

## Chapter 5



Mao Lin/USFWS

*A praying mantis perches on some goldenrod branches.*

# Consultation and Coordination with Others

- Background
- Public Involvement Summary/Reaching out to the Public
- What Happens Next

## Background

We started preplanning for a single CCP/EA for both the Wallkill River and Shawangunk Grasslands national wildlife refuges in late fall 1998. Later, in November 2002, we decided to write separate plans for each refuge. We selected the Shawangunk Grasslands refuge as our first priority.

Our planning team, which consisted of Service employees and employees of the states of New York and New Jersey, first met in February 1999, to get acquainted with the planning process and start collecting information about the natural resources and public uses on both refuges. We developed vision statements and preliminary goals for both refuges, and identified preliminary issues and management concerns.

Early in 1999, we compiled a mailing list of about 3,000 groups, elected officials, state agencies, adjacent landowners, and other individuals to ensure that we would be contacting a broad sample of the affected public as our planning progressed. In spring 1999, we mailed them an issues workbook that solicited written comments on refuge management topics. We also distributed the workbooks at refuge headquarters and offered them at every public function refuge staff attended.

Of the more than 3,000 workbooks we distributed, the public completed and returned 337. Their responses on managing wildlife habitat, providing public use, protecting land, and playing a role in neighboring communities strongly influence the way this CCP/EA addresses issues of concern and our alternatives for protecting resources and providing compatible, wildlife-dependent, recreational use. Please note that our workbook questions apply to both refuges; we cannot differentiate responses that may apply to only one.

In May and June 1999, we invited the public to seven open houses: two in Sparta, N.J.; two in Vernon, N.J.; two in Wallkill, N.Y.; and one in Warwick, N.Y. We advertised them in news releases, radio broadcasts, and notices to our mailing list. More than 50 people attended. We also organized several separate meetings to discuss specific issues with our conservation partners and state agencies (see below).

In October 1999, we released our “Fall 1999 Planning Update.” It summarizes the public comments we received in the planning workbook and the open houses, identifies the key issues the CCP/EA would address, and shares our revised vision statements and goals for the refuge with everyone on our mailing list.

Once we firmed up the key issues, we began to develop alternative strategies to address each one. The fully developed management alternatives in chapter 3 devolve from those strategies, public comments, and the refuge purposes and goals. We shared our proposed alternatives in follow-up meetings with our conservation partners, state agencies and the public in 2000.

We shared those revised goals and highlights of the draft alternatives for the CCP with the public in our Fall 2001 and Winter 2002 Planning Update, as well as in our September 2005 Planning Update. They provided the public with the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the most up-to-date information.

**Public Involvement Summary/Reaching Out to the Public**

**Meeting Our Refuge Neighbors at Open Houses**

*May 18, 1999*  
 Number of non-FWS attendants: 4  
 Location: Sparta, N.J.

*June 9, 1999*  
 Number of non-FWS attendants: 25  
 Location: Wallkill, N.Y. (Ulster County)

*May 19, 1999*  
 Number of non-FWS attendants: 20  
 Location: Vernon, N.J.

*June 17, 1999*  
 Number of non-FWS attendants: 25  
 Location: Warwick, N.Y.

**Updating Various Constituencies on Our Progress**

*March 7, 2001*  
 Number of non-FWS attendants: 25  
 Location: Wallkill, N.Y.  
 Audience: Shawangunk-Gardiner Historical Society

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

*April 24, 2001*  
 Number of non-FWS attendants: 25  
 Location: Wallkill, N.Y.  
 Audience: Wallkill Women's Club

*May 1, 2002*  
 Number of non-FWS attendants: 16  
 Location: Goshen, N.Y.  
 Audience: Orange County Audubon Society

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

*September 28, 2002*  
 Number of non-FWS attendants: 60  
 Location: Monticello, N.Y.  
 Audience: Audubon Council of NYS

*October 20, 2001*  
 Number of non-FWS attendants: 10  
 Location: Shawangunk, N.Y.  
 Audience: Wallkill River Task Force

*October 16, 2002*  
 Number of non-FWS attendants: 18  
 Location: Hackensack, N.J.  
 Audience: Bergen County Audubon Society

*December 7, 2001*  
 Number of non-FWS attendants: 35  
 Location: West Nyack, N.Y.  
 Audience: Rockland 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.

