



Appendix D

Compatibility Determinations

A compatibility determination documents the formal procedure used to determine if proposed and existing uses of national wildlife refuges are compatible with the purpose and mission of each refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The following draft Compatibility Determinations were revised after the 30-day review and comment period (ending 09/25/00) for the draft Environmental Assessment document and have not had the benefit of public input. The reader is invited to submit written comments on these documents in accordance with the procedures and schedule described in the front of this document.



COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Environmental Education and Interpretation

I STATION NAME: DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

II ESTABLISHED: March 12, 1958

III ESTABLISHING and ACQUISITION AUTHORITY:

Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. , 715d)

Refuge Recreation Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. , 460k-1)

Federal duck stamp funds were used for acquiring refuge lands.

IV PURPOSE FOR WHICH ESTABLISHED:

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge was originally established to provide sanctuary for migratory birds, with emphasis on waterfowl, as authorized by the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, which provides the lands are:

“ ... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or any other management purpose, for migratory birds.”

The Refuge Recreation Act provides that refuge lands may be suitable and used for:

“ ... (1) incidental fish and wildlife oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of endangered or threatened species....”

DeSoto’s stated mission is: *“To preserve and restore indigenous biological communities, with emphasis on wetlands and riverine flora and fauna; to provide both cultural and natural history interpretations and environmental education opportunities for the general public; and to provide wildlife-dependent recreation; where and when such uses are compatible with the primary purposes of the refuge.”*

The National Wildlife Refuge System mission is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

V NATURE AND EXTENT OF USE:

What is the use? Environmental education and interpretive presentations.



Where is the use conducted? Environmental education and interpretation are conducted at the visitor center, designated trails and other selected sites , on- and off-site.

When is the use conducted? This use occurs year-round with some seasonal variances.

How is the use conducted? Environmental education activities are provided by the refuge staff, volunteers, teachers, or leaders of the visiting group. Interpretation is a self-guided format with additional information being provided by refuge staff, volunteers, exhibits, signs and brochures.

VI ANALYSIS OF COSTS:

Based on a review of the Refuge budget allocated for this activity, there is adequate funding to ensure compatibility and to administer and manage the use at its current level. Approximately \$98,000 of staff time and \$11,000 of overhead is required to administer this use. With the attainment of CCP Goals 1.7, 2.1, 2.3, 3.1, 3.4, and 4.2 (Chapter 5) and their EA Preferred Alternative D, in 15 years, we anticipate an associated increase in public use resulting in an approximate 45% cost increase requiring \$142,000 of staff time and \$16,000 in overhead.

VII ANTICIPATED IMPACTS OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED USE ON REFUGE'S MAJOR PURPOSES AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM MISSION:

Anticipated impacts from this use are minor damage to vegetation, littering, increased maintenance activity, potential conflicts with other visitors, and minor disturbances to wildlife. Careful management of time and space for this activity avoids any major conflicts with the Refuge's primary purpose.

VIII EFFECT OF USE ON FULFILLING THE REFUGE'S PURPOSES AND THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM MISSION:

Environmental education and interpretation are priority public uses listed in the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. By providing for these uses on the refuge, the participant's knowledge and appreciation of fish and wildlife ecology will be enhanced, which will lead to increased public awareness of how healthy wildlife populations and their habitats are a benefit to them and to future generations. Increased public awareness of their natural and cultural environments contributes to the efforts of the Service to achieve the refuge's purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

IX OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT:

This compatibility determination is presented for public review and comment as part of the Final DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment. Implementation will not occur for 30 days following approval of the CCP.

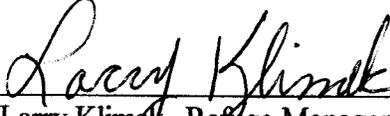
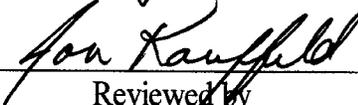
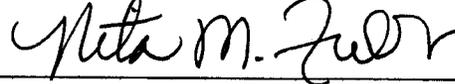


X STIPULATIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY:

Environmental education and interpretation activities and facilities will be reviewed annually to ensure the quality of their contributions and the associated impacts are at acceptable levels.

