

Planning Update

Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge UL Bend National Wildlife Refuge

Issue 5, September 2010

Draft Plan Available for Review

After nearly 3 years of work, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is excited to announce that the draft comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) for Charles M. Russell and UL Bend National Wildlife Refuges (refuges) is complete and ready for your review and comment.

Public involvement has been an integral part of the planning process with the Service turning to interested individuals, organizations, and cooperating agencies to talk about the key issues of concern. The draft CCP and EIS addresses the significant issues we have heard about during the planning process.

Once again, the Service invites you to engage in the planning process and comment on the draft CCP and EIS. This

planning update provides an overview of the contents of the document. The full document is available for downloading on our website at <http://www.fws.gov/cmr/planning>. Public meetings will be held across Montana in late September and early October 2010.

The draft CCP and EIS analyzes four alternatives for managing habitat and wildlife, public use, protecting wilderness, and other important values and resources.

We appreciate your continued involvement in the CCP process and look forward to hearing your comments.

The comment deadline is November 16, 2010. Information about how to provide your comments is on the last page of this update.

2010 Public Meetings

- Billings, Montana
September 28, 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Billings Hotel and Convention Center
1223 Mullaney Lane
- Bozeman, Montana
September 29, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Holiday Inn
5 East Baxter Lane
- Great Falls, Montana
September 30, 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Best Western Heritage Inn
1700 Fox Farm Road
- Lewistown, Montana
October 12, 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Yogo Inn, Sapphire Room
211 East Main Street
- Jordan, Montana
October 13, 2:00–4:00 p.m.
VFW Post
11 South Main Street
- Glasgow, Montana
October 14, 1:00–3:00 p.m.
Cottonwood Inn
45 1st Avenue North
- Malta, Montana
October 14, 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Malta High School
South 9th Street West



Who is watching whom? The draft CCP and EIS identifies a range of alternatives for managing habitat and wildlife along with public use activities. Above left to right: bighorn ram and burrowing owls. Bottom left to right: mule deer buck and the Elk Viewing Area.

Photos by USFWS.

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Plan Summary

Purpose and Need for the Plan

The purpose of the draft CCP and EIS is to identify actions necessary to accomplish the purposes of the refuges, identify the role the refuges will play in support of the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and provide long-term guidance for management of refuge programs and activities. The plan is needed

- to communicate with the public and other partners in efforts to carry out the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System;
- to provide a clear statement of direction for management of the refuge;
- to provide neighbors, visitors, and government officials with an understanding of the Service's management actions on the refuge;
- to ensure that the Service's management actions are consistent with the mandates of the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1997;
- to ensure that management of the refuge considers Federal, State, and local government plans;
- to provide a basis for development, maintenance, and capital improvement needs of the refuge.

Significant Issues

The scoping process identified many qualities of the refuge along with issues and recommendations. Based on this information, as well as guidance



Refuge manager Barron Crawford discusses draft alternatives at one of 14 meetings held during scoping and alternatives development in 2008.

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from other laws and policies, the Service identified seven significant issues to address in the draft CCP and EIS:

- Habitat and wildlife
- Water resources
- Public use and access
- Wilderness
- Socioeconomics
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Cultural values, traditions, and resources

Vision

The Service developed a vision (below) at the beginning of the planning process. It portrays a picture of the refuge and describes the focus of refuge management for the next 15 years.

Cooperating Agencies

Early in the process, the Service granted cooperating agency status to the following agencies:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Bureau of Land Management
- Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP)
- Montana Department of Natural Resources
- The six counties adjacent to the refuge
- The six conservation districts adjacent to the refuge



© Diane Hangreaves

Wavy-leaved False Dandelion

Vision for the Future

Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge's expansive badlands, cottonwood river bottoms, old-growth forested coulees, sagebrush steppes, 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, along the Missouri River, and across Fort Peck Reservoir. The refuge is an outstanding example of a functioning, intact landscape in an ever-changing West. Working together with our neighbors and partners, the Service employs adaptive management rooted in science to protect and improve the biological integrity, biological diversity, and environmental

Brett Billings/USFWS

Goals

The Service developed eight goals for the project. The goals direct work toward achieving the vision and purposes of the refuge and outline approaches for managing refuge resources.

Habitat and Wildlife

Conserve, restore, and improve the biological integrity, environmental health, and ecological diversity of the refuge's plant and animal communities of the Missouri River breaks and surrounding prairies to support healthy populations of native plants and wildlife. Working with others, reduce and control the spread of nondesirable, nonnative, invasive plant and aquatic species for the benefit of native communities on and off the refuge.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Contribute to the identification, preservation, and recovery of threatened and endangered species 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.

Fire Management

Manage wildland fire using a management response that promotes fire's natural role in shaping the landscape while protecting values at risk.

Public Use and Education

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

Wilderness

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



American white pelicans are seen during summer months on the refuge.
Photograph by USFWS

Cultural and Paleontological

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

Refuge Operations and Partnerships

Through effective communication and innovative use of technology and resources, the refuge uses funding, personnel, partnerships, and volunteer programs for the benefit of natural resources while recognizing the social and economic connection of the refuge to adjacent communities.



King Island prescribed fire in 2008. Few prescribed fires currently occur on the refuge, but the alternatives compare options for managing habitat using prescribed fire in conjunction with grazing to create a diverse mosaic of habitats.

