

Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge

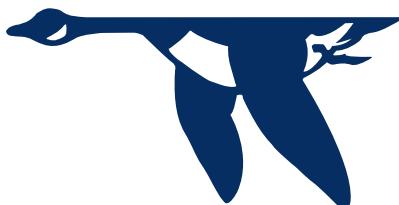
*Comprehensive Conservation
Plan and Environmental
Assessment*

June 2007





Celebrating Rachel Carson's Legacy
1907–2007



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

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 93-million acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of more than 535 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 restore wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid Program which distributes hundred of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies.

Comprehensive Conservation Plans provide long-term guidance for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service management decisions; they set forth goals, objectives, and strategies for accomplishing refuge purposes; and, they identify our best estimate of future needs. They detail levels of program planning that are sometimes substantially above our current budget allocations; as such, they serve primarily in strategic planning and in prioritizing Service programs. They do not constitute a commitment for increases in staffing, operating and maintenance, or future land acquisition funding.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge

Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment

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Date

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Date

Summary

Type of Action:	Administrative
Location	Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge York and Cumberland Counties, Maine
Lead Agency:	U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
Responsible Official:	Marvin E. Moriarty, Regional Director, Region 5

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This comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for the Rachel Carson 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 refuge includes the Brave Boat Harbor, Moody, Lower Wells, Upper Wells, Mousam River, Goose Rocks, Little River, Biddeford Pool, Goosefare Brook, and Spurwink River divisions. Staff from the refuge headquarters office in Wells, Maine, will implement this plan to further the protection and management of endangered, threatened, and other plant and animal species of concern, including migratory wildlife.

The plan is designed to expand and improve opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation, protect the 3,833 acres remaining within the approved acquisition boundary, and expand the refuge by 5,558 acres beyond its current approved boundary. It would add additional acreage to the Brave Boat Harbor, Upper Wells, Spurwink, Biddeford, Mousam River, Little River, and Moody divisions, and would establish a new York River Division encompassing the largest undeveloped salt marsh south of Portland. A new administrative complex, including office space, maintenance facilities, and a visitor contact station, will be built. In this plan, we propose combining the Moody, Lower Wells, Upper Wells, and Mousam River divisions into one Wells Bay Division.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1. Introduction

Purpose and Need for Plan	1-1
Project Area	1-2
History of Refuge Establishment, Acquisition, and Management Purposes	1-2
National and Regional Mandates Guiding This Project	1-3
Conservation Plans and Initiatives Guiding This Project	1-8
Refuge Operational Plans (“Step-Down” Plans)	1-11
Rachel Carson Refuge Vision Statement	1-12
Refuge Goals	1-13

Chapter 2. The Planning Process

The Comprehensive Conservation Planning Process	2-1
Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities	2-3

Chapter 3. Summary of Refuge and Resource Descriptions

Landscape-Level Features	3-1
Socioeconomic Environment	3-3
Public Use	3-4
Refuge Administration and Resources	3-6
Biological Resources	3-10

Chapter 4. Management Direction and Implementation

Introduction	4-1
Relating Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	4-1
General Refuge Management	4-1
Refuge Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	4-5
Implementation, Monitoring, and Revision	4-56

Glossary

Bibliography

Appendices

Appendix A. Land Protection Plan	A-1
Appendix B. Resources of Concern	B-1
Appendix C. Wilderness Review	C-1
Appendix D. Appropriate Use and Compatibility Determinations	D-1
Appendix E. Habitat Management Plan Potential Management Prescriptions	E-1
Appendix F. Refuge Operations Needs System (RONS) and Service Asset Maintenance Management System (SAMMS)	F-1
Appendix G. Staffing Chart	G-1
Appendix H. Cultural Resources Report	H-1
Appendix I. Privately Owned Lands Within the Acquisition Boundary	I-1
Appendix J. Breeding Landbird Survey Data	J-1

Appendices (cont'd)

Appendix K.	Intra-Service Section 7 Biological Evaluation Form	K-1
Appendix L.	Consultation and Coordination with Others	L-1
Appendix M.	Summary and Response to Public Comments.	M-1
Appendix N.	Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).	N-1

Acronyms (inside back cover)

List of Tables

Table 3.1.	Refuge budgets from 1999 to 2005	3-7
Table 3.2.	Rachel Carson revenue sharing payments in fiscal year 2004.	3-8
Table 3.3.	Rare plants	3-12
Table 3.4.	Exemplary natural communities	3-12
Table 3.5.	Invasive species found on the refuge	3-20
Table A.1.	A Summary of Lands Still in Private Ownership Within the Approved Refuge Boundary	A-3
Table A2.1.	Land Ownership Information for Proposed Acquisitions for the Brave Boat Harbor Division	A-22
Table A2.2.	Land Ownership Information for Proposed Acquisitions for the York River Division - York.	A-23
Table A2.3.	Land Ownership Information for Proposed Acquisitions for the York River Division - Eliot.	A-25
Table A2.4.	Land Ownership Information for Proposed Acquisitions for the Moody Division - Wells.	A-25
Table A2.5.	Land Ownership Information for Proposed Acquisitions for the Upper Wells and Mousam River Divisions - Kennebunk	A-25
Table A2.6.	Land Ownership Information for Proposed Acquisitions for the Biddeford Pool Division.	A-26
Table A2.7.	Land Ownership Information for Proposed Acquisitions for the Spurwink Division	A-29
Table B.1.	Potential Resources of Concern for Rachel Carson NWR	B-7
Table B.2.	Rare Plants and Exemplary Natural Communities on Rachel Carson NWR	B-12
Table B.3.	High and Moderate Priority Habitats on Rachel Carson NWR.	B-14
Table B.4.	Priority Resources of Concern, Habitat Structure, and Other Benefiting Species on Rachel Carson NWR	B-15
Table F.2.	Proposed Projects Currently in RONS Tier 2 Database (FY05) and their Inclusion in Respective CCP Alternatives	F-1
Table F.1.	Proposed Projects Currently in RONS Tier 1 Database (FY04) and their Inclusion in Respective CCP Alternatives	F-1
Table F.3.	Proposed Projects Not Currently in the RONS Database and Their Relationship to Respective CCP Alternatives and Goal 1	F-4
Table F.4.	Proposed Projects Not Currently in the RONS Database and Their Relationship to Respective CCP Alternatives and Goal 2	F-5
Table F.5.	Proposed Projects Not Currently in the RONS Database and Their Relationship to Respective CCP Alternatives and Goal 3	F-6

List of Tables (cont'd)

Table F.6.	Proposed Projects Not Currently in the RONS Database and Their Relationship to Respective CCP Alternatives and Goal 4	F-7
Table F.7.	Proposed Projects Not Currently in the RONS Database and Their Relationship to Respective CCP Alternatives and Goal 5	F-8
Table F.8.	Proposed Projects Not Currently in the RONS Database and Their Relationship to Respective CCP Alternatives and Goal 6	F-9
Table F.9.	Projects Currently Backlogged in the Service Asset Maintenance Management System (SAMMS) Database (FY05) for Rachel Carson NWR	F-9
Table I.1.	Privately Owned Lands Within the Acquisition Boundary for the Upper Wells Division—Town of Kennebunk.	I-1
Table I.2.	Privately Owned Lands Within the Acquisition Boundary for the Upper Wells Division—Town of Wells	I-1
Table I.4.	Privately Owned Lands Within the Acquisition Boundary for the Brave Boat Harbor Division—Town of Kittery.	I-2
Table I.3.	Privately Owned Lands Within the Acquisition Boundary for the Brave Boat Harbor Division—Town of York	I-2
Table I.5.	Privately Owned Lands Within the Acquisition Boundary for the Spurwink River Division—Town of Cape Elizabeth.	I-3
Table I.7.	Privately Owned Lands Within the Acquisition Boundary for the Goosefare Brooks Division—Town of Old Orchard Beach.	I-4
Table I.8.	Privately Owned Lands Within the Acquisition Boundary for the Goosefare Brooks Division—Town od Saco.	I-4
Table I.6.	Privately Owned Lands Within the Acquisition Boundary for the Gooserocks Division—Town of Kennebunkport	I-4
Table J.1.	Breeding Landbird Frequency by Division and Refuge Relative Abundance.	J-1

List of Figures

Figure 2.1.	The Comprehensive Conservation Planning process and its relationship to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.	2-1
Figure 3.1.	Maine tourism activities	3-5

List of Insets

Rachel Louise Carson	1-12
Valuable Wildlife Habitat—35,000 acres in southern Maine	4-2
Refuge Facilities—History and Current Needs	4-4
Invasive Species Management	4-7
"Oceans are in Crisis"	4-16
Stormwater Pollution	4-20
Land Management Research Demonstration	4-30
Recreational Boating	4-48

List of Maps

Map 1-1	NABCI Bird Conservation Regions and Partners in Flight Physiographic Regions	1-4
Map 1-2	Conservation Lands	1-5
Map 4-1	Brave Boat Harbor Division Existing and Proposed Public Use	4-36
Map 4-2	Proposed York River Division Public Use	4-37
Map 4-3	Moody Division Existing and Proposed Public Use	4-38
Map A-4	Current Service Ownership and Proposed Acquisition for the Upper Wells and Mousam River Divisions	4-39
Map 4-5	Upper Wells Division Existing and Proposed Public Use	4-40
Map 4-6	Mousam River Division Existing and Proposed Public Use	4-41
Map 4-7	Goose Rocks Division Existing and Proposed Public Use	4-42
Map 4-8	Little River Division Existing and Proposed Public Use	4-43
Map 4-9	Biddeford Pool Division Existing and Proposed Public Use	4-44
Map 4-10	Goosefare Brooks Division Existing and Proposed Public Use	4-45
Map 4-11	Spurwink River Division Existing and Proposed Public Use	4-46
Map A-1	Current Service Ownership and Proposed Acquisition for the Brave Boat Harbor Division	A-15
Map A-2	Current Service Ownership and Proposed Acquisition for the York River Division	A-16
Map A-3	Current Service Ownership and Proposed Acquisition for the Moody Division	A-17
Map A-4	Current Service Ownership and Proposed Acquisition for the Upper Wells and Mousam River Divisions	A-18
Map A-5	Current Service Ownership and Proposed Acquisition for the Biddeford Pool Division	A-19
Map A-6	Current Service Ownership and Proposed Acquisition for the Spurwink River Division	A-20