

**Label: "kankakee comments - Jan 2017
(part 29)"**

Created by:r3planning@fws.gov

Total Starred Messages in label:40 (40 conversations)

Created: 05-09-2017 at 05:35 AM

Conversation Contents

Kankakee NWR&CA

Dave Woronecki-Ellis <ellisd012@gmail.com>

From: Dave Woronecki-Ellis <ellisd012@gmail.com>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 21:43:29 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWR&CA

Hello,

I am writing in support of the Fish and Wildlife Service's approach to forming the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge. My understanding is that the next step for F&WS is to develop a Land Protection Plan which includes several ideas and priorities for conservation in the focus areas. I support a focus on protecting rare plants and animals such as in the Momence Wetlands, restoration of floodplain to improve water quality and lessen flooding, upstream restoration work (possibly including reconnecting oxbows and river bends that have been cutoff from the main channel), and only acquiring land from willing sellers and assisting landowners who wish to implement conservation programs on their own land.

It is important to work on improving and expanding natural areas in the focus area as there is not much public land left. Also, the refuge can have a significant impact on the economy and quality of life of adjacent communities, providing not only jobs, both directly and indirectly, but also providing for more recreational opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jennifer and David Woronecki-Ellis
2833 W. 38th Pl
Hobart, IN 46342
219-730-7913
jenwildlife@gmail.com
ellisd012@gmail.com

Conversation Contents

PCC Comments on Kankakee NWR

Jim Sweeney <jp55biod@att.net>

From: Jim Sweeney <jp55biod@att.net>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 21:42:46 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: PCC Comments on Kankakee NWR

As an officer in the Porter County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, I wish to convey our support for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area.

Many of our members have been promoting restoration of the Kankakee River marshlands for decades and believe the protection of our natural resources is of paramount importance.

We support the current USFWS planning effort as described on the Conservation Opportunities Map for these reasons;

- The service will not use eminent domain.
- It will protect the Momence Wetlands area which is full of rare plants and animals.
- Restoring marginal agricultural land will improve water quality and decrease flooding.
- The state of Illinois is deficient in public land available for conservation and recreation.

We were on record as supporting the earlier version of the Kankakee NWR and hope that the Service still hopes to build the refuge around the wonderful prairie and savanna remnants in southeast Kankakee County and northeast Iroquois County and significant acquisition of the Kankakee River floodplain in Indiana.

Restoration of the river and floodplain in Indiana will do more to combat the chronic flooding and erosion faced by landowners and government agencies in Illinois than anything else.

Thank you,

Gary Brown, Vice-president
Porter County Chapter IWLA
302 Harrison Ave.
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Conversation Contents

Kankakee NWR&CA

Trevor Edmonson <trevoredmonson@gmail.com>

From: Trevor Edmonson <trevoredmonson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 21:41:43 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWR&CA

I support the creation of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area and the US Fish and Wildlife Service proposal for protecting the Momence Wetlands.

A lot of this land is surviving remnants of the Grand Kankakee Marsh and should be protected for the rare plants and animals found there.

I can support this proposal as long as the Service commits to purchasing land from willing sellers only and not use eminent domain. Restoring some of the agricultural lands there will protect the natural areas, improve water quality, and decrease flooding.

Only 3% of the state of Illinois is publicly owned. We need more public land for conservation and for recreation.

I believe the USFWS proposal will be good for our local community and the local environment.

Thank you,

Trevor Edmonson

1146 West Tower Road
Kankakee, IL 60901
309-351-8813

Conversation Contents

Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area

<linh1000@comcast.net>

From: <linh1000@comcast.net>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 21:31:44 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area

Dear Ms Holler,

I strongly support the initial efforts being made in establishing the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I believe it is very important to protect this area in a manner that will protect the unique ecosystems found in this area while allowing public use of the land. I support acquiring land from sellers without using eminent domain and working with land owners who want to preserve their land in a manner that will protect and restore the wetlands. Preserving this land now will help keep open and establish corridors for birds and wildlife which are badly needed in the state of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Linda Hickey
745 N Rainbow Drive
Glenwood, IL 60425

Conversation Contents

Kankakee NWR&CA

C Oleary <auduacct@gmail.com>

From: C Oleary <auduacct@gmail.com>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 21:29:19 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWR&CA

Ms Holler,

I am writing in support of the Kankakee NWR&CA and to comment on the initial design. The design proposed on your website secures important natural areas along the Kankakee River floodplain (Momence Planning Unit) as well as adding to the Iroquois County State Wildlife Area and Willow Slough complexes (Iroquois County Planning Unit)..

