



# United States Department of the Interior

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**  
Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building  
1 Federal Drive  
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
NWRS/CP

**MAR 09 2009**

Dear Reviewer:

We are pleased to provide you with this Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

Established in 1966, Muscatatuck NWR manages 7,802 acres in Indiana's Jackson, Jennings, and Monroe Counties. The Refuge also administers nine conservation easements totaling 130.5 acres in five Indiana counties. The Refuge's wetland, grassland and woodland communities provide habitat for many species of birds, reptiles, mammals, fish, and a broad range of terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates. Included among the diverse assortment of wildlife and plants found on the Refuge are a number of threatened and endangered species, including the federally listed Indiana bat, and many more state-listed species.

The CCP will guide management of the Refuge for the next 15 years and will help the Refuge meet its purpose and contribute to the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The CCP will provide both broad and specific guidance on various issues; describe the Refuge's vision, goals, and measurable objectives; and list strategies for reaching the objectives.

We invite you to review and comment on the Draft CCP and EA. By sharing your thoughts, you can help ensure that the final CCP is both visionary and practical. We will host an open house where you will be able to ask questions and voice concerns and suggestions. A meeting date and location will be announced through the media.

Written comments are also welcome during the 30-day comment period and should be addressed to: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Muscatatuck NWR, Attn.: CCP Comment, 12985 East U.S. Highway 50, Seymour, IN 47274. You may also send comments to us through the following web address: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/Muscatatuck>

To be considered in preparing the Final CCP, comments must be received by May 6, 2009.

We look forward to continuing the dialogue on the future of the Refuge, and thank you for your continued interest in keeping this Refuge a special place for wildlife and people.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Larson  
Chief, Division of Conservation Planning

