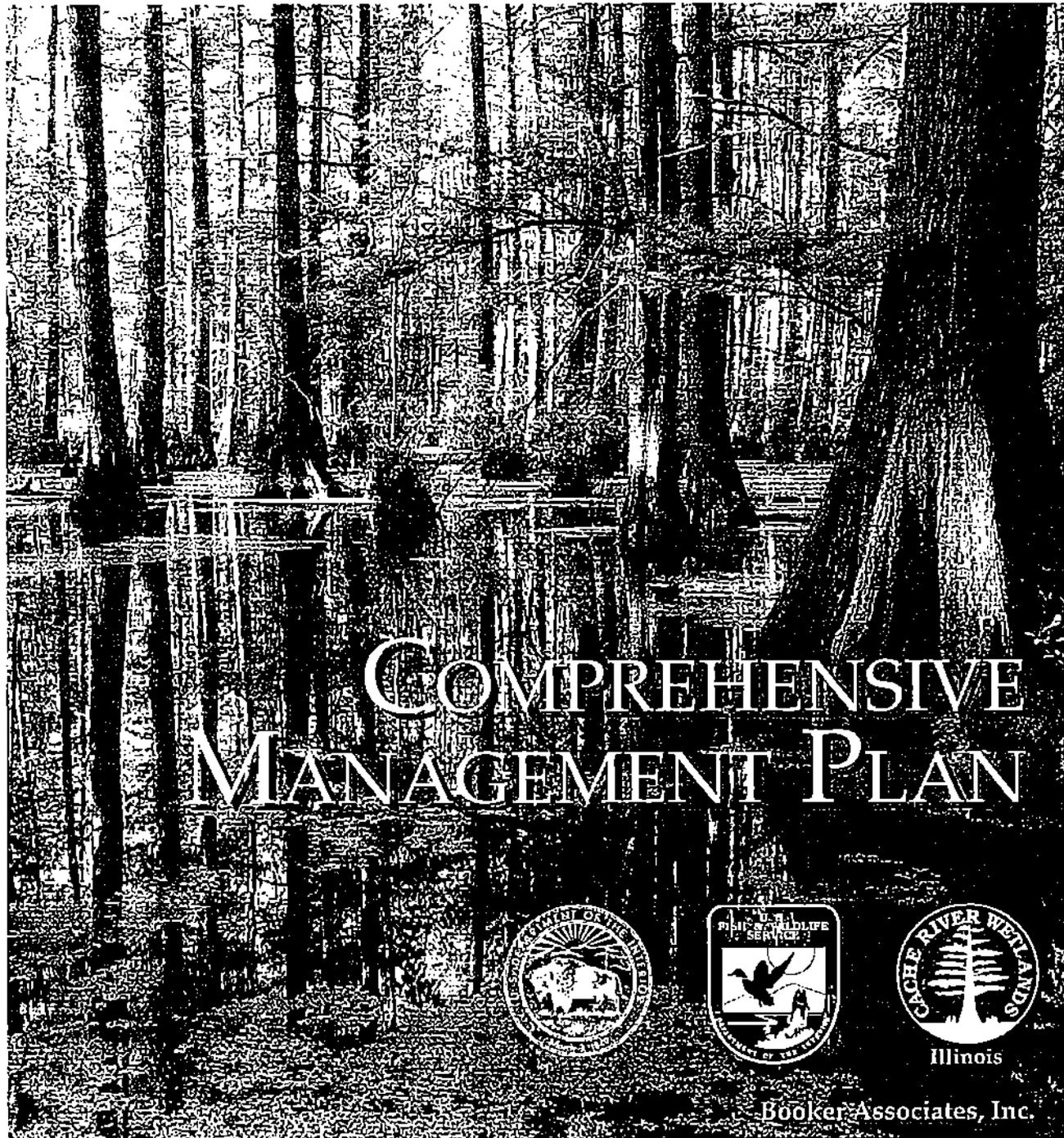


Cypress Creek

*National Wildlife Refuge
Comprehensive Management Plan*

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

CYPRESS CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Booker Associates, Inc.