ICSWA harbors critical and extremely rare plants and animals in remnant natural communities. The addition of lands around it will secure and improve existing wetlands as well as expand habitat for rare species. Direct connections to Willow Slough FWA will ensure habitat connections between these two preserve systems allowing plant and animals (especially pollinators) to move between habitats and expand populations. Both are currently big hunting areas and the design will only improve hunting opportunities. The Kankakee County Planning Unit also contains natural areas of national significance. These areas cannot be duplicated or recreated - conservation is essential. Continued planning to refine a conservation design is encouraged.

I encourage the USFWS to remain true to its strategy of only engaging willing sellers and ensuring private landowners drainage is not impacted. These two strategies should not only be upheld but should be repeated prominently in literature and open meetings. It is essential to building trust with residents as well as putting USFWS's intentions on these critical issues on the record. I cannot state strongly enough that these intentions need to be repeated often and prominently in meetings and other public venues. Saying it once or burying it in a document will not get the job done.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the initial design.

Charles O'Leary

Conversation Contents

Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area

"M. Bernat" <mbernat@usa.net>

From: "M. Bernat" <mbernat@usa.net>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 18:03:52 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Jeanne Holler <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area

January 31, 2017 Dear Ms. Holler: I'll never forget my first visit to the Momence Wetlands on a June day when the blue of Ohio Spiderwort lined the road. I saw a Pileated Woodpecker and a Prothonotary Warbler feeding in a wet woodland. I was in an idyllic, relic Kanakee River landscape that no longer exists elsewhere. In the oak savannas and prairies in Pembroke Township we saw Red-headed Woodpecker and Grasshopper Sparrow among other bird species in the quiet, peaceful landscape. I continue to visit the area, buying meals and gasoline from local businesses. It's still thrilling to hear the calls of Bobwhite and Whip-poor-will. The establishment of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area ensures future generations of visitors will be able to repeat this pattern of exploring two unique habitats while contributing to the local economy. I agree with your conservation priorities. The benefits of protecting the rare ecosystems of the Momence Wetlands and restoring floodplain wetlands—improved water quality, reduced flooding, increased numbers of wildlife species and providing habitat corridors for wildlife—will literally flow downstream. I support your approach of connecting existing natural areas, both public and private: I have seen Black Tern only at J.C. Murphey Lake in Willow Slough in Indiana. I approve of your growing the Kankakee Refuge by acquiring lands from willing sellers and working with private landowners who voluntarily wish to establish conservation programs on their own lands. Sincerely, Mary Bernat 2201 Desplaines St Blue Island, IL 60406



Conversation Contents

Grand Kankakee Marsh

<MTopp7927@aol.com>

From: <MTopp7927@aol.com>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 16:49:46 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Grand Kankakee Marsh

I support the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge. I think it would be a great Recreational use area. It would also help protect valuable wildlife habitat.

Michael Topp
Highland IN.



Conversation Contents

Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area

craig zandstra <czandstra05@hotmail.com>

From: craig zandstra <czandstra05@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 16:10:31 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "r3planning@fws.org" <r3planning@fws.org>
Subject: Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area



Planning, FW3 <r3planning@fws.gov>

Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area

1 message

craig zandstra <czandstra05@hotmail.com>
To: "r3planning@fws.org" <r3planning@fws.org>

Tue, Jan 31, 2017 at 5:10 PM

Dear Jeanne:

I am writing this email to express my support for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I understand that the refuge will purchase land from willing sellers who participate voluntarily in this program. This refuge will prioritize preserve protection of oak savannas, sand prairies, wetlands, and many wetland plant communities along the Kankakee River. Many remnant native plant communities exist within the refuge footprint that need to be connected to other nearby preserves. The refuge will help link these lands for the benefit of many native species including endangered species that can then thrive in larger protected areas. This refuge will be a benefit to citizens in Indiana and Illinois by improving air and water quality, reducing flooding, providing public recreational land, and improving property values of adjacent private land. Please get back to me with any questions. Thank you for your time.

Craig Zandstra

5670 Chase Street

Merrillville, IN 46410

219.688.1065

czandstra05@hotmail.com

Friends of the Kankakee Board Member

Conversation Contents

Kankakee NWRandCA

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Mon Jan 30 2017 20:29:50 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Bonnie Duman 930 Heather Rd Deerfield, IL 60015 bozziebear@aol.com 8479457976

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Mon Jan 30 2017 22:28:49 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>

Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Katy Murphy 141 S Fordham Ave Aurora, IL 60506 katy.murph.87@gmail.com 6308961042

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 01:08:57 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must

preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Edward Dwyer 559 W Diversey Pkwy Chicago, IL 60614 determinedforce@gmail.com 7739696737

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 06:53:33 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Wanda Berry 3037 Fresno Ln Homewood, IL 60430 wberry429@gmail.com 7087382389

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 08:55:50 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Max Barack 2649 N Wayne Ave Chicago, IL 60614 maxbarack@gmail.com 8477670362

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 10:04:07 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our

planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Rachel Whelan 10740 Kilpatrick Ave Oak Lawn, IL 60453 irelandforever19@hotmail.com 8474269847

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 10:14:37 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I

encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Paula Belnap 815 W Oakdale Ave Chicago, IL 60657 pfbelnap@gmail.com 7733227416

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 10:28:24 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Caroline Cummings 830 E Southmor Rd Morris, IL 60450 ccummings830@comcast.net 8159410266

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 11:29:14 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Grace Chun 1233 W North Shore Ave Apt 1 Chicago, IL 60626 ghc9@msn.com 7734650826

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 11:31:10 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible

to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Maeve Callaghan 7521 N Octavia Ave Chicago, IL 60631 mcalla@saic.edu 1234567890

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 13:27:43 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Brooke Cheek 23768 N Lakeside Dr Lake Zurich, IL 60047 sunshine528@hotmail.com 6308286214

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 13:43:38 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Diane Ower 1812 Dusk Dr Diane, IL 60099 diane@ower.org 8472544538

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 14:46:40 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our

planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Arci Jimenez 2126 S Washtenaw Ave Chicago, IL 60608 goldendragon35@hotmail.com 7738182538

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 15:01:20 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I

encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Amy Lardner 1350 N Lake Shore DR #1405 Chicago, IL 60610 amy.lardner@sbcglobal.net 3129619438

Conversation Contents

Kankakee NWRandCA

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Mon Jan 30 2017 18:26:39 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Linda Foley 8637 W 96th Pl Palos Hills, IL 60465 lhfoley3780@aol.com 7734452693

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Mon Jan 30 2017 18:53:01 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>

Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Jessica and Roger Guzlas 1619 S California Ave Chicago, IL 60608 guzlas@sbcglobal.net 3126189412

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Mon Jan 30 2017 19:27:20 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must

preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Sheree Colborn 36W272 South St Elgin, IL 60123 sheree311@msn.com 8476950348

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Mon Jan 30 2017 19:32:53 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Barbara Rose 1118 Miller Ave Oak Park, IL 60302 berose60@yahoo.com 7083866641

KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Mon Jan 30 2017 20:22:12 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWRandCA

Dear Jeanne Holler, Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation. I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars. The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals. I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water. I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Rich Fennema 10005 S Prospect Ave Chicago, IL 60643 fennemar25@gmail.com 7732339824



