

# Chapter 1—Introduction



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*Black-necked Stilt*

We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or USFWS) manage the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (Quivira Refuge or refuge), which consists of 22,135 acres in Stafford, Rice and Reno Counties in south-central Kansas. Our staff at the Quivira Refuge manages the Great Plains Nature Center (GPNC) in partnership with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), and the City of Wichita Department of Park and Recreation. To address the long-term management of the refuge and the GPNC, we have developed this draft comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and environmental assessment (EA).

This chapter introduces our process for development of the Quivira Refuge CCP. It describes our involvement as well as that of the public, our partners, the State of Kansas, and other interested parties. Chapter 1 also describes conservation issues and plans that affect the refuge.

The chapters that follow contain information we used and the results of our analysis. These form the foundation of the draft plan:

- Chapter 2 describes the refuge and planning issues.
- Chapter 3 sets out the alternatives for management of the refuge.
- Chapter 4 describes the physical, biological, and social environment that the alternatives would affect.
- Chapter 5 explains the expected consequences of carrying out each alternative.
- Chapter 6 describes objectives and strategies for the proposed action, alternative B, which compose the draft CCP.

The refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System), and is located in south-central Kansas (figure 1). The GPNC is a Service administrative site and an educational facility, but it is not a unit of the Refuge System.

We have developed this draft CCP to provide a foundation for the management and use of Quivira Refuge. The CCP specifies the necessary actions to achieve the vision and purposes of the refuge. Wildlife is the first priority in refuge management, and

public use, including wildlife-dependent recreation, is allowed and encouraged as long as it is compatible with the purposes of the refuge. When completed, the CCP will serve as a working guide for management programs and activities throughout the refuge over the next 15 years. Although this document contains management direction for the refuge, greater detail will be provided in stepdown management plans as part of carrying out the final CCP.