XI DETERMINATION AND NEPA COMPLIANCE:

Environmental education and interpretation are compatible uses at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. This determination was made in association with the environmental assessment within the comprehensive conservation planning process.

 Larry Klimek, Refuge Manager	<u>9-19-00</u> Date
 Reviewed by	<u>9-25-00</u> Date
 Concurred by	<u>1-12-01</u> Date



COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Farming and Haying

- I STATION NAME: DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge
- II ESTABLISHED: March 12, 1958
- III ESTABLISHING and ACQUISITION AUTHORITY:
- Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. , 715d)
Refuge Recreation Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. , 460k-1)
- Federal duck stamp funds were used for acquiring refuge lands.

IV PURPOSE FOR WHICH ESTABLISHED:

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge was originally established to provide sanctuary for migratory birds, with emphasis on waterfowl, as authorized by the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, which provides the lands are:

“ ... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or any other management purpose, for migratory birds.”

The Refuge Recreation Act provides that refuge lands may be suitable and used for:

“ ... (1) incidental fish and wildlife oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of endangered or threatened species....”

DeSoto’s stated mission is: *“To preserve and restore indigenous biological communities, with emphasis on wetlands and riverine flora and fauna; to provide both cultural and natural history interpretations and environmental education opportunities for the general public; and to provide wildlife-dependent recreation; where and when such uses are compatible with the primary purposes of the refuge.”*

The National Wildlife Refuge System mission is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

V NATURE AND EXTENT OF USE:

What is the use? Farming and haying.



Where is the use conducted? Just under 2,000 acres are included in the approved Refuge Cropland Management Plan which are interspersed throughout the refuge.

When is the use conducted? The planting, growing and harvest season is from May through October. Haying is permitted between July 15 and September 5, timed to protect bird nesting and to allow time for regrowth valuable as winter cover.

How is the use conducted? The farming is accomplished via three-year cooperative agreements with neighboring farmers. It involves using a biological crop rotation of corn, soybean, milo and sweet clover. Winter wheat is used as a nurse crop. Haying is accomplished by cooperators via a three-year cash rent agreement. This involves brome grass and alfalfa, both used for grazing and nesting cover. The cooperator gets two-thirds of the crop, while the refuge receives one-third, or an equivalent value in services.

VI ANALYSIS OF COSTS:

Based on a review of the Refuge budget allocated for this activity, there is adequate funding to ensure compatibility and to administer and manage the use at its current level. Approximately \$35,000 of staff time and \$4,000 of overhead is required to administer this use. With the attainment of CCP Goals 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1.9 and 4.4, (Chapter 5) and their EA Preferred Alternative D, in 15 years, we anticipate an approximate 45% cost decrease requiring \$13,000 of staff time and \$2,000 in overhead.

VII ANTICIPATED IMPACTS OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED USE ON REFUGE'S MAJOR PURPOSES AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM MISSION:

Some crop lands will be used for natural habitat development such as grassland and wetland. Haying is an accepted method for removal of annual growth and is considered compatible with the purpose of DeSoto Refuge and mission of the Refuge System.

VIII EFFECT OF USE ON FULFILLING THE REFUGE'S PURPOSES AND THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM MISSION:

While restoration of indigenous habitats is common to the stated missions of both DeSoto and the National Wildlife Refuge System, lands used for farming have contributed to decades of successful management for the welfare of migratory waterfowl, other migratory birds, and many species indigenous to the area. However, the dynamics of continental waterfowl populations and the dominance of farmland in the Missouri River flood plain have diminished the need for farming on the refuge. The CCP calls for the retired farmlands to be restored to indigenous biological communities. Haying complements the refuge management efforts to develop and maintain flora and fauna diversity.



IX OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT:

This compatibility determination is presented for public review and comment as part of the Final DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment. Implementation will not occur for 30 days following approval of the CCP.

X STIPULATIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY:

All farming and haying is accomplished under the guidance of the Cropland Management Plan, Cooperators are guided by three-year agreements with annual addendums. The refuge uses biologically based crop rotation and integrated pest management. No insecticides are used and only Service approved, biologically friendly herbicides are used. Haying dates are regulated to avoid conflicts with nesting birds and to allow maximum late season growth for winter cover.

XI DETERMINATION AND NEPA COMPLIANCE:

Farming and haying are compatible uses at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. This determination was made in association with the environmental assessment within the comprehensive conservation planning process.

<u>Lacey Klimak</u>	<u>9-19-00</u>
Refuge Manager	Date
<u>Ann Kauffeld</u>	<u>9-25-00</u>
Reviewed by	Date
<u>Nita M. Fuld</u>	<u>1-12-01</u>
Concurred by	Date



COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Fishing

I STATION NAME: DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

II ESTABLISHED: March 12, 1958

III ESTABLISHING and ACQUISITION AUTHORITY:

Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. , 715d)
Refuge Recreation Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. , 460k-1)

Federal duck stamp funds were used for acquiring refuge lands.

IV PURPOSE FOR WHICH ESTABLISHED:

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge was originally established to provide sanctuary for migratory birds, with emphasis on waterfowl, as authorized by the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, which provides the lands are:

“ ... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or any other management purpose, for migratory birds.”

The Refuge Recreation Act provides that refuge lands may be suitable and used for:

“ ... (1) incidental fish and wildlife oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of endangered or threatened species....”

DeSoto’s stated mission is: *“To preserve and restore indigenous biological communities, with emphasis on wetlands and riverine flora and fauna; to provide both cultural and natural history interpretations and environmental education opportunities for the general public; and to provide wildlife-dependent recreation; where and when such uses are compatible with the primary purposes of the refuge.”*

The National Wildlife Refuge System mission is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.



V NATURE AND EXTENT OF USE:

What is the use? Sport and commercial fishing. Sport fishing is a priority public use of the Refuge System. Commercial fishing is a management action to improve long term health of DeSoto Lake's aquatic resources.

Where is the use conducted? Angling is most active in DeSoto Lake and Bullhead Pond. Marquardt Pond is designated for organized fishing clinics. Fishing is permitted from boats, developed bank fishing piers, the lake shoreline and the banks of the Missouri River.

When is the use conducted? Fishing is permitted April 15 through October 14, plus during the winter if conditions are safe for ice fishing.

How is the use conducted? Public and commercial fishing opportunities are the result of an approved Fishery Management Plan.

Several tournaments are coordinated and regulated by Iowa DNR. Marquardt Pond is a 1.5 acre basin that has been improved to support a sustained fishery and used only for organized fishing clinics. These tournament fishing events do not unreasonably interfere with other refuge users. Up to 43,000 activity hours of sport fishing in a single season have been recorded.

Launching ramps, docks, handicapped-access fishing piers, picnic areas, fishing jetties, an electrical aeration system to avoid summer and winter stagnation, and a sophisticated electrical fish barrier on the lake's outlet structure to minimize rough fish intrusion have been developed .

Commercial fishing, by a Special Use Permit, annually removes approximately 50,000 pounds of rough fish.

VI ANALYSIS OF COSTS:

Based on a review of the Refuge budget allocated for this activity, there is adequate funding to ensure compatibility and to administer and manage the use at its current level. Approximately \$25,000 of staff time and \$3,000 of overhead is required to administer this use. With the attainment of CCP Goals 1.7, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 4.2 (Chapter 5) and their EA Preferred Alternative D, in 15 years, we anticipate an associated increase in public use resulting in an approximate 45% cost increase requiring \$36,000 of staff time and \$5,000 in overhead.

VII ANTICIPATED IMPACTS OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED USE ON REFUGE'S MAJOR PURPOSES AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM MISSION:

The major adverse impact of the fishing use is littering. There are minor wildlife conflicts when fishermen inadvertently disturb duck broods and shore birds and other wildlife in and around the water. No other associated impacts were considered to be significant constraints to achieving the Refuge Purpose and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.



