

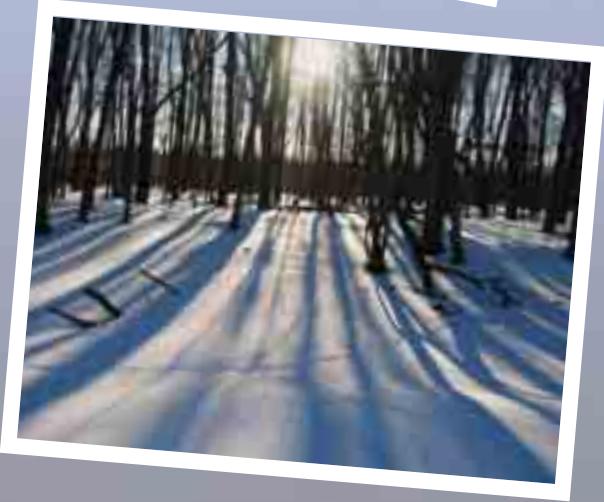


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge

*Comprehensive Conservation Plan*

*September 2007*



*Cover Pictures:* *Missisquoi River*  
USFWS

*Fall Colors*  
USFWS

*Osprey*  
USFWS

*Ring-Necked Duck*  
USFWS

*Winter at the Refuge*  
USFWS



*This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of more than 545 national wildlife refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas. It also operates 65 national fish hatcheries and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance Program which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies.

Comprehensive Conservation Plans provide long term guidance for management decisions and set forth goals, objectives, and strategies needed to accomplish refuge purposes and identify the Service's best estimate of future needs. These plans detail program planning levels that are sometimes substantially above current budget allocations and, as such, are primarily for Service strategic planning and program prioritization purposes. The plans do not constitute a commitment for staffing increases, operational and maintenance increases, or funding for future land acquisition.



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

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*September 2007*

**Submitted by:**

Mark W. Sweeny  
Mark Sweeny  
Refuge Manager  
Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge

8/30/07

Date

**Concurrence by:**

Janet M. Kennedy  
Janet M. Kennedy  
Refuge Supervisor North, Region 5  
National Wildlife Refuge System

9/21/07

Date

**Approval by:**

Anthony D. Legé  
Anthony D. Legé  
Regional Chief, Region 5  
National Wildlife Refuge System

9/21/07

Date

Marvin E. Moriarty  
Marvin E. Moriarty  
Regional Director, Region 5  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

9/24/07

Date



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

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## **Refuge Vision Statement**

"The Missisquoi River delta is known as an important international resource for the people of the United States and Canada. The Missisquoi Refuge is recognized for its role in maintaining the ecological integrity of the river delta, providing breeding, staging, and migration habitat for thousands of waterfowl and other fish and wildlife. Education, research, and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities are available, insofar as they are compatible with Refuge health and protection. Refuge staff partner with local, state, and federal agencies, local organizations and communities, and individuals to sustain a healthy Lake Champlain ecosystem for current and future generations."

"The future of the Missisquoi Refuge and the sustained integrity of the river delta ecosystem relies on continued understanding of the past and present biological processes and human influences that created and maintain this large wetland complex. The cultural resources at the Refuge provide valuable insight into the history and way of life of native peoples. The Refuge is a welcoming destination for our neighbors and other visitors seeking to enjoy and learn about the history and wildlife of the Missisquoi River delta and the National Wildlife Refuge System."

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## **Summary**

**Type of Action:** Administrative

**Lead Agency:** U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service

**Responsible Official:** Marvin Moriarty, Regional Director, Region 5, Northeast

**For Further Information:** Carl Melberg, Land Acquisition Planner  
Northeast Regional Office  
300 Westgate Center Drive  
Hadley, MA 01035  
(413) 253-8521  
[northeastplanning@fws.gov](mailto:northeastplanning@fws.gov)

This comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge is the culmination of a planning effort involving a variety of partners and communities. The CCP establishes 15-year management goals and objectives for wildlife and habitat, public use, and partnerships for the refuge.

The plan is designed to expand and improve opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation, as well as enhance programs of outreach, environmental education, and interpretation; increase inventory, monitoring, and management of the Missisquoi River delta wetland and upland habitats; increase inventory, protection, and interpretation of the rich cultural history of the delta; increase cooperative partnerships within the northern Lake Champlain Basin; and in partnership with others, protect fully functioning wetlands and associated riparian areas, and unfragmented blocks of upland habitat for area-sensitive wildlife species.