



Tamarac

National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Information

Comprehensive Conservation Plan

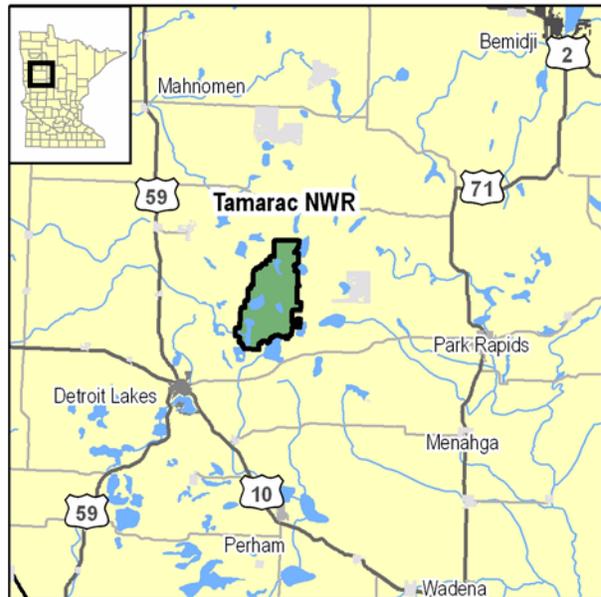
July 2007

Comprehensive Conservation Planning Project Launched

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is starting work on a long-term management plan for Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. This plan, known as a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), will serve as a guide for managing the Refuge for the next 15 years. We are preparing this plan to comply with the Congressional mandate in the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997.

Our intent is that the Comprehensive Conservation Plan will:

- Provide a clear statement of the desired future.
- Ensure that management of the Refuge is consistent with its purposes and consistent with the policies and mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- Provide Refuge visitors, neighbors, and partners with a clear understanding of the reasons for management actions.
- Provide for long-term continuity in Refuge management.
- Provide a basis for Fish and Wildlife Service staffing and for operation, maintenance, and capital improvement budget requests.



Preparing a CCP typically takes about 2 years. The process begins with listening to everyone interested in Refuge management – from Refuge and Service staff to neighbors, state and federal agencies and non-government organizations. What we hear about Refuge management will be the basis for developing different management alternatives, and these alternatives will be evaluated in a document called an environmental assessment. Once we’ve completed the environmental assessment and selected a preferred alternative for Refuge management, we will release a Draft CCP and invite comment on the document. Then we will revise the document as necessary based on the comments received and issue a Final CCP.

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Getting Involved

You can help us by sharing your thoughts and concerns related to Tamarac NWR. Your concerns will help us focus our planning efforts and ensure that we consider the topics you care about.

We would like to hear your thoughts and concerns. The participation of everyone who cares about the Refuge and its future management direction is critical to the success of this planning process.

You may submit your comments to us by:

Mail:

Refuge Manager Barbara Boyle
Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge
Attn: CCP Comment
35704 County Road 26
Rochert, Minnesota 56578

Telephone:

218/847-2641
TTY: 1-800/877-8339 (Federal Relay)

Visiting the Tamarac NWR Planning Web Page:

www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/tamarac.html

Although your comments are welcome anytime, to be most useful we would appreciate hearing from you by September 1, 2007.

About Tamarac NWR

Tamarac NWR is located in the heart of one of the most ecologically diverse areas of the Upper Midwest, where the tallgrass prairie, northern hardwoods and boreal forest meet. More than one-half of the Refuge is forested with a rich mixture of sugar maple, basswood, aspen, paper birch, balsam fir and other conifers including several species of pine and spruce.

Interspersed throughout the forest are hundreds of wetlands including 21 freshwater lakes, permanent marshes, tamarac bogs, shrub swamps and temporary ponds. Water quality is excellent and some lakes support diverse fisheries. Although grasslands are present, they are only remnants of early pioneer settlement of the area. Current habitat management is focused on maximizing biodiversity through the preservation of old growth forest and wilderness, timber cutting, prescribed fire and water level manipulation.



Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

Transitional habitats like those found on Tamarac NWR provide a haven for a diversity of wildlife species. Although native wildlife is important, Refuge management gives priority to migratory birds and threatened and endangered species.

