



# Comprehensive Conservation Planning for Sunhaze Meadows NWR and Carlton Pond WPA



# QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

- *What is a CCP? Why start now?*
- *What is the planning process and what step are we in?*
- *How long will it take?*
- *Who makes the decisions?*
- *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.”*



## IMPORTANCE OF A CCP...

- *A 15-year strategic plan*
- *Refine/interpret purposes*
- *Support Service and Refuge System policies and orders (e.g. planning, BIDEH, appropriate uses, compatibility, strategic habitat conservation and climate change)*
- *Include a vision statement for the refuge and WPA*
- *Establish goals, objectives, and strategies for all programs; identifies staffing and facilities*
- *Address significant issues identified by the Service, public, and partners*
- *Encourage partner, public, and community involvement in planning and implementation*

# What constitutes a quality plan?

- *Provides 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*



# Law and Policy Framework For Refuge Planning

- **National Environmental Policy Act (1969) and its CEQ regulations**
- **National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (1997)**
  - ❖ **Mission statement; Wildlife First! (Federal trust resource emphasis)**
  - ❖ **State fish and wildlife agencies, Tribal Govts, adjacent landowner involvement**
  - ❖ **Six priority public uses**
- **Appropriateness and Compatibility of Refuge Uses Policies**
- **USFWS Planning Policy (2000)**
  - ❖ **8 step planning process**
  - ❖ **Federal, State, local agencies, Tribal Govts, conservation orgs, adjacent landowners, and interested public's participation**
- **Maintaining the Biological Integrity, Diversity, and Env Health (2001)**

# FEDERAL TRUST RESOURCES

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



# Priority Wildlife-Dependent Recreational Uses

Wildlife Observation & Photography

Hunting & Fishing

Environmental Education & Interpretation



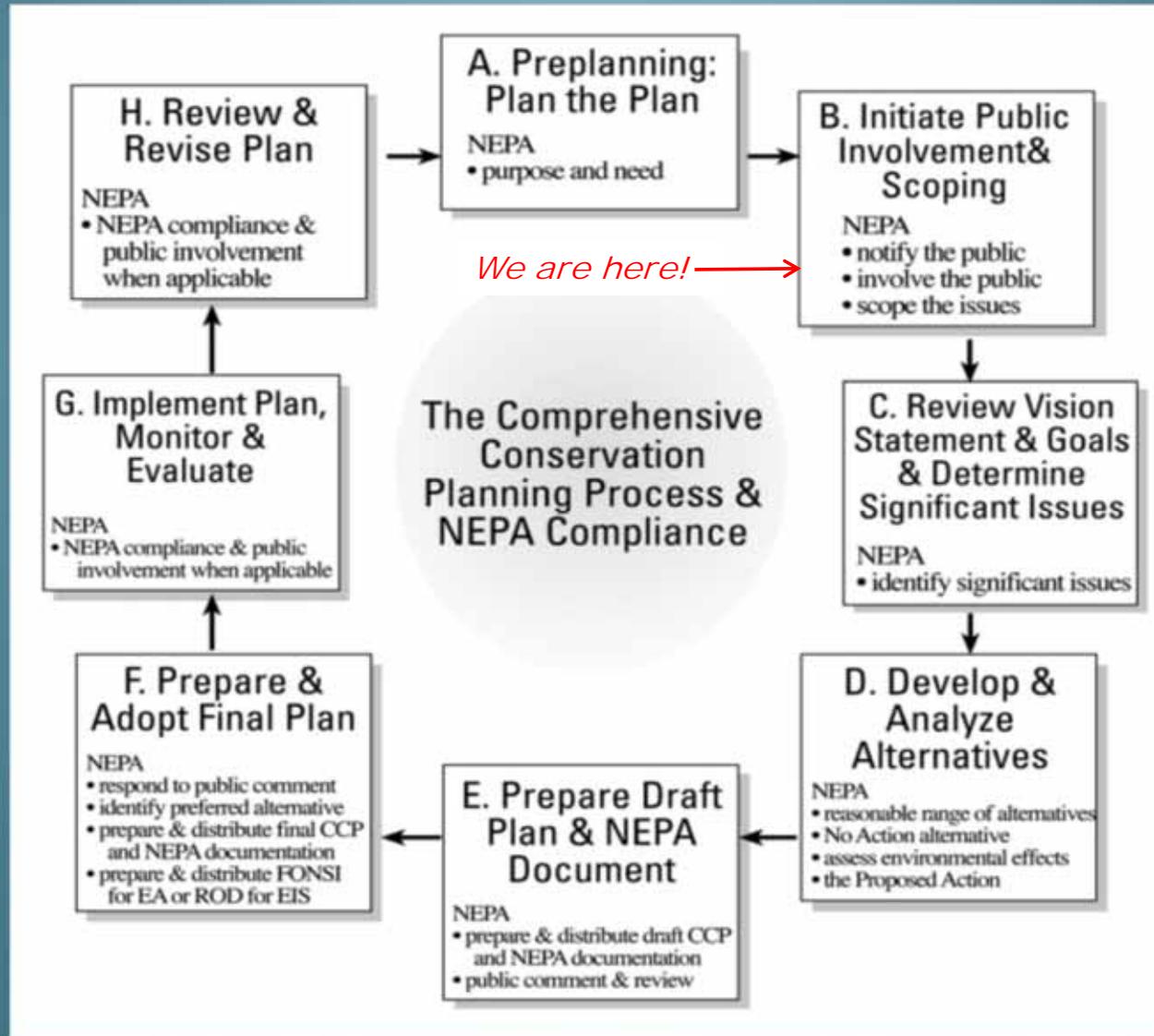
**Hierarchical relationship of refuge CCP goals and objectives to other Service mandates and plans. (When in conflict, we give priority to refuge purposes)**



