



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Boyer Chute

National Wildlife Refuge

Project Update

Comprehensive Conservation Plan

August 2010

Comprehensive Conservation Planning and You

Comprehensive conservation plans, or CCPs, are long-term plans for managing national wildlife refuges. A CCP establishes a vision and goals for a refuge and then identifies objectives and strategies for achieving those goals.

Whether you are a neighboring landowner or a Refuge visitor, you have a stake in the future of Boyer Chute NWR. We want you to contribute to Refuge planning by letting us know what issues you think should be addressed in a long-term plan and if you see additional opportunities to improve habitat for wildlife or facilities for visitors.

We are currently in the public scoping stage of comprehensive conservation planning. The planning process is described in the figure on the following page.

Comments Welcome

Your ideas are welcome throughout the planning process, however sharing them now will help Refuge staff identify the issues that will be addressed in planning and, later, to develop alternatives that address those issues.

Please take a moment to review this handout, then use the comment form provided to express your thoughts and ideas. You are invited to leave a written comment at the open house, and you



Mud Lake North Waterway, Boyer Chute NWR. Photo credit: FWS

can also submit comments via mail, e-mail, or through the web site for the Boyer Chute NWR CCP. Here are the addresses:

Mail: Boyer Chute NWR
3720 Rivers Way
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023

E-mail: r3planning@fws.gov
(Please note "Boyer Chute NWR/CCP Comment" in the subject line.)

Web: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/boyerchute>

If you chose to send your comments following the open house, please send them by the end of the scoping period, September 6, 2010.

Who We Are

Boyer Chute NWR is part of the largest network of conservation lands in the world. The Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Service is an agency under the direction of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats. The Service manages the National Wildlife Refuge System, enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory

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bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, and conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands.

- The National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses more than 96 million acres and is comprised of more than 550 national wildlife refuges, 37 wetland management districts and 49 coordination areas.

You can find out more at: www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/boyerchute

About Boyer Chute NWR

Boyer Chute carved a path through sediment deposited by the Boyer River, forming an island in the Missouri River channel. The resulting habitat – floodplain forest, tallgrass prairie, and wetlands – support more than 200 species of birds, 80 species of fish, and 70 species of mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

In 1937, the chute, or channel, was blocked to make boat travel on the Missouri River easier, unintentionally disturbing valuable wildlife habitat.

In 1992, Boyer Chute NWR was established to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat in and along the

Missouri River. Today the chute itself lies at the center of Boyer Chute NWR.

The Refuge exemplifies the Service’s mission “...to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers worked together to restore the Boyer Chute, and with the help of a variety of conservation partners the chute is once again a functioning part of the Missouri River.

Tell Us What You Think

There are many important issues to consider during the planning process. To get you started, we have provided a short list of questions and topics that we feel are of particular relevance and importance to Boyer Chute NWR. We appreciate all feedback – positive or negative – regarding the issues and concerns that are important to you.

Questions

- What do you value most about Boyer Chute NWR?
- What do you feel is the greatest challenge facing the Refuge?
- What is the most important thing the Refuge can do in the next 15 years?
- What changes or factors do you see coming that will affect the Refuge?

- If you were the Refuge Manager, what would you do to improve the Refuge?
- What role do you feel Boyer Chute NWR plays or could play in the community?

Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Topics

- prairie restoration and management
- wetlands and aquatic habitat
- erosion and sedimentation
- wildlife management
- fishery management
- threatened and endangered species
- migratory bird conservation
- fire management
- invasive species
- scientific research and monitoring

Recreation and Public Use Topics

- wildlife viewing and photography
- environmental education
- interpretive programs
- public facilities
- access to Refuge lands
- hunting
- fishing
- nature trails

Other Topics

- water quality
- land acquisition
- partnerships
- historical resources
- aesthetics
- cultural values



Grasslands at Boyer Chute NWR. Photo credit: FWS