U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Hamden Slough

National Wildlife Refuge

Background Information

Comprehensive Conservation Plan

October 2010

Comprehensive Conservation Planning

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is starting work on a long-term management plan for Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). This plan, known as a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), will serve as a guide for managing the Refuge for the next 15 years. We are preparing this plan to comply with the Congressional mandate in the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997.

Our intent is that the CCP will:

- Provide a clear statement of the desired future condition of the Refuge.
- Ensure that management of the Refuge is consistent with the purposes of the Refuge and consistent with the policies of the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- Provide Refuge visitors, neighbors, and partners with an understanding of management actions.
- Provide for long-term continuity in Refuge management.
- Provide a basis for Fish and Wildlife Service staffing and for operation, maintenance, and capital improvement budget requests.

Preparing a CCP typically takes about 2 years. The process begins with listening to everyone interested in Refuge management – from Refuge and Service staff to neighbors, individuals interested in Refuge management, state and federal agencies and non-government organizations.

Hamden Slough NWR. Photo credit: FWS

What we hear about Refuge management will be considered for developing different management alternatives, and these alternatives will be evaluated in a document called an environmental assessment. Once we've completed the environmental assessment and selected a preferred alternative for Refuge management, we will release a Draft CCP and invite comment on the document. Following public review, we will revise the document as necessary based on the comments received and finalize the CCP.

To Comment on Planning for Hamden Slough NWR

Your ideas are welcome throughout the planning process, however sharing them during specific comment periods is particularly helpful. The public scoping period for the Hamden Slough NWR CCP ends on Nov. 1, 2010. The next formal comment period will occur when the Draft CCP is released for public review.

Comments on the Hamden Slough NWR comprehensive conservation plan can be submitted via mail, e-mail, or

through the web site for the Hamden Slough NWR CCP. Here are the addresses:

Mail: Detroit Lakes WMD
26624 North Tower Road
Detroit lakes, MN 56501-7959

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

Web: http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/hamdenslough

Who We Are

Hamden Slough NWR is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Service is an agency under the direction of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Department of the Interior, the Service, and the National Wildlife Refuge System are described in the following paragraphs.

U.S. Department of the Interior

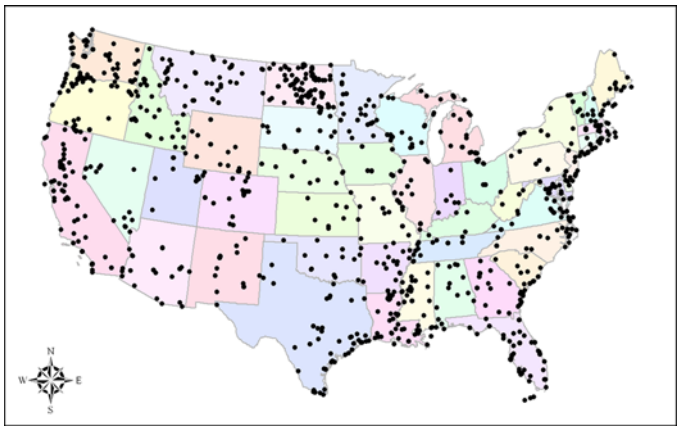
Established by Congress in 1849, the mission of the Department of Interior (DOI) is:

The Department of Interior protects America's natural resources and heritage, honors our cultures and tribal communities, and supplies the energy to power our future.

Agencies within the Department of Interior include:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Office of Insular Affairs

The DOI manages approximately one-fifth of the land in the United States and supplies roughly 30 percent of the nation's energy resources.



Map shows locations of national wildlife refuges in the Lower 48 states of the United States

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Service's mission is:

Working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

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 and operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The Service enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

National Wildlife Refuge System

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.

The Refuge System's mission statement 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.

The Refuge System was established in 1903 when President Theodore Roosevelt designated Pelican Island as the first refuge set aside for wildlife needs. Today there is at least one refuge in each of the 50 states, as well as many U.S. territories. These refuges are home to more than 700 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 reptile and amphibian species, and over 200 species of fish. More than just places for wildlife, 40 million visitors each year take advantage of the wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities provided by refuges. These opportunities include hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, interpretation, and other wildlife-dependent activities.