

Deer Hunting
Decision Document Package
for
BOYER CHUTE NWR

Contents

3. FONSI

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

2007 Deer Hunting for Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to open to deer hunting the Boyer Chute NWR. Hunting activities will be permitted, but administratively limited to those areas specified in the refuge-specific regulations. All or parts of the refuge may be closed to hunting at any time if necessary for public safety, to provide wildlife sanctuary, or for other reasons. Alternatives considered included: proposed action, no action and open for general hunting.

The Service has analyzed the following alternatives to the proposal in an Environmental Assessment (copy attached):

No action alternative - Under this alternative, deer hunting would not be allowed on the refuge.

Preferred alternative - Under this alternative, refuge managed deer hunting opportunities would be allowed on the refuge.

General public deer hunting alternative – Under this alternative, deer hunting would be allowed by the general public according to state regulations and seasons.

The preferred alternative was selected over the other alternatives because:

1. The preferred alternative would allow the refuge to manage wildlife populations, allow the public to harvest a renewable resource, promote a wildlife-oriented quality recreational opportunity, increase awareness of Boyer Chute NWR and the National Wildlife Refuge System, and meet public demand.
2. The preferred alternative is compatible with general Service policy regarding the establishment of hunting on National Wildlife Refuges.
3. The preferred alternative is compatible with the purpose for which Boyer Chute NWR was established.
4. This proposal does not initiate widespread controversy or litigation.
5. There are no conflicts with local, state, regional, or federal plans or policies.

Implementation of the agency's decision would be expected to result in the following environmental, social, and economic effects:

1. The refuge could better manage wildlife populations.

2. This would allow the public to harvest a renewable resource.
3. The public would have increased opportunity for wildlife-oriented recreation.
4. Local businesses would benefit from hunters visiting from surrounding areas.

Measures to mitigate and/or minimize adverse effects have been incorporated into the proposal. These measures include:

1. The refuge will utilize time and space zoning to reduce potential conflicts between user groups.
2. The refuge law enforcement program and closely regulated hunting seasons will ensure hunt regulation compliance and will protect refuge resources.

The proposal is not expected to have any significant adverse effects on wetlands and flood plains, pursuant to Executive Orders 11990 and 11988 because this area has historically been hunted within the less restrictive state hunting regulations with no detrimental long-term effect on wetlands.

The proposal has been thoroughly coordinated with all interested and/or affected parties. Parties contacted include:

- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE
- University of Nebraska, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Lincoln, NE

Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available by writing:

Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge
3720 Rivers Way
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023

Therefore, it is my determination that the proposal does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment under the meaning of section 102(2)(c) of the National Environment Policy Act of 1969 (as amended). As such, an environmental impact statement is not required. This determination is based on the following factors (40 CFR 1508.27):

(for each factor list the page numbers of the EA where the factor was discussed.)

1. **Both beneficial and adverse effects have been considered and this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment (EA, pages 19-22)**
2. **The actions will not have a significant effect on public health and safety (EA, pages 19-22).**
3. **The project will not significantly effect any unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historical or cultural resources, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas (EA, page 20).**

4. The effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial (EA, pages 19-21).
5. The actions do not involve highly uncertain, unique, or unknown environmental risks to the human environment (EA, page 19).
6. The actions will not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects nor does it represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (EA, page 21).
7. There will be no cumulative significant impacts on the environment. Cumulative impacts have been analyzed with consideration of other similar activities on adjacent lands, in past action, and in foreseeable future actions (EA, pages 15-22).
8. The actions will not significantly affect any site listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, nor will they cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources (EA, page 20).
9. The actions are not likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species, or their habitats (Intra-Service Section 7 Biological Evaluation Form attached to EA).
10. The actions will not lead to a violation of federal, state, or local laws imposed for the protection of the environment (EA, pages 20-21).

References: Environmental Assessment of Deer Hunting at Boyer Chute NWR
2007.

Regional Director

Date