

Wapack National Wildlife Refuge

Developing a Conservation Plan for the Future

Comprehensive Conservation Planning

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is starting work on a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge. The plan will establish management goals and objectives for all refuge programs over the next 15 years. For example, refuge wildlife, habitat, and visitor services programs will be evaluated during the planning process.

This planning project provides a unique opportunity for the Service to involve all of those interested in the long-term management of the refuge. You can play a significant role in the development of this important plan!

Refuge Information

The 1,625-acre Wapack National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), established through donation in 1972, was New Hampshire's first national wildlife refuge. It is administered by Great Bay NWR with headquarters in Newington, New Hampshire. The refuge's purpose is for the conservation of migratory birds. The refuge is located about 20 miles west of Nashua, New Hampshire, and encompasses the 2,278 foot North Pack Monadnock Mountain in the towns of Greenfield and Temple. The refuge was acquired through a generous donation, with the contingency it be managed as a "wilderness" for wildlife. Specific restrictions include prohibiting hunting, fishing, trapping, motorized vