



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 5087
291 Jimmy Parks Boulevard
Fort McClellan, Alabama 36205-0087



August 3, 2004

Ron M. Levy
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Department of the Army
291 Jimmy Parks Boulevard
Fort McClellan, Alabama 36205

Re: Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge Issues relating to ADEM Administrative Order

Dear Mr. Levy,

On July 30, 2004, the public comment period ended for Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge's (Refuge) hunting program within the Federal Register. July 30, 2004, is also the date of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management's (ADEM) Administrative Order regarding unexploded ordnance (UXO) and munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) investigation and recovery actions with the Refuge area. In order to make a determination as to whether the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will proceed with the opening of the area for hunting and other public uses, we request a letter from the U.S. Army answering the following questions:

1. Does this order and/or the issues surrounding this order change the U.S. Army's assessment of those areas of the Refuge that can be safely opened to the public (Fig. 1)?
2. Are the land use controls in place sufficient to protect the public and comply with the Administrative Order?
3. Will the additional investigations required under the Administrative Order require intermittent closures of the Refuge's public use area?

If a letter is received from the U.S. Army that reaffirms the safety of the public within our public use areas, we will seek concurrence from ADEM that no violation of the current Administrative Order would occur with the opening. If both of these replies are affirmative the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expects to continue planning for public use to occur in Fall 2004.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also requests that an official draft of the Charlie Area EE/CA be provided to ADEM for their review. The latest issues regarding UXO and MEC investigations and recovery require us to be as transparent as possible in any future dealing with these issues on the Refuge. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to work these issues with the U.S. Army according to the requirements within the Memorandum of Agreement.

Sincerely,

Stephen Miller
Refuge Manager



Public Access

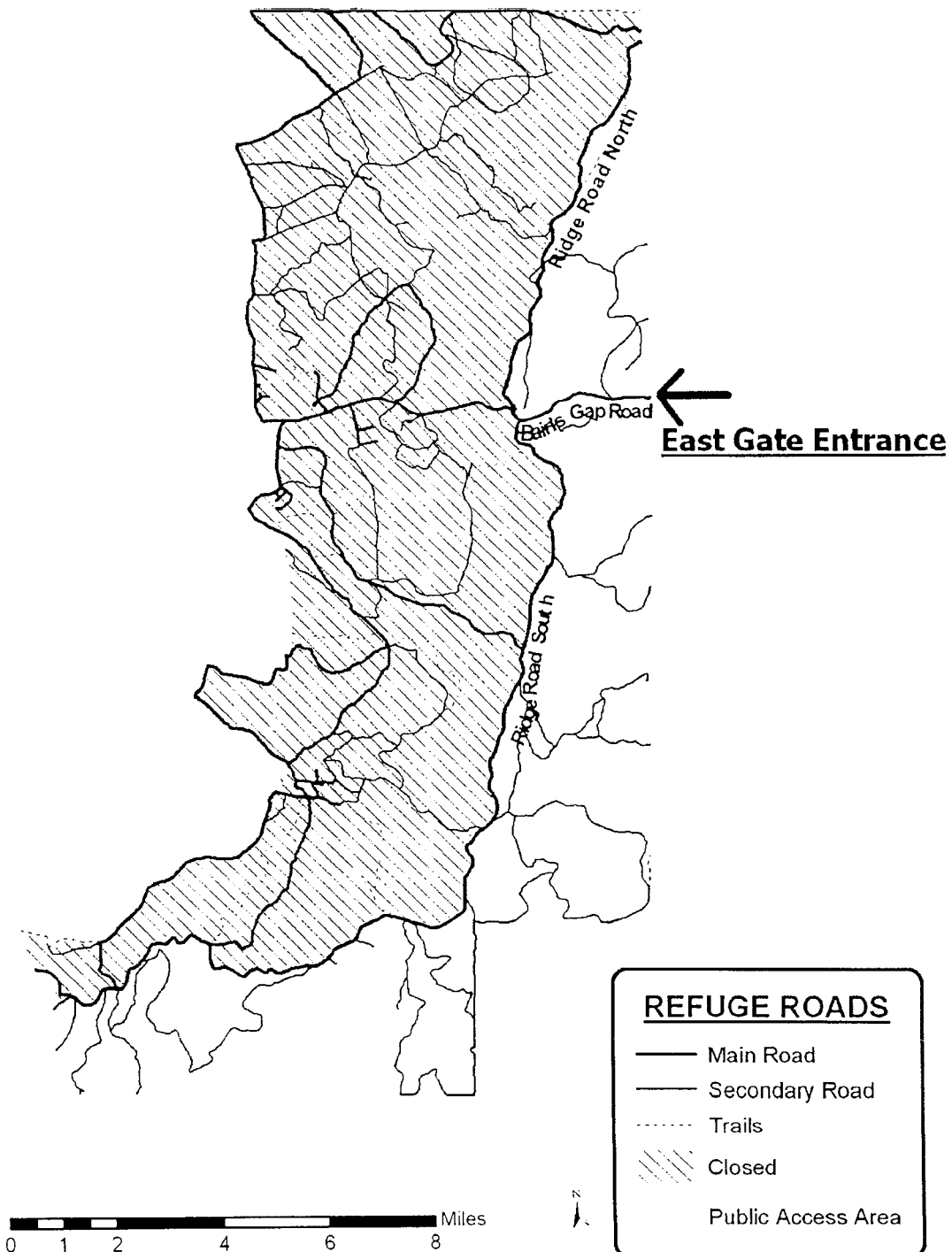


FIG. 1 AREAS TO BE HUNTED