

Chapter 5. Coordination and Environmental Review

Agency Coordination

The proposal for the establishment of the Centennial Valley Conservation Easement Program, through the authorization of an executive boundary consisting of 158,972 acres, of which 42,000 acres is proposed for conservation easements, has been discussed with landowners, conservation organizations, Federal, State and county governments, and other interested groups and individuals.

This Environmental Assessment addresses the protection of native grasslands through acquisition of conservation easements by the Service under the direction of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Funding for acquisition of conservation easements will be provided by the Land and Water Conservation Fund and, to a smaller degree, the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

Management activities associated with easements may be funded through other sources, such as The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, North American Wetland Conservation Act grants, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and other private and public partners. Other endeavors include the Beaverhead Wetland Protection Project II.

National Environmental Policy Act

As a Federal agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must comply with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An Environmental Assessment is required under NEPA to evaluate reasonable alternatives that will meet stated objectives and to assess the possible impacts to the human environment. The Environmental Assessment serves as the basis for determining whether implementation of the proposed action would constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The Environmental Assessment also facilitates the involvement of government agencies and the public in the decision-making process.

Distribution and Availability

Copies of the Environmental Assessment were sent to Federal and State legislative delegations, agencies, landowners, private groups, and other interested individuals (see Appendix B). Additional copies of these documents are available at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, 27820 Southside Centennial Road, Lima, Montana 59739 (406/276 3536, email: fw6_rw_red_rock_lakes_nwr@fws.gov) and at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, Land Acquisition and Planning Branch, P.O. Box 25486-DFC, Denver, Colorado 80225 (303/236 8145 ext. 658; fax 303/236 4792).

List of Preparers and Reviewers

Authors:

Daniel Gomez, Refuge Manager, Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge,
Lima, MT
Randy Gazda, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Dillon, MT
Gary Sullivan, Realty Specialist, Great Falls, MT
John F. Esperance, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Lakewood, CO

Reviewers:

Harvey Wittmier, Chief, Division of Realty, Refuges and Wildlife, Lakewood, CO
Barbara Shupe, Writer/Editor, Division of Planning, Refuges and Wildlife,
Lakewood, CO
Patty Stevens, Assistant Refuge Supervisor, Refuges and Wildlife,
Lakewood, CO

Acknowledgments:

Jaymee Fojtik, GIS/Cartographer, Division of Planning, Refuges and Wildlife,
Lakewood, CO

References

- Ball, I. J., R. L. Eng, and S. K. Ball. 1995. Population density and productivity of ducks on large grassland tracts in north-central Montana. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. 23(4)767-773.
- Beaverhead County History Book Association. 1990. *The History of Beaverhead County, Volume I. 1800-1920*. Herff-Jones, Inc., Logan, UT. 696 pp.
- Brown C.J.D. 1971. *Fishes of Montana*. Published by Big Sky Books, Bozeman, Montana. pp 207.
- Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. USFWS Biol Serv Prog FWS/OBS-79/31.
- Fuguitt, G.V. 1985. The nonmetropolitan population turnaround. *Annual Review of Sociology* 11(259-80).
- Gleason, R.A. and N.H. Euliss Jr. 1998. Sedimentation of prairie wetlands. *Great Plains Res* 8(1):97-112.
- Haggerty, M. 1996. *Costs of County and Educational Services in Gallatin County, Montana*. Published by Local Government Center, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana 9pp.
- Harting, A. and D. Glick. 1994. *Sustaining Greater Yellowstone, a blueprint for the future*. Bozeman: Greater Yellowstone Coalition.
- Johnson, V.K. 1999. *Rural residential development trends in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem since listing of the grizzly bear*. Bozeman: Sierra Club.
- Kantrud, H.A., G.L. Krapu, and G.A. Swanson. 1989. Prairie basin wetlands of the Dakotas: a community profile. *USFWS Biol Rep* 85(7.28). 116pgs.
- Locke, W. W. III., 1990. Geological Landscape, in: A model for information integration and management for the Centennial Ecosystem, Appendix A; printed in-house by The Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Bozeman, p. 63-70.
- Montana Natural Heritage Program. 1996. *Plant communities and species of special concern*. Centennial Valley Database. Montana Natural Heritage Program, Helena.
- Montana Natural Heritage Program. 1997. *Progress report: preliminary amphibian and reptile survey of the headwaters and Dillon resource areas and Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge*.
- NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service. 1992b. *Estimated average annual wind erosion in relation to T value on non-federal rural land, by land cover/use and by year*. Table 215.
- Povilitis, T. and M.H. Mahr. 1998. *Montana's Centennial Valley: Natural Diversity Hotspot and Wildland Corridor*. *Natural Areas Journal* 18(2) 116-123.
- Rudzitis, G. 1996. *Wilderness and the changing American West*. New York: Wiley.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1984. *American Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan (Rocky Mountain/Southwest Population)* Denver, Colorado 105pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1993. *Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan Missoula, MT* 181pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1994. *Intermountain West Joint Venture Project*.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1995. *Migratory Nongame Birds of Management Concern in the United States. The 1995 List*.

