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For Immediate Release

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Nags Head Woods Wild Fire Grows to 200 Acres

DURHAM – The Nature Conservancy’s Nags Head Woods Preserve remains closed due to a wildfire, which has grown to 200 acres. Fire crews are working to contain the fire and will soon use good fire to fight bad fire.

The fire is largely confined to marsh on the southwest side of the preserve on the west side of Nags Head Woods Road. In addition to cutting fire lines to contain the fire, crews plan to burn an area ahead of the fire – reducing fuels so that if the fire reaches the pre-burned area it will go out because there is less fuel to stoke the flames.

Public safety and prevention of damage to structures is the first goal of this work. There are some houses that are close to the fire, but most of them are unoccupied second homes.

The North Carolina Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Town of Nags Head have staff and equipment onsite and are working to contain the fire. The Nature Conservancy has brought in trained crews and equipment from its Southern Pines and Wilmington offices.

The fire was reported at 9:20 Tuesday night. Crews have been fighting the fire since that time. The cause of the fire has not been determined, but there were no storms, house fires or controlled burns in the area at the time of the fire. The last controlled burn in the area was more than a year ago.

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The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. To date, the Conservancy and its more than one million members have been responsible for the protection of more than 18 million acres in the United States and have helped preserve more than 117 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. The North Carolina Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and its 28,000 members have protected nearly 700,000 acres in the state. Visit us on the Web at nature.org/northcarolina.