



# United States Department of the Interior

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/NWRS-CP

JUL 24 2006

Dear Reader:

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

The CCP will guide management for the next 15 years and help the Refuge meet its original purposes and contribute to the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The CCP will set a vision, goals, and measurable objectives, and outline strategies for reaching those objectives.

There will now be a 30-day waiting period before a decision is made on which alternative in the Final EIS will be implemented as the CCP for the Refuge. This decision will be documented in a formal Record of Decision signed by the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities, Minnesota.

This planning process began in late 2000. Over the last five years we have listened to comments from a wide diversity of viewpoints. It is clear that people care deeply about Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

We particularly appreciate those who have shared their experience and energy during the planning process. Thanks to those who have attended meetings and workshops, expressed concerns, offered suggestions, and stayed involved over the long haul.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Larson  
Chief, Division of Conservation Planning