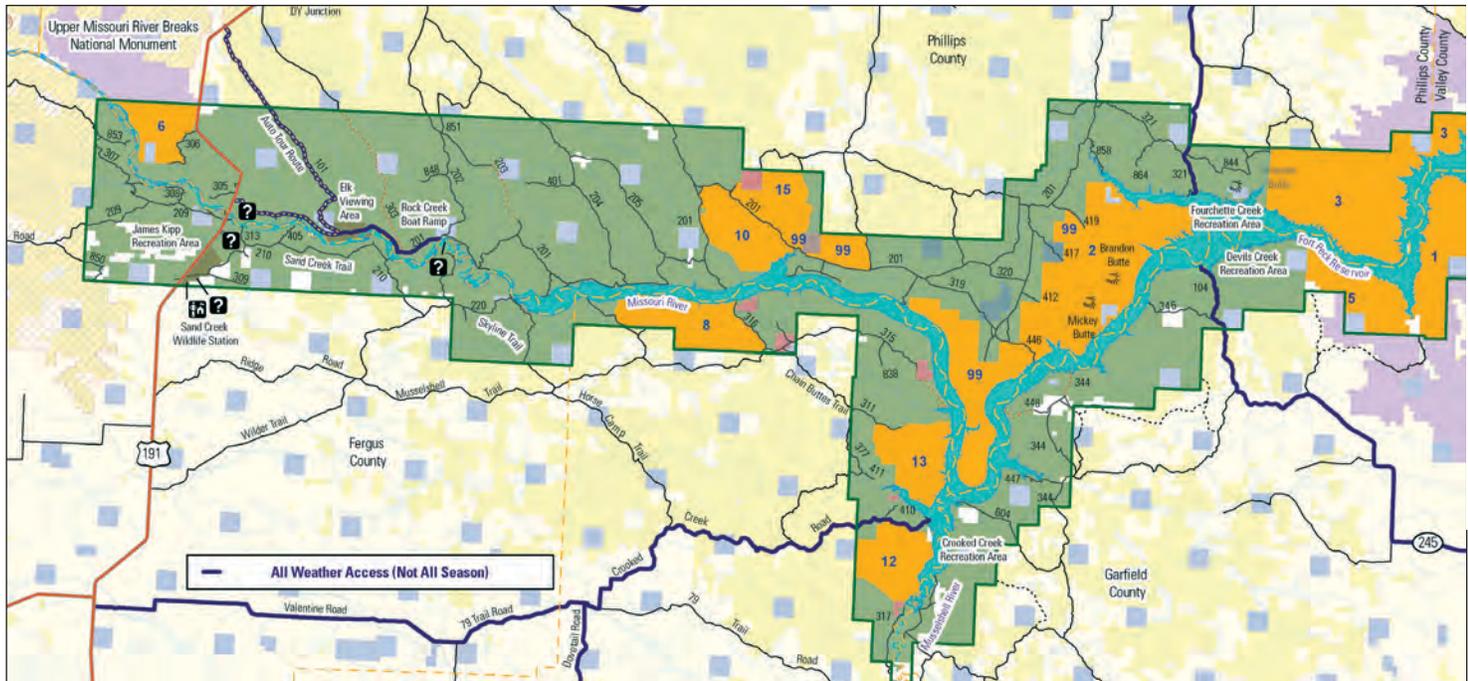
Alternatives and Environmental Consequences

The following pages outline the key actions and subsequent consequences of implementing four draft alternatives, which include a no-action alternative. The Service's planning policy requires that one of the alternatives be identified as the proposed action—the alternative that the Service believes best fulfills the refuge purposes and the mission and goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System. A preferred alternative will not be selected until the final CCP and EIS is published.

The primary environmental consequences are summarized for the physical and biological environment, public uses, special management areas such as wilderness, and socioeconomic environment. Effects can be beneficial or negative and the changes are often described as negligible (less than 5 percent change compared to existing conditions), minor (effect is a detectable change of 5–24 percent), moderate (effect is readily apparent with a change of 25–50 percent), and major (effect is severe, or if beneficial, it would be exceptional—a change of more than 50 percent). Additionally, effects can be direct, indirect, and of short- or long-term duration.

Alternative A—No Action

Few changes would occur in managing existing wildlife populations and habitat. Wildlife-dependent public uses and economic uses would continue at current levels.



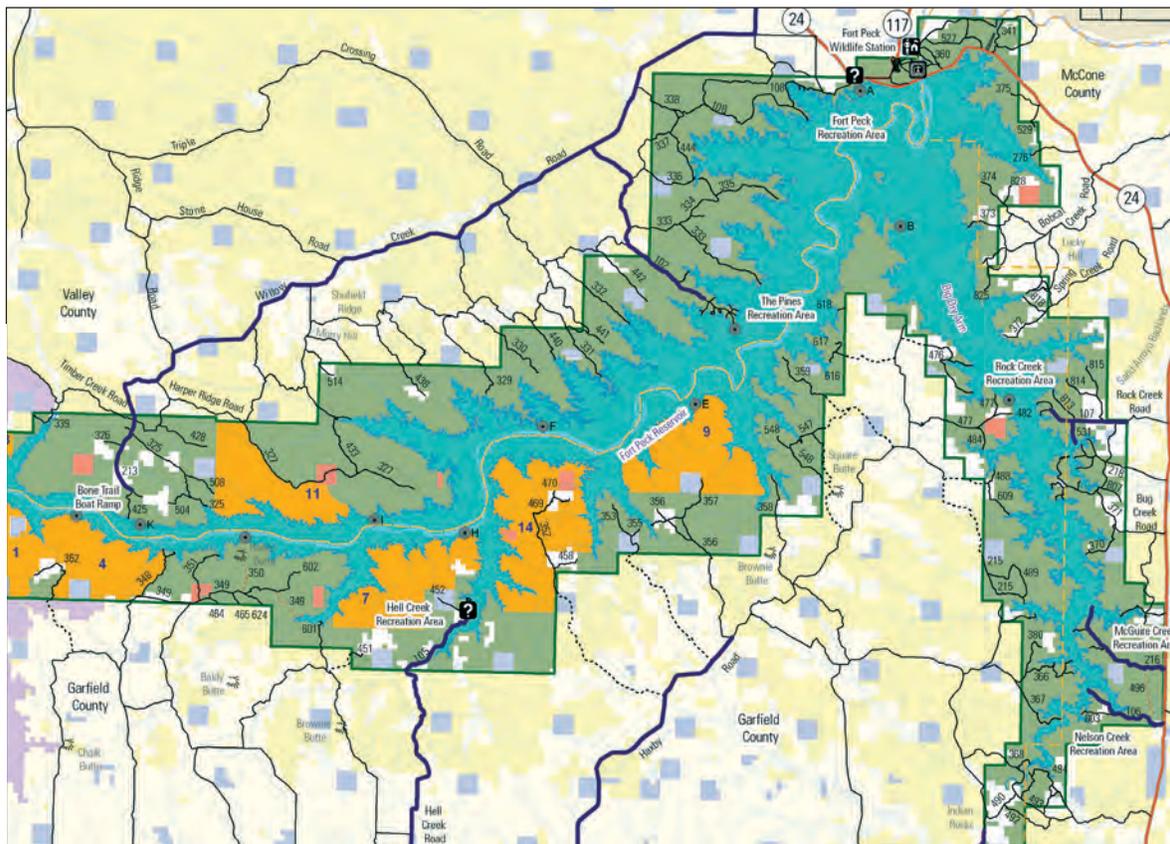
Sage-grouse are found on the refuge and are a species of concern across the West.

Actions Common to All Alternatives

- The Service would manage the 20,819-acre UL Bend Wilderness as a class 1 air shed. Roads in proposed wilderness units would remain closed except for roads that provide access to private or State land within the refuge.
- In accordance with region 6 policies, the Service would continue to collect grazing fees, protect cultural resources, and carry out all wildfire suppression and prescribed fire activities under approved plans.
- The public would continue to enjoy a variety of wildlife-dependent recreation and programs.
- Refuge staff would implement departmental and bureau policies and plans for responding to climate change.
- Threatened and endangered species and species of concern would be protected.

