

# **Appendix A: Finding of No Significant Impact**



## Finding of No Significant Impact

### Environmental Assessment and Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Horicon and Fox River National Wildlife Refuges, Wisconsin

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to identify management strategies to meet the conservation goals of the Horicon and Fox River National Wildlife Refuges. The EA examined the environmental consequences that each management alternative could have on the quality of the physical, biological, and human environment, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA evaluated three alternatives for the future management of Horicon NWR, and two alternatives for Fox River NWR.

The alternative selected for implementation on each refuge is *Alternative B*. The preferred alternative for Horicon includes increased opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation. Landscape and watershed involvement by staff and partners would be increased to reduce sedimentation rate and improve water quality in the Horicon Marsh. Habitat management efforts would seek to re-establish a braided river system flowing into the north end of the Horicon Marsh. Refuge uplands would continue to be restored and maintained as open grasslands and oak savanna, which is typical of habitat types prior to European settlement and represents a declining and rare habitat type.

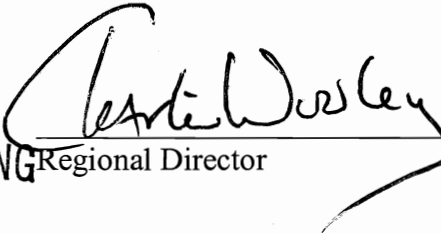
The preferred alternative for Fox River would include more hunting opportunities, the initiation of a fishing program, new wildlife observation and photography opportunities, and the beginning of an environmental education and interpretation program. Habitat restoration and management would continue to perpetuate a variety of native plant and wildlife species, especially those of priority to the Service.

For reasons presented above and below, and based on an evaluation of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment, we have determined that the action of adopting Alternative B as the management alternative for each refuge is not a major federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of Section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

#### Additional Reasons:

1. Future management actions will have a neutral or positive impact on the local economy.
2. This action will not have an adverse impact on threatened or endangered species.

Supporting References:  
Environmental Assessment  
Comprehensive Conservation Plan

  
ACTING Regional Director

3/16/07  
Date

