 pm the purpose of which is to present information to the public regarding the Habitat Restoration and Management Plan and to facilitate public discussion and respond to questions.

The Environmental Assessment for the project will be available for review at the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge web site, http://www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin_b_forsythe/ or at the refuge Visitor Information Center located at 800 Great Creek Road, Oceanville, NJ. Written comments should be submitted to Vinny Turner, United States Fish & Wildlife Service, Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 72, 800 Great Creek Road, Oceanville, NJ 08231 or via email to Vinny_Turner@fws.gov. The comment period for the EA will begin on June 9, 2014 and will close on July 9, 2014. It is the responsibility of the persons providing the comment to submit them by the close of the comment period.

For more information, contact the refuge at (609) 652-1665 or visit http://www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin_b_forsythe/.

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