

## Appendix I

Marquette Crockett/USFWS



*Canaan Valley refuge staff and Youth Conservation Corps working on Forest Road 80*

## Consultation and Coordination with Others

- Background
- Public Involvement Summary and Outreach
- Release of Draft CCP/EA

**Background**

We presented in chapter 2, figure 2.1, the steps in the comprehensive conservation planning process and how it integrates National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements including public involvement. What follows is the chronology of public outreach activities the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) conducted while preparing the draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment.

**Public Involvement  
Summary and Outreach**

**Planning Updates, Issues  
Workbook, and other  
Newsletters**

- January 2006 Article in Timberdoodle Newsletter and Highland Voice.
- June 2006 Article in Timberdoodle Newsletter and posted web page on Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) process.
- September 2006 Distributed the issues workbook and planning newsletter to approximately 2,000 names on our mailing list, and posted it online for people to complete electronically. We also sent the workbook out by e-mail to our stakeholders mailing list, which was developed by the refuge and United States Geological Survey (USGS).
- March 2007 USGS conducted stakeholder interviews and assessments with 63 participants.
- February 2008 Distributed the Executive Summary of USGS stakeholder evaluation and presented findings to interview participants at Canaan Valley State Park (2/27/09) and to the general public at an open house at the Canaan Valley Fire Hall (2/28/09).
- February 2008 Distributed a Planning Update
- February 2009 Distributed a Planning Update
- May 2010 Distributed a Planning Update announcing the release of the draft CCP/EA

**Public Scoping Meetings –  
Meeting our Refuge  
Neighbors at Open Houses**

- October 12, 2006  
Number of non-Service attendants: 6  
Location: Elkins, WV
- October 13, 2006  
Number of non-Service attendants: 6  
Location: Parsons, WV
- October 14, 2006  
Number of non-Service attendants: 16  
Location: Thomas, WV
- January 30, 2007  
Number of non-Service attendants: 27  
Location: Canaan Valley, WV

**Updating Various  
Constituents on our  
Progress**

The refuge has provided updates on the CCP process to the local community and other constituents through a variety of methods. Articles have been written for local newsletters including the Timberdoodle (Refuge Friends Group) and the Highlands Voice (West Virginia Highlands Conservancy). Outreach by partners has been completed with such groups as the National Wild Turkey Federation, WV Birders Listserv, NRA Institute for Legislative Action, and the Brooks Bird Club. News releases have preceded all public meetings and open houses. Regular

updates on the refuge website have included new information on the CCP process. Flyers were also posted in local community businesses preceding all public meetings and open houses. Personal communications have been continuous at refuge public events and programs. Communication has also been delivered via presentations at Rotary and other community meetings.

**Meetings with State  
Partners and Other  
Conservation Experts**

**December 7-8, 2006**

*Outreach activity:* Planning Meeting

*Purpose:* Convene the core planning team for the first time

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 1

*Audience:* Core planning team

**January 19, 2007**

*Outreach activity:* Planning Meeting

*Purpose:* Discuss rare plant and rare community conservation and management strategies

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 6

*Number of Service attendants:* 6

*Audience:* West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (Keith Krantz, Jim Vanderhorst, P.J. Harmon, and Elizabeth Byers), The West Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy (Rodney Bartgis), and West Virginia University (Jim Rentch)

**February 20, 2007**

*Outreach activity:* Planning Meeting

*Purpose:* Discuss migratory bird conservation and habitat management strategies

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 8

*Number of Service attendants:* 8

*Audience:* Canaan Valley Institute (Jim Rawson), Monongahela National Forest (Cathy Johnson), Northern Research Station (Jane Rodrigue and Melissa Thoms-Van Gundy), West Virginia University (Jim Anderson), and West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (Steve Wilson, Keith Krantz and Jim Evans)

**May 18, 2007**

*Outreach activity:* Planning Meeting

*Purpose:* Discuss deer management strategies

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 9

*Number of Service attendants:* 5

*Audience:* West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (Keith Krantz, Gary Foster, and Dick Hall), Timberline Homeowners Association (Jaimey Brasselle), West Virginia University (Kelley Flaherty), Canaan Valley State Park (Rob Gilligan), USFS Northern Research Station (Tom Schuler and Mark Ford), and Canaan Valley Institute (Ken Dzaack)

**July 12, 2007**

*Outreach activity:* Planning Meeting

*Purpose:* Discuss visitor services outreach, education, and other public use strategies

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 18

*Number of Service attendants:* 6

*Audience:* Appalachian Forest Heritage Area (Phyllis Baxter), Trout Unlimited (Gary Berti), Tucker County Trails (Linda Blakeley), White Grass Ski Touring (Chip Chase), Canaan Valley Institute (Cindy Phillips), Guest Services- CVSP (David Cooper), Tucker County School Board (Bob Dunkerly), Tucker County Connections (Julie Dzaack), West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (Jim Fregonera), National Park Service (Peggy Pings), Davis and Elkins College (Ed Rhudy), West Virginia University (David Smaldone), Friends of the 500th (Marilyn Schoenfeld), Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau (Bill Smith), West Virginia Highlands Conservancy (Dave Saville), and West Virginia Department of Transportation (Jim Hudson)

**December 10, 2007**

*Outreach activity:* Planning Meeting

*Purpose:* For refuge staff to hear outcomes of the contracted feasibility study for a cross-valley trail and provide feedback to the contractors on the desired products from the study

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 2 VHB contractors, 2 Canaan Valley Institute employees (Ken Dzaack and Jenny Newland).

*Audience:* Refuge staff and core planning team

**December 11, 2007**

*Outreach activity:* Conference Call

*Purpose:* To learn the results of the USGS stakeholder evaluation conducted by USGS

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 3

*Number of Service attendants:* 6

*Audience:* Refuge and Regional Office staff, West Virginia DNR.

**October 30, 2006; May 15, 2007; October 16, 2007; April 18, 2008**

*Outreach activity:* Land Protection Partners meetings

*Purpose:* Update the Canaan Valley Land Protection Partners on the CCP process

*Number of non-Service attendants:* approximately 8-10 at any given meeting

*Audience:* Refuge and Regional Office staff and people who were interested and involved in protecting land in Canaan Valley

**October 3, 2008**

*Outreach activity:* Canaan Valley refuge staff and Regional Chief meet with West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) in Parkersburg

*Purpose:* Discuss hunting and Research Natural Area Issues with State.

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 3

*Number of Service attendants:* 2

*Audience:* WVDNR (Frank Jezioro, Curtis Taylor, Keith Krantz)

**October 18, 2008**

*Outreach activity:* Canaan Valley refuge staff meet with WVDNR at Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge

*Purpose:* Discuss CCP update.

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 1

*Audience:* Curtis Taylor, WVDNR

**August 20, 2009**

*Outreach activity:* Planning meeting

*Purpose:* To discuss the State's comments on the preliminary draft CCP/Environmental Assessment (EA)

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 3

*Number of Service attendants:* 5

*Audience:* Gary Foster, Roger Anderson and Keith Krantz, all of the WVDNR

**September 14, 2010**

*Outreach activity:* Planning meeting

*Purpose:* To discuss the State's comments on the draft CCP/EA

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 3

*Number of Service attendants:* 4

*Audience:* Gary Foster, Roger Anderson and Keith Krantz, all of the WVDNR

**Briefing Elected Officials and Others**

March 26, 2008 WV Senators and State Representative

**Issues Meetings**

From February through March 2008, the core planning team met to discuss many of the issues that are listed in Chapter 1. The State representative to the core planning team was invited to every one of these meetings and he attended almost all of them. Issues discussed included hunting, trapping, Delta 13/Camp 70 Road, off-road vehicle access, off-trail skiing at White Grass, competitive races on Forest Road 80, and the impacts of White Grass ski trails on Cheat Mountain salamanders.

**Release of Draft CCP/EA**

In May 2010 we completed and released the draft CCP/EA for a 45-day public review and comment. In addition, we held a public meeting/open house on the following dates at the following locations:

**Tuesday, June 15, 2010, 2-4 p.m.**

*Location:* Canaan Valley, WV

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 30

**Tuesday, June 15, 2010, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

*Location:* Canaan Valley, WV

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 50

**Wednesday, June 16, 2010, 2-4 p.m.**

*Location:* Parsons, WV

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 8

**Wednesday, June 16, 2010, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

*Location:* Parsons, WV

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 5

**Thursday, June 17, 2010, 2-4 p.m.**

*Location:* Elkins, WV

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 15

**Thursday, June 17, 2010, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

*Location:* Elkins, WV

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 10

**Monday, June 28, 2010, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

*Location:* Davis, WV

*Number of non-Service attendants:* 30

We analyzed all of the comments on the draft CCP/EA we received during its 45-day public review, and applied them when we revised our final CCP. Appendix J summarizes those public comments and our responses to them. Each year, we will evaluate our accomplishments on the refuge in accordance with the alternative selected in our final CCP. We may intensify refuge monitoring without additional NEPA compliance. Any results of our future monitoring that predict a new, significant impact, however, would require our analysis and public involvement in an additional Environmental Assessment. requirements and advances the purpose of the refuge and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Both documents will be available to all interested parties. After publication we can implement the plan.

Each year, we will evaluate our accomplishments on the refuge in accordance with the alternative selected in our final CCP. We may intensify refuge monitoring without additional NEPA compliance. Any results of our future monitoring that predict a new, significant impact, however, would require our analysis and public involvement in an additional Environmental Assessment.