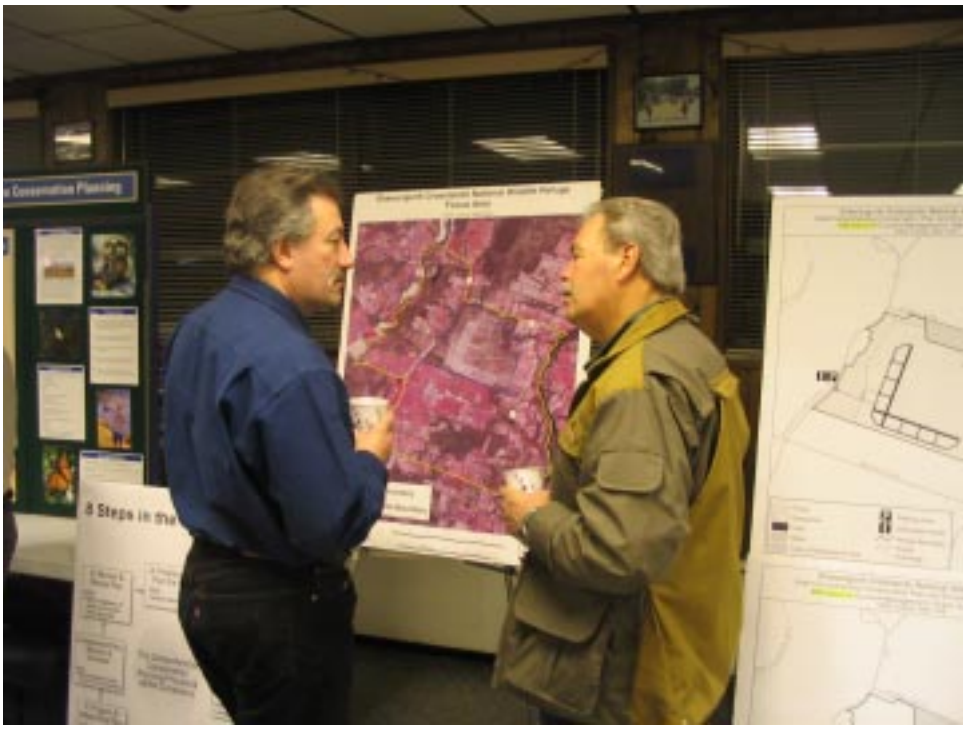
Appendix H



Public meeting
USFWS photo

Consultation and Coordination with Others

- Background
- Public Outreach
- Release of Draft CCP

Background

We presented in Chapter 1, figure 1-2, the steps in the comprehensive conservation planning process and how it integrates NEPA requirements, including public involvement. What follows is the chronology of public outreach activities we conducted while preparing this document.

In November 2002, we determined that it would be more efficient to plan separately for the Wallkill River and Shawangunk Grasslands refuges. We selected the latter as our first priority.

In November 2005, we completed and released the Draft CCP/EA for a 45-day public review and comment.

Public Outreach

May 18, 1999
Number of non-FWS attendants: 4
Location: Sparta, NJ

Meeting our refuge neighbors at open houses

May 19, 1999
Number of non-FWS attendants: 20
Location: Vernon, NJ

June 9, 1999
Number of non-FWS attendants: 25
Location: Wallkill, NY (Ulster County)

June 17, 1999
Number of non-FWS attendants: 25
Location: Warwick, NY

Updating various constituencies on our progress

November 1, 2000
Number of non-FWS attendants: 10
Location: Goshen, NY
Audience: Orange County Audubon Society

March 7, 2001
Number of non-FWS attendants: 25
Location: Wallkill, NY
Audience: Shawangunk-Gardiner Historical Society

April 24, 2001
Number of non-FWS attendants: 25
Location: Wallkill, NY
Audience: Wallkill Women's Club

July 11, 2001
Number of non-FWS attendants: 40
Location: New Paltz, NY
Audience: Wallkill River Task Force

October 20, 2001
Number of non-FWS attendants: 10
Location: Shawangunk, NY
Audience: Wallkill River Task Force

December 7, 2001
Number of non-FWS attendants: 35
Location: West Nyack, NY
Audience: Rockland Audubon Society

April 13, 2002
Number of non-FWS attendants: 36
Location: Middletown, NY
Audience: Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club

May 1, 2002
Number of non-FWS attendants: 16
Location: Goshen, NY
Audience: Orange County Audubon Society

September 28, 2002
Number of non-FWS attendants: 60
Location: Monticello, NY
Audience: Audubon Council of NYS

October 16, 2002
Number of non-FWS attendants: 18
Location: Hackensack, NJ
Audience: Bergen County Audubon Society

Working meetings with conservation experts

We also organized working meetings in fall 1999 and 2000 to synthesize expert opinions, both inside and outside the Service, on creating effective strategies for preservation.