Summary of Actions for Alternative A

- There would be continued emphasis on big game management, annual livestock grazing, use of fencing for pastures, wildfire suppression, invasive species control, and water development. Habitat would continue to be managed in 65 habitat units. Prescriptive grazing would be implemented gradually as units became available and/or habitat evaluations are completed.
- Big game would be managed to achieve target levels identified in 1986. There would be a more restrictive rifle season for mule deer in some hunting districts as compared with the State's season.
- Refuge staff would maintain and rehabilitate select stock ponds. Riparian habitat would be restored where possible. Water rights would be adjudicated.
- The public would continue accessing the refuge on 670 miles of refuge road.
- The Service would continue protecting 155,288 acres of proposed wilderness within 15 units.



Environmental Consequences Common to All Alternatives

Several effects would be similar under all alternatives.

Effects on the Physical Environment

Most habitat management actions support and maintain the refuge's vegetation, which is an important factor in mitigating climate-related effects. There would continue to be some vehicle emissions, which could be concentrated in popular areas. All alternatives would have negligible impacts on soundscapes, water hydrology, and water quality.

Environmental Consequences of Alternative A

A few effects are summarized.

Effects on the Physical Environment

Impacts on air quality, visual resources, and soils would be negligible to minor. There would be short-term major effects on air quality from large wildfires. Livestock grazing would impact some users due to degradation of visual resources.

Effects to Biological Environment

With constant grazing pressure and wildfire suppression in uplands, there would be minor short-term impacts with moderate to major long-term

negative effects as some forbs and shrubs declined. Ongoing efforts to protect riparian areas would benefit these areas by a minor amount, but some areas would continue to see moderate impacts from grazing.

There would be minor benefits for most big game species from ongoing population management. Refuge-wide there would be negligible effects on birds, but there could be some moderate to major localized impacts for some bird species where heavy grazing continued.

Effects to Public Uses and Access

Visitation would remain at current levels due to lack of staff and funds dedicated to providing programming and facilities. There would be negligible effects on access.

Effects on Special Management Areas

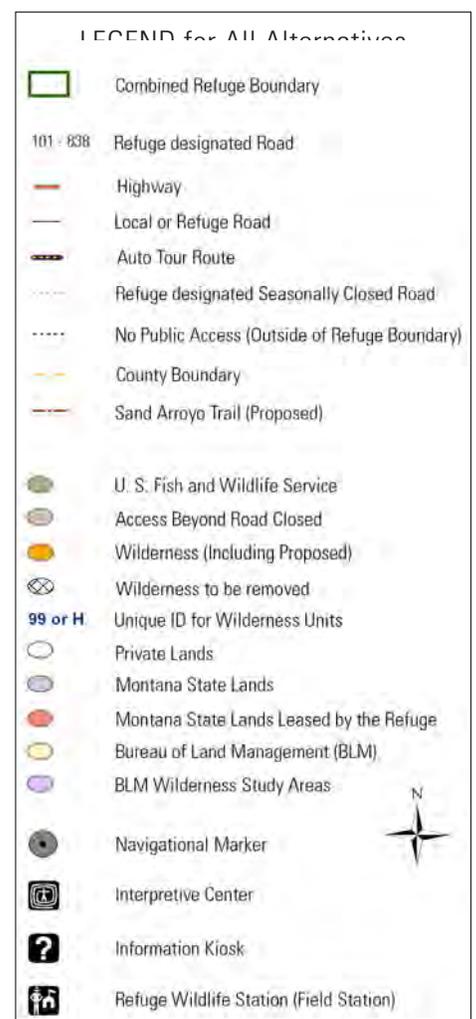
There would be negligible effects on wilderness or other special management areas.

Effects on Cultural and

There would be negligible effects on these resources from refuge activities.

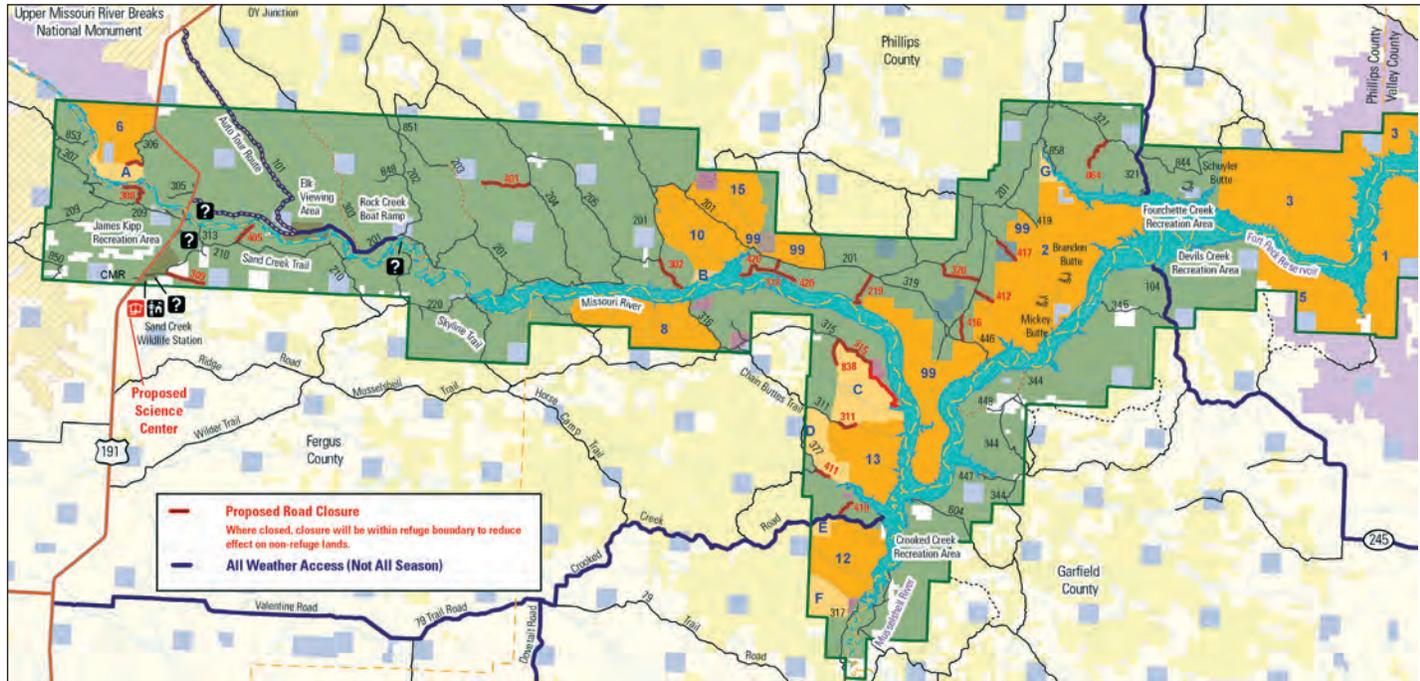
Socioeconomic Impacts

There would be negligible impact on regional economics or to livestock permittees or to minority populations.