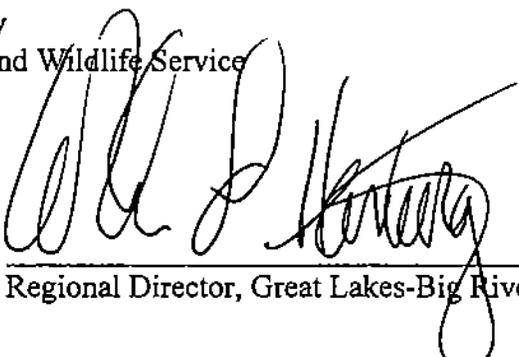
Cypress Creek

National Wildlife Refuge

COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

March 1997

Prepared by
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Approved: 
Regional Director, Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region (3)

Date: 4-14-97

Implementation of this comprehensive management plan and alternative management actions/programs have been assessed consistent with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). A copy of the EA-FONSI can be found in Appendix E.

Finding of No Significant Impact Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Management Plan

An Environmental Assessment has been prepared to publicly disclose the possible environmental consequences that implementation of the Cypress Creek Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) could have on the quality of the environment, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA presented and evaluated two alternatives, a "No Action" alternative 1 (maintain the status quo) and an "Action" alternative 2 (implement the Cypress Creek CMP).

The alternative selected for implementation is Alternative 2, implement the Cypress Creek CMP and establish Refuge management direction pursuant to the goals, objectives and strategies contained in the CMP.

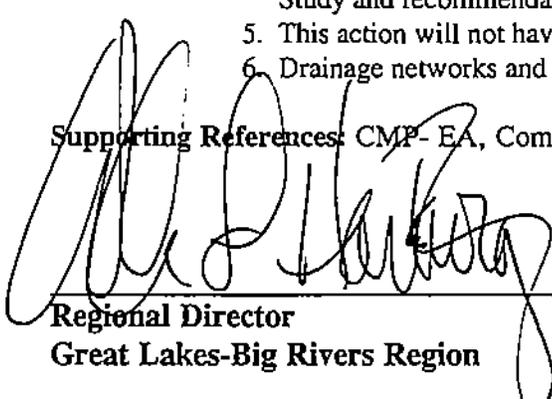
Background: In 1991 the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Illinois Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited joined forces to create a unique 60,000 acre federal/state/private conservation partnership for watershed protection and ecosystem restoration. The Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge, a major component within this partnership, has acquired and now manages over 13,000 acres of its proposed 35,320 acres. The purpose of the Cypress Creek Comprehensive Management Plan is to guide management activities of the staff and the physical development of the Refuge by identifying appropriate habitats, programs and facilities which fulfill the purposes for which the Refuge was established. The CMP also communicates the Service's contribution to the joint venture partnership and to the Southernmost Illinois region.

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and supporting EA will be made available to the public for 30 days from the date below. During this 30-day period the FONSI will not be final, nor will the Service implement the selected alternative. A final decision will be made on whether to carry out the alternative selected at the conclusion of the 30-day period.

For the following reasons and based on the information contained in the Environmental Assessment, we have determined that **Alternative 2** is not a major federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of NEPA.

- Reasons:**
1. The Refuge will add economic diversity and stability to the local area as visitor use increases.
 2. Acquisition of lands has been and will continue to be from willing sellers only.
 3. Annual Revenue sharing payments are made to the counties to help off-set potential impacts to the tax base.
 4. Cultural resource surveys are planned based on the CMP cultural resource Overview Study and recommendations in the CMP.
 5. This action will not have an adverse impact on threatened and endangered species.
 6. Drainage networks and floodplains will not be affected.

Supporting References: CMP- EA, Comprehensive Management Plan, Establishing EA, 1990



Regional Director
Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region

Date

4-14-97