

CHAPTER 2

Decision to Be Made

The Regional Director of our Mountain-Prairie Region will decide whether to proceed with an AFA with the Tribes and, if so, to what degree.

After the public reviews and provides comments on this EA, the planning team will present this document along with a summary of all substantive public comments to our Regional Director. The Regional Director will consider the public's input along with comments from CSKT and select a preferred alternative based on the following:

- our legal responsibilities including the mission and statutes that established and guides the Refuge System
- the purposes of the units in the refuge complex
- the intent of the Self-Governance Act as it relates to the Refuge System
- the consequences of each alternative, as described in this document, and future budget projections

In considering the consequences of each alternative, the Regional Director will decide if effects of each alternative are significant. If the Regional Director finds that no significant impacts would occur, the Regional Director's decision will be disclosed in a finding of no significant impact. If the Regional Director finds a significant impact would occur, an environmental impact statement will be prepared.

If the Regional Director decides to proceed with an AFA, we are required to send the AFA to Congress for a 90-day review and comment period. If approved by Congress, we will immediately begin working with CSKT to begin implementing the selected alternative and associated components as an AFA.