The forests and waters of Tamarac NWR are home to an expanding Bald Eagle population and sightings are common during the breeding season. A nesting population of Trumpeter Swans are now present following a reintroduction program that began in 1987. The numbers of Wild Turkeys are likewise increasing due to reintroduction efforts. Migration of songbirds, especially neotropical migrants, can be spectacular in mid to late May. Waterfowl migration is best experienced in late fall, when dabbling ducks and geese are passing through and rafts of diving ducks may be seen on Tamarac NWR's larger lakes.

Who We Are

The Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Service is an agency under the direction of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Department of the Interior, the Service, and the National Wildlife Refuge System are described in the following paragraphs.

U.S. Department of the Interior.

As the nation's principal conservation agency, the U.S. Department of the Interior is responsible for about one-fifth of the land in the United States. From its establishment in 1849, the Department has managed many varied programs including Indian Affairs, administering land grants, improving

historic western emigrant routes, marking boundaries, and conducting research on geological resources.

The Department's mission is to protect and provide access to our nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities. The Department's goals are:

- Protect the environment and preserve our nation's natural and cultural resources.
- Provide recreation for America.
- Manage natural resources for a healthy environment and strong economy.
- Provide science for a changing world.
- Meet our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The Department collects revenues from the leasing of natural gas and oil resources, both offshore and onshore; from coal, timber, and grazing on Federal lands, and from numerous other sources, such as recreation fees.

The Department of the Interior is comprised of a number of bureaus and offices including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Minerals Management Service, the National Park Service, the Office of Surface Mining, the Office of Insular Affairs, and the Office of the Secretary.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is:

Working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System of more than 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The Service enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act,

manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

National Wildlife Refuge System

The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of more than 540 refuges covering more than 93 million acres of public lands and waters. Refuges provide habitat for more than 5,000 species of wildlife, and they also provide unique opportunities for people. When it is compatible with wildlife and habitat conservation, refuges offer opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and environmental interpretation.

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) is:

To administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

The missions of the Service and the Refuge System both reflect how committed the agency is to working with others to conserve resources and, at the same time, to providing places where people can connect with and appreciate the heritage of this nation's diverse natural resources.



Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge



National Wildlife Refuges across the nation.

The goals of the NWRS are:

- Conserve a diversity of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats, including species that are endangered or threatened with becoming endangered.
- Develop and maintain a network of habitats for migratory birds, anadromous and interjurisdictional fish, and marine mammal populations that is strategically distributed and carefully managed to meet important life history needs of these species across their ranges.
- Conserve those ecosystems, plant communities, wetlands of national or international significance, and landscapes and seascapes that are unique, rare, declining, or underrepresented in existing protection efforts.
- Provide and enhance opportunities to participate in compatible wildlife-dependent recreation (hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation).
- Foster understanding and instill appreciation of the diversity and interconnectedness of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats.

Things You Might Consider

Here are some questions and topics that you might consider as you formulate your comments. We are providing these questions to stimulate your thoughts. Do not feel that your comments need to be limited to any of these questions or topics. Just tell

us what is on your mind. We would like you to express your opinion – positive or negative – on any issue important to you.

Some questions that you might consider are:

- What do you value most about Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge?
- What do you consider to be the most important problems facing Tamarac NWR?
- What changes do you see coming that will help or challenge the Refuge?
- How do you see Tamarac NWR fitting into the community?
- What is the most important thing the Refuge can do in the next 15 years?
- As the refuge manager, what would you do to improve Tamarac NWR?

Some topics that you might consider are:

Wildlife and Habitat Conservation

- threatened and endangered species
- wildland fire suppression
- scientific studies
- migratory bird conservation
- game wildlife management
- nongame wildlife management
- fishery management
- prescribed fire
- forest management

Recreation and Public Use

- fishing
- hunting
- wildlife viewing/photography
- auto tour route
- hiking trails
- environmental education
- interpretive programs

Other

- aesthetics
- cultural values
- partnerships

Sharing your views on Tamarac NWR will contribute to a comprehensive conservation plan that meets the needs of wildlife and people.

Thank you for your help!