

# Appendix E: Compatibility Determinations



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In accordance with the Refuge Improvement Act of 1997, no uses for which the Service has authority to regulate may be allowed on a unit of Refuge System unless it is determined to be compatible. A compatible use is a use that, in the sound professional judgment of the refuge manager, will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the National Wildlife Refuge System mission or the purposes of the national wildlife refuge. Managers must complete a written compatibility determination for each use, or collection of like-uses, that is signed by the manager and the Regional Chief of Refuges in the respective Service region.

Draft compatibility determinations were included in the Draft EIS/CCP to allow public review and comment. Compatibility determinations based on Alternative E, the preferred alternative in the Final EIS/CCP, are available on the planning website at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/uppermiss>.

Final compatibility determinations will be signed following release of the Record of Decision and will be available for viewing at Refuge headquarters or Refuge District offices. Below is a list of compatibility determinations, list of future uses which will require a case-by-case compatibility determination, and a list of uses which are generally prohibited and therefore not subject to compatibility.

### *Compatibility Determinations*

- Archeological investigations and surveys
- Beach-related uses (swimming, sunbathing, picnicking, and other)
- Boating with motor-driven watercraft, snowmobiling
- Camping
- Canoeing, kayaking, and sailing
- Commercial fishing (including mussel and turtle harvest)
- Dog exercising and training
- Environmental education
- Farming
- Fishing, recreational
- Fishing floats, commercial
- Fishing tournaments
- Fruits of the soil harvest
- Grazing
- Guided fishing
- Guided hunting
- Guided wildlife observation
- Haying
- Hunting, migratory bird
- Hunting, big game, upland game, furbearer
- Interpretation, wildlife observation, and photography
- Research
- Sediment removal

Special events, non-Refuge sponsored  
Temporary work outside of existing rights-of-way  
Trapping of furbearers  
Tree harvest

*Case-by-case Compatibility Determinations*

Commercial filming  
Military exercises  
New or expanded rights-of-way  
Mosquito and other pest control (e.g. gypsy moth)  
Predator control by others  
Research by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties, not related to refuge management information needs

*Generally Prohibited Uses – no compatibility determination required*

Commercial boat moorage  
Houseboat moorage  
Business, commercial or industrial  
Civilian aircraft landing  
Tally ho fox hunting  
Sand and gravel extraction  
Off road vehicle use  
Snowmobiling (Except on ice over navigable waters)  
Horseback riding  
Field trials  
Mountain biking  
Beekeeping  
Wild rice harvest  
Rock hounding