

Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge

September 2004

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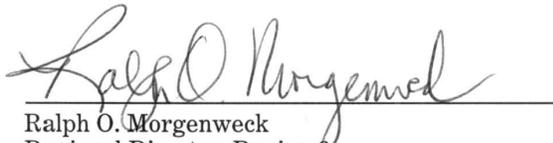
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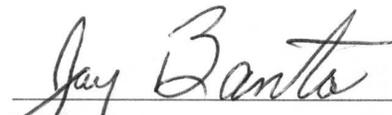
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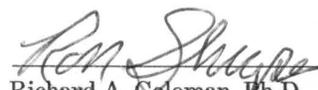
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Summary

This document is a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The CCP will guide management of Refuge operations, habitat restoration and visitor services for the next 15 years by providing clear goals and objectives, implementation strategies, and recommended staffing and funding for the Refuge.

Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), comprising 17,992 acres, is located in western Utah in Juab County. Springs flowing from the eastern base of the Fish Springs Range feed a 10,000-acre saline marsh divided into nine impoundments. The remaining portion comprises 6,000 acres of mud and alkali flat and 2,000 acres of semidesert upland. The Refuge provides the only important wetland habitat for a 70-mile radius, attracting hundreds of wetland-dependent species during migration. Since Refuge establishment, more than 278 species of birds have been seen at Fish Springs NWR, 61 of which nest on the Refuge. Fish Springs NWR was established by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission in 1959 "...for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds."

The goals set forth in the CCP for Fish Springs NWR are:

Habitat: Improve and maintain habitat for nesting and wintering migratory birds and other wildlife populations of the Bonneville Basin.

Ecological Integrity: Perpetuate the native biodiversity of the Bonneville

Basin as represented on Fish Springs NWR.

Cultural Resources: Preserve, protect, and promote an understanding of cultural resources on Fish Springs NWR.

Visitor Services: Promote an understanding and appreciation of the fish, wildlife, and natural and cultural history of Fish Springs NWR by providing high quality environmental education, interpretation, and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities for persons of all abilities.

Partnerships: Promote partnerships to preserve and enhance the natural characteristics of the Bonneville Basin ecosystem in which Fish Springs NWR plays a key role.

These goals will help fulfill the mission and goals of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 stipulates that a written assessment must be made of any action proposed by an agency of the Federal Government that significantly affects the quality of the human environment or has significant impacts on the affected State or Federal land. NEPA also requires Federal decision makers to study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to the recommended action. Views of other Federal and State agencies and the public are solicited during the decision making process. An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared to accompany the Draft CCP. The proposed action was to prepare and implement the CCP, or Management for Wildlife Diversity Alternative.