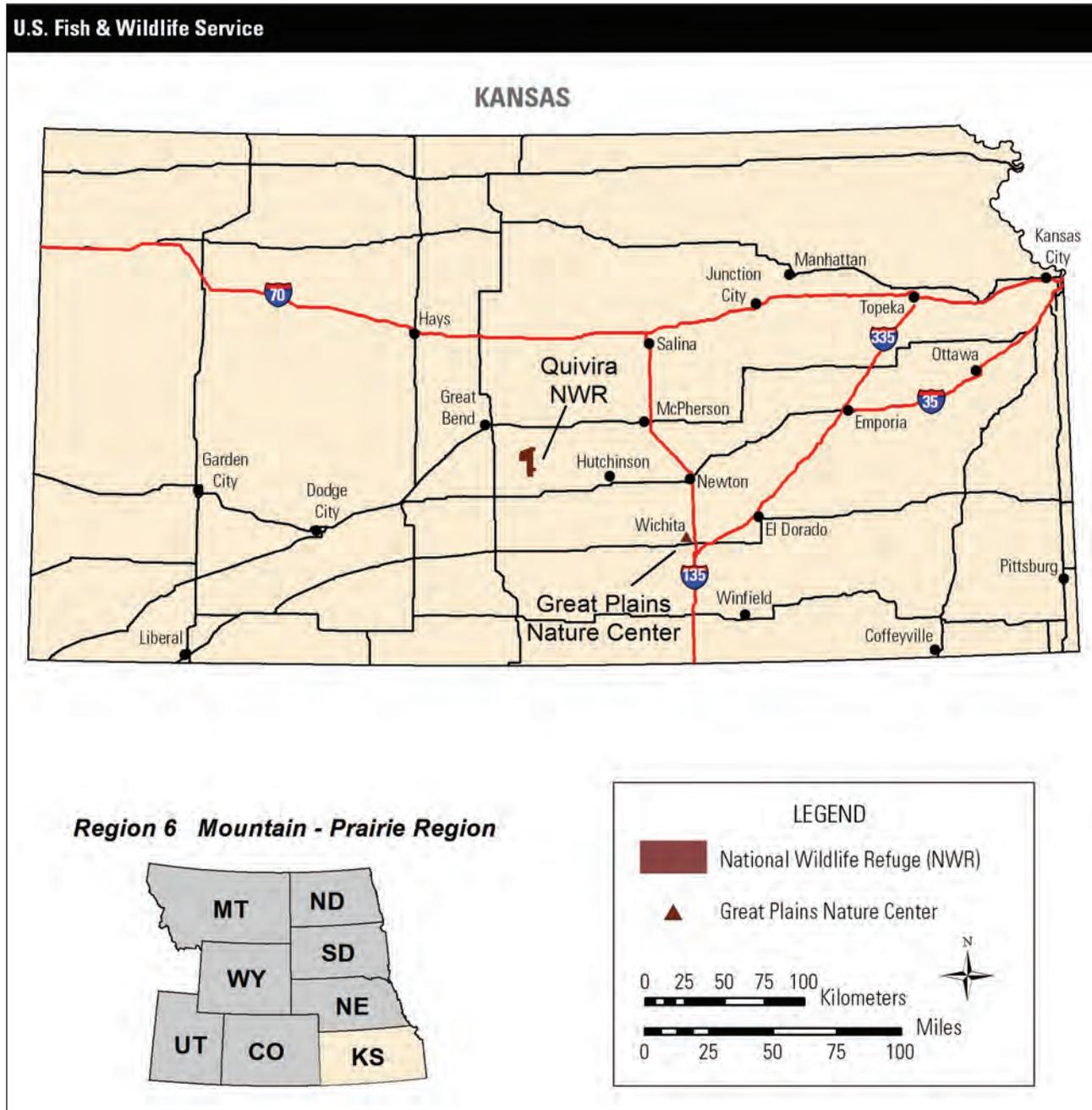


Figure 1. Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Great Plains Nature Center, Kansas.

## 1.1 Purpose and Need for the Plan

The purpose of this draft CCP is to find the role that Quivira Refuge will play in support of the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System and to provide long-term guidance for managing programs and activities. The CCP will help us:

- communicate with the public and our partners in carrying out the mission of the Refuge System;
- establish a clear statement of direction for managing the refuge;
- provide refuge neighbors, refuge visitors, and government officials an understanding of our management actions on, and around, the refuge;
- make sure that our management actions are consistent with the mandates of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Improvement Act) (Public Law 105–57);
- make sure that our management of the refuge is consistent with Federal, State, and county plans;
- establish a basis for developing budget requests for refuge operation, maintenance, and capital improvement needs.

## 1.2 Early History of Conservation

Wildlife conservation in North America is unique to the world. In recent years, it has come to be known as the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation (Geist et al. 2001). The wildlife conservation movement arose out of the conflict between market hunters and sport hunters in the mid-to-late 19th century. Market hunting increased in response to the growth in urban population fueled by the Industrial

Revolution. Between 1820 and 1860, the percentage of Americans who lived in cities rose from 5 to 20 percent; this four-fold increase is the greatest that has ever occurred in America (Reiss 1995). The demand for meat and hides—along with feathers for the millinery trade—led to exploitation of game animals by market hunters. Along with the increase in urban population came a new breed of hunter—one who hunted for the chase and the challenge it provided. These sport hunters valued live game animals, whereas market hunters valued dead animals they could bring to market. The growing legion of sport hunters started a national movement that encouraged Federal and State governments to regulate the take of wildlife.

The keystone concept of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation that allowed the Government to control the take of wildlife is the Public Trust Doctrine (Geist and Organ 2004). Though based on an 1842 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the case, *Martin v. Waddell*, it derives from Greek and Roman law and the Magna Carta. Simply stated, wildlife belongs to no one; it is held in trust for all by the Government.

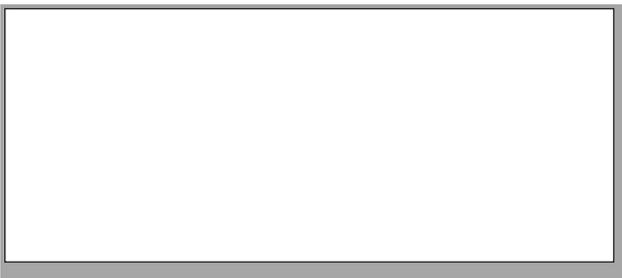
The early conservation movement in this country, championed by Theodore Roosevelt, George Bird Grinnell, and others, placed emphasis on stemming the decline of wildlife populations, and programs restricting take and protecting lands were put in place. During the 1920s, conservationists realized that more was needed, and a committee comprised of Aldo Leopold, A. Willis Robertson, and other leading conservationists of the time wrote the 1930 American Game Policy. This policy called for a restoration program for habitats and populations based on scientific research and supported with stable, equitable money. Within a decade, landmark legislation fulfilled many of the needs identified by this policy, including the Federal Duck Stamp Act to pay for land acquisition for national wildlife refuges. In addition, the Pittman–Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act shifted excise taxes imposed on firearms and ammunition to pay for wildlife restoration through cooperation between us and State fish and wildlife agencies. For States to use this money, they were required to pass laws that prevented the diversion of hunting license revenues to any purpose other than the administration of the State fish and wildlife agency.

