

Comprehensive Conservation Planning on John Heinz NWR at Tinicum



Questions to Address

- What is a CCP? Why now?
- How long will it take?
- Who makes the decisions?
- What is the planning process and what step are we in?
- How do I get involved, stay informed, or affect the outcome?
- What's next?





The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is:

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



The mission of the 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.”*



Federal Trust Resources

- Endangered and threatened species
- Migratory Birds
- Anadromous and inter-jurisdictional fish and other aquatic species
- Certain marine mammals
- Wetlands



Framework For Refuge Planning

- National Environmental Policy Act (1969) and its CEQ regulations
- NWRS Master Planning (~1980 NWRS Planning Handbook)
 - Step-down plans
- National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (1997)
 - Mission statement - Wildlife First!
 - State natural resource agencies, Tribal Govts, adjacent landowner involvement
 - Six priority public uses; requires “compatibility” determination
 - CCPs for all refuges by 2012!
- USFWS Planning Policy (2000)
 - 8 step planning process
 - Federal, State, local agencies, Tribal govts, conservation orgs, adj. landowners, and interested public’s participation

Priority Wildlife-Dependent Recreational Uses

Wildlife Observation & Photography

Hunting & Fishing

Environmental Education & Interpretation



What is a CCP?

- A 15-year strategic plan for the Refuge
- Fulfills laws and Service policy, and helps achieve mission statements (All refuges need plans by 2012)
- Includes a vision for the refuge
- Defines goals, objectives, and strategies for all refuge programs; identifies staffing and facilities
- Addresses key issues identified by the Service, public and partners
- Encourages partner, public, and local community involvement in planning and implementation

How Long Will It Take?

Our estimate is...

