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Contact: Evan Hirsche
202-333-9075

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES FIRST EVER MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE REFUGE SYSTEM

Washington, DC – Coinciding with National Wildlife Refuge Week, October 9th – 15th, and the organization's 30th anniversary, the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) is pleased to announce the launch of *Wildlife Refuge* magazine, a new publication devoted entirely to generating visibility and support for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

“*Wildlife Refuge* finally gives the Refuge System long-awaited and well-deserved attention in a national publication,” said Evan Hirsche, President of the NWRA. “As our premier network of lands and waters dedicated to wildlife conservation, it's appropriate that there be a magazine for the public devoted 100% to telling the Refuge System's story.”

Wildlife Refuge highlights the challenges, opportunities and threats that the System and individual refuges face. It also showcases the diverse recreational opportunities found on refuges and features stories about the people and places that make the Refuge System unique among all the federal lands. And it communicates with NWRA members and supporters about the activities and accomplishments of the organization and ways members can take action and become involved in important refuge issues. Importantly, it uses compelling images from refuges to remind readers of the majesty of these remarkable places.

Feature stories in this first issue include:

- A Unique Conservation Vision - The National Wildlife Refuge System preserves the glory of wild America
- Looking to the Future - Refuges face challenges, opportunities
- Fighting an Alien Invasion - Invasive species are refuges' biggest threat
- Heading to Big Sky Country - Montana wildlife abounds on its million-plus acres of refuge lands
- Magnificent Migrants: Shorebirds of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- Terns on the Tarmac - Endangered shorebirds seek refuge at Alameda
- Why CARE? - An unusually diverse group works together for refuge funding

We are also pleased to have a guest opinion by Senator Lincoln Chafee (RI), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Water, who provides an eloquent view of refuges in his home state of Rhode Island. And Bill Hartwig, Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System, offers his insights on the role of volunteers in the Refuge System.

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Wildlife Refuge is available to all members of the NWRA. In celebration our 30h anniversary, we are also offering for a limited time only, a 1-year complementary membership, which insures future receipt of the magazine. Interested individuals can visit NWRA's website at www.refugenet.org, and click the "Free Introductory Membership" icon.

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The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to protect, enhance and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System, lands and waters set aside by the American people to conserve our diverse wildlife heritage