

[From Summer 2005]

## **Refuge Offers Experimental Drop-off Program**

The Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge recently announced an experimental transportation drop-off program to the local businesses of Chincoteague Island. This experimental program will allow hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, and campground owners to provide their patrons with a transportation drop-off /pick-up program to the beach from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend.

The Refuge, in cooperation with the National Park Service and Assateague Island National Seashore, will offer this experimental program to all interested and qualified businesses on the Island. The decision to consider this program comes from local requests and is part of the Refuge's Master Plan. This program is also focused on reducing the traffic issues and all the safety aspects associated with the congestion on and off the islands. It is our hope to utilize the information gained from this experimental program to develop a meaningful and community-orientated solution to the ongoing problems associated with beach parking and the Refuge's purpose.

Local businesses interested in participating in this experimental program will be required to obtain a Special Use Permit. At signing, each business will be required to show proof of insurance for its vehicle, and a one time reduced fee of \$250.00 will be charged. In order to obtain the best possible information, all regulations associated with the permit must be adhered to. This will include monthly meetings held between refuge staff and any motel/hotel representatives to discuss how the program is progressing and any necessary changes.

For further information about the program, please call Sally Bowden, at CNWR, 757-336-6122.