Conversation Contents

Kankakee refuge

Darin Clatterbuck <cctireservice@sbcglobal.net>

From: Darin Clatterbuck <cctireservice@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 15:56:44 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee refuge

I feel the approach to growing the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation area with an emphasis on Willing sellers only and Voluntary participation in conservation programs is great. I can support that. I also feel that prioritizing conservation of forested bottomlands and other wet lands along the river will be beneficial not only for wildlife, but also for people who enjoy nature and outdoor recreation along the river. I feel that money and greed has taken over and caused our great wildlife areas to be striped of habitat with no regard to the wildlife that lived there. i also feel that all the field tile has caused our river flooding problems in several areas such as Watseka. Thank you Darin Clatterbuck
Sent from my iPhone

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Support for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area

Graham Smith <graham.m.smith@gmail.com>

From: Graham Smith <graham.m.smith@gmail.com>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 15:43:18 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Support for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area

I'm writing to express my support for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area.

As an avid fisherman, I can say objectively that the Kankakee river is one of best resources in IL and one that deserves to be prioritized for generations to come. But in addition to my personal "agenda" to protect the resource for fishing... I think it is clear that the refuge and plans to prioritize conservation of forested bottomlands and other wetlands along the river will be benefit not only the fishing and the wilderness experience, but will help protect wildlife, birds, and wetlands for any number of people to enjoy. I see the Refuge as a win-win situation. Endangered plants and animals will thrive, people can enjoy them, and water quality in the river is likely to improve.

Respectfully,

--

Graham Smith
[312.480.5840](tel:312.480.5840) cell
[312.252.0601](tel:312.252.0601) office

--

Graham Smith
312.480.5840 cell
312.252.0601 office

Conversation Contents

Kankakee NWR&CA

Calista Small <small.calista@gmail.com>

From: Calista Small <small.calista@gmail.com>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 14:59:50 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWR&CA

Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area.

I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation.

Furthermore:

Restoration and Habitat Potential

- The Conservation Opportunities map highlights great opportunities to enhance and connect important cores and corridors of wildlife habitat in the Momence Wetlands, which includes globally significant black oak sand savannas, regionally significant bottomland hardwood forests, and other landscapes that harbor threatened and endangered species.*
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prioritizes conservation of essential habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds whose populations are in steep decline. The footprint of the Refuge is also on the migration pathway for the federally endangered whooping crane.*
- I agree with prioritizing new natural connections between the Iroquois State Wildlife Area and the Willow Slough State Fish and Wildlife Area in Indiana. We would also like to see a corridor to connect the Momence and Kankakee conservation areas.*
- The Kankakee River is a National Water Trail and a protected Land and Water Conservation Area, and naturally connects high quality landscapes in the Refuge. I see great value in preserving land along the river as a wildlife migration corridor, and working with area partners to enhance the quality of the waterway.*

Recreation and Healthy Living

- I support the additional recreational opportunities for people to watch wildlife, paddle, fish, hunt and hike.*

- *I feel the construction of a welcome center with restrooms and a place to refill water bottles would encourage trips to the Refuge.*

Landowner Connections and Community Engagement

- *I agree that it is critical to integrate conservation lands into the existing fabric of our human communities, working lands and local economies.*
- *I recognize the firm commitment to exclusively work with interested land owners at the level they want to participate. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should highlight on the Conservation Opportunities Map that participation is strictly voluntary.*

Economic Importance of Open Space

- *I recommend continuing to clarify that the mapped conservation priorities will work in harmony with existing agricultural operations and other land uses planned for economic development, so that residents value the Refuge as assets to local communities and our region.*
- *I suggest reaching out to communities with metrics on how the Refuge will be a strong economic driver, and discuss the ecosystems services value of open space as a financial benefit for the local area.*

Resiliency and Stormwater Management

- *For landowners that decide to participate, I see great potential for restoring flood-prone farmland and marginal agricultural land to wildlife habitat.*

*Sincerely,
Calista Small
Longtime Kankakee Resident*

Conversation Contents

Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area

Cheryl Woodlock <woodlockca@yahoo.com>

From: Cheryl Woodlock <woodlockca@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 13:54:30 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area

