

**COMPREHENSIVE  
CONSERVATION  
PLANS FOR  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE  
REFUGES**

# **PURPOSE**

**Develop a Management Plan  
for Refuges Dealing with:**

- Wildlife Management**
- Habitat Management**
- Public Use**
- Law Enforcement**
- Land Use**
- Management of Adjacent Land**
- Compatibility of the Public  
Use With Refuge's Mission**

**COMPREHENSIVE  
CONSERVATION  
PLANNING  
STEPS**

# **1. PREPLANNING**

- Establish Vision and Goals**
- Determine Planning Area**
- Assemble Available Data**
  - Wildlife Populations**
  - Vegetative Communities**
  - Geology and Soils**
- Identify Data Gaps**

## **2. INITIATE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH**

- Federal Register Notices**
- Letters to Interested Parties**
- Press Releases**
- Public Forums**
- Invitations for Comments**

# **3. IDENTIFY THE ISSUES**

- Biology Issues**
  - Threatened and Endangered Species**
  - Other Trust Species and Priority Species**
  - Habitat Requirements**
- Land Management Issues**
  - Burning**
  - Water Control**
  - Forest Management**
  - Agriculture**

- **Public Use Issues**
  - **Hunting**
  - **Fishing**
    - **Wildlife Observation**
    - **Wildlife Photography**
    - **Environmental Interpretation**
    - **Environmental Education**
- **Law Enforcement Issues**
  - **Safety**
  - **Access and Trespass**
- **Research**
  - **Monitoring**
  - **Data Collection**
  - **Applied Technology**

- **Human Resources**
  - **Staffing Needs**
  - **Volunteer Program**
  - **Friends Groups**
  - **Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society**
  - **Partners**

# **4. DEVELOP AND ANALYZE ALTERNATIVES**

**- Based on:**

**- Public Input**

**- Staff Recommendations**

**- Best Available Scientific Data**

**- Subject Matter Experts**

# **5. PREPARE DRAFT PLAN**

- Determine Compatibility  
e.g., Beach Access vs.  
Loggerhead Sea Turtle  
Nesting**
- Review Internally**
- Review By Public at Public Forums**

# **6. PREPARE AND ADOPT FINAL PLAN**

- Public Comment Analysis**
- Public Comment Response**
- Environmental Assessment**
- Internal Review**
- Public Notice in Federal Register**

# **7. IMPLEMENT PLAN MONITOR RESULTS EVALUATE RESULTS**

- Analyze Effects of Plan**
- Monitor Wildlife**
- Monitor Vegetation**
- Evaluate Public Use Impacts**
- Evaluate Law Enforcement**

## **8. REVIEW AND REVISE PLAN**

**-Analyze Results of Monitoring**

**-Revise Plan to Improve Results**

**e.g., Alter Frequency of**

**Burning or Timing of Water**

**Management to Change**

**Effects**

**-Revise Plan to Reflect Budget**

**Constraints**

**-Maintain Public Involvement**

**SWANQUARTER**

**NATIONAL**

**WILDLIFE**

**REFUGE**

## **ESTABLISHMENT AND ACQUISITION AUTHORITY**

**THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT OF 1929 (45 STATUTE 1222) AS AMENDED 16 U.S.C. 715-715d) PROVIDED THE BASIC AUTHORITY, AND EMERGENCY CONSERVATION WORK FUND AND THE MIGRATORY BIRD FUND PROVIDED THE MONIES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SWANQUARTER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ON JUNE 23, 1932.**

**THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT OF 1929 (45 STATUTE 1222) AS AMENDED 16 U.S.C. 715-715d) AUTHORIZED THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO ACCEPT 142 ACRES FROM THE NATURE CONSERVANCY ON DECEMBER 24, 1980. THE FISH AND WILDLIFE ACT OF 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742-742j; 70 Statute 1119) AS AMENDED AUTHORIZED THE PURCHASE OF 768 ACRES FROM THE NATURE CONSERVANCY ON MARCH 27, 1992.**

