

## DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

*Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge's expansive badlands, cottonwood river bottoms, old-growth forested coulees, sagebrush steppe and mixed-grass prairies appear out of the sea that is the northern Great Plains. Encompassing more than a million acres, the refuge affords visitors solitude, serenity, and unique opportunities to experience natural settings and wildlife similar to what Native Americans and later Lewis and Clark observed. The diversity of plant and animal communities found on the refuge stretch from the high prairie through the rugged breaks, to the Missouri River and Fort Peck Reservoir. The refuge is an outstanding example of a functioning component of an intact landscape in an ever-changing West. Working with our neighbors and partners, the Service employs adaptive management rooted in science to protect biological integrity and improve the variety and range of wildlife and plant species.*

## DRAFT GOALS

### **Habitat and Wildlife Management**

Conserve, restore, and improve the biological integrity and ecological diversity of plant and animal communities of the Missouri River Breaks and surrounding prairies to support healthy populations of native plants and wildlife.

### **Endangered, Threatened and Species of Concern**

Contribute to the identification, preservation and recovery of endangered, threatened, and species of concern that occur or have historically occurred in the Northern Great Plains.

### **Research and Science**

Advance the understanding of natural resources, ecological processes, and the effectiveness of management actions in the northern Great Plains through compatible scientific investigations, monitoring, and applied research.

### **Wilderness**

Conserve, improve, and promote the wilderness quality and associated natural processes of designated and proposed wilderness areas within the refuge for all generations.

### **Fire Management**

Promote fire's natural role in shaping and managing the landscape where possible, using the appropriate management response.

### **Public Use and Education**

Provide all visitors quality education, recreation and outreach opportunities that are appropriate and compatible with the purpose and goals of the refuge and the mission of the Refuge System while maintaining the remote and primitive experience unique to the refuge.

### **Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

Identify, value, and preserve the paleontological and cultural resources of the refuge and connect refuge staff, visitors, and the community to the area's pre-historic and historic past.

### **Refuge Operations and Partnerships**

Through effective communication and the application of innovative technology, the refuge uses funding, staffing, partnerships and volunteer programs for the benefit of natural resources.

