

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Planning



Presentation Objectives

- Explain our framework for planning
- Present the steps in the planning process
- Describe where we are in that process and our timeframes
- Identify ways that you can get involved
- Describe current refuge resources and management
- Present tentative issues and concerns to address



S. Maslowski/USFWS

Ovenbird



Why Develop a Plan?



Richard Baetsen/USFWS

American Woodcock

- Provides context and purpose
- Helps problem-solve and aids decision-making
- Allows for continuity in management
- Makes managers more accountable to the public
- Raises public awareness by making decisions more transparent
- Supports other plans and priorities
- It's required by law or policy
- It's in our nature



USFWS

Front steps of the Margeson-Loomis House



Laws/Policies Affecting Planning Process

National Environmental Policy Act (1969)

National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (1997)

- Refuge System mission statement
- State, Tribal Government, partner, and stakeholder involvement
- Maintain *wildlife first* mandate, but consider six priority public refuge uses
- Create policies for planning, compatible uses, and maintaining ecological integrity
- CCPs for all refuges by 2012!

USFWS Planning Policy (2000)

- Significance of refuge establishment purpose(s)
- Re-emphasizes State, Tribal Government, partner, and stakeholder involvement
- 8 step planning process

Other USFWS Policies



The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is...

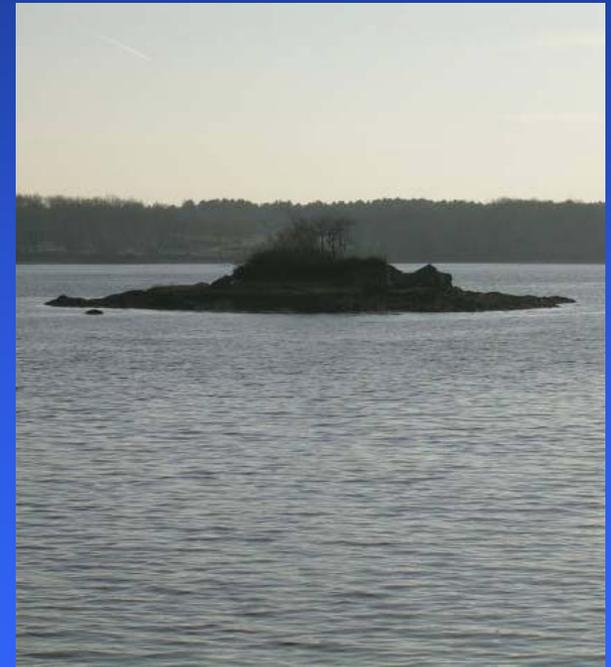
“To administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.”





What will a CCP do?

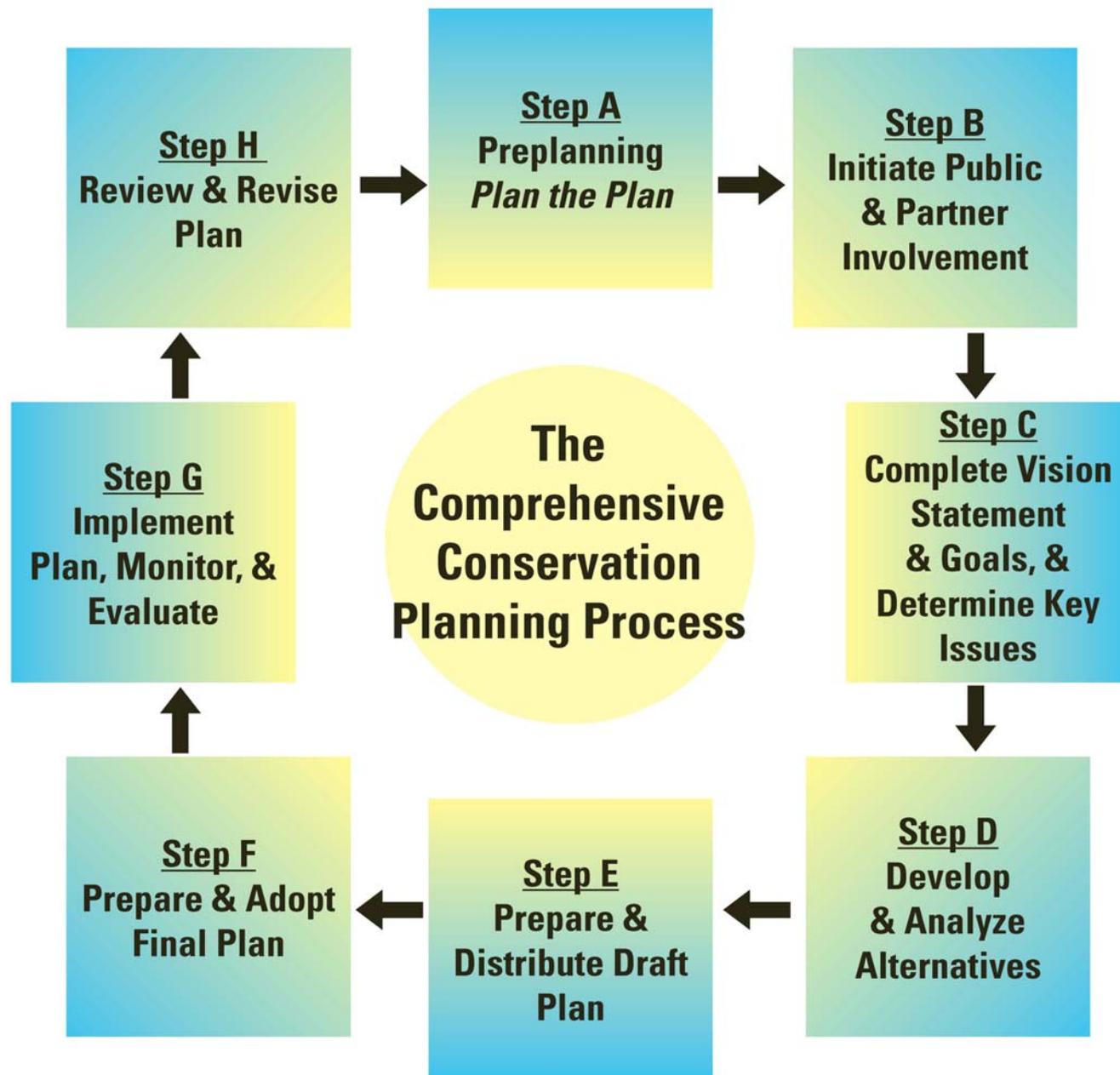
- Establish refuge management direction for 15 years through a vision, goals and objectives
- Identify an implementation schedule and priorities
- Identify specific management techniques and tools
- Involve and communicate our priorities to partners, the public and elected officials
- Support budget requests
- Ensure continuity in management; consistency within NWRS



View of Nannie Island in Great Bay



The CCP Process





Hierarchy for Developing a CCP

Refuge System Mission & Policies



Refuge Purpose(s)



National/Regional/Ecosystem/
State Wildlife Action Plans



Refuge Vision



Refuge Goals



Objectives & Strategies



Monitoring and Feedback
(Adaptive Management)



Tentative Schedule

We are here!

- Preplanning & gathering data
- Initiate public scoping & involvement (Jun 2009)
- Finalize vision, goals, and issues (Sep 2009)
- Develop and analyze alternatives (Oct 2009 - Mar 2010)
- Draft plan and release for 30-day public review (June 2010)
- Develop and release final plan (March 2011)



Public Outreach and Involvement



USFWS

Bald Eagle

- Contact us at any time
- Open houses and public meetings
- Newsletters and feature articles
- Working groups and technical exchanges
- Civic and professional group meetings
- Local leadership forums
- Partnerships
- Informal gatherings
- Your ideas?



Welcome to Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge





U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Mission:

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

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."



Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge Established 1992 1100 acres of the former Pease AFB





Refuge Purposes

- To encourage the natural diversity of plant, fish and wildlife species within the refuge, and provide for their conservation and management.
- To protect species listed as endangered or threatened, or identified as candidates pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- To preserve and enhance the water quality of aquatic habitats within the refuge
- To fulfill the international treaty obligations of the United States relating to fish and wildlife.



Great Bay NWR Biological Program



- Various bird surveys (waterfowl, shorebirds, landbird, marsh and wading birds, woodcock, osprey)





Great Bay NWR Biological Program

- Frog surveys, UNH deformed frog research, fish surveys in three impoundments
- Dragonfly surveys, USFS wood wasp survey
- Waterfowl banding with NHF&G





Invasive Species Mapping and Control



Autumn Olive



Japanese Knotweed



Purple Loosestrife



Habitat Management



Water level management



Prescribed burning, Grassland mowing



Former Weapons Storage Area



Removing buildings to restore
grassland habitat



Dealing with Historic Structures – Margeson House





Public Use, Volunteers and Partnerships



- Visitor parking, two trails, informational kiosk and restrooms available, 30,000 visitors
- Active volunteers help maintain facilities and conduct some biological inventories
- Work with GBRPP, PREP, BASH/wildlife Group, and others to improve and protect important wildlife habitats





Karner Blue Butterfly Easement in Concord



- **28-acre easement established in 1991 to protect some remaining habitat in NH for endangered Karner Blue Butterfly.**



Partnership with NH Fish and Game, City of Concord, Army National Guard, and others to enhance habitat and captive rear butterflies to be released in suitable habitat





Wapack National Wildlife Refuge (separate CCP completed in 2008)





Issues and Concerns

- Land protection
- Hunting program
- Recreational opportunities
- Habitat Management
- Staffing and budget

A scenic landscape featuring a river or stream flowing through a wooded area. The water is calm with gentle ripples. A large, smooth rock is visible in the middle of the stream. The banks are lined with trees, some of which are bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The sky is clear and blue. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Questions?