***April 4, 1999***

Outreach Activity:  
 Purpose:  
 Non-FWS attendants:  
 Audience:  
 Topics:

CCP Planning Meeting  
 To focus on the pre-planning stage of the CCP process  
 0  
 Nancy McGarigal, Libby Herland, Leon Latino  
 Budget, affected environment, open house times and locations

***September 1-2, 1999***

Outreach Activity:  
 Purpose:  
 Non-FWS attendants:  
 Audience:

CCP Planning Meeting  
 Update the status of the CCP for the Wallkill and Shawangunk refuges, identify key issues, discuss goals and objectives and begin listing general alternatives  
 0  
 Nancy McGarigal, Libby Herland, Carl Schwartz, Kevin Holcomb, Norman Olson, Allison Whitlock, Leon Latino, Randy Dettmers, Melissa Brewer, Jeff Shryer, Will Waldron, Shelley Hight, Joe McCauley

Topics: Archaeology, affected environment, EcoSearch, Wilderness Review, integrating migratory bird conservation, landbird conservation plans, fisheries surveys, public use, adjacent lands management, budget and staff and community relations

**September 22, 1999**

Outreach Activity: CCP Planning Meeting  
Purpose: Update the status of the CCP for the Wallkill and Shawangunk refuges and discuss goals and objectives for future development of the CCP

Non-FWS attendants: 4  
Audience: Nancy McGarigal; Leon Latino; Jeff Shryer; Libby Herland; Andrew Milliken; Kevin Holcomb; John Garcia, Div Parks Land Acquisition Trenton, NJ; Dennis Miranda, NJ Conservation Fund; Susan Curry, NJ Conservation Fund Land Acquisition; Paul Stern, State Parks Service, Northern Region

Topics: Cultural resources issues, conflicts in public use, species of concern list, communities of special concern

**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, NJDEP Fish, Game and Wildlife; Joe Penkala, Regional Superintendent, NJDEP Fish, Game and Wildlife; Ted Kerpez, Endangered Species Coordinator, NYSDEC

Topics: Focus areas; marsh and grassland bird nesting in Wallkill; species of concern; land prioritization; public use; alternatives

**June 20, 2000**

Outreach Activity: EcoSearch Meeting  
Purpose: To bring everyone up to date on the status of the EcoSearch Project for Wallkill River refuge and to determine new timelines and responsibilities

Non-FWS attendants: 0  
Audience: Tony Legér, Hank Short, Nancy McGarigal, Greg Thompson, Jay Hestbeck, Linda Shaffer, Linda Roberts

Topics: EcoSearch deadlines; how to use EcoSearch in CCP planning

**July 18-19, 2000**

Outreach Activity: CCP Planning Meeting  
Purpose: Update the status of the CCP for the Wallkill and Shawangunk refuges and discuss alternatives

Non-FWS Attendants: 0  
Audience: Nancy McGarigal, Jeff Shryer, Allison Whitlock, Kevin Holcomb, Sarah Bevilacqua, Bethany Campbell, Leon Latino, Libby Herland, Tony Legér

Topics: EcoSearch and mapping, land acquisition, discussion of PPP, criteria within Focus areas, public use (hunting, trails and access)

**August 30-31, 2000**

Outreach Activity: CCP Planning Meeting  
Purpose: Update the CCP process; discuss draft chapters of CCP

Non-FWS Attendants: 1  
Audience: Nancy McGarigal, Leon Latino, Libby Herland, Jeff Shryer, Mike Valent, NJ T&E coordinator (attended day 2)

Topics: Wallkill River refuge website, scheduling, chapter 1, chapter 3 and invasive, exotic and overabundant species