VIII EFFECT OF USE ON FULFILLING THE REFUGE’S PURPOSES AND THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM MISSION:

Fishing is a priority public use and those participating in this activity are exposed to the National Wildlife Refuge System and its mission. Fishing is a great way to introduce young people to the outdoors and to the values of our natural resources.

IX OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT:

This compatibility determination is presented for public review and comment as part of the Final DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment. Implementation will not occur for 30 days following approval of the CCP.

X STIPULATIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY:

Only day-use activities are permitted on DeSoto Refuge. Sport fishing seasons are set to avoid conflicts with migratory bird concentrations and waterfowl hunting. Commercial fishing is controlled by state and refuge-specific regulations.

XI DETERMINATION AND NEPA COMPLIANCE

Fishing is a compatible use at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. This determination was made in association with the environmental assessment within the comprehensive conservation planning process.

<u><i>Larry Klinck</i></u>	<u>9-19-00</u>
Larry Klinck, Refuge Manager	Date
<u><i>Apa Kauffeld</i></u>	<u>9-25-00</u>
Reviewed by	Date
<u><i>Nita M. Fulv</i></u>	<u>1-12-01</u>
Concurred by	Date



COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Hunting Waterfowl

I STATION NAME: DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

II ESTABLISHED: March 12, 1958

III ESTABLISHING and ACQUISITION AUTHORITY:

Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. , 715d)
Refuge Recreation Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. , 460k-1)

Federal duck stamp funds were used for acquiring refuge lands.

IV PURPOSE FOR WHICH ESTABLISHED:

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge was originally established to provide sanctuary for migratory birds, with emphasis on waterfowl, as authorized by the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, which provides the lands are:

“ ... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or any other management purpose, for migratory birds.”

The Refuge Recreation Act provides that refuge lands may be suitable and used for:

“ ... (1) incidental fish and wildlife oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of endangered or threatened species....”

DeSoto’s stated mission is: *“To preserve and restore indigenous biological communities, with emphasis on wetlands and riverine flora and fauna; to provide both cultural and natural history interpretations and environmental education opportunities for the general public; and to provide wildlife-dependent recreation; where and when such uses are compatible with the primary purposes of the refuge.”*

The National Wildlife Refuge System mission is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

V NATURE AND EXTENT OF USE:

What is the use? Guided snow goose hunting according to the approved Snow Goose Hunting Plan.



Where is the use conducted? In designated cropland fields on the refuge.

When is the use conducted? Guided snow goose hunting is permitted within the snow goose hunting season framework.

How is the use conducted? The plan provides for two guides, contracted via cash bid by the refuge, to take up to ten hunters each to the designated fields each day. A fee, not to exceed \$75 per day, is collected by the guides. The guides are responsible for selecting the hunters, determining their legal eligibility and conduct while on the refuge. A refuge staff person serves as “snow goose hunt coordinator” to monitor the activities and functions of the guides and to ensure the provisions of the Snow Goose Hunting Plan are being followed.

VI ANALYSIS OF COSTS:

Based on a review of the Refuge budget allocated for this activity, there is adequate funding to ensure compatibility and to administer and manage the use at its current level. Approximately \$5,000 of staff time and \$1,000 of overhead is required to administer this use. With the attainment of CCP Goals 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.3, 3.1, 3.4, (Chapter 5) and their EA Preferred Alternative D, in 15 years, we anticipate an associated increase in public use resulting in an approximate 45% cost increase requiring \$7,000 of staff time and \$3,000 in overhead.

VII ANTICIPATED IMPACTS OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED USE ON REFUGE’S MAJOR PURPOSES AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM MISSION:

Up to 80,000 visitors come to DeSoto in November to see the snow goose concentrations. The most used point for snow goose watching is the visitor center’s glass-enclosed vistas. Potential conflicts between the watchers and the hunters are minimized by controlling the timing and location of each group. Hunting fields are not within site of the visitor center; and ends at noon. Most watchers come in the afternoon, on weekends.

