

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan

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Type of Action: Administrative

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of Interior,
Fish and Wildlife Service

Responsible Official: Robyn Thorson, Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building
1 Federal Drive
Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056

Cooperating Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Mississippi Valley Division

For Information: Eric Nelson, Refuge Biologist
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge
51 E. Fourth Street
Room 101
Winona, Minnesota 55987

Abstract

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to adopt and implement a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The Refuge was established by Congress in 1924 to provide a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds, fish, other wildlife, and plants. The Refuge encompasses approximately 240,000 acres and 261 river miles in four states. The CCP will guide the management and administration of the Refuge for 15 years and help ensure that it meets the purposes for which established and contributes to the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Five alternatives for future management are described: A) no action or current direction, B) wildlife focus, C) public use focus, D) wildlife and integrated public use focus, and E) modified wildlife and public use focus. The preferred alternative is Alternative E. This Final Environmental Impact Statement considers the physical, biological, and socioeconomic effects that the five alternatives would have in terms of the issues and concerns identified during the planning process.

