

[From Winter 1997-98]

Entrance Fee Increases at Chincoteague Refuge

On October 15, 1997, the entrance fee to the Chincoteague National wildlife Refuge increased from \$4.00 to \$5.00 for a seven day period. The increase was initiated as part of the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program mandated by Congress to raise additional funds to improve recreational services and make infrastructure repairs on selected lands including National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, and Bureau of Land Management sites.

This program will help spread some of the costs for managing these lands among those who use them. The Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge will receive 80% of the collected funds which will be used to upgrade interpretative facilities and make much needed repairs and improvements delayed because of budget shortfalls. This new program will allow the refuge to better serve the many visitors to the Chincoteague area.

Free admission is granted to persons with Golden Access Passports or with a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) or Golden Eagle Passport, Golden Age Passport or the Refuge Annual Pass. Any valid pass entitles the holder and all occupants of a private vehicle to enter the refuge.

The 1986 Emergency Wetlands Resources Act allows for entrance fees on national wildlife refuges.

*Sally Bowden,
Lead Park Ranger*