In recent decades, wildlife management has emphasized overall wildlife diversity, and The Refuge System has evolved accordingly. Today it provides refuge for most species found in the United States.



We are the principal Federal agency responsible for fish, wildlife, and plant conservation. The Refuge System is one of our major programs.

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, America's fish and wildlife resources declined at an alarming rate, largely because of unrestricted market hunting. Concerned citizens, scientists, and hunting and angling groups joined together and generated political will for the first significant conservation measures taken by the Federal Government. These actions included the establishment of the Bureau of Fisheries in the 1870s and, in 1904, passage of the first Federal wildlife law, the Lacey Act, which prohibited interstate transportation of wildlife taken in violation of State laws. Beginning in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt created more than 50 national wildlife refuges across the Nation.

Over the next three decades, the United States ratified the Migratory Bird Treaty with Great Britain, and Congress passed laws to protect migratory birds, establish new refuges, and to create a source of money for refuge land acquisition. In 1940, we, the USFWS, were created within the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), and several existing Federal wildlife functions, including law enforcement, fish management, animal damage control, and wildlife refuge management, were placed in our charge, under one organization, for the first time.

Today, we enforce Federal wildlife laws, manage migratory bird populations, restore nationally significant fisheries, conserve and restore vital wildlife habitat, protect and recover endangered species, and help other governments with conservation efforts. In addition, we administer a Federal aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars to the States for fish and wildlife restoration, boating access, hunter education, and related programs across the United States.

## National Wildlife Refuge System

*The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.*

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt designated the 5.5-acre Pelican Island in Florida as the Nation's first wildlife refuge for the protection of native nesting birds. This was the first time the Federal Government set aside land for wildlife. This small, but significant, designation was the beginning of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

One hundred years later, the Refuge System has become the largest collection of lands in the world specifically managed for wildlife, encompassing more than 150 million acres within more than 550 refuges and more than 3,000 small areas for waterfowl breeding and nesting. Today, there is at least one refuge in every State including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Improvement Act established a clear mission for the Refuge System. It states that we must manage each national wildlife refuge to:

- fulfill the mission of the Refuge System;
- fulfill the individual purposes of each refuge;
- consider the needs of fish and wildlife first;

- include the development of a CCP for each unit of the Refuge System and to fully involve the public in the preparation of these plans;
- keep the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of the Refuge System;
- recognize that wildlife-dependent recreation activities, including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation, are legitimate and priority public uses;
- allow our refuge managers to find compatible public uses;

Besides the mission for the Refuge System, the wildlife and habitat vision for each unit of the Refuge System supports the following principles:

- Wildlife comes first.
- Ecosystems, biodiversity, and wilderness are vital concepts in refuge and district management.
- Habitats must be healthy.
- Growth of refuges and districts must be strategic.
- The Refuge System serves as a model for habitat management with broad participation from others.

Following passage of the Improvement Act, we began to carry out the direction of this new legislation including preparing CCPs for all national wildlife refuges. The Improvement Act says we will create CCPs with involvement from the public, and each refuge must have a completed CCP by 2012.

## The Public and the Refuge System

The Nation's fish and wildlife heritage contributes to the quality of American lives and is an integral part of the country's greatness. Wildlife and wild places have always given Americans special opportunities to have fun, relax, and appreciate the natural world.

Through birdwatching, fishing, hunting, photography, and more, wildlife recreation contributes millions of dollars to local economies. In particular, money generated from the taxing of sporting arms

and ammunition and of fishing equipment, as authorized by the Pittman–Robertson and Dingell–Johnson Acts, respectively, has generated tens of millions of dollars. We distribute this money to the States to increase wildlife and fish populations, expand habitat, and to train hunters across the Nation. Our efforts to support national wildlife refuges also generate substantial economic help for communities that surround these refuges and wetland management districts.

Economists report that visitors to national wildlife refuges contribute more than \$1.7 billion annually to local economies. They also enjoy the nature trails, auto tours, interpretive programs, and hunting and fishing opportunities found on refuges.

## 1.4 National and Regional Mandates

We manage national wildlife refuges to achieve the mission and goals of the Refuge System along with the designated purpose of each individual refuge as described in establishing legislation, Executive orders, or other establishing documents. The key concepts and guidance for the Refuge System are in the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (Administration Act), Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), The “Fish and Wildlife Service Manual,” and the Improvement Act.