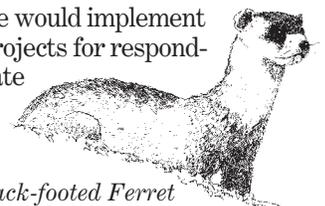
Alternative B—Wildlife and Habitat Emphasis

The Service would manage the landscape, in cooperation with our partners, to emphasize the abundance of wildlife populations using (1) balanced natural ecological processes such as fire and herbivory (grazing) by wild ungulates, and (2) responsible synthetic methods such as farming practices or tree planting. Wildlife-dependent public uses would be encouraged, and economic uses would be limited when they compete for habitat resources.

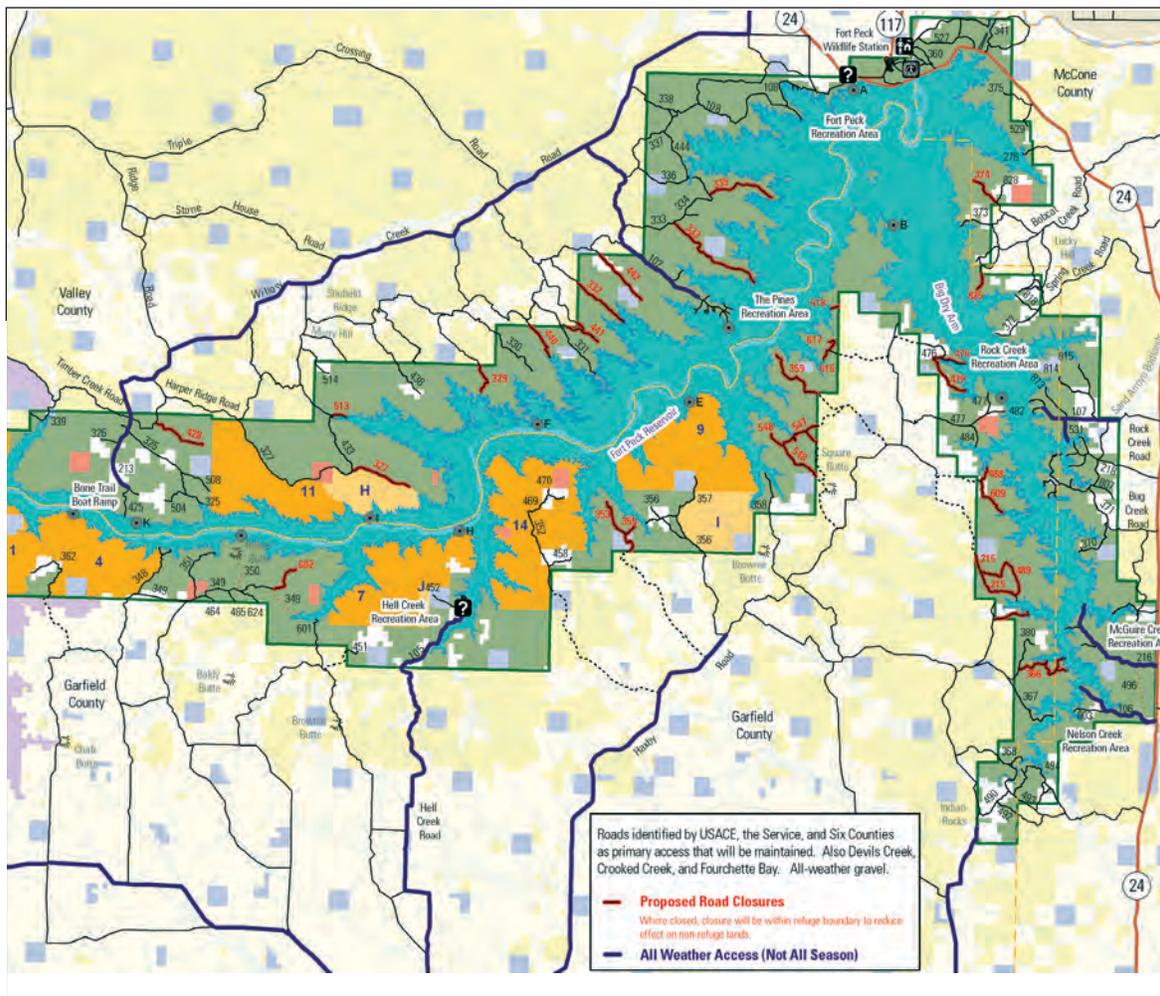


Summary of Actions

- To create a diverse plant community of highly productive wildlife food and cover, the Service would actively manage and manipulate habitats. The emphasis would be on habitat for target species of wildlife in separate parts of the refuge. Refuge staff would consolidate the 65 habitat units and write new habitat management plans based on soils and a habitat evaluation of target species. Staff would work with partners to develop methods to monitor and evaluate target species and habitat needs.
- Desired habitat conditions may be created using natural ecological processes (such as fire, grazing by wildlife, or flooding) or through management practices (such as prescriptive livestock grazing, agricultural plantings, or managed fire). The Service would implement prescriptive grazing on up to 75 percent of the refuge within 4–7 years, remove interior fencing when necessary, and use prescribed fire to enhance fire-adapted species.
- The Service would aggressively restore river bottoms based on priorities (this would occur in alternatives C and D too, but the approach would vary). Staff would use prescribed fire, herbicides, and planting of wildlife food crops to clear invasive plants. The Service would collaborate with others to combat invasive plants on shorelines. Where feasible and combined with research, the Service would restore the functioning condition of riparian areas and preserve areas where fire rarely burns.
- Working with MFWP and adjoining landowners, the Service would use wildlife- and habitat-based objectives and strategies that consider age and social structures and population dynamics at the landscape level.
- The Service would identify habitat suitable for bighorn sheep and establish new populations based on MFWP's modeling and transplant criteria. The Service would work with MFWP to provide quality hunting opportunities as a management tool that maintains both sustainable populations of big game and habitat for nongame species.
- The Service would seek to benefit wildlife populations while promoting hunting experiences not always found on other public lands.
- In closing about 106 miles of road, refuge staff would work with partners to develop a travel plan and secure access to the refuge through other lands. Nonmotorized access would be promoted, but the Service would also consider allowing motorized access on existing roads only for game retrieval and restricting access on a seasonal basis to sensitive areas.
- Opportunities to expand hunting programs would be considered to encourage and facilitate young hunters and mobility-impaired hunters.
- The Service would expand the acreage of proposed wilderness by 25,037 acres in six existing units.
- The Service would implement research projects for responding to climate change on the refuge.



Black-footed Ferret
© Cindie Brunner



Environmental Consequences

A few key effects follow.

