



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:

FWS/NWRS-CP

JUN 24 2008

Dear Reviewer:

We are pleased to provide you with this Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for the St. Croix Wetland Management District.

Established in 1992, the Wetland Management District manages over 7,500 acres of Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) in eight west-central Wisconsin counties. The heart of the District in the central portion of St. Croix County is known as the Star Prairie Pothole Grasslands. These grasslands are ranked sixth out of 26 priority grassland landscapes in Wisconsin. The District also administers 15 conservation easements.

The CCP will guide management of the District for the next 15 years and will help the District 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 a 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, seek understanding, and voice concerns and suggestions. A meeting date and location will be announced through local newspapers and the Service Web site listed below.

Written comments are also welcome during the 30-day comment period and should be addressed to: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, St. Croix Wetland Management District, Attn.: CCP Comment, 1764 95th Street, New Richmond, WI, 54017. You may also send comments to us through the following web address: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/stcroix>

To be considered in preparing the Final CCP, comments must be received by August 25, 2008.

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

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Larson
Chief, Conservation Planning