The Improvement Act amends the Administration Act by providing (1) a unifying mission for the Refuge System; (2) a new process for determining compatible public uses on refuges; and (3) a need for each refuge to be managed under a CCP. The Improvement Act states that wildlife conservation is the priority of Refuge System lands and that the Secretary of the Department of the Interior will make sure that the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of refuge lands are kept. Each refuge must be managed to fulfill the Refuge System's mission and the specific purposes for which the refuge was established. The Improvement Act requires us to check the status and trends of fish, wildlife, and plants in each national wildlife refuge.

A detailed description of these and other laws and Executive orders that may affect a CCP, or our carrying out of a CCP, is in Appendix A—Key Legislation and Policy. Our policies for planning and for the day-to-day management of refuges are in the Refuge System Manual and the “Fish and Wildlife Service Manual.”

### 1.5 Contributions to National and Regional Plans

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge contributes to the conservation efforts outlined in the various State and national plans described here.

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## Conserving the Future

A 2011 report, “Conserving the Future, The National Wildlife Refuge System” (Refuge System 2011), is the culmination of a yearlong process by teams of our employees to evaluate the Refuge System nationwide. The report contains 42 recommendations packaged with three vision statements for wildlife and habitat, people, and leadership. This CCP incorporates all three vision statements. Our planning team looked to the recommendations in this document for guidance during CCP planning.

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## Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan

The Partners in Flight (PIF) Program began in 1990 to address the declining population levels of many migratory bird species. This program is challenged with managing human population growth while keeping functional natural ecosystems. PIF worked to find priorities for landbird species and habitat types. Their activity has resulted in 52 bird conservation plans covering the continental United States.

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## North American Waterbird Conservation Plan

The North American Waterbird Conservation Plan provides a contiguous framework for conserving and managing colonial-nesting waterbirds, including 209 species of seabirds, coastal waterbirds (gulls, terns, and pelicans), wading birds (herons and ibises), and marshbirds (certain grebes and bitterns). Geographically, the plan covers 28 countries, from Canada to Panama, as well as islands and near-shore areas of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea. As with PIF and other migratory bird plans, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan has a goal to establish conservation action and to exchange information and expertise with other bird conservation initiatives. The plan also calls for establishment of “practical units for planning” for terrestrial habitats. Quivira

Refuge is located within the Central Mixed-grass Prairie Bird Conservation Region in the Central Prairies Waterbird Conservation Planning Region.

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## North American Waterfowl Management Plan

Written in 1986, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan envisioned a 15-year effort to achieve landscape conditions that could sustain waterfowl populations. Specific plan objectives are to increase and restore duck populations to the average levels of the 1970s—62 million breeding ducks and a fall flight of 100 million birds (USFWS and Canadian Wildlife Service 1986). Recognizing the importance of waterfowl and wetlands to North Americans and the need for international cooperation to help in the recovery of this shared resource, the United States and Canadian Governments developed a strategy to restore waterfowl populations through habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement. The innovative plan is international in scope and regional in its implementation. Its success depends on the strength of partnerships, called joint ventures, which involve Federal, State, Provincial, tribal, and local governments; businesses; conservation organizations; and individual citizens.

Joint ventures are regional, self-directed partnerships that carry out science-based conservation through a wide array of community participation. Joint ventures develop implementation plans that focus on areas of concern identified in the plan. Quivira Refuge lies within the Playa Lakes Joint Venture. We have considered The North American Waterfowl Management plan and the supporting efforts of the Playa Lakes Joint Venture throughout the planning process, and these will be supported and promoted within the CCP.

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## United States Shorebird Conservation Plan

In 2000, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan began through a partnership between Federal, State, and nongovernmental conservation agencies and researchers mainly to sustain the quantity and quality shorebird habitat at local-to-hemispheric scales (Brown et al. 2001). The plan is meant to complement other conservation plans already developed for waterfowl, colonial waterbirds, and landbirds. The plan involves eleven regional groups, and Quivira

Refuge is part of the Central Plains–Playa Lakes Region. Nearly all the 37 shorebird species listed for the region use Quivira Refuge during migration. At least six of those species have been reported nesting on the Refuge, mostly common in occurrence.

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## Endangered Species Recovery Plans

The USFWS is responsible for administering the Endangered Species Act that requires development and implementation of federally endangered species recovery plans. Quivira Refuge contributes to the whooping crane and interior least tern recovery plans. Management actions identified in the plans are intended to recover and conserve species and their ecosystems to levels where protection under the Act is no longer necessary.

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## Kansas State Wildlife Action Plan

The Kansas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (Wasson et al. 2005) is a strategic, habitat-based plan that considers 315 species of greatest conservation need living within the State. Regions are identified and key habitats are ranked within the plan according to the degree of threat to their well-being. The plan lists species of concern for each key

habitat along with issues of concern and strategies to address them. Issues of concern include existing data gaps, extensive changes in habitat structure over the past century, ongoing fragmentation and conversion of habitat, the spread of invasive species, and effects of natural resource management on habitat conditions. In addition, information is lacking for many species in need. Criteria used to rank the relative importance of species conservation strategies were derived from species status and considered whether or not species were regionally endemic or were subject to commercial harvest but were not eligible for money from programs such as Federal aid. Quivira Refuge is part of the Central Mixed-grass Prairie Conservation Region where mixed and sand prairie are listed first and second in importance, respectively. We support the habitats and many associated species listed in The Kansas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan.

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## Climate Change

The Service expects accelerating climate change to affect the Nation's fish, wildlife, and plant resources in profound ways (Staudinger et al. 2012). While many species will continue to thrive, some may decline and some may go extinct. Others will survive in the wild only through direct and continuous human intervention. In 2010, we completed a strategic plan to address climate change for the next 50 years. This strategic plan uses three key strategies: adaptation,



Barry Jones/USFWS

*Windmill located in the Reno Unit of Quivira Refuge.*

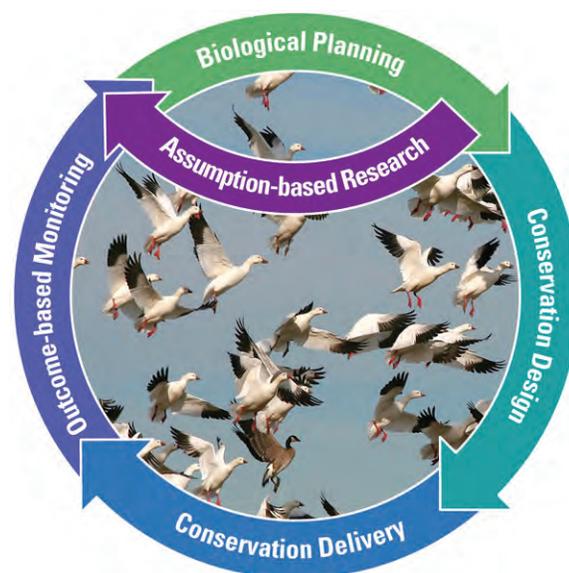
mitigation, and engagement. In addition, the plan acknowledges that no single organization or agency can address climate change. Partnerships are necessary across the Nation and around the world. This plan is an integral part of the DOI's strategy for addressing climate change as expressed in Secretarial Order 3289 (September 14, 2009).

The Service will use the following guiding principles from the strategic plan to respond to climate change:

- priority setting—continually evaluate priorities and approaches, make difficult choices, take calculated risks, and adapt to climate change
- partnership—commit to a new spirit of coordination, collaboration, and interdependence with others
- best science—reflect scientific excellence, professionalism, and integrity in all of our work
- landscape conservation—emphasize the conservation of habitats within sustainable landscapes, applying our strategic habitat conservation framework
- technical capacity—assemble and use state-of-the-art systems to meet the climate change challenge
- global approach—lead national and international efforts to meet the climate change challenge

In the face of escalating challenges such as land use conversion, invasive species, water scarcity, and refuge issues that have been amplified by accelerating climate change, we have broadened our vision beyond applying an ecosystem approach to conservation.

The National Ecological Assessment Team, a cooperative effort between us and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), wrote a report outlining a unifying adaptive resource management approach for conservation (USGS 2006). It can be applied on a landscape scale and across the entire range of a focal species or across a suite, or guild, of species. This is strategic