Snow goose hunting is stopped during the muzzle loader deer hunts.

No other impacts were considered to be significant constraints to achieving the Refuge Purpose and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

VIII EFFECT OF USE ON FULFILLING THE REFUGE’S PURPOSES AND THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM MISSION:

Providing public hunting opportunities is a priority use of national wildlife refuges. This hunt provides an opportunity to promote hunter education, hunter ethics, and the value of hunting as a wildlife population management tool. This hunt also provides an opportunity to educate the non-hunting public on the need to control the over-abundant snow goose population.



IX OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT:

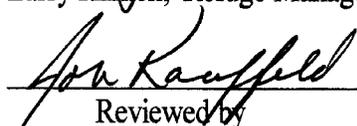
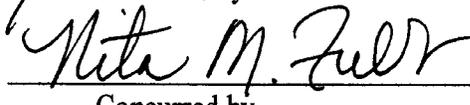
This compatibility determination is presented for public review and comment as part of the Final DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment. Implementation will not occur for 30 days following approval of the CCP.

X STIPULATIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY:

This use is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the approved Snow Goose Hunting Plan. The activity of the guides are controlled by the conditions of the Special Use Permit and the hunters and guides are bound to comply with a set of refuge-specific regulations included in the plan.

XI DETERMINATION AND NEPA COMPLIANCE:

Waterfowl hunting is a compatible use at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. This determination was made in association with the environmental assessment within the comprehensive conservation planning process.

 Larry Klinck, Refuge Manager	<u>9-19-00</u> Date
 Reviewed by	<u>9-25-00</u> Date
 Concurred by	<u>1-12-01</u> Date



COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Hunting White-tailed Deer

- I STATION NAME: DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge
- II ESTABLISHED: March 12, 1958
- III ESTABLISHING and ACQUISITION AUTHORITY:
- Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. , 715d)
Refuge Recreation Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. , 460k-1)
- Federal duck stamp funds were used for acquiring refuge lands.

IV PURPOSE FOR WHICH ESTABLISHED:

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge was originally established to provide sanctuary for migratory birds, with emphasis on waterfowl, as authorized by the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, which provides the lands are:

“ ... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or any other management purpose, for migratory birds.”

The Refuge Recreation Act provides that refuge lands may be suitable and used for:

“ ... (1) incidental fish and wildlife oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of endangered or threatened species....”

DeSoto’s stated mission is: *“To preserve and restore indigenous biological communities, with emphasis on wetlands and riverine flora and fauna; to provide both cultural and natural history interpretations and environmental education opportunities for the general public; and to provide wildlife-dependent recreation; where and when such uses are compatible with the primary purposes of the refuge.”*

The National Wildlife Refuge System mission is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

V NATURE AND EXTENT OF USE:

What is the use? White-tailed deer hunting with primitive weapons.



Where is the use conducted? In designated areas compatible with other public uses activities.

When is the use conducted? Generally, September through January.

How is the use conducted? Primitive weapon deer hunting is conducted in accordance with an approved Refuge Hunting Plan and in compliance with state regulations. Refuge personnel conduct an orientation session preceding the muzzle loading hunt and operate a check station to gather hunter and deer data. For safety reasons the hunt area is closed to the public during this time.

VI ANALYSIS OF COSTS:

Based on a review of the Refuge budget allocated for this activity, there is adequate funding to ensure compatibility and to administer and manage the use at its current level. Approximately \$5,000 of staff time and \$1,000 of overhead is required to administer this use. With the attainment of CCP Goals 1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 2.1, 2.3, 3.1 and 3.4 (Chapter 5) and their EA Preferred Alternative D, in 15 years, we anticipate an associated increase in public use resulting in an approximate 45% cost increase requiring \$7,000 of staff time and \$3,000 in overhead.