Dear Ms. Holler, This e-mail is in response to your request for public comment on the conservation planning documents United States Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] has developed for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area. The Refuge units delineated on your Conservation Opportunities map include natural resources of regional and global significance, and also identifies restorable acreage to create buffer for important natural areas and corridors for wildlife. Your focus on the broader landscape like this is critical for preserving natural areas and for people that like to visit them. I agree with your conservation priorities, and particularly like how USFWS will acquire conservation easements from private (and willing) landowners in addition to traditional land acquisition. I support your agency's approach to growing the Kankakee Refuge. Sincerely, Cheryl A. Woodlock 2721 W. Belmont Ave, Apt 2 Chicago, IL 60618

Conversation Contents

Grand Kankakee Marsh Kankakee NWR&CA

Jim Daniels <jimdaniels6@gmail.com>

From: Jim Daniels <jimdaniels6@gmail.com>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 13:13:33 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Grand Kankakee Marsh Kankakee NWR&CA

I wish this mail to be part of the official comments in support of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge. I was part of helping to establish the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge in Southern Indiana and this refuge will help achieve some of the same goals. Solid use by migratory waterfowl as well as wetland species need all the help they can get, especially with the massive loss of wetlands in the U.S. over time. Illinois and Indiana have very little public lands and it has been shown numerous times the economic value of setting aside refuge areas.

So, please move forward to protect the Kankakee river area and expanding the public land base.

Thank you.

Jim Daniels
1808 Ravenswood Drive
Evansville, IN 47714

Conversation Contents

Grand Kankakee Marsh, Kankakee NWR&CA

Craig Shillinglaw <craigs1234@gmail.com>

From: Craig Shillinglaw <craigs1234@gmail.com>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 09:37:20 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Grand Kankakee Marsh, Kankakee NWR&CA

I'm writing in support of the NWR&CA. I appreciate the approach of USFWS of working with willing sellers to further all the benefits that come with land conservation (cleaner water, air, outdoor recreation/hunting/fishing, draw for local business). I get a bit depressed at how reactionary the responses can be to such benign initiatives that have so many positive outcomes.

Sincerely,

Craig Shillinglaw
Valparaiso, Indiana

Conversation Contents

Kankakee NWR&CA

James Ellis <james.ellis72@gmail.com>

From: James Ellis <james.ellis72@gmail.com>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 08:38:54 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWR&CA

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Natural Resources and Conservation Planning
Attention: Kankakee NWR and Conservation Area
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990
Bloomington, MN 55437-1458

Dear Jeanne Holler:

I write on behalf of Grand Prairie Friends (GPF) in support of continued planning for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. GPF is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit conservation organization and land trust. Our mission is preserve and restore natural communities in east-central Illinois and promote an understanding and appreciation of natural resources. We own, protect, and manage about 700 acres of prairie and forest land at a dozen sites. Two of our properties--Loda Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve and Bonnie's Prairie Nature Preserve--are in Iroquois County.

We are very excited about the potential to expand, protect, and connect valuable habitat near the Iroquois County Conservation Area and across the state line at Willow Slough. The Conservation Opportunities map highlights great opportunities to enhance and connect important cores and corridors of wildlife habitat in the Momence Wetlands, which includes regionally significant bottomland hardwood forests. It also includes globally significant black oak savannas in the Oak Savanna-Kankakee County Unit, and other landscapes that also harbor threatened and endangered species. We would also like to see a corridor to connect the Momence and Kankakee conservation areas.

Conservation of birds, especially grassland birds, is important, and we're glad to know that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prioritizes conservation of essential habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds whose populations are in steep decline. The footprint of the Refuge is also on the migration pathway for the federally endangered whooping crane.

The Kankakee River is a National Water Trail and a protected Land and Water Conservation Area, and it connects high quality natural landscapes in the Refuge. We see great value in protecting and managing land along the river as a wildlife migration corridor, and working with area partners to enhance the quality of the waterway.