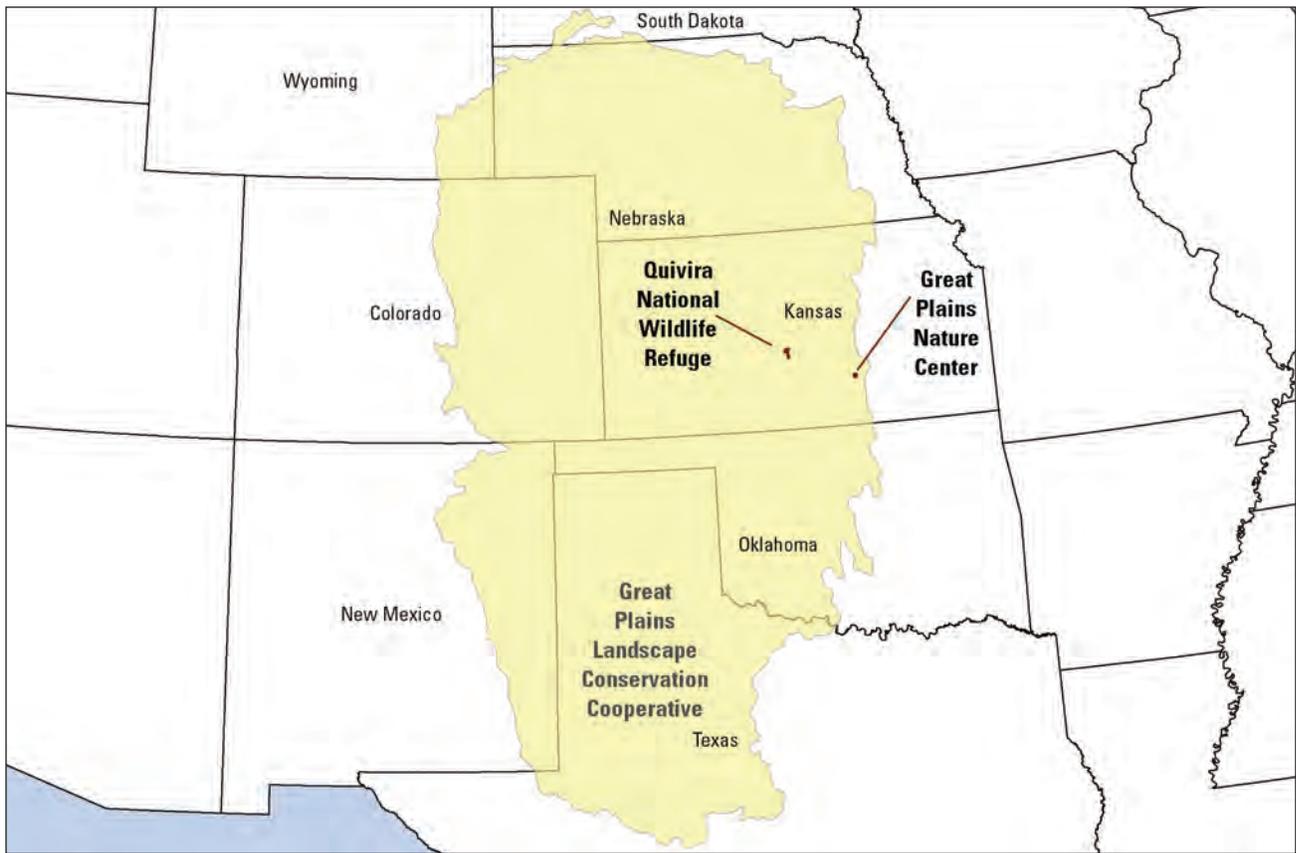
**Figure 2. Basic strategic habitat conservation process.**

habitat conservation, a new way of thinking and doing business that incorporates biological goals for focal species populations, makes strategic decisions about the work needed, and constantly reassesses (figure 2).

Strategic habitat conservation helps us to apply adaptive management across large landscapes. We used the framework of strategic habitat conservation to find the first generation of landscape conservation cooperatives. These cooperatives are partnerships between us and Federal agencies, States, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and universities. Designed to help planning and science, the cooperatives will help us conduct biological planning, conservation design and delivery, and monitoring programs and research.

Quivira Refuge lies within the Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GPLCC) (figure 3). The GPLCC has grasslands, playas, saline lakes, prairie rivers, streams and riparian corridors, savannas, shrublands and sand dune habitats in parts of Kansas, Nebraska, western Oklahoma and Texas, eastern Colorado and New Mexico, and southeast Wyoming.

