

Chapter 5



Mark Wilson

Black Duck

Consultation and Coordination

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Introduction

This chapter describes how we included others in developing the draft CCP and EA and how we plan to continue consulting and coordinating with others in the future. It details how we first invited, and will continue to encourage the partnership of other Federal and State agencies, civic, public, and private conservation and education organizations, and the affected public in our decisions about managing the refuge.

As we mentioned in chapters 1 through 4, we must comply with NEPA in seeking public input on proposed Federal actions. A 30-day period for public review followed our release of this draft CCP and EA. We encouraged the public and other agencies to give us responses and ideas about the plan. As before, we hosted open houses near the refuge to gather your opinions and answer your questions about its future management. We carefully weighed the responses we received before completing the final CCP.

Planning to Protect Land and Resources

We began the CCP process for Supawna Meadows NWR in May 2007 with a kick-off meeting at the refuge. We discussed the current status of the refuge, important issues to be addressed in the CCP, and the status and sources of data for the analysis. We defined a core team to include refuge managers and staff from Cape May NWR, Service regional planners, and a NJDFW representative.

We held an internal scoping meeting, site visit, and field review in July 2007 to identify issues, concerns, management ideas, and data sources for the development of the CCP and analysis of management strategies.

We published and distributed our first newsletter in August 2007.

On September 7, 2007, we held two public scoping meetings at the Pennsville Public Library to solicit comments from the community and other interested parties on the scope of the CCP and the issues and impacts that should be evaluated in the CCP/EA.

We published an official notice in the Federal Register that we were preparing a CCP/EA on September 24, 2007.

On April 15, 2008, we held a biological workshop with representatives of the Service, the NJDFW and Delaware Division of Parks to discuss management objectives for the array of refuge habitats.

On May 6, 2008, we held a public use objectives meeting that addressed hunting, access to Finns Point Light, and a variety of other public use opportunities, issues, and concerns.

We distributed a second newsletter in July 2008.

We held a review meeting with senior Northeast Region staff in June 2008 and formulated a revised series of biological and public use objectives.

We completed the draft CCP/EA and announced its availability for public review and comment by publishing our NOA in the Federal Register on September 27, 2010. During a 30-day period of public review, we distributed a third newsletter and a press release and held two public meetings to obtain comments. We also received comments by regular mail, electronic mail, and at the refuge. After the comment period expired, we reviewed and summarized all of the substantive comments we have received and prepared our responses. These are presented in appendix H.

We sent copies of the draft CCP/EA to NJDFW, the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, and the Service's New Jersey Ecological Services field office for review.

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Planning Team

Service Personnel:

Howard Schlegel, Refuge Manager (retired), Cape May NWR and Supawna Meadows NWR

Laurel Wilkerson, Deputy Refuge Manager, Cape May NWR and Supawna Meadows NWR

Heidi Hanlon, Wildlife Biologist, Cape May NWR and Supawna Meadows NWR

Virginia Rettig, (former) Deputy Refuge Manager, Cape May NWR and Supawna Meadows NWR

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Beth Goldstein, (former) Natural Resource Planner, Planning Team Leader, Northeast Regional Office

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