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**Washington Islands National Wildlife Refuges  
Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan  
and Environmental Assessment**  
Clallam, Jefferson, and Grays Harbor Counties, Washington

**Type of Action:** Administrative

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

**Responsible Official:** David B. Allen, Regional Director

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**Abstract:** A preferred alternative and a no action alternative are described and compared for the Flattery Rocks, Quillayute Needles, and Copalis National Wildlife Refuges; hereafter collectively called the Washington Islands. Alternative A is the No Action Alternative, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act regulations. Selection of Alternative A would result in a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for each Refuge based on management activities that have occurred over the past several years. Alternative B is the Proposed Action and would result in the implementation of a CCP with the objectives and management strategies identified in Alternative B. Alternative B also includes the Wilderness Stewardship Plan for the Washington Islands Wilderness. The CCP objectives and management strategies are derived from the following six refuge goals:

- ◆ Protect migratory birds and other native wildlife and their associated habitats, with special emphasis on seabirds;
- ◆ Protect and support the recovery of federally threatened and endangered species and Washington State special status species and their associated habitats;
- ◆ Promote and manage the Washington Islands Wilderness Area to maintain its wilderness character and values;
- ◆ Through effective coordination and cooperation with others, promote conservation of refuge resources, with special emphasis on governmental agencies and tribes with adjoining ownership and/or jurisdiction;
- ◆ Continue and enhance long-term monitoring and sustain applied research;
- ◆ Increase public interpretation and awareness programs to enhance appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment of refuge resources.

***Vision Statement for the Washington Islands National Wildlife Refuges:***

*Since 1907, critical resting and breeding grounds for marine wildlife off the outer Olympic coast have been protected and preserved by the National Wildlife Refuge System. The more than 600 rocks, reefs, and islands known as Flattery Rocks, Copalis, and Quillayute Needles National Wildlife Refuges are designated wilderness (except Destruction Island), and all will continue to be preserved in a natural condition with minimal human intrusion. Management activities will focus on monitoring Refuge wildlife and on protection and maintenance of a natural functioning ecosystem. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will coordinate with other agencies and tribes to ensure the long-term health and viability of native seabird and marine wildlife populations. We will also work with others to provide wildlife viewing and interpretation at selected locations on the adjacent coastline. Fostering an appreciation for Pacific coast wildlife will enrich people in a variety of ways and ensure that this outstanding legacy of wildlife is passed on to future generations.*

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mission:**

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 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency 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.