

Finding of No Significant Impact

Environmental Assessment and Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to identify management strategies to meet the conservation goals of Swan Lake 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 four alternatives for the future management of Swan Lake NWR.

The alternative selected for implementation on the refuge is *Alternative 4*. The alternative maintains a mixture of woodland, wetland, and grassland habitats with an emphasis on increasing native habitats such as prairie and wet meadow. Moist soil management would continue and there would be additional study on methods for increasing the amount of native foods for waterfowl within a 2,100-acre reservoir on the Refuge. The alternative also calls for measuring Refuge water needs, identifying source water, and working with others to address watershed issues including water quality and flooding. Monitoring of migratory birds and threatened and endangered species would be closely linked to management information needs. The introduction of duck hunting and small game hunting would add to existing wildlife dependent recreation opportunities available on the Refuge.

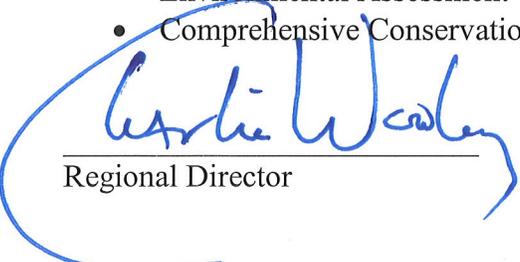
For reasons presented above and below, and based on an evaluation of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment, we have determined that the action of adopting Alternative 4 as the management alternative for Swan Lake NWR is not a major Federal action which would significantly affect the 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


Regional Director

2/24/11
Date