



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is developing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP, 15-year management plan) for Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

The first public scoping meeting for the Crystal River NWR CCP was in February 2008. Much has changed for the Refuge and the community since 2008 and the CCP for the Refuge was put on hold in the intervening time. A public workshop was held in January 2011 to specifically address waterway management of Three Sisters Springs. Now, in 2013, we are conducting additional scoping to re-engage the public and to revive development of the future management plan for Crystal River NWR.

Priority Issues Raised to Date

Based on previous public scoping and governmental coordination, several priority issues have been identified to date, as listed. The 2013 scoping period will provide additional information and issues for the Refuge to consider in the CCP.

Overarching Issues

- Impacts from increasing and changing ecotourism activities
- Complex jurisdictional issues
- Complex regulatory issues
- Need for strong and effective existing and new partnerships
- Need for enhanced and effective media communications and community relations

Wildlife and Habitat Management

- Declines in and threats to Crystal River NWR habitats, including impacts on water quality and quantity and severe erosion at Three Sisters Springs
- Threats to West Indian manatees
- Lack of wildlife and habitat survey and monitoring

Resource Protection

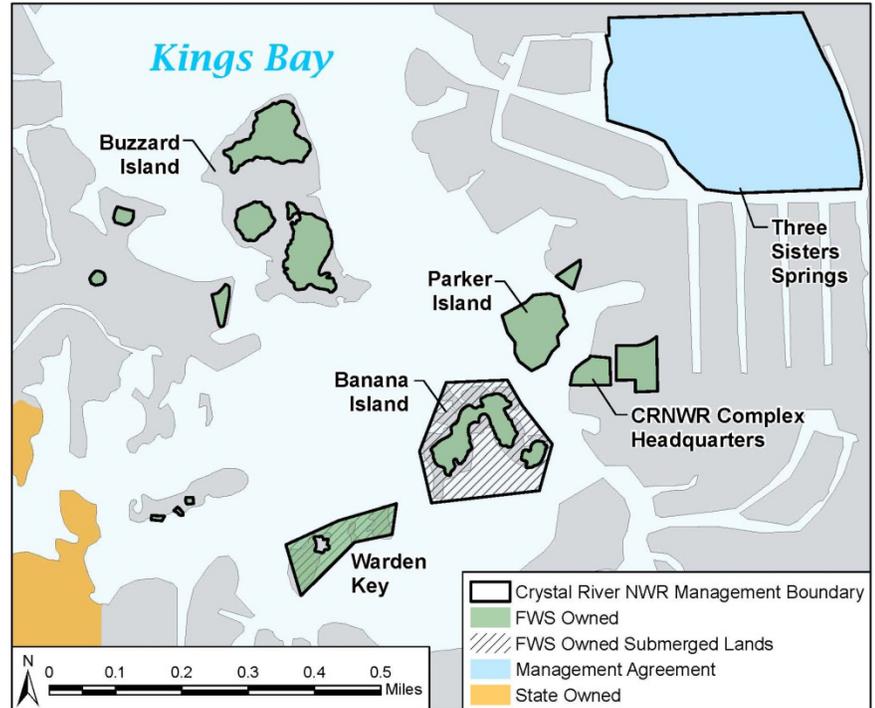
- Increasing wildlife viewing and associated impacts and disturbance

Visitor Services

- Need for effective outreach and environmental education programs to minimize negative impacts from human activities
- Need for management of access to Three Sisters Springs when manatees are present
- Need for development of the Three Sisters Springs property in accord with the management plan

Refuge Administration

- Lack of sufficient administrative resources to address increasing demands and increasing impacts



Estimated Timeline for Completion of the Crystal River NWR CCP:

- March 2013 – Conduct Additional Public Scoping
- Early/Mid 2014 – Conduct Public Review and Comment on Draft CCP and Environmental Assessment
- Late 2014 – Complete Final CCP

For More Information:

Attend the 3.19.2013 Public Scoping Meeting

Visit the Refuge's website:

<http://www.fws.gov/crystalriver/>

Email: CrystalRiverCCP@fws.gov

Contact the Refuge Manager: 352.563.2088

Contact the CCP Planner: 321.861.2368

Public Scoping Meeting

Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge

Topic:

**Future Management of
Crystal River NWR**

Date:

March 19, 2013

Time:

Tuesday, 6:00-9:00 pm

Location:

**Magnolia Ballroom
Plantation Inn and Golf Resort
9301 W. Fort Island Trail
Crystal River, FL 34429**

The meeting will address the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP, 15-year management plan) for Crystal River NWR. The meeting is specific to future management of Crystal River NWR. It will not address the restrictions established through rulemaking for the Kings Bay Manatee Refuge or the Kings Bay manatee sanctuaries, since, although they are managed by Crystal River NWR, those specially designated manatee protection areas are not part of the national wildlife refuge.

How to Submit Comments?

Written Comments:

Mail: PO Box 2683, Titusville, FL 32781

Email: CrystalRiverCCP@fws.gov

Fax: 321.861.1276

Hand Delivery: Crystal River NWR

1502 Kings Bay Drive, Crystal River, FL
or at the 3.19.2013 Scoping Meeting

Verbal Comments:

Attend the March 19, 2013 Scoping Meeting

Deadline for Comments

To ensure consideration of your comments in the development of the draft CCP, please submit them by **April 2, 2013**.

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Educational Facilities, & Businesses:*

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US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
NORTH FLORIDA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES OFFICE
7915 BAYMEADOWS WAY, SUITE 200
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256

2 Key Definitions:

Crystal River NWR - part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), which is a system of lands and waters set aside specifically for the management of fish and wildlife resources. National wildlife refuges can be established by Executive Order by the President, through a Congressional action, or administratively through conservation planning by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. National wildlife refuges are managed under a variety of laws and policies, notably the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (1997), the Refuge Administration Act (1966), and the Refuge Recreation Act (1962). The CCP will address future management of Crystal River NWR.

Kings Bay Manatee Refuge - a special manatee protection area that was designated by an administrative action known as rulemaking under the Endangered Species Act (1973) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (1972). The Kings Bay Manatee Refuge is not a national wildlife refuge. No federal land or water ownership results from the establishment of a manatee protection area. Although the Kings Bay Manatee Refuge was created by an administrative action and although it is not a national wildlife refuge, it is managed by Crystal River NWR. The CCP will not change the restrictions outlined in the designation of the Kings Bay Manatee Refuge.