We greatly support the additional recreational opportunities for people to watch wildlife, paddle, fish, hunt and hike that will come with the development of the Kankakee NWR and CA. Many of our members and friends already enjoy trips to Iroquois County Conservation Area and Willow Slough, and this refuge will further open opportunities for outdoor recreation.

We agree that it is critical to integrate conservation lands into the existing fabric of our human communities, working lands, and local economies. The people on the landscape of east-central Illinois are important. We recommend continuing to clarify that the mapped conservation priorities will work in harmony with existing agricultural operations and other land uses planned for economic development, so that residents value the Refuge as assets to local communities and our region. We suggest reaching out to local communities and community leaders with metrics on how the Refuge will be a strong economic driver, and discuss the ecosystems services value of open space as a financial benefit for the local area.

Sincerely,

Jamie Ellis
president, Board of Directors
Grand Prairie Friends

--

James Ellis
Grand Prairie Friends

grandprairiefriends.org

www.facebook.com/grandprairiefriends

<http://lists.communitylists.org/listinfo.cgi/ecostewards-communitylists.org>

Conversation Contents

Kankakee NWR&CA

Susanne Masi <susannemasi7@gmail.com>

From: Susanne Masi <susannemasi7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tue Jan 31 2017 07:02:02 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <r3planning@fws.gov>
Subject: Kankakee NWR&CA

To Jeanne Holler, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service:

I wish to offer my overall enthusiastic support for this refuge. I am writing as an Illinois citizen, but believe that my affiliation with the Illinois Native Plant Society as a board member helps inform my point of view. Although I live in Algonquin, IL, I have visited the natural areas of the Kankakee region a number of times and value their quality and potential.

Of prime importance is restoration and expansion/connection of the natural habitat for wildlife - and plant communities! This would form the foundation on which other parts of the effort can be built. The proposed partnerships - public agencies, NGOs like Openlands and The Nature Conservancy, and especially private landowners and their communities, are key to the success of the Refuge. The economic advantages through recreation, tourism, sustainable agriculture, and stormwater management show great promise for the entire region.

I wish the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners every success as this Refuge develops and grows.

Sincerely,

Susanne Masi



Planning, FW3 <r3planning@fws.gov>

Grand Kankakee Marsh

1 message

Gary Brown <grbrown57@hotmail.com>
To: "r3planning@fws.gov" <r3planning@fws.gov>

Mon, Jan 30, 2017 at 10:31 PM

My name is Gary Brown from Valparaiso IN and I support the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. The unique habitat, wildlife, and watershed of the area is not limited to the Illinois side of the Kankakee River. The continuation of efforts to link both sites is not only vital but also historic. The governmental limitations of the designated areas only deny what was once a contiguous waterway for thousands of years. Restoration and preservation is the only logical action.

- The Service will purchase land from willing sellers only and work with voluntary participants in conservation programs on their land. The Service will not use eminent domain.
- Support the protection of the Momence Wetlands area to protect the rare plants and animals there.
- Restoration of floodplain wetlands will improve water quality and lessen flooding.
- Only 3% of the state of Illinois is publicly owned, ranking it 44th out of 50 states in the amount of public land available for conservation and recreation.
- The more restoration there is along the river upstream, the better it will be for the river downstream.
- The Refuge can be an economic contributor to the area. According to the US Census Bureau, residents and visitors to Illinois spend \$3 billion annually on wildlife-related recreation.

Please expedite these measures to insure that generations to come will benefit from the conservation of not only the Midwest, but the natural propagation and encouragement of other reserves throughout our nation.



Planning, FW3 <r3planning@fws.gov>

Kankakee NWR&CA

1 message

Ann Baskerville <ann.baskerville@sierraclub.org>

Mon, Jan 30, 2017 at 8:55 PM

To: r3planning@fws.gov

Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Opportunities Map for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area.

I support the establishment and expansion of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through the purchase of land from willing sellers because publicly-owned natural areas allow all people to enjoy nature and engage in outdoor recreation.