# **HUNTING CLOSURE AUTHORITY**

**ON JULY 18, 1935, EXECUTIVE ORDER 2129 CLOSED ALL REFUGE LANDS AND 27,082.34 ACRES OF ADJACENT WATERS TO THE HUNTING, TAKING, OR MOLESTING OF GAME BIRDS. ON SEPTEMBER 5, 1977, EXECUTIVE ORDER 2129 WAS AMENDED (50 CFR 32.11) TO ALLOW HUNTING ON SPECIFIC TRACTS OF THE REFUGE.**

# **WILDERNESS DESIGNATION**

**ON OCTOBER 19, 1976, PUBLIC LAW 94-557 DESIGNATED 8,784.93 ACRES OF THE REFUGE AS WILDERNESS AREA (THE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1964 P.L. 8.8-577).**

# REFUGE PURPOSES

**“... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or any other management purpose, for migratory birds...”**

**“... for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources...”**

**“... for the benefit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in performing its activities and services. Such acceptance may be subject to the terms of any restrictive or affirmative covenant, or condition of servitude...”**

# **WILDLIFE SPECIES OF MANAGEMENT INTEREST**

**AMERICAN BLACK DUCK**

**LESSER SCAUP**

**CANVASBACK**

**REDHEAD**

**SURF SCOTER**

**BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH**

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER**

**SEASIDE SPARROW**

**BLACK BEAR**

**RED WOLF**

**SHARP-TAILED SPARROW**

**BLACK RAIL**

**YELLOW RAIL**

**CLAPPER RAIL**

**FORSTER'S TERN**

**PEREGRINE FALCON**

**BALD EAGLE**

**OSPREY**

**CAROLINA PYGMY RATTLER**

**AMERICAN ALLIGATOR**

**HABITAT TYPES  
( 16,411 ACRES TOTAL)**

**12,300 ACRES BRACKISH MARSH**

**2,500 ACRES ESTUARINE FRINGE LOBLOLLY PINE FOREST**

**700 ACRES LOW POCOSIN**

**600 ACRES CYPRESS/TUPELO SWAMP**

**250 ACRES PINE SAVANNA**

**50 ACRES TIDAL CYPRESS-GUM SWAMP**

**11 ACRES ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS**

# **HABITAT MANAGEMENT**

**PRESCRIBED BURNING OF MARSHES AND  
PINE FORESTLANDS**

**MECHANICAL AND CHEMICAL CONTROL OF  
NOXIOUS WEEDS**

# **NON-CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION**

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

**ENVIRONMENTAL INTERPRETATION**

**HIKING/WALKING**

**WILDLIFE OBSERVATION**

**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY**

**CANOEING**

# **CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION**

**FISHING/CRABBING**

**HUNTING (WATERFOWL)**

# **NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS**

**ENTIRE REFUGE LAND AREA AND PART OF SOUND**

# **REGISTERED HERITAGE AREA**

**MOST OF REFUGE AREA**

# **ANADROMOUS FISH SPAWNING AREAS**

**SHORELINE OF SOUND**

# **OUTSTANDING RESOURCE WATERS**

**ALL SOUND WATERS OFF THE REFUGE SHORE**

# **RESOURCE AND VISITOR PROTECTION**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT PROVIDED BY REFUGE OFFICERS FROM THE  
MATTAMUSKEET NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY NCWRC CONSERVATION OFFICERS AND  
OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

**INFORMATION AND REGULATORY LEAFLETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AT THE MATTAMUSKEET NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE**

**SOME REGULATORY SIGNAGE IS POSTED AT APPROPRIATE  
LOCATIONS**

# **RESOURCE AND VISITOR PROTECTION ISSUES**

**HUNTING VIOLATIONS**

**REPTILE COLLECTING**

**DRUG/ALCOHOL USE**

**WILDLIFE DISTURBANCE**

**LOSS OF AQUATIC VEGETATION**

**LITTERING**

**POACHING**

**TRESPASS**

**CAMPING**