

Nantucket Island NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Planning Update

Fall 2008

USFWS Announces Start of CCP for Nantucket National Wildlife Refuge

the pinnacle of the maritime peninsula and supports " a variety of waterbirds including piping plover and other shorebirds, terns and other colonial

dependent public uses. We will evaluate refuge wildlife, habitat, and land protection and visitor service priorities during the planning process.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to announce that we are beginning the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Nantucket National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

About the Refuge

Nantucket NWR is located at the tip of the Coskata-Coatue peninsula on the eastern side of Nantucket Island, known as Great Point. The 24-acre Nantucket refuge was established in 1973 when the Service acquired the property under the Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife or other purposes from the U.S. Coast Guard.

Although diminutive in size, its value to wildlife is anything but small. The Refuge was established for its particular value to migratory birds. It is located at



Great Point Lighthouse E. Victory photo

nesting birds, as well as other migratory songbirds, raptors and even waterfowl. Most recently it has become home to a protected marine mammal, the gray seal, as they haul out on the tip and feed in the waters around Great Point.

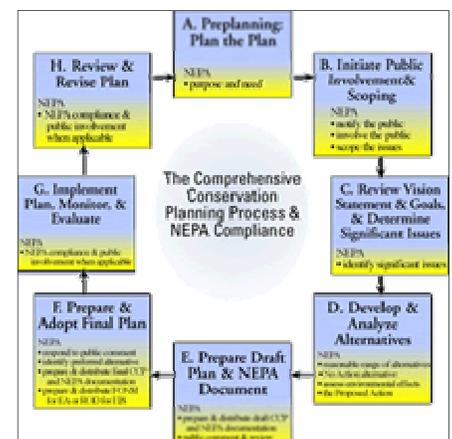
Why Create a CCP?

According to the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1997, each refuge within the National Wildlife Refuge System is required to create a CCP by 2012. The CCP for Nantucket NWR will establish management goals and objectives for all refuge programs over the next 15 years, while providing opportunities for compatible, wildlife-

The CCP Process

The first step in the planning process is to select a planning team that consists of representatives from the refuge staff, the State, and affected Tribes. This core team will organize the information underlying the plan. Next, partners, stakeholders and public involvement is sought to help identify issues that need to be addressed in the plan. This feedback will be incorporated as management alternatives are developed and analyzed, including current

management. The plan can then be written, with additional opportunities for public involvement throughout the year-long process.



CCP Planning Process Flow Chart



Common Terns USFWS photo

Creating a Vision for the Future

As a result of our first planning team meeting, we drafted these Visions and Goals for the Nantucket NWR. These reflect our values and commitment to continuing to provide quality habitat and a quality experience at Great Point.

Draft Refuge Vision

Nantucket National Wildlife Refuge, though diminutive in size, is aptly named Great Point. It has great value to the wildlife that uses its beaches, from shorebirds including the piping plover to mammals including the gray seal. Situated at the tip of a peninsula, it is surrounded by a diverse assemblage of coastal, intertidal, wetland, and marine habitat, attracting a great diversity of fauna. It will continue to be managed as a special place for breeding, wintering and migratory wildlife.

We will continue to provide opportunities for quality, compatible, wildlife-dependent experiences by the public. Known locally as Great Point, Nantucket NWR is recognized internationally as a premier fishing location, and the presence of its lighthouse provides the public with a destination that offers cultural perspective and panoramic views. Through strong partnerships, we will promote ecologically responsible use of the property, and continue to promote public awareness about the intrinsic value of dynamic coastal ecosystems.

Public Meeting for Nantucket NWR CCP

The Vision and Goals for the Nantucket Island NWR will be presented to the public on October 15, 2008 at the Town Annex Building (37 Washington St.) Conference Room from 7-9 pm. Please come to meet the staff, learn about current refuge management, help us identify issues and concerns, and make recommendations about future refuge programs. We hope to see you there!

Draft Refuge Goals

- Goal 1 Perpetuate the biological integrity and diversity of coastal habitats to enhance native wildlife and plant communities, including species of conservation concern.
- Goal 2 Promote awareness and stewardship of our coastal natural resources by providing compatible wildlife-dependent recreation and education opportunities, both on the refuge, and within the community.
- Goal 3 Provide additional wildlife habitat through land protection in collaboration with partners.



The Point from the Lighthouse E. Victory photo



Nantucket NWR E. Victory photo

How You Can Get Involved

Including the local community, our partners, and other stakeholders throughout the planning process is vital to the ultimate success of the plan. In particular, we hope to engage local residents and community leaders in discussing ways the refuge could become a more integral part of the community. If you are interested in helping us plan this refuge's future, we encourage you to participate. You can call, write or email us at any time to provide input. Please visit the website (<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/refugeCCPs.html>) for updates and news. We will also schedule public meetings at various stages of the planning process to facilitate your input.

Contact Information

Direct all CCP correspondence to:
Carl Melberg, Refuge Planner
Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge
Complex
73 Weir Hill Rd.
Sudbury, MA 01776
northeastplanning@fws.gov