

Appendix A: Finding of No Significant Impact

Finding of No Significant Impact

Environmental Assessment and Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, Minnesota

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to identify management strategies to meet the conservation goals of Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The EA examined the environmental consequences that each management alternative could have on the quality of the physical, biological, and human environment, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA evaluated six alternatives for the future management of Big Stone NWR.

The alternative selected for implementation on the refuge is *Alternative 6*. This alternative maintains remnant prairie and calls for increasing the species diversity of other grasslands and wetlands. The alternative also calls for restoring the natural alignment, channel capacity, and meander relationships of the Minnesota River within the refuge, and for working with others to improve water quality within the Minnesota River and its tributaries. Existing opportunities for wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation, trapping, and gathering wild edible plants would continue along with expanded opportunities for hunting and fishing.

For reasons presented above and below, and based on an evaluation of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment, we have determined that the action of adopting Alternative 6 as the management alternative for Big Stone NWR is not a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of Section 102 (2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Additional Reasons:

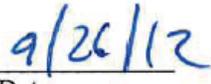
- Future management actions will have a neutral or positive impact on the local economy.
- This action will not have an adverse impact on threatened or endangered species.

Supporting References:

- Environmental Assessment
- Comprehensive Conservation Plan

ACTING


Regional Director


Date