



# Planning and Review of Inventory and Monitoring on Refuges (PRIMR)

## *Natural Resource Program Center*

*The National Wildlife Refuge System, administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), is the world's premier system of public lands and waters set aside to conserve America's fish, wildlife, and plants. The Refuge System includes 556 National Wildlife Refuges and 38 Wetland Management Districts.*

### Background

Under a 1997 amendment to the National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) Improvement Act the Secretary of the Interior, among other directives, is charged to monitor the status and trends of fish, wildlife and plants in each refuge. Inventorying and monitoring activities are critical to implementing these directives and were already a major focus on each of the nation's 550-plus refuges, but the Refuge System had no efficient way to collect, synthesize and catalogue these endeavors on a national scale. The *Strategic Plan for Inventories and Monitoring on National Wildlife Refuges – Adapting to Environmental Change* provides direction on implementing a nationally-coordinated inventory and monitoring initiative. As part of this initiative, the Inventory and Monitoring Policy directs each refuge to produce a standardized inventory and monitoring plan. The Planning and Review of Inventory and Monitoring on Refuges (PRIMR) database was developed to streamline the process of developing these plans.



Mussels Research, Credit: USFWS

### What it is

The PRIMR database is designed to provide detailed information about I&M activities occurring throughout the entire Refuge System and be flexible enough to accommodate regional needs. Ultimately, PRIMR will be centralized and integrated with other I&M database products such as the Service Catalog (ServCat).

Information in PRIMR will include: the species to be inventoried and the time frame, as well as survey objectives, protocols and methodologies. Historical surveys can also be documented within the PRIMR database, but the raw datasets, reports and geospatial data for each survey will be uploaded into ServCat.



Mississippi Sandhill Crane Recovery Work, Credit: USFWS

### Where will it be

The PRIMR database is currently housed at the Natural Resource Program Center (NRPC) and eventually will be available online through the Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS).



Fokechick Bay, Alaska, Credit: USFWS

#### **Why it is needed**

Refuge biologists require an easy, efficient tool for developing sound and scientifically credible I&M plans that can be accomplished with existing resources. Through centralization, this information will be accessible system-wide to facilitate landscape-scale management efforts and used to identify monitoring activities that would benefit from standardized protocols.

#### **When it's available**

PRIMR is now available and being used in each region. Regional I&M staff are assisting field stations with data collection.

#### **For more information:**

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