Effects on the Physical Environment

The effects would be similar to alternative A, but there would be negligible increases in vehicle emissions due to increased visitation. There would be more frequent, negligible, prescribed fire effects but reduced impacts from large wildfires.

There would be some minor benefits to visual resources and soundscapes due to road closures and moderate benefits to some users due to a prescriptive livestock grazing regime.

There would be minor short-term impacts and long-term benefits to soils from prescribed fires. There would continue to be moderate impacts to soils in some areas from livestock grazing, but other areas would improve.

Effects on the Biological Environment

There would be variable effects on upland vegetation depending on the target species and management emphasis, but overall there would be moderate long-term benefits. There would be

minor to moderate long-term benefits to river bottoms and riparian areas from restoration efforts. Some moderate impacts would continue in localized areas from grazing.

Most big game, furbearers, small predators, birds, threatened and endangered species, and other wildlife would benefit in the long term with greater use of prescribed grazing and fire and other habitat improvements, but there could be moderate to major impacts on birds due to grazing.

Effects on Public Uses and Access

There would be negligible to minor benefits for hunters and nonconsumptive users from expanding opportunities and increased roadless areas. Some users would be negatively affected by closing 106 miles of road, but others would benefit. There would be negligible benefits for commercial recreation.

Effects on Special Management Areas

There would be minor benefits due to expanded proposed wilderness units (+25,000 acres).



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The Service would expand hunting programs for youths and others.

Effects on Cultural and Paleontological Resources

There would be negligible to minor benefits for these resources due to increased protection, interpretation, and law enforcement.

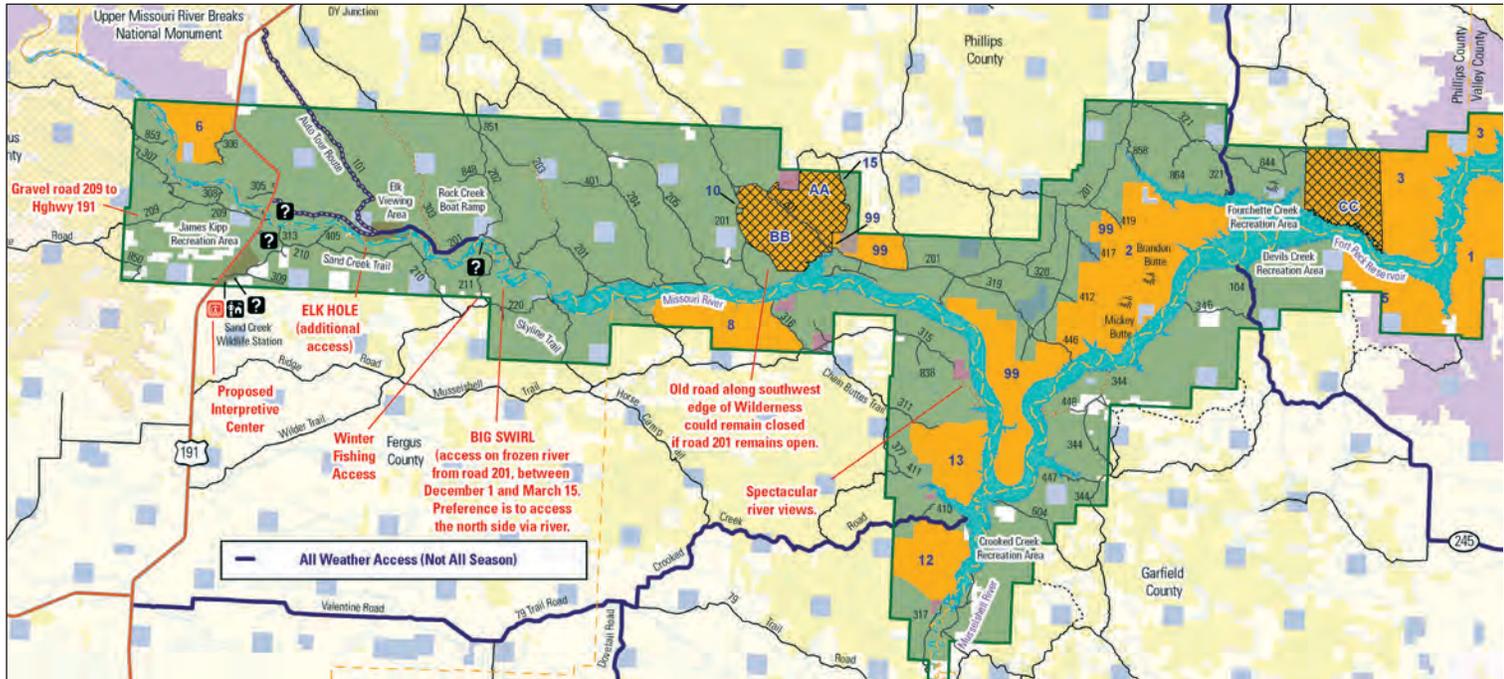
Socioeconomic Impacts

The impact on regional economics would be negligible, generating an additional \$216,000 in local output and one more job.

There would be moderate to major impacts on livestock permittees due to the transition to prescriptive grazing, fence removal, and stock pond removal.

Alternative C—Public Use and Economic Use Emphasis

The Service would manage the landscape, in cooperation with our partners, to emphasize and promote the maximum, compatible, wildlife-dependent public use and economic uses while protecting wildlife populations and habitats to the extent possible. Damaging effects on wildlife habitats would be minimized while using a variety of management tools to enhance and diversify public and economic opportunities.