**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, NJDEP Non-Game Program; John Garcia, NJDEP Parks and Forestry, Chief of Capital Planning and Programming; Lou Cherapy, NJDEP Parks and Forestry, Regional Superintendent; Paul Stern, NJDEP Superintendent, Northern Regional Office NJDEP 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 to achieve cooperation; local responses to state land acquisition

**December 12, 2000**

Outreach Activity: CCP Planning Meeting  
Purpose: Discuss PPP; chapters within CCP and assign jobs to planning team members.  
Non-FWS attendants: 0  
Audience: Kevin Lowry, Kevin Holcomb, Jeff Shryer, Libby Herland, Leon Latino, Nancy McGarigal  
Topics: PPP, EcoSearch, sod farm management, existing EAs, alternatives chapter

**March 20, 2001**

Outreach Activity: CCP Planning Meeting  
Purpose: Update the CCP process; discuss the draft PPP proposal and objectives.  
Non-FWS attendants: 0  
Audience: Nancy McGarigal, Libby Herland, Kevin Holcomb, Leon Latino  
Topics: PPP update, EcoSearch, archaeological survey, members' schedules

**May 24, 2001**

Outreach Activity: CCP Planning Meeting  
Purpose: To discuss the status of the CCP and proposed actions for land acquisition and public use  
Non-FWS attendants: 2  
Audience: Bob McDowell and Dave Chanda, NJDEP; Tony Legér; Dick Dyer; Libby Herland; Kevin Holcomb; Nancy McGarigal  
Topics: State involvement in CCP's, Forked River Game Farm, resource protection throughout NJ, Holgate situation

**July 27, 2001**

Outreach Activity: CCP Planning Meeting  
Purpose: Discuss planning updates, revised objectives and land acquisition planning.  
Non-FWS attendants: 0  
Audience: Libby Herland, Kevin Holcomb, Allison Whitlock, Nancy McGarigal, Leon Latino  
Topics: Salamander and vernal pool surveys, grasslands study, land acquisition planning, planning updates

**November 27-29, 2001**

Outreach Activity: CCP Planning Meeting  
Purpose: To involve state biologists in our planning effort for waterfowl, game management, fisheries, and land protection  
Non-FWS Attendants: 2

Audience: Dave Chanda, NJDEP; Patricia Hamilton, NJDEP; Libby Herland; Steve Kahl; Kevin Holcomb; Alison Whitlock; Nancy McGarigal; Bill Archambault  
Topics: Fish resources and recreational fishing opportunities; land acquisition; EA chapters 2 and 4; and discussion of next Planning Update, hunting permit program, and new compatibility determinations

**May 17, 2005**

Outreach Activity: CCP Planning Meeting  
Purpose: Discuss CCP issues and conduct a refuge tour for Philip Sczerzenie, focusing on areas where management proposals from the CCP will have the most impact on the environment

Non-FWS Attendants: 1

Audience: Beth Goldstein; Edward Henry; Kevin Holcomb, Brad Milley; Philip Sczerzenie, Mangi Environmental Group  
Topics: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), prescribed burning, compatibility determinations, environmental consequence chapter, restoring natural hydrology to pond behind refuge headquarters

**July 20, 2005**

Outreach Activity: Cooperative Land Protection Workshop  
Purpose: Presentations made by each participant on current land protection and a discussion of future land protection

Non-FWS attendants: 13

Audience: Mike Inganamort, Congressman Scott Garrett; Lisa Plevin, Senator Lautenberg; Mada Liebman, Senator Corzine; Pat Lynch, National Parks Service; Tom Sampson; Bill Koch; Lisa Arroyo; Mike Valent, NJDEP, DFW, ENSP; Rich Osborn, NJ Green Acres; Ingrid Vandegaer, NJCF; Terrence Nolan, Trust For Public Land; Gylla Macgregor, NJ Audubon Society; Tom Wells, The Nature Conservancy; Donna Traylor, Sussex County Farmland Preservation and Conservation; Barbara Davis, Morris Land Conservancy; Jim Doherty, Wantage; Edward Henry; Kevin Holcomb; Brad Milley; Mao Lin; Beth Goldstein; Tom Sampson; Philip Sczerzenie

