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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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US Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar authorizes the establishment of the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge

WOODSTOCK, IL – United States Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar was on hand Wednesday, August 15 to announce the authorization for the establishment of the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge through the National Wildlife Refuge System at Glacial Park in Ringwood, IL. The Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge eventually will provide up to 11,200 acres of habitat for wildlife as well as outdoor recreational opportunities within easy driving distance for the residents of southeastern Wisconsin and northeastern Illinois.

The Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge will allow for restoration of wetlands, prairie and oak savanna habitat and provide a home for 109 species of animals and plants that are of concern. The list includes 49 birds, five fishes, five mussels, one amphibian, two reptiles and 47 plants. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also provide ample environmental education and recreational opportunities for visitors, including the 3.5 million people within 30 miles of the refuge.

“This is a big milestone for this project that has been an eight year journey through extensive collaboration of over 70 groups,” stated McHenry County Board Chairman Ken Koehler. “The Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge will be the 557th wildlife refuge of its kind in the United States and is a great opportunity to provide recreational opportunities for the people in our area for generations to come.”

To learn more about the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge, please visit: www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/Hackmatack/. To learn more about the National Wildlife Refuge System, please visit: www.fws.gov/refuges.

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“McHenry County government is dedicated to providing the highest quality services for the health, safety, and welfare of the County’s residents and communities. We foster representative and transparent government to ensure social, economic and environmental justice.”