VII ANTICIPATED IMPACTS OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED USE ON REFUGE'S MAJOR PURPOSES AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM MISSION:

Up to 80,000 visitors come to DeSoto in November to see the snow goose concentrations. Potential conflicts between the goose watchers and deer hunters are minimized by controlling the timing and location of each group. Snow goose hunting is stopped during the muzzle loader deer hunts in December. No other associated impacts were considered to be significant constraints to achieving the Refuge Purpose and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

VIII EFFECT OF USE ON FULFILLING THE REFUGE'S PURPOSES AND THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM MISSION:

Providing public hunting opportunities is a priority use of national wildlife refuges. This hunt provides an opportunity to promote hunter education, hunter ethics, and the value of hunting as a wildlife population management tool.

IX OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT:

This compatibility determination is presented for public review and comment as part of the Final DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment. Implementation will not occur for 30 days following approval of the CCP.

X STIPULATIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY:

This use is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the approved Refuge Hunting Plan and in compliance with state and refuge-specific regulations.



XI DETERMINATION AND NEPA COMPLIANCE:

Hunting white-tailed deer is a compatible use at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. This determination was made in association with the environmental assessment within the comprehensive conservation planning process.

<u>Larry Klimek</u> Larry Klimek, Refuge Manager	<u>9-19-00</u> Date
<u>Ann Kaufeld</u> Reviewed by	<u>9-25-00</u> Date
<u>Nita M. Fuller</u> Concurred by	<u>1-12-01</u> Date



COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Mushroom Gathering

I STATION NAME: DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

II ESTABLISHED: March 12, 1958

III ESTABLISHING and ACQUISITION AUTHORITY:

Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. , 715d)
Refuge Recreation Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. , 460k-1)

Federal duck stamp funds were used for acquiring refuge lands.

IV PURPOSE FOR WHICH ESTABLISHED:

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge was originally established to provide sanctuary for migratory birds, with emphasis on waterfowl, as authorized by the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, which provides the lands are:

“ ... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or any other management purpose, for migratory birds.”

The Refuge Recreation Act provides that refuge lands may be suitable and used for:

“ ... (1) incidental fish and wildlife oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of endangered or threatened species....”

DeSoto’s stated mission is: *“To preserve and restore indigenous biological communities, with emphasis on wetlands and riverine flora and fauna; to provide both cultural and natural history interpretations and environmental education opportunities for the general public; and to provide wildlife-dependent recreation; where and when such uses are compatible with the primary purposes of the refuge.”*

The National Wildlife Refuge System mission is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

V NATURE AND EXTENT OF USE:

What is the use? Gathering mushrooms.

Where is the use conducted? Only designated areas.



When is the use conducted? Mushroom seasons vary from year to year depending on temperatures and moisture. Gathering is permitted April 15th through May 31st.

How is the use conducted? The refuge brochure shows the areas open to mushroom gathering. Spot checks of mushroom pickers are made to assess the harvest success and compliance with the rules.

VI ANALYSIS OF COSTS:

Based on a review of the Refuge budget allocated for this activity, there is adequate funding to ensure compatibility and to administer and manage the use at its current level. Approximately \$5,000 of staff time and \$1,000 of overhead is required to administer this use. With the attainment of CCP Goals 1.10, 2.1, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4 (Chapter 5) and their EA Preferred Alternative D, in 15 years, we anticipate an associated increase in public use resulting in an approximate 45% cost increase requiring \$7,000 of staff time and \$3,000 in overhead.

VII ANTICIPATED IMPACTS OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED USE ON REFUGE'S MAJOR PURPOSES AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM MISSION:

While there is some wildlife disturbance resulting from people being in the wooded areas, it is considered minor and not at all limiting toward the achievement of the Refuge Purpose or the National Wildlife Refuge Mission.

VIII EFFECT OF USE ON FULFILLING THE REFUGE'S PURPOSES AND THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM MISSION:

The attraction of gathering mushrooms leads to public enjoyment of getting outside and into the woods. It is practical and applied environmental education.

IX OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT:

This compatibility determination is presented for public review and comment as part of the Final DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment. Implementation will not occur for 30 days following approval of the CCP.

X STIPULATIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY:

Only designated areas and dates are open to mushroom gathering. Refuge staff will monitor this activity to ensure gathering is in modest amounts for personal consumption.



COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION
Wildlife Observation and Photography

I STATION NAME: DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

II ESTABLISHED: March 12, 1958

III ESTABLISHING and ACQUISITION AUTHORITY:

Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. , 715d)
Refuge Recreation Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. , 460k-1)

Federal duck stamp funds were used for acquiring refuge lands.

IV PURPOSE FOR WHICH ESTABLISHED:

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge was originally established to provide sanctuary for migratory birds, with emphasis on waterfowl, as authorized by the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, which provides the lands are:

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The National Wildlife Refuge System mission is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.



V NATURE AND EXTENT OF USE:

What is the use? Wildlife observation and photography, both priority public uses of the Refuge System, will be allowed on DeSoto NWR. These uses occur as people drive or bicycle along the auto tour route, hike the refuge nature trails, and boat on DeSoto Lake. Picnic tables are provided to facilitate day-long participation in wildlife observation and photography.

Where is the use conducted? Wildlife observation and photography opportunities generally begin at the visitor center and associated trails and continue along an auto tour route which leads to road-side observation sites, as well as 4 other walking trails with special observation and photo points. Canoe and boat launch facilities are provided. Motorized vehicles and bicycles are confined to the designated auto route. Three designated picnic areas are available. Most facilities are accessible to people with disabilities.

When is the use conducted? The uses occur year-round with some seasonal variances depending on the weather and disturbances of wildlife.

How is the use conducted? These activities are mostly self-guided. Staff-led interpretive programs are available throughout the year. Boating is limited to canoeing and no-wake boating.

VI ANALYSIS OF COSTS:

Based on a review of the Refuge budget allocated for this activity, there is adequate funding to ensure compatibility and to administer and manage the use at its current level. Approximately \$292,000 of staff time and \$32,000 of overhead is required to administer this use. With the attainment of CCP Goals 1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.9, 1.10, 2.1, 2.3, 3.1,3.2 and 3.4 (Chapter 5) and their EA Preferred Alternative D, in 15 years, we anticipate an associated increase in public use resulting in an approximate 45% cost increase requiring \$423,000 of staff time and \$46,000 in overhead.

VII ANTICIPATED IMPACTS OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED USE ON REFUGE'S MAJOR PURPOSES AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM MISSION:

Potential impacts from visitors engaged in wildlife observation and photography, and the other associated uses, are: damage to vegetation, littering, increased maintenance activity, potential conflicts with other visitors, and disturbances to wildlife. Because visitor access is controlled, this activity does not detract from the primary purposes of the Refuge. All potential impacts are considered minor.



VIII EFFECT OF USE ON FULFILLING THE REFUGE’S PURPOSES AND THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM MISSION:

Wildlife observation and photography are priority public uses listed in the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. By providing for these uses on the refuge we will increase visitors’ knowledge and appreciation of fish and wildlife, which will lead to increased public stewardship of wildlife and their habitats at the refuge and in general. Increased public stewardship will support and complement the Service’s actions in achieving the refuge’s purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

IX OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT:

This compatibility determination is presented for public review and comment as part of the Final DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment. Implementation will not occur for 30 days following approval of the CCP.

X STIPULATIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY:

Public access for wildlife observation and photography, and ancillary uses, will be in designated areas and with time restrictions to ensure minimal disturbance to wildlife and minimal conflict between user groups. Wildlife observation and photography activities will be reviewed annually to ensure this compatibility determination still applies.

XI DETERMINATION AND NEPA COMPLIANCE:

Wildlife observation and photography and the described ancillary uses of auto touring, walking, jogging, bicycling and picnicking are compatible uses at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. This determination was made in association with the environmental assessment within the comprehensive conservation planning process.

<i>Larry Klimak</i>	<i>9-19-00</i>
Larry Klimak, Refuge Manager	Date
<i>Ann Kauffeld</i>	<i>9-25-00</i>
Reviewed by	Date
<i>Nita M. Full</i>	<i>1-12-01</i>
Concurred by	Date