September 21, 1999

Outreach Activity:	Planning Meeting
Purpose:	Update the status of the CCP for the Wallkill and Shawangunk Effects on Cultural and Historic Resources refuges and discuss goals and objectives for future development of the CCP
Non-FWS attendants:	6
Audience:	Leslie Fisheries, DEC Biologist; Glen Cole, DEC Wildlife; Mark King, TNC Hudson River; Ted Kerpez, DEC Endangered Species; Al Breisch, DEC NonGame; Bruce MacMillan, DEC Lands

	Topics:	Species of concern; ecological communities; water quality in Wallkill River; land protection; wildlife-dependent use; working with the public; budget and staff
October 13–14, 1999	Outreach Activity:	Planning Meeting
	Purpose:	Update the status of the CCP for the Wallkill and Shawangunk refuges and discuss alternatives
	Non-FWS attendants:	3
	Audience:	Jim Sciascia, Principal Biologist, NJ DEP Fish, Game & Wildlife; Joe Penkala, Regional Superintendent, NJ DEP Fish, Game & Wildlife; Ted Kerpez, Endangered Species Coordinator, NY DEC
	Topics:	Focus areas; marsh and grassland bird nesting in Wallkill; species of concern; land prioritization; public use; alternatives
October 3, 2000	Outreach Activity:	CCP Planning Meeting, New York Focus
	Purpose:	Discuss hunting alternatives; examine fire management recommendations for the Shawangunk grasslands.
	Non-FWS attendants:	1
	Audience:	Ted Kerpez, NY DEC, Non-Game Coordinator for Northern Region
	Topics:	How the New York Open Space Conservation Plan, the Biodiversity Project, and the Hudson River Estuary Management Program relate to and affect the refuge, fire management on the refuge; the issue of the existing concrete runways; the impact of hunting on the refuge
October 4, 2000	Outreach Activity:	CCP Planning Meeting, New Jersey Focus
	Purpose:	Update the CCP process; discuss the draft PPP proposal
	Non-FWS attendants:	6
	Audience:	Mike Valent, NJ DEP Non-Game Program; John Garcia, NJ DEP Parks and Forestry, Chief of Capital Planning and Programming; Lou Cherapy, NJ DEP Parks and Forestry, Regional Superintendent; Paul Stern, NJ DEP Superintendent, Northern Regional Office NJ DEP Parks and Forestry; Terry Caruso, NJ Green Acres Program; Beverly Muzalla, NJ Natural Lands Trust/NJ Parks and Forestry

	Topics:	Various land protection programs; how cooperation can be achieved; local responses to state land acquisition
Briefing elected officials and others	June 20, 2001	Representative Benjamin A. Gilman at Washington, DC.
	June 20, 2001	Aides to Representative Maurice D. Hinchey at Washington, DC.
	March 12, 2002	Aides to Representative Gilman at Washington, DC.
	March 12, 2002	Aides to Representative Hinchey at Washington, DC.
	July 30, 2002	Representative Hinchey's Chief of Staff, Paul Brotherton, at the refuge.
	March 27, 2003	Steve Kahl, Kevin Holcomb and Beth Goldstein brief Ted Kerpez, Regional Wildlife Manager, Bill Rudge, Natural Resources Supervisor, and Leslie Zucker, Hudson River Estuary Program, NYSDEC.
	May 17, 2004	Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership
Planning updates and other newsletters	May 1999	Distributed an Issues Workbook to all 3,000 names on our mailing list
	October 1999	Distributed our "Fall 1999 Planning Update" to everyone on our mailing list
	January 2002	Distributed our "Winter 2002 Planning Update" to everyone on our mailing list
	November 2005	Distributed a "Planning Update" to everyone on our mailing list.

Release of Draft CCP

In November 2005, we completed and released the Draft CCP/EA for a 45-day public review and comment. In addtition, we held a public meeting/ open house on the following date and location:

January 17, 2006
Number of non-FWS attendants: 38
Location: Hamlet of Wallkill, NY

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 it into our final CCP. Appendix G summarizes those public comments and our responses to them.

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