



# United States Department of the Interior

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**  
Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building  
1 Federal Drive  
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/NWRS-CP

February 1, 2006

Dear Reader:

We are pleased to provide you with this Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge.

The Refuge was established in 1989 under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 for the protection and recovery of the federally listed threatened Northern monkshood plant and the endangered Iowa Pleistocene snail.

The Plan will guide management for the next 15 years and help the Refuge meet its original purpose and contribute to the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Plan will provide both broad and specific guidance on various issues; set a vision, goals, and measurable objectives; and outline strategies for reaching those objectives.

The EIS evaluates three alternatives, including "no action." Major issues or concerns identified through resource analysis and public involvement formed the basis for evaluating the alternatives.

All comments received during the comment period for the Draft EIS were considered in the preparation of this Final EIS and will be considered when a Record of Decision is issued by the Service's Regional Director, in Region 3. The Record of Decision will identify the final decision on the Plan and outline the rationale behind the decision. It will be issued no sooner than 30 days from February 3, 2006.

Additional comments and questions should be addressed to: Cathy Henry, Refuge Manager, Driftless Area NWR, 401 Business Highway 18 North, P.O. Box 460, McGregor, IA 52157, Telephone: 563-873-3423.

Sincerely,

John Schomaker  
Refuge Planner