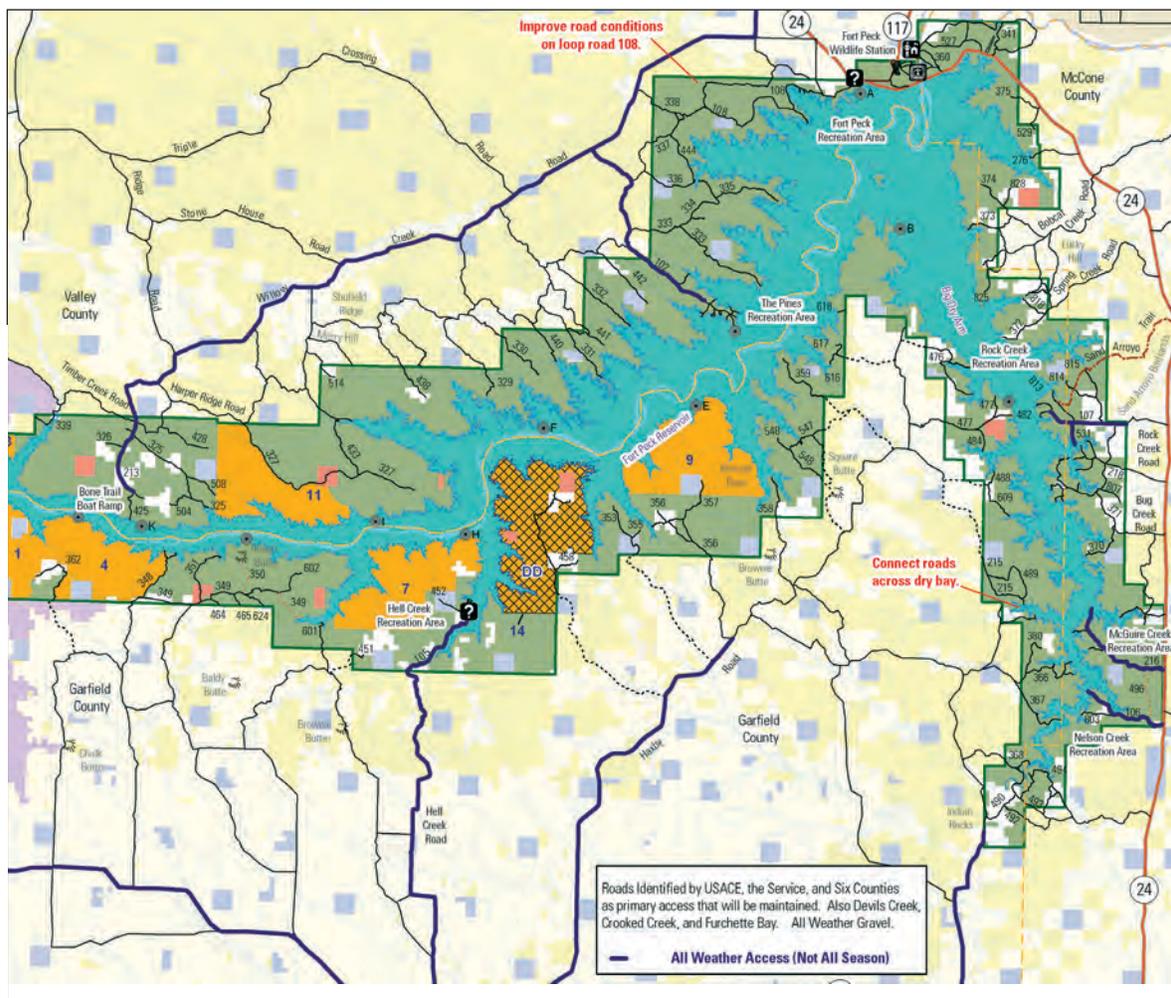


Summary of Actions

- In addition to the habitat elements described in alternative A, the Service would manage habitats to provide more opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. In places, the refuge staff would manage for plant communities that could require a compromise between providing wildlife food and cover and livestock forage needs. Where needed, fencing and water gaps would be used to manage livestock use and prevent further degradation of riparian habitat. Camping areas would be managed to limit expansion and further degradation of riparian habitat.
- Through collaboration with MFWP and others, the Service would maintain a balance between numbers of big game and livestock to sustain habitats and population of big game and sharp-tailed grouse. Similar balancing could be necessary when managing populations of nongame or migratory birds and livestock needs. For example, it could be necessary to balance prairie dog needs with public and economic uses such as livestock grazing or with needs of other wildlife.
- Working with MFWP, the Service would expand and maximize the following hunting opportunities: (1) programs to include new species and traditional or niche (primitive weapon) hunting; (2) mule deer season; (3) predator hunting; (4) trapping; and (5) programs for young hunters.
- Refuge access would be managed to benefit public and economic uses. The Service would improve access to boat ramps and consider seasonally closing other areas, if needed, to protect habitat or to provide for a diversity of experience.
- The Service would recommend eliminating four proposed wilderness units of about 35,881 acres in the East Beauchamp Creek, West Beauchamp Creek, East Hell Creek, and Burnt Lodge units.



The refuge would increase environmental education in alternatives C and D.



Environmental Consequences

A few effects follow.

Effects on the Physical Environment

The effects would be similar to alternative A. Livestock grazing in localized areas would result in moderate to major impacts on soils. The negative aesthetic effects of livestock grazing on some users would be less than under alternative A but would still occur. Air quality impacts would be similar to alternative B, except there would be greater effects from large wildfires due to greater biomass and more vehicle emissions. There would be greater impacts to soils than under alternative A due to increased research or digging for cultural and paleontological resources.

Effects on the Biological Environment

There would be some minor long-term benefits for uplands due to improved management including a greater move toward prescriptive grazing and balanced use by wild and domestic ungulates as compared to alternative A. However, constant grazing pressure and fire suppression in uplands would result in minor short-term impacts with moderate to major long-term negative effects.

Using a cooperative farming approach to restoring river bottoms would enable restoration efforts to begin more quickly, thus reducing invasive species.

There would be minor to moderate long-term benefits for riparian areas and wetlands due to more prescriptive grazing, but in localized areas moderate impacts would continue to occur where heavy annual grazing was used.

For big game, there would be long-term, moderate impacts from management that emphasizes maximum harvests. Similarly, there would be minor to major impacts due to increased harvest of furbearers.

In some areas, there could be some minor long-term benefits for birds, fishes, reptiles, and other amphibians, but there could be moderate to major localized impacts due to continued fire suppression, constant grazing, and loss of native habitat structure.

Threatened and endangered species and species of concern would benefit from general habitat improvements.

Effects on Public Uses and Access

Hunters would benefit from an expanded emphasis on providing more opportunities and increased harvest levels. There would be minor to moderate benefits for nonconsumptive users from increased staffing (2), more facilities and programming, and an emphasis on economic benefits.

Effects on Special Management Areas

There would be minor impacts on wilderness from reducing protection of 36,000 acres and eliminating four units.

