

Appendix H: Compatibility Determinations

In accordance with the Refuge Improvement Act of 1997, no uses for which the Service has authority to regulate may be allowed on a unit of Refuge System unless it is determined to be compatible. A compatible use is a use that, in the sound professional judgment of the refuge manager, will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the National Wildlife Refuge System mission or the purposes of the national wildlife refuge. Managers must complete a written compatibility determination for each use, or collection of like-uses, that is signed by the manager and the Regional Chief of Refuges in the respective Service region.

Below is a list of draft compatibility determinations that were included in the Draft EIS/CCP to allow public review and comment:

- # Biking/Jogging and Footraces
- # Boating
- # Camping, Swimming and Picnicking
- # Cemetery Operations
- # Collection of Wild Plant Foods for Personal Use
- # Cooperative Farming
- # Fire Department Training
- # Fishing (Competitive Events)
- # Fishing (Recreational)
- # Grazing of Livestock
- # The Haven Operations
- # Haying
- # Horseback Riding
- # Hunting of Fox
- # Hunting of Migratory Waterfowl and Game Birds, Resident Game and Furbearers (Recreational)
- # Industrial Operations
- # Installation of Nesting Structures by Public or Groups

- # Interpretation and Environmental Education
- # Priority Wildlife-dependent Recreational Uses on Lands Proposed to be Acquired
- # Sewage Collection System Replacement by the City of Marion
- # Trapping of Furbearers
- # Waterskiing
- # Wildlife Observation and Interpretation
- # Wood Cutting and Timber Harvest
- # Youth Camp Operations

Final compatibility determinations for all the above uses, except foxhunting, were prepared following release of the Record of Decision. The compatibility determinations are available for viewing at Refuge headquarters. A draft compatibility determination for foxhunting was initially prepared as part of the planning process and as a reevaluation of a determination of “not compatible” made in 1992. Foxhunting was again determined to be “not compatible” in the draft compatibility determination. With the signing of the Record of Decision, the Refuge now has an approved comprehensive conservation plan. Because foxhunting with horses conflicts with the comprehensive conservation plan goals of protecting the integrity of the Refuge’s biological resources and the enjoyment of high quality experiences for a wide-range of wildlife dependent uses, foxhunting on the Refuge has been denied without formally determining its compatibility with a final compatibility determination (603 FW 2.10D(1)(c)). This section of the Service Manual documents the process whereby a refuge manager should deny a proposed use without determining compatibility if the proposed use conflicts with the goals or objectives in an approved management plan such as a comprehensive conservation plan.

