



USFWS

## Chapter 5

### **Consultation and Coordination with Others**

- Public Involvement Summary
- Land Conservation Partners
- Rachel Carson NWR CCP Planning Team



## Public Involvement Summary

Effective conservation usually begins with effective community involvement. To ensure that our future management of the refuge considers the issues, concerns, and opportunities expressed by the public, we used a variety of public involvement techniques in our planning process.

- We kept updated mailing lists of refuge neighbors, friends, professional contacts and others to share information and updates about this CCP.
- In May and June 1998, we invited visitors to discuss current refuge operations and the planning process at a series of morning coffees. We sent four press releases about the CCP to 15 newspapers in Maine and New Hampshire, and ran notices on local public access cable stations. The York County Coast Star, southern Maine's primary local newspaper, raised public awareness by publishing a long article about our refuge planning. We designed and distributed leaflets about the morning coffees and our upcoming Issues Workbook.
- In summer 1999, we distributed nearly 500 12-page Issues Workbooks, the backbone of this plan's important public participation component. Those workbooks provided background information about the planning project and a means for the public to share its concerns and thoughts about important refuge issues. A refuge volunteer tallied the responses in the more than 100 workbooks returned. In July 1999, we sent a summary of those responses to our CCP mailing list, and also distributed it from the refuge office.
- Several information-gathering workshops in 1999 included a gathering of the extended planning team in March, a meeting on public use and community goals in June, and a meeting on biological resources, also in June. Our facilitated, all-day Alternatives Workshop gathered 15 stakeholder representatives in August. Refuge staff and 10 observers, including congressional representatives and Service administrators, and assisted those participants with setting goals in the topical areas of wildlife, community, public use, and water quality. We mailed a complete summary of the comments and the materials the workshop generated to participants and observers soon after.
- Refuge planning team members met several times each month to synthesize information and prepare the CCP, and briefed our Regional Office in September 1999.
- As part of the CCP process we have been working with our Maine Field Office to evaluate potential impacts of our proposed management to threatened or endangered species. An intra-service Section 7 biological evaluation form will be completed for the final CCP and included as an appendix.
- This draft CCP is now available for public review and comment, providing you another opportunity to discuss issues and offer solutions. Those interested will have 60 days to comment.

The refuge manager and staff will use this plan to guide their decisions on managing the refuge during the next 15 years. The plan also conveys our refuge management direction to other agencies, groups, and individuals. We must formally revise it every 15 years, or sooner, if the Secretary of the Interior determines that conditions affecting the refuge have changed significantly. We will monitor the results of our actions under this plan to ensure that our decisions accomplish the strategies and directions it conveys, and will use the data we collect in routine inspections or program evaluations to continually update and adjust our management activities.

## Land Conservation Partners

Conserving wildlife habitat in southern coastal Maine requires partnerships. Some of our land conservation partners and refuge conservation stakeholders appear below.

### ❖ **Biddeford Pool Improvement Association**

*Mission.*—Hold property and easements for conservation and preservation for the benefit of the general public.

### ❖ **Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT)**

CELT is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of open spaces for the benefit of its citizens.

### ❖ **The Conservation Fund**

The fund forges partnerships to preserve our nation's outdoor heritage: America's legacy of wildlife habitat, working landscapes and community open space. It pioneers a unique brand of conservation driven by effectiveness, efficiency, and environmental and economic balance.

### ❖ **Friends of Rachel Carson NWR**

*Mission.*—Support refuge acquisition funding; assist in the pursuit of acquisitions; increase public awareness of the needs and benefits of the refuge; provide monitoring of refuge divisions; comment on refuge activities; identify other, similar areas that warrant the same type of protection; assist in refuge projects as they arise; identify means and locations for education and the visitor center.

### ❖ **Great Works Regional Land Trust**

*Mission.*—Protect wildlife habitat, open space, and agricultural, forestry, recreational, and historic properties.

### ❖ **Kennebunk Land Trust**

*Mission.*—Acquire, receive, and administer property, easements, and funds to establish protected or unmanaged natural preserves and other appropriate areas for the promotion and advancement of conservation and education.

### ❖ **Kennebunkport Conservation Trust**

*Mission.*—Acquire undeveloped lands in our community so they might remain in their natural state forever and provide retreats in an increasingly urbanized society.

### ❖ **Kittery Land Trust**

*Mission.*—Preserve land through voluntary cooperation with landowners, educate the public on land preservation and conservation, and facilitate family estate planning through the use of land trust practices and options.

### ❖ **Laudholm Trust**

*Mission.*—Provide resources and enable the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve to serve as a research and education site and a passive recreational preserve by raising and allocating funds; aid in protecting the preserve’s estuaries and other estuarine areas to the extent resources permit.

### ❖ **Maine Audubon Society**

*Mission.*—Dedicated to the protection, conservation, and enhancement of Maine’s ecosystems through the promotion of individual understanding and actions.

### ❖ **Maine Coast Heritage Trust**

*Mission.*—Protect the shoreline and islands that define the character of Maine and enhance the well-being of its communities.

### ❖ **Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative (MtA2C)**

MtA2C brings together 10 national, regional and local conservation partners to conserve a mosaic of critical, threatened lands, waterways and working landscapes encompassing a six-town area stretching from the Tatic Hills in Wells to Gerrish Island in Kittery Point.

### ❖ **National Park Service Rivers and Trails**

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a community resource of the National Park Service. Rivers & Trails staff work with community groups and local and state governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways.

### ❖ **The Nature Conservancy**

*Mission.*—Preserve plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life in Maine and on Earth by protecting the lands and water they need to survive.

### ❖ **Saco Bay Partners**

A regional coalition of organizations dedicated to the conservation of land, water and other natural resources in the Saco Bay watershed.

### ❖ **Saco Land Trust**

*Mission.*—Preserve scenic, historic, recreational and environmental resources in the Upper Sandy River watershed by acquiring interests in land; protect open space, scenic area water quality, wildlife, and plant habitat for the public good.

### ❖ **Saco Valley Land Trust**

Preserve scenic, historic, recreational and environmental resources in the Biddeford, Saco, and Old Orchard Beach area by acquiring interests in land; protecting open space, scenic areas and water quality, wildlife, and plant habitat for the public good.



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