Effects on Cultural and Paleontological Resources

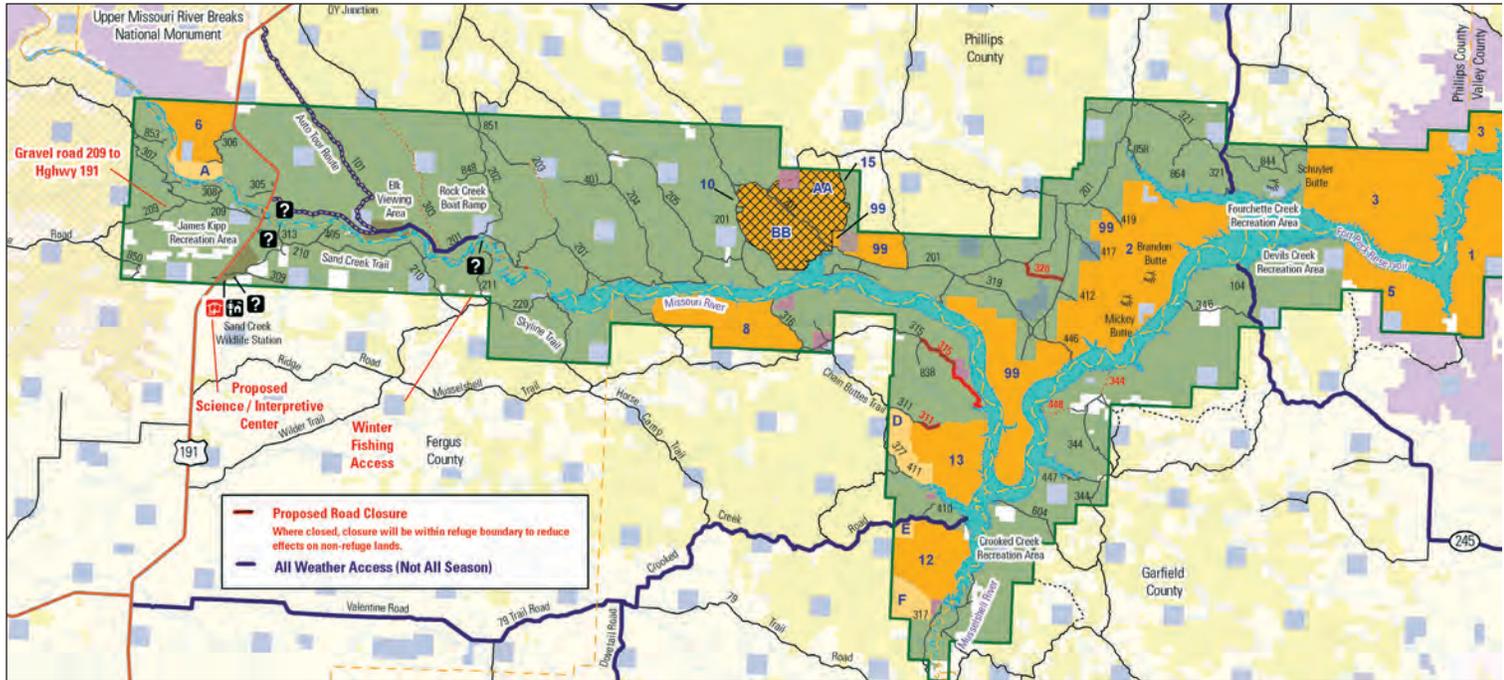
Effects would be negligible.

Socioeconomic Impacts

There would be minor benefits for regional economics, generating \$3.9 million in local output and 48 additional jobs. Similar to alternative A, there would be minor impacts on permittees due to boundary fence construction.

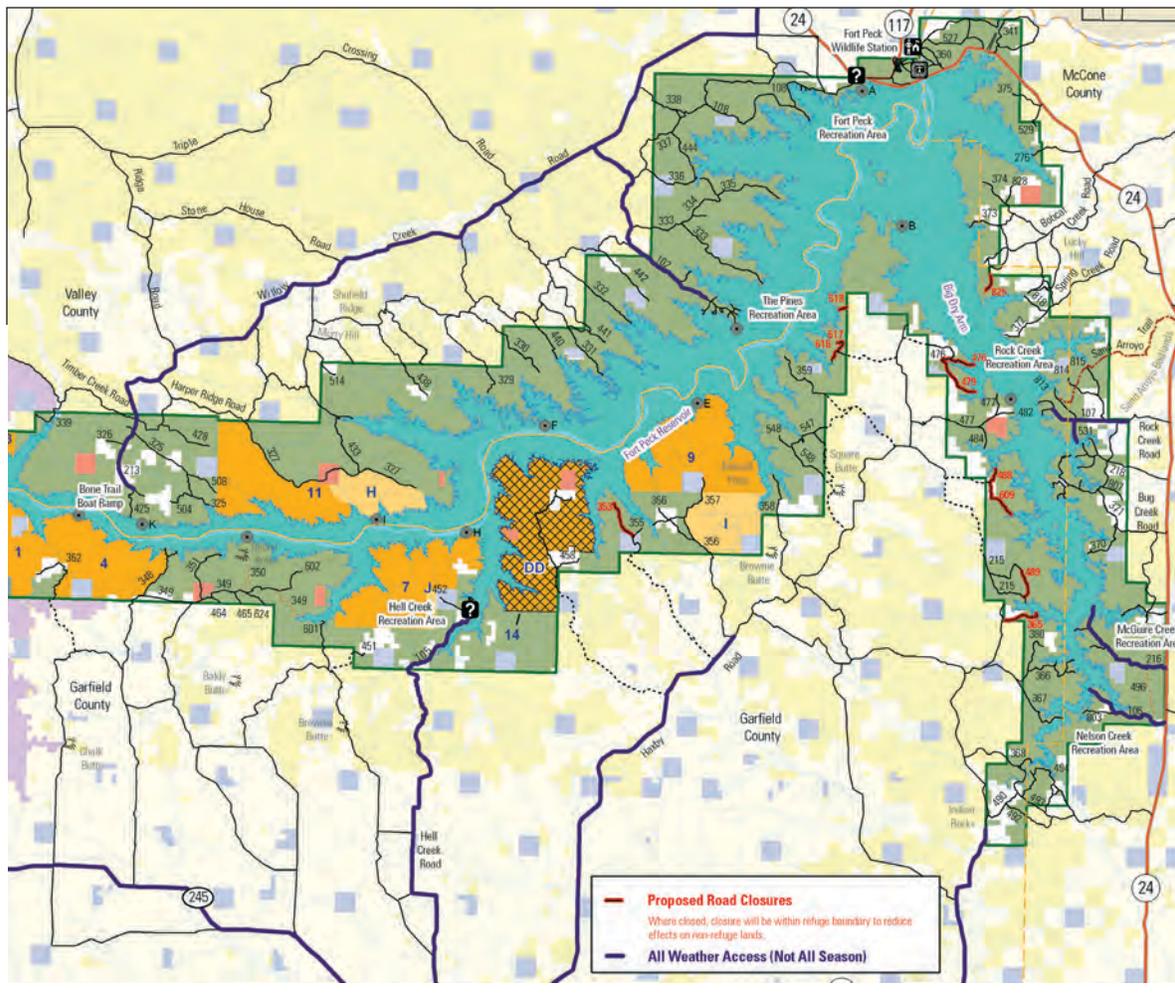
Alternative D—Ecological Processes Emphasis (Proposed Action)

In cooperation with partners, the Service would use natural, dynamic ecological processes and management activities in a balanced, responsible manner to restore and maintain the biological diversity, biological integrity, and environmental health of the refuge. Once natural processes were restored, a more passive approach (less human assistance) would be favored. There would be quality wildlife-dependent public uses and experiences. Economic uses would be limited when they were injurious to ecological processes.



