



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Hamden Slough

*National Wildlife Refuge*

## Project Update

## Comprehensive Conservation Plan

*October 2010*

### Comprehensive Conservation Planning and You

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.

Whether you are a neighboring landowner or a Refuge visitor, you have a stake in the future of Hamden Slough 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 typically takes about 2 years and is described in the figure on the following page.

### Open House Scheduled, 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.



*Hamden Slough NWR. Photo credit: FWS*

Refuge staff are hosting an open house from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 7, in the Upstairs Meeting Room at the Detroit Lakes Public Library to give everyone interested an opportunity to share ideas and learn about the planning process.

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 can also submit comments 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](mailto:r3planning@fws.gov)  
(Please note "Hamden Slough NWR/CCP Comment" in the subject line.)

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

If you choose to send your comments following the open house, please send them by the end of the scoping period, Nov. 1, 2010.

### Who We Are

Hamden Slough 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 bird populations, restores nationally

## Steps in Comprehensive Conservation Planning



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/hamdenslough](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/hamdenslough)

## Hamden Slough NWR

Hamden Slough NWR was established in 1989 to protect and restore a unique area located between flat tallgrass prairies and rolling hardwoods.

The Minnesota Audubon Society has designated Hamden Slough NWR as an Important Bird Area.

Refuge management priorities include restoring native prairie and shallow water habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife; and providing the public with opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation and environmental education.

Early restorations of wetland and uplands have had a dramatic effect on migrating and nesting bird species. Bird diversity and abundance has spiraled upward, with a marked increase in shorebird species.

Migrating waterfowl numbers have also exploded, with spectacular spring and fall gatherings since 1995.

When fully restored, Hamden Slough NWR will provide the largest contiguous block of wetland prairie habitat in the region. The Refuge's approved acquisition boundary encompasses nearly 6,000 acres. Today, Today the Refuge has acquired a total of

3,170 acres.

Hamden Slough NWR is managed through Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District.

## 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 Hamden Slough NWR. We appreciate all thoughts – positive or negative – regarding the issues and concerns that are important to you.

### Questions

- What do you value most about Hamden Slough 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 Hamden Slough NWR plays or could play in the community?



Restored prairie at Hamden Slough NWR. Photo credit: FWS

### Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Topics

- prairie restoration and management
- wetlands restoration and management
- erosion and sedimentation
- wildlife 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 and fishing
- nature trails

### Other Topics

- water quality
- land acquisition
- Refuge farming program
- partnerships
- historical resources
- aesthetics
- cultural values