

Reader's Guide

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Final EIS and CCP

This is a large and daunting document! Below are some questions and answers to help you, whether your review is short and specific or long and comprehensive.

How is the document organized?

Like a book, the document is organized by chapters. Chapter 1 provides the purpose and need, background information, and details on nearly 40 issues addressed in the plan and EIS. Chapter 2 describes the five alternatives considered, with each issue an objective. These alternatives are like five separate plans, arranged identical. Chapter 3 describes the physical, biological, and socioeconomic environment of the Refuge and contains the facts and figures related to the issues. Chapter 4 discusses the impacts or consequences of the four alternatives by a series of parameters. Other chapters provide detail on public involvement, preparers, and references. Appendices provide great detail in maps, tables, and supporting documents.

I just have time for an overview. What should I look at?

Start with the EIS Summary which briefly describes the Refuge, the issues, the alternatives, and the consequences of each. Tables 1 and 2 at the end of Chapter 2 provide a quick and easy guide to what is proposed in each alternative.

I'm just interested in a couple issues. How can I find them?

The Table of Contents is useful in finding a particular issue of interest. For example, if you are interested in waterfowl hunting, start with the discussion of the related issues in the wildlife-dependent recreation section of Chapter 1, then you can find waterfowl hunting related objectives in Chapter 2, background on waterfowl and hunting in Chapter 3, and a section on impacts of alternatives on hunting in Chapter 4. Maps in Appendix P (bound separately or available on the web at <http://midwest.fws.gov/planning/uppermiss>) will show the areas affected by the alternative objectives. An index at the back of the EIS may also be useful in finding topics of interest.

Where do I find comments received and a response? Chapter 7 contains a comprehensive summary of written comments received and a response to those comments. Chapter 6 summarizes all the public meetings held during the planning process.

How do I keep from getting lost?

If you look at the Table of Contents, you'll see a decimal numbering system used throughout. The first number is the chapter, the second number is subchapter, the third number a section, and so on. Notes on the bottom of each page (footers) also tell you where you are. In the alternatives, a reminder of which alternative you are looking at is in the upper margin of each page, and each objective is numbered the same regardless of alternative. So, if forest management is your issue of interest, its 3.9 in all five alternatives and in Table 1, the useful comparison matrix.

How much will it cost to implement the plan?

Appendix L is a plan of implementation and summarizes the actions to be taken and their estimated cost.