# WHAT IS THE PLANNING PROCESS AND WHAT STEP ARE WE IN?

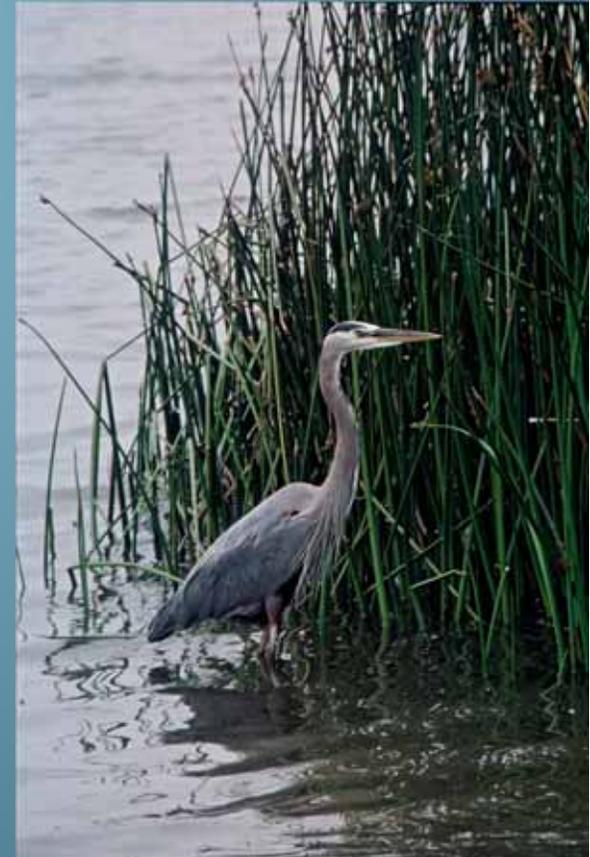


# The Planning Process



# WHO MAKES THE DECISIONS?

- *Recommendations for the preferred alternative are made by core planning team*
- *Final decisions are made by the Regional Director*
- *Proposals to expand refuge boundary must be reviewed and approved by Director*



# HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

*Our estimate is...*

*Draft Plan March 2012*

*Final Plan July 2012*

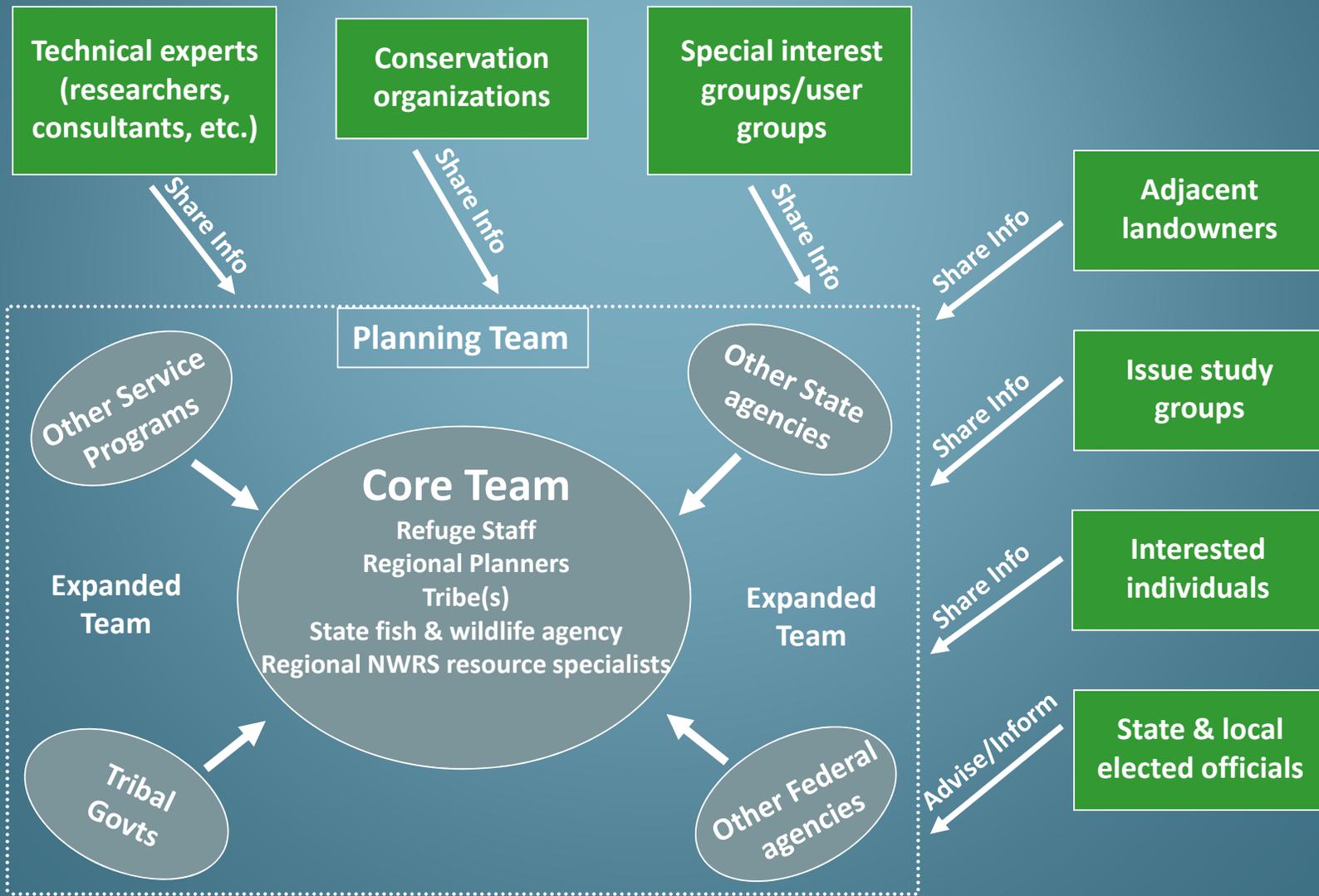


## HOW ARE WE INVOLVING OTHER PARTNERS AND/OR KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED?

- *Public Scoping Meetings in April*
- *Agency/Tribal Partner meeting today*
- *Project mailing list/newsletter updates*
- *Friends of Sunkhaze Meadows NWR*
- *Discussions with organizations and user groups*
- *Web site postings*



# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING



# WHAT'S NEXT?

Over next 6 months...

- Public Meeting in April; Complete Issues Scoping April 30th
- Identify Key Issues to Address in CCP
- Finalize Vision and Goals
- Conduct Technical Workshops?
- Develop Themes for Possible Management Alternatives



## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED, STAY INFORMED, AND AFFECT THE OUTCOME?

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