Topics: Various land protection issues as brought up by each participant included funding land protection, priorities for land protection, and how to collaborate with each other to protect lands

**September 28-29, 2005**

Outreach activity: CCP Planning Meeting  
Purpose: To review chapters 1 (introduction), 2 (affected environment) and part of chapter 3 (alternatives); discuss the LPP

Non FWS attendants: 0

Audience: Beth Goldstein, Mao Lin, Edward Henry and Kevin Holcomb  
Topics: Compatibility determinations, which actions to include in Alternative A versus in Alternative B, updates to affected environment sections, Land Protection Plan proposed acquisition boundary

**December 1, 2005**

Outreach activity: LPP meeting with State partners; CCP Planning Meeting  
Purpose: To present the Draft LPP to State partners and ask for input  
Non FWS attendants: 15

Audience: Attending from the State: From the Green Acres Program: Fawn McGee, Terry Caruso, Lisa Stern, Pam Their, Curt Gellerman, Rich Osborn, Liz Mataset, Larry Fink, Chrystal Clark, and Barb Fischer. From NJ Fish and Wildlife: Lisa Carben and Dave Chanda. From NJ Parks and Forestry: Paul S. Sedor (in for Lynn Fleming), and Steve Ellis, Regional superintendent of the north parks. From NJ Natural Lands Trust: Martin Rapp. From USFWS: Beth Goldstein, Edward Henry, Kevin Holcomb and Brad Milley

Discussion topics: Update our state partners on the CCP planning on process and share with them our progress on the Land Protection Plan. Obtain feedback on the proposed expansion areas

**February 2, 2006**

Outreach activity: LPP meeting with Wallkill River Watershed Management Group

Purpose: Exchange information

Non-FWS attendants: 2

Audience: Ernie Hofer and Nathaniel Sajdak from the Wallkill River Watershed Management Group

Topics: The LPP Focus Area of Papakating Creek; imminent threats of development in the Wallkill River Valley; imminent threats of development in the Papakating Creek area; water quality issues; exchange GIS information such as Land Use/Land cover

**February 27, 2007**

Outreach activity: Land Protection Partners meeting

Purpose: Update our partners on the CCP/LPP

Non-FWS attendants: 23

Audience: John Parke, NJ Audubon; Larry Herrightly, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife; Bob McDowell, Sussex Federation; Carolyn Fefferman, Senator Menendez's Office; Tom Gravel, Trust for Public Land; Eric Olsen, The Nature Conservancy; Ken Nelson, Wantage Open Space Committee; Mim Dunn, NJ Department of Fish and Wildlife; Nathaniel Sajdak and Ernie Hofer, Wallkill River Watershed Management Group; Ted Kerpez, NY State Department of Environmental Conservation; Larry Fink and Rich Osborn, New Jersey Green Acres Program; Lewis Lain, Town of Minisink, NY; Jim Doherty, Wantage Town Manager; Lori DuBord, Congressman Hinchey's Office; Emile DeVito, NJ Conservation Foundation; Rick Jones, Orange County Department of Planning; Rich Hehmeyer, Trust for Public Land; Donna Traylor, Sussex County Farmland Preservation and Conservation; Kira Dacanay, Americorps; Congressman Scott Garrett; Dennis Miranda, Sierra Club—Northwest Group

Topics: Draft CCP/LPP, particularly the Service's proposed alternative including the proposed refuge expansion; update on land protection priorities from our partners; discussion on how to work together to achieve common land protection objectives.

**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

## What Happens Next?

We will analyze all of the comments we receive on this draft CCP/EA during its 30-day public review, and revise the document as needed for our final CCP. During that period, we will also hold a series of public meetings. One of the final appendixes will summarize those public comments and our responses to them. We will submit the final CCP to our Regional Director for review and approval, and the final Land Protection Plan to the Service Director for review and approval. After that review and approval, we can implement them.

At the same time that we publish our final CCP, if appropriate, we will publish its Finding of No Significant Impact, certifying that it meets agency compliance requirements and advances the purpose of the refuge and the mission of the Refuge System. Both documents will be available to all interested parties.

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