I agree with the Conservation Map's emphasis on conserving wetlands and forested bottomlands. Wetlands provide vital services to our planet by filtering water and reducing flooding. If the Service can convert marginal farmland into a rich wetland through buying land from willing sellers, I believe that is a good use of tax dollars.

The map's emphasis on connecting existing conservation lands with the Refuge is logical. Connecting these conservation areas will provide more habitat for migratory birds and other animals.

I support conserving rare black oak savannas and other habitats on the map that support threatened and endangered species. We must preserve these habitats and species for future generations. While private owners can certainly preserve habitat and steward land, I value publicly-owned land that is accessible to all. I encourage the Service to highlight on the map that land will only be bought from willing sellers, and that the public will have access to Refuge land. Also, as funds allow, I feel the Service should build and staff a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Welcome Center so visitors can access restrooms and water.

I encourage the Service to continue meeting with the local community that will be impacted by the Refuge. I believe that the Service and local communities can work together towards the goal of protecting both the environment and the community's interests. I encourage the Service to work with the community so that any eco-tourists are aware of locally-owned businesses that would welcome more customers.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input as the USFWS develops its Land Protection Plan for the Kankakee Refuge.

Sincerely,

Ann Baskerville, Sauk-Calumet Group of the Sierra Club



Planning, FW3 <r3planning@fws.gov>

Grand Kankakee Marsh - Kankakee NWR&CA

1 message

Bill Iltzsche <biltzsche@hotmail.com>
To: "r3planning@fws.gov" <r3planning@fws.gov>

Tue, Jan 31, 2017 at 3:58 PM

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Division of Natural Resources and Conservation Planning
Attention: Kankakee NWR and Conservation Area

We support your initial ideas, prioritizations, and approach to develop a Land Protection Plan.

The Service will purchase land from willing sellers only and work with voluntary participants in conservation programs on their land. The Service will not use eminent domain.

Restoration of floodplain wetlands will improve water quality and lessen flooding.

Only 3% of the state of Illinois is publicly owned, ranking it 44th out of 50 states in the amount of public land available for conservation and recreation.

Your plan is a win/win for all concerned parties, and for the future of the Kankakee.

Thank you,

William and Diana Iltzsche

759 Verbena Ct

Valparaiso, IN 46385-2310



Planning, FW3 <r3planning@fws.gov>

Grand Kankakee Marsh

1 message

Bonnie Swarner <bdsvarner@hotmail.com>

Tue, Jan 31, 2017 at 9:38 AM

To: "r3planning@fws.gov" <r3planning@fws.gov>

I support the work saving wetlands in the Kankakee watershed, especially since it affects only willing sellers. Personal property rights need to be respected, but the broader picture dictates that we try to save as much habitat and natural lands as possible. Thank you. Bonnie Swarner, Izaak Walton



Planning, FW3 <r3planning@fws.gov>

Kankakee NWR&CA

1 message

Sandy <ecorealm@msn.com>
To: "r3planning@fws.gov" <r3planning@fws.gov>

Tue, Jan 31, 2017 at 7:36 AM

1-29-17

Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials,

We support the US Fish and Wildlife Service's plans for wildlife conservation with the Land Protection Plan being worked on for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area.

We understand that USFWS will not use eminent domain, working with willing sellers for land acquisitions with willing sellers and participants for wildlife conservation.

We want to see the Momence Wetlands area and its rare plants and animals protected.

We support restoration of floodplain wetlands to improve water quality and reduce flooding.

Only 3% of land in the State of Illinois is publicly owned, 44th out of 50 states, so the Kankakee Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area is truly needed.

The down river stretches of the Kankakee will benefit from restoration of upstream Kankakee area.

We believe the Refuge can be an economic contributor for the area. According to the US Census Bureau, residents and visitors to Illinois spend \$3 billion annually on wildlife-related recreation.

Sincerely,

Sandy O'Brien

Conservation Chair

Dunelands Group, Hoosier Chapter Sierra Club

5500 S. Liverpool Rd.

Hobart, IN 46342