

Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge:

Developing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan





Great Swamp NWR is managed by the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Our mission:

“Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”

Great Swamp NWR



We rely on PARTNERS
to accomplish our mission



Friends of
Great Swamp NWR



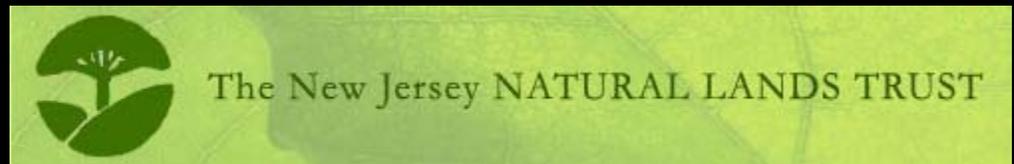
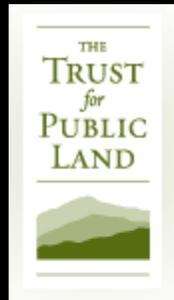
NJ Division of
Fish and
Wildlife



NJ Department of
Environmental
Protection



Great Swamp
Watershed
Association



Great Swamp NWR



- **Established in 1960** after grassroots effort leads campaign against jetport
- 1964: Refuge dedication
- 1968: Wilderness Area designated
- Previous Master Planning (early 70s, 1987)
- 2009: Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center opens
- **Today:**
 - Manage 7,768 acres, including 3,660 in wilderness
 - 150,000 visitors annually

Part of a Larger System



- Great Swamp is part of the ***National Wildlife Refuge System***
- NWRS mission is to manage these lands...
“for the conservation, management, and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats...”



Part of a Larger System



- Guided by NWRS Improvement Act
- “Big 6” public uses include:
 - Hunting
 - Fishing
 - Environmental education
 - Interpretation
 - Wildlife photography
 - Wildlife observation

Refuge Purposes



“...for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for *migratory birds*”

(Migratory Bird Conservation Act)

Refuge Purposes



for “...the *conservation of the wetlands...* in order to maintain the public benefits they provide and to help fulfill international obligations contained in various migratory bird treaties and conventions...”

(Emergency Wetlands Resources Act
of 1986)

Refuge Purposes



and is "...suitable for –

- (1) incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development,
- (2) the protection of natural resources,
- (3) the conservation of endangered species or threatened species..."

(Refuge Recreation Act)

Great Swamp NWR



These purposes guide our work.

- We manage for trust resources
- Do so via habitat management
- Provide for public use
 - When appropriate and compatible

Trust Resources



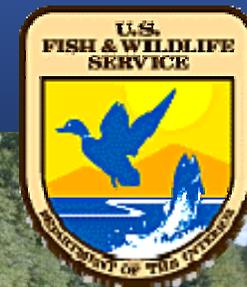
- Migratory birds
- Endangered/Threatened species
 - Bog turtle (Federal T)
 - Indiana bat (Federal E)
 - Blue spotted salamander
 - Wood turtle
 - Barred owl
- 300 vertebrate species
- Over 600 plant species from Northern and Southern botanical zones



Habitat Management

What We Do

- Manage/maintain
 - Grasslands
 - Forests
 - Brushlands
 - Wetlands
 - Impoundments
- Demolition and restoration
- Invasive species management
- Landfill cleanup and monitoring
- Active land acquisition program



Public Use



- Opportunities:
 - Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center
 - Wildlife Observation Center
 - Wilderness Area
 - Wildlife auto tour route
 - Observation Scopes at Overlook
- Offer programs, walks, Fall Festival
- Outdoor Classroom
- Environmental Education
- Annual hunt for white-tailed deer



National Wildlife Refuge System

The largest collection of lands and waters dedicated to the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats in the world.

- 552 Refuge units
- One or more in each of the 50 states
- Greater than 150 million acres



National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, 1997

- A plan for each refuge by 2012
- States are special partners
- “Big Six” priority public uses at refuges:

Hunting

Fishing

Wildlife Observation

Wildlife Photography

Interpretation

Environmental Education



National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, 1997

- Appropriateness and Compatibility
- Combined CCP and NEPA process



**Steps in the
Comprehensive
Conservation
Planning
Process**

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graph TD; A[Preplanning: Planning the Plan] --> B[Initiate Public Involvement & Scoping]; B --> C[Vision & Goals. Determine Significant Issues]; C --> D[Develop & Analyze Alternatives, including the Proposed Action]; D --> E[Prepare Draft Plan & NEPA Document]; E --> F[Prepare & Adopt Final Plan]; F --> G[Implement Plan, Monitor, & Evaluate]; G --> H[Review & Revise Plan]; H --> A;
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Preplanning:
Planning the Plan

Initiate Public
Involvement &
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Vision & Goals.
Determine
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Develop & Analyze
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Prepare Draft Plan
& NEPA Document

Prepare & Adopt
Final Plan

Implement Plan,
Monitor, & Evaluate

Review &
Revise Plan

Stay Involved

Sign-in to be sure you are on the mailing list

Comment cards available for feedback today

Send comments to:

Email: northeastplanning@fws.gov Subject: Great Swamp CCP

Fax: Attn: Great Swamp CCP; 413-253-8468

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