Summary of Actions

- Where feasible, the Service would apply management practices that mimic and restore natural processes on the refuge, managing for a diversity of plant species in uplands and riparian areas. This would include a concerted manipulation of habitats or wildlife populations (with prescribed fire and grazing and hunting) using coordinated objectives. Management would evolve toward more passive approaches (allowing natural processes such as fire, grazing, and flooding) to occur with less human assistance or funding.
- The Service would maintain plant diversity and health using fire in combination with wild ungulate herbivory (wildlife feeding on plants) or prescriptive livestock grazing, or both, to ensure the viability of populations of sentinel plants (those plant species that decline first when management practices are injurious).
- In collaboration with MFWP and others, the Service would maintain the health and diversity of all species' populations including game, nongame, and migratory bird species by restoring and maintaining balanced, self-sustaining populations. This could include manipulating livestock grazing and wildlife numbers, or both, if habitat monitoring determined conditions were declining or plant species were being affected by overuse. Predator control with the U.S. Department of Agriculture would be eliminated, and predators would be managed to benefit the ecological integrity of the refuge. Limited hunting for mountain lion or other furbearers or small predators would be considered only after monitoring verified that population levels could be sustained.
- The Service would cooperate with MFWP to establish population levels, sex and age composition targets, and harvest strategies that are jointly agreed to and tailored to the varied habitat potentials on the refuge. The refuge's hunting programs would provide a variety of quality recreational opportunities, including those with population objectives that have diverse male age structures.
- The refuge would manage access to benefit natural processes and habitat. The Service would implement permanent or seasonal road closures on 23 miles of road as needed to encourage free movement of animals, permit prescribed fire activities, harvest wild ungulates, or allow other activities that contribute to ecological health.
- In addition to the wilderness elements in alternative A, the Service would recommend expanding six of the proposed wilderness units—a total of 18,559 acres in the Antelope Creek, Crooked Creek, Alkali Creek, Wagon Coulee, West Hell Creek, and Sheep Creek units—and eliminating three units for a reduction of 26,744 acres in the East Beauchamp Creek, West Beauchamp Creek, and East Hell Creek units.



Environmental Consequences

A few effects follow.

Effects on the Physical Environment

The impacts would be similar to alternatives A and B with negligible increases in vehicle emissions due to increased visitation (less than alternative C). Prescribed fire impacts would be similar to alternative B.

There would be negligible to minor benefits to visual resources and soundscapes due to greater use of prescriptive grazing and road closures.

Impacts to soils would be similar to alternative B.

Effects on the Biological Environment

There would be long-term major benefits for uplands due to emphasis on restoring natural processes using prescribed grazing and fire. There would be minor to moderate long-term benefits to river bottoms and riparian areas from restoration efforts, but the approach would be less aggressive than alternative C. Riparian areas would see overall moderate long-term benefits.

There would be moderate long-term benefits for big game from a balanced approach to population, habitat, and harvest management. There would be negligible effects on furbearers or small predators. For birds, there could be moderate to major localized impacts due to annual grazing.

Most big game, furbearers, birds, threatened and endangered species, and other wildlife would benefit in the long term with greater use of prescriptive grazing and fire and other habitat improvements.

Effects on Public Uses and Access

There would be minor to moderate benefits for hunting depending on individual preferences. There would be minor to moderate benefits for nonconsumptive users from increased staffing (2), more facilities and programming, and an emphasis on economic benefits.

There would be minor impacts on some users from closing 23 miles of road. There would be negligible benefits for commercial recreation.

Effects on Special Management Areas

There would be minor benefits due to consolidating wilderness units, but 8,000 acres of protection would be lost.

Effects on Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Effects would be negligible.

Socioeconomic Impacts

There would be minor benefits for regional economics, generating \$2.1 million in local output and 25 additional jobs. There would be moderate to major impacts on livestock permittees due to the transition to prescriptive grazing, fence removal, and stock pond removal.



Dotted Gayflower

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How to Provide Comments

There are many ways for you to provide your comments—written letters, emails, or by attending one of the public meetings. We encourage you to provide us with feedback on the contents of the draft plan. Each meeting will include a brief overview of the draft CCP and EIS, followed by an opportunity to offer public comment. We ask that those who wish to speak to sign up when they arrive, and all individuals will be given a few minutes to comment. Staff will be available to answer your questions.

Written comments should be submitted to the address listed below under Contact Information. The deadline for comment submission is November 16, 2010.

As you are reviewing the document, please keep in mind that comments on the draft CCP and EIS should be specific and should address the adequacy of the plan, the impact statement, and the merits of the alternatives discussed.

In the final CCP and EIS, the Service will respond to all substantive comments. Comments are considered substantive if they do the following:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the document.

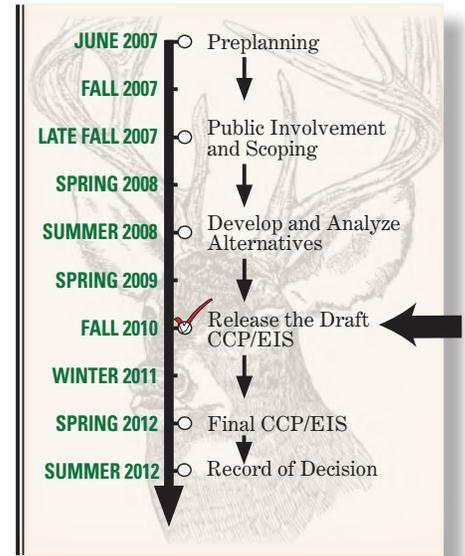
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of the environmental analysis.
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the draft CCP and EIS.
- Cause changes or revisions to the CCP.
- Provide additional information relevant to the analysis.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Next Steps

Following the public comment period, the Service may change the alternatives, the impact analysis, or other features as a result of the comments received during the review. The Service will then select a preferred alternative and publish a final CCP and EIS. The Service's final

Project Timeline



decision will be documented in a record of decision that is published in the Federal Register, no sooner than 30 days after publishing the final CCP and EIS. The Service will begin to carry out the plan immediately as funds become available.

Contact Information

Send written comments to:

Charles M. Russell NWR
Comprehensive Conservation Plan
Attn: Laurie Shannon, Planning
Team Leader
P.O. Box 25486
Denver, CO 80225-0486
Tel 303/236 4317 Fax 303/236 4792

Send email comments to:
cmrplanning@fws.gov

For project information, to get on the mailing list, or to send an email:
www.fws.gov/cmrr/planning

For information about the refuge:
www.fws.gov/cmrr
Tel 406/538 8706

Charles M. Russell NWR CCP
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Division of Refuge Planning
P.O. Box 25486
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



© Diane Hargreaves

Badgers are shy, nocturnal, burrowing animals that feed on rodents and insects.