The GPLCC has identified priority species, which include the burrowing owl, black-tailed prairie dog, American bison, American burying beetle, mountain



**Figure 3. Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperative with Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Kansas.**

plover, long-billed curlew, lesser prairie-chicken, grasshopper sparrow, Cassin's sparrow, lark bunting, Harris' sparrow, prairie falcon, northern pintail, sandhill crane, least sandpiper, western sandpiper, long-billed dowitcher, whooping crane, snowy plover, Wilson's phalarope, interior least tern, piping plover, Bell's vireo, Arkansas River shiner, Arkansas darter, Topeka shiner, Pallid and shovelnose sturgeon, paddlefish, blowout penstemon, and sand dune lizard. Many of these species have been reported on the refuge, such as burrowing owl, grasshopper sparrow, Cassin's sparrow, lark bunting, Harris's sparrow, prairie falcon, Bell's vireo, Arkansas darter, and all the listed waterfowl, shorebirds, and cranes.

The GPLCC will serve as a convening body to bring all interested parties together to address existing and future issues related to climate change and landscape-scale conservation.

## 1.8 Planning Process

The Improvement Act requires that we develop a CCP for Quivira Refuge. The final plan for the Qui-

vira Refuge should be completed in 2013 and will guide our refuge management for the next 15 years. We prepared this draft CCP and EA in compliance with the Improvement Act and part 602 (National Wildlife Refuge System Planning) of the "Fish and Wildlife Service Manual." The actions described in this draft CCP and EA meet the needs of the Council on Environmental Quality regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969



*Long-billed Dowitcher*



**Figure 4. Process steps for comprehensive conservation planning and associated environmental analysis.**

(NEPA). Other requirements and guidance are contained in the Refuge System's planning policy, issued in 2000. This policy established needs and guidance for refuge and district plans, including CCPs and stepdown management plans, to make sure that planning efforts follow the Improvement Act. The planning policy identifies several steps for CCP and EA development (figure 4).

We began in September 2009 by creating a planning team comprised primarily of our staff from the Quivira Refuge and our Region 6 Division of Refuge Planning. Added teammembers included staff from some of our other divisions; staff from the KDWPT; and members of the Osage Nation. See appendix B—List of Preparers, Consultation, and Coordination for a complete teammember list. During preplanning, we, the team, developed a mailing list and identified internal issues and qualities unique to the refuge. We then identified and reviewed the purposes of the refuge and current programs, compiled and analyzed relevant data.

Scoping for the public and our partners started with a notice of intent to prepare the draft CCP and EA that was published in the Federal Register on Wednesday, February 24, 2010. We informed about the plan's progress through news releases, the first



*Silky Prairie Clover*

**Table 1. Summary of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan process for Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Kansas.**

| <i>Date</i>                  | <i>Event</i>  | <i>Outcome or purpose</i>   |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| <i>September 22–23, 2009</i> | <i>Preplanning meeting</i>  | <i>Toured the refuge, formed into an initial planning team, started the mailing list, and discussed the planning schedule and data needs.</i>                   |
| <i>October 5, 2009</i>       | <i>Work plan</i>  | <i>Completed the work plan.</i>   |
| <i>October 30, 2009</i>      | <i>Planning team invitation letters mailed</i>                          | <i>Service Regional Director invited tribal nations and the KDWP to be on the planning team.</i>  |
| <i>February 2010</i>         | <i>Planning update</i>  | <i>Mailed the first planning update to those on our mailing list. The update described the planning process and announced upcoming public scoping meetings.</i> |
| <i>February 24, 2010</i>     | <i>Notice of intent</i>   | <i>Published the notice of intent to prepare a CCP in the Federal Register (volume 75, number 36, pages 8394–8395).</i>   |
| <i>March 8–10, 2010</i>      | <i>Public scoping meetings</i>  | <i>Held public meetings in Stafford, Great Bend, and Wichita, Kansas. The public had an opportunity to learn about the CCP process and provide comments.</i>    |
| <i>March 9–10, 2010</i>      | <i>CCP kickoff and vision and goals meeting</i>                         | <i>Reviewed the refuge purposes, identified refuge qualities and issues, and developed a draft vision statement and goals for the refuge.</i>                   |
| <i>March 22–23, 2011</i>     | <i>Hydrogeomorphic method analysis project update</i>                   | <i>Reviewed the progress and findings of the hydrogeomorphic analysis project.</i>  |
| <i>November 2–3, 2011</i>    | <i>Alternatives development planning meeting</i>                        | <i>Discussed management alternatives.</i>   |
| <i>March 13–14, 2012</i>     | <i>Environmental consequences and choosing proposed action workshop</i> | <i>Reviewed the environmental consequences for the alternatives, and to select a proposed action alternative.</i>   |
| <i>May 1–2, 2012</i>         | <i>Objectives and strategies work session</i>                           | <i>Developed objectives and strategies for the proposed action alternative.</i>   |
| <i>May–June 2012</i>         | <i>Draft plan preparation</i>   | <i>Prepared the draft CCP and EA.</i>   |
| <i>November 2012</i>         | <i>Draft plan internal review</i>                                       | <i>Team and other Service staff reviewed the draft CCP and EA and provided comments to help clarify the analyses and provide consistency.</i>                   |
| <i>January–March 2013</i>    | <i>Draft plan preparation</i>   | <i>Completed the draft plan for public review.</i>  |

planning update, and three public scoping meetings held between March 8 and 10, 2010, in Stafford, Great Bend, and Wichita, Kansas, between 4 and 7 p.m. Throughout the planning process we encouraged comment on, and added input to, this draft CCP and EA to comply with the public involvement needs of NEPA. Table 1 lists the specific planning steps taken to date for this draft CCP and EA.

## Coordination with the public

The mailing list we use contains more than 270 names and has private citizens; local, regional, and State government representatives and legislators; other Federal agencies; and interested organizations. See “Appendix C—Public Involvement” for more detail.

We mailed the first planning update using our mailing list, and we made updates available at the public scoping meetings. The update included infor-

mation on the history of the refuge and on the CCP process. It included an invitation to attend the public scoping meetings and contained information on how to be placed on the CCP mailing list as well as on how to submit comments to us. Our planning team leader accepted emails at address: [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

We held three public scoping meetings from March 8 to March 10, 2010. We used an open house format and set up stations tended by our staff to provide information and answer questions. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions and offer comments. We recorded verbal comments, and each person was given a comment form that could be used to submit added thoughts or questions in writing.

Written comments were due March 31, 2010. We received more than 80 comments orally and in writing during the scoping process. We received letters from 3 organizations (National Wild Turkey Federation, Defenders of Wildlife, Great Bend Convention and Visitors Bureau) and from 12 individuals. Each member of our team reviewed the comments, and we considered them throughout the planning process.

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## State Coordination

Our Regional Director for Region 6 of the Service sent a letter to KDWPPT, inviting them to take part in our planning process. As a result, three of their representatives joined our planning team.

We mailed the first planning update to the offices of U.S. Representatives Lynn Jenkins, Jerry Moran, and Todd Tiahrt and U.S. Senators Sam Brownback and Pat Roberts for Kansas telling them of the planning process, inviting them to attend our public scoping meetings, and asking them to provide comments on issues to be addressed during the planning process. We also mailed planning updates to Kansas Governor M. Parkinson, to Kansas State senator Ruth Teichman, and to State representatives Mitch Holmes and Dennis Moore. We also invited these elected officials to attend our scoping meetings by phone.

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## Tribal Coordination

Our Regional Director for Region 6 sent a letter to tribes that have been identified as possibly having a cultural and historic connection to the Quivira Refuge area. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, Kiowa, Osage Nation of Oklahoma, Prairie Band of Potawatomi of Kansas, Seneca–Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, Shawnee, and Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma tribal councils all received this letter.

The Osage Nation tribal council responded to our letter, and they appointed Dr. Andrea Hunter, tribal historic preservation officer; James Munkres, archaeologist I; Rebecca Brave, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act assistant; and Bradley P. Stumph, natural resource specialist, to represent them on our planning team. These tribal representatives attended two planning meetings, our

vision and goals workshop and our hydrogeomorphic method (HGM) analysis project update session. The Osage Nation reviewed our draft CCP and EA during internal review, and they provided comments.

Other tribal councils did not respond to the letter from our Regional Director, but we continued to invite their comments.

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## Results of Scoping

We used the comments we received at scoping meetings and by correspondence to make a final list of issues to address in this draft CCP and EA. We developed alternatives that would best address issues. We also considered suggestions for changes to our current refuge management.

## Selecting an Alternative

After the public has reviewed and commented on this draft CCP and EA, we will present this document along with a summary of substantive comments to our Regional Director for Region 6 of the Service. She will consider the environmental effects of each alternative along with the information we gathered from the public.

Our Regional Director will select a preferred alternative for management of the refuge. She will either disclose her decision in a finding of no significant impact that we will include in the final CCP or she may request added analysis. If approved, the actions in the preferred alternative will become the final CCP.

After we ready the final CCP for publication, a notice of availability will be published in the Federal Register, and we will mail copies of the final CCP or an accompanying summary to those on our mailing list. Subsequently, we will carry out the CCP with help from our partner agencies, organizations, and the public.

