

# Chapter 5: Plan Implementation

## New and Existing Projects

This CCP outlines an ambitious course of action for the future management of Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. It will require considerable staff commitment as well as funding commitment to actively manage the wildlife habitats and add and improve public use facilities. The Refuge will continually need appropriate operational and maintenance funding to implement the strategies in this plan.

A full listing of unfunded Refuge projects and operational needs can be found in Appendix I. In the appendix, the highest priority Refuge projects are described briefly.

### Staffing

Reforestation, aggressive control of invasive species, an increase in the number of acres managed as moist soil units, and improvements to the open land units will require additional staff and operating funds. A person with expertise in agriculture and invasive species will be added to the biological program staff. Also, a person with expertise in Geographic Information Systems will be needed to assist the biological staff with mapping and record keeping for invasive species control and other habitat work. A seasonal tractor operator will need to be hired to help accomplish the habitat work. To improve the quality of services, the Refuge will add a position in the visitor information center to assist with administrative duties.

The completion of the consolidation of the former Playport and Images Marinas will require moving the remainder of the docks from the Images area, removal of the concession building and construction of a boat ramp.



*Glenn Smart*

Meeting the goals and objectives of this plan will require a 15 percent increase in the Refuge's current operations and maintenance budget.

### Partnership Opportunities

Partnerships have become an essential element for the successful accomplishment of Crab Orchard NWR goals, objectives and strategies. The objectives outlined in this CCP need the support and the partnerships of federal, state and local agencies, non-governmental organizations and individual citizens. This broad-based approach to managing Refuge resources extends beyond social and political boundaries and requires a foundation of support from many organizations and people. The Refuge will continue to seek creative partnership opportunities to achieve its vision for the future.

Southern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days, Inc. is a non-profit organization that partners with the Refuge to promote hunting and fishing in the area. The Refuge initiated this program in the early 1980s. SI Hunting and Fishing Days assumed the

lead for this activity in the early 1990s. Several thousand people now attend this annual weekend event, which is held at John A. Logan College.

Take Pride in America has been organized and worked with the Refuge since 1988. Take Pride in America has built courtesy docks for boat landings at all three lakes. Take Pride in America organized the construction of bass-rearing ponds and maintains Hogan's Point (Take Pride Point) for fish-offs.

The Crab Orchard Waterfowl Association has provided funds for the construction of moist soil units on the Refuge. Quail Unlimited has provided native grass seed for Refuge prairie restoration.

Touch of Nature, the Friends of Crab Orchard NWR and the Refuge's Visitor Services Program have partnered to provide environmental education opportunities for local schools.

With the help of the following partners, the Refuge is able to provide one of the most successful Kids Fishing Derbys in the area:

- # University of Illinois Extension
- # Illinois DNR
- # Southern Illinois National Hunting and Fishing Days
- # Timberline Fisheries
- # Zimmer Radio Group
- # WalMart
- # Silkworm Inc.
- # Marion Pepsi-Cola
- # Crab Orchard Boat & Yacht Club

The Refuge has many dedicated friends and volunteers that assist with a variety of tasks. The Friends of Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, John A. Logan College, University of Southern Illinois, Southern Illinois Audubon Society, Williamson County Tourism, and Marion U.S. Penitentiary are just a few of the organizations that contribute time to the Refuge. We expect to maintain and enhance these partnerships in the future.

### **Step-down Management Plans**

Step-down management plans describe the specific strategies and implementation schedules for meeting general goals and objectives identified in the CCP. Table 31 shows the step-down management plans we intend to prepare. We have completed two management plans that will be adopted/included under the CCP.

The Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Restoration Plan was approved July 21, 1997. The NRDA Restoration Plan describes activities proposed to compensate for lost resources and the services they provide that resulted from PCB contamination on part of the Refuge. Restoration activities included in the plan include reforestation, shoreline and riparian restoration, grassland restoration, public education/outreach, and land acquisition.

The Fire Management Plan, approved January 16, 2002, provides direction and establishes procedures to guide various wildland fire program activities. The Fire Management Plan covers historical and ecological role of fire, fire management objectives, preparedness, suppression, fire management actions and responses, fire impacts, use of prescribed fire, and fire management restrictions.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring is critical to successful implementation of this plan. Monitoring is necessary to evaluate the progress toward objectives and to determine if conditions are changing.

Accomplishment of the objectives described in this CCP will be monitored annually by the Refuge Manager's supervisor. Successful performance will be tied to the accomplishment of objectives that are scheduled for that year. The public will be informed about the activities of the Refuge staff through an "Annual Report" that will be mailed to all persons on the Refuge mailing list, published on the Refuge's Web site, and its availability will be announced through news releases to the media. The annual report will be published each year in February.

The techniques and details for monitoring related to specific objectives will be specified in the Inventory and Monitoring Step Down Plan.

Substantial changes are likely to occur within the Service and the community during the next 15 years. This plan and its objectives will be examined at least every 5 years to determine if any modifications are necessary to meet the changing conditions.

### **Plan Review and Revision**

The CCP for the Refuge is meant to provide guidance to refuge managers and staff over the next 15 years. However, the CCP is also a dynamic and flexible document and several of the strategies contained in this plan are subject to natural, uncontrollable events such as windstorms and droughts. Likewise, many of the strategies are

**Table 31: Step-down Management Plans, Crab Orchard NWR**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Service Manual Reference</b>
Occupational Safety and Health	Parts 240-249
Safety Program	240 FW 1-9
Safety Operations	241 FW 1-9
Industrial Hygiene	242 FW 1-13
Hazardous Materials Operations	242 FW 6
Contaminant Institutional Control	
Law Enforcement	Parts 440-459
Pollution Control	Parts 560-569
Policy and Responsibilities	560 FW 1
Pollution Prevention	560 FW 2
Compliance Requirements	Part 561
Clean Water Act	561 FW 3
RCRA – Hazardous Waste	561 FW 6
Pesticide Use and Disposal	Part 562
Pest Management	562 FW 1
External Threats to FWS Facilities	Part 563
Air Quality Protection	563 FW 2
National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) Uses	Part 603
NWRS Uses (Appropriate Refuge Uses)	603 FW 1
Priority Wildlife-dependent Recreation	Part 605
Hunting	605 FW 2
Fishing	605 FW 3
Wildlife Observation	605 FW 4
Wildlife Photography	605 FW 5
Environmental Education	605 FW 6
Interpretation	605 FW 7
Visitor Services	
Wilderness Management	Part 610
Special Area Management	Part 611
Research Natural Areas	611 FW 1
National Trails	611 FW 4
Minerals Management	Part 612
Minerals and Mining	612 FW 1
Oil and Gas	612 FW 2
Archeological Resources Inventory	Sec. 110 NHPA; sec. 14 ARPA
Habitat Management Planning	Part 620
Natural Resources Damage Assessment Restoration	
Fire Management	Part 621
Population Management	Part 701

**Table 31: Step-down Management Plans, Crab Orchard NWR (Continued)**

Title	Service Manual Reference
Inventory and Monitoring	701 FW 2
Propagation and Stocking	701 FW 3
Marking and Banding	701 FW 4
Disease Prevention and Control	701 FW 7
Trapping	701 FW 11
Fishery Resources Management	Part 710
Industrial Operations Management	

dependent upon Service funding for staff and projects. Because of these factors, the recommendations in the CCP will be reviewed periodically and, if necessary, revised to meet new circumstances. If any revisions are major, the review and revision will include the public.