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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA FOREST SERVICE TO CLOSE WOODS FERRY CAMPGROUND FOR WINTER, REOPEN POULUS LOOP HUNT CAMP

(Columbia, S.C.) – In an effort to improve management practices and facilities at the Woods Ferry Recreation Area, the US Forest Service will close the Woods Ferry Campground this winter while reopening the Poulus Loop Hunt Camp, a popular alternate site prized by hunters and winter recreationists. The move is designed to reduce excessive maintenance needs and operating costs incurred at Woods Ferry outside of its high-use spring and summer seasons, as well as to satisfy requests that Poulus Loop be reopened for seasonal use. Both campgrounds are located on the Sumter National Forest's Enoree Ranger District.

"Currently, the costs to heat buildings and water at Woods Ferry during the winter account for about 70% of the total yearly utility costs for the recreation area," said Enoree District Ranger Beth LeMaster. "This decision allows us to continue to provide a desirable campground in the area while significantly reducing our energy consumption."

Woods Ferry Campground will close on Nov. 1, 2011 and reopen on April 1, 2012. The closure will not impact day-use facilities at Woods Ferry, including the picnic area and boat launch.

To accommodate seasonal use, Poulus Loop Hunt Camp will reopen on Sept. 9, 2011 and close on Jan. 5, 2012. It will reopen on March 30, 2012 for turkey season and close again on May 4, 2012.

For more information on South Carolina's national forests, please visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/scnfs>.

For more information on the Weeks Act Centennial Celebration, please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/weeksact>.

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