

Appendix F: Compatibility Determinations

In accordance with the Refuge Improvement Act of 1997, no uses for which the Service has authority to regulate may be allowed on a unit of the Refuge System unless it is determined to be compatible. A compatible use is a use that, in the sound professional judgment of the refuge or wetland management district manager, will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the National Wildlife Refuge System mission or the purposes of the national wildlife refuge or wetland management district. Managers must complete a written compatibil-

ity determination for each use, or collection of like-uses, that is signed by the manager and the Regional Chief of Refuges in the respective Service region. Draft compatibility determinations applicable to uses described in this CCP were published with the Draft CCP and EA and received 30 days of public review.

Signed compatibility determinations are on file at St. Croix Wetland Management District for the following activities:

- Collection of Edible Wild Plant Foods for Personal Use
- Cooperative Farming
- One-time Recognition Dedication Ceremonies on Waterfowl Production Areas
- Disability Access to Waterfowl Production Areas
- Use of WPAs for Fire Department Training: Burning Structures
- Interpretation and Environmental Education
- Recreational Fishing
- Establishing Food Plots for Resident Wildlife
- Controlled Grazing on Waterfowl Production Areas and Conservation Easements
- Haying
- Hunting Resident Game and Furbearers
- Installation of Bird Nest Boxes or Structures by Individuals or Organized Groups
- Wildlife Observation and Photography (Including the Means of Access such as Hiking, Snowshoeing, Cross-country Skiing and Canoeing)
- Research by a Third Party
- Placement of New, Small Parking Areas on Waterfowl Production Areas
- Short-term Upland Disturbance for Highway or Other Public Interest Projects with No ROW Expansion and Full Restoration
- Wood Cutting/Timber Harvest
- Trapping of Furbearers
- Placement of Wetland Accesses/Ramps in Support of Priority Public Use

Compatibility determinations were recently approved and are available for review for: 1) hazardous fuels reduction using mechanical methods in the wildland urban interface, and 2) prairie re-establishment on WPAs using short-term farming agreements.