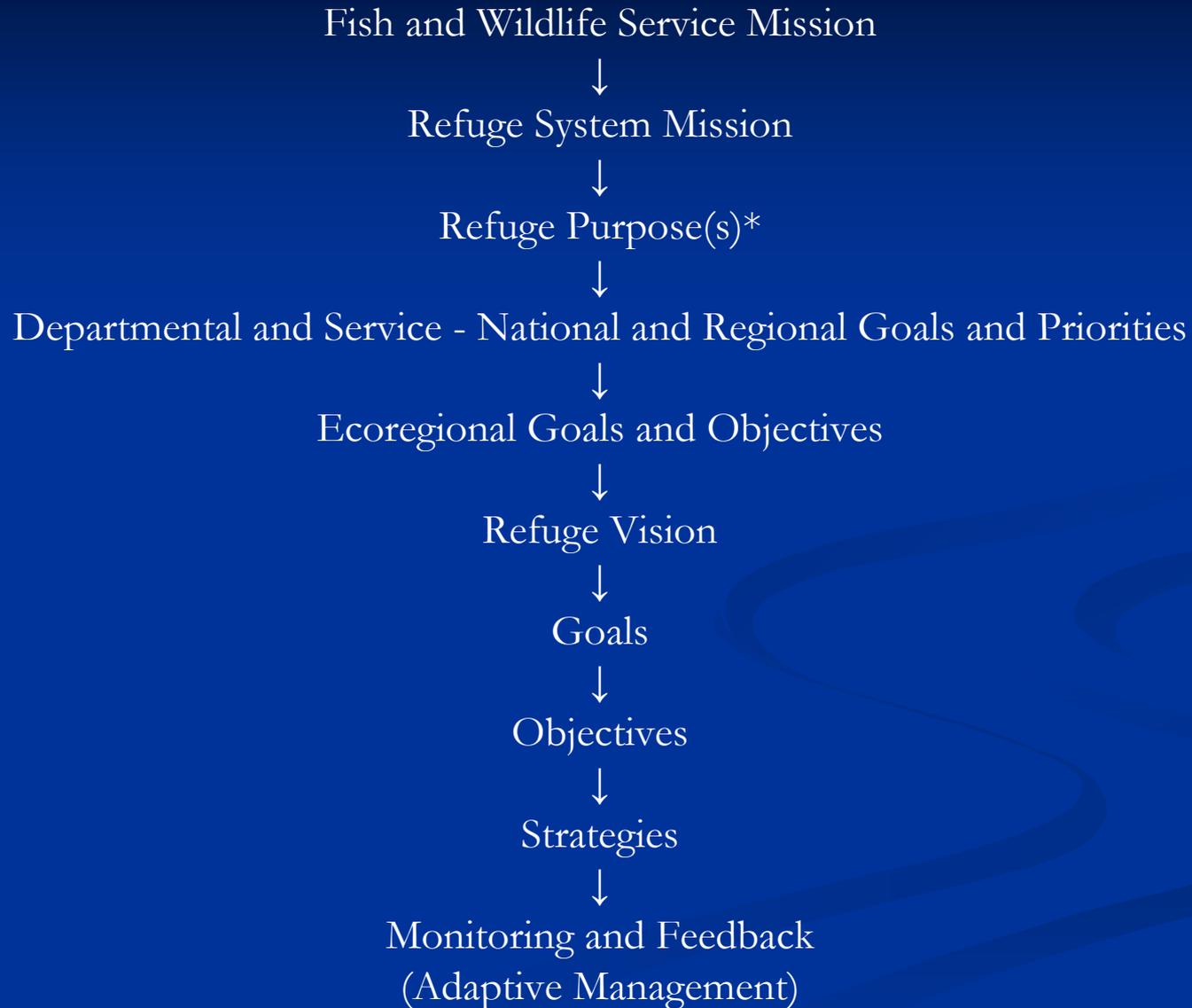
16 months

approximately,

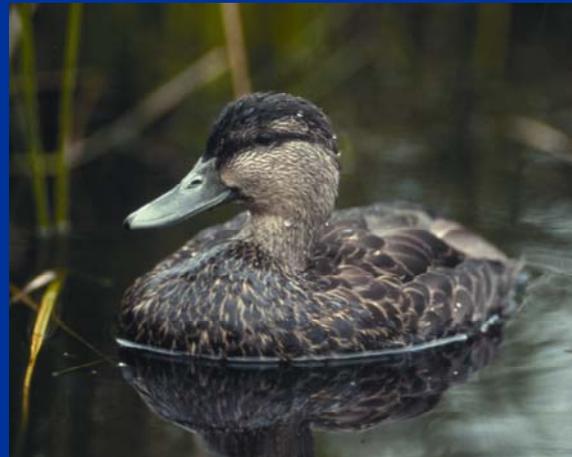
July 2011



Hierarchical relationship of refuge CCP goals and objectives to other Service mandates and plans. When in conflict, we give priority to refuge purpose(s).



What is the Planning Process and What Step Are We In?



The Planning Process

Gather Information



Identify Issues
Develop Vision & Goals

★ *We are here!*



Develop Management Alternatives &
Evaluate their Impacts



Draft a Plan for Public Review



Revise & Release Final Plan

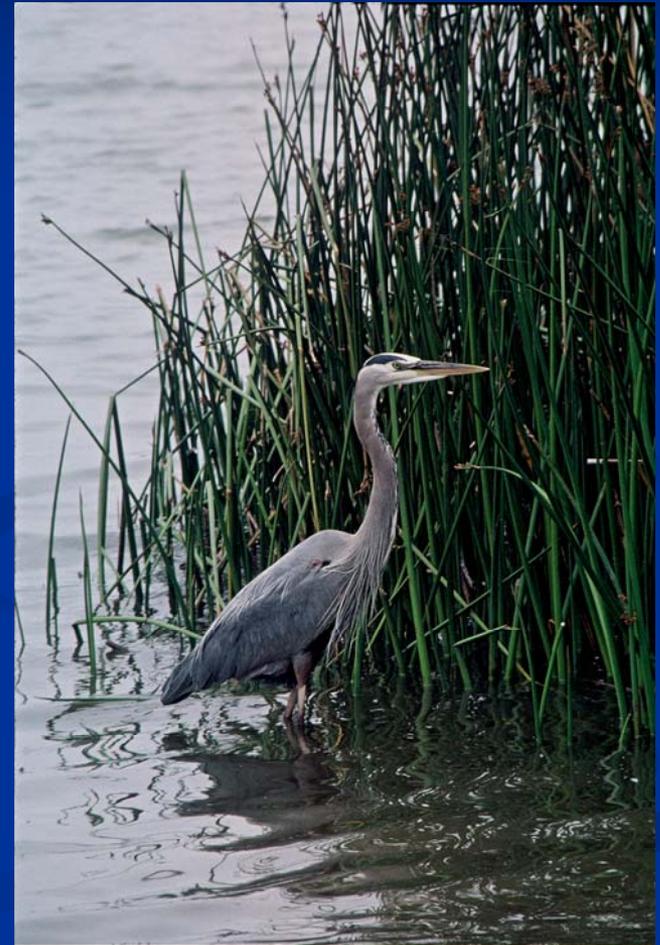


Implement, Monitor, Learn & Adapt



Who Makes the Decisions?

- Recommendations are made by core planning team
- Final decision is made by the Regional Director
- Proposals to expand refuge boundary must be reviewed and approved by Director



How Do I Get Involved and Stay Informed?

- Participate today in issues identification
- Get on our mailing list
- Review information on our website
- Invite us to, or suggest, other forums to discuss planning
- Let Gary or other refuge staff know of your interest
- Contact us at anytime



Whats Next?

Over next 6 months...

- Public Scoping Meeting in April;
Complete Issues Scoping in May
- Identify Key Issues to Address in
CCP
- Develop Vision and Goals
- Conduct Technical Workshops
on Topical Issues
- Develop Themes for Possible
Management Alternatives



What constitutes a quality plan?

- Includes an inspiring vision
- Identifies credible goals, SMART objectives, and the strategies for achieving them
- Uses the best available science
- Is easily understood
- Gets used
- Has support of refuge staff, partners, and public
- Generates action





Potential Issues Categories

- Landscape Scale/Ecosystem-wide Issues
 - Climate Change, Land Protection, Water Quality
- Biological Program Issues
 - Management, Protection, Restoration
 - Monitoring, Inventories, Research
- Public Use Program Issues
 - Range or Quality of Programs
 - Access, Conflicts, Impacts
- Other Refuge Use Issues
 - Conflicts, Impacts
- Facilities, Infrastructure, Staffing Issues
 - Safety, Suitability, Accessibility
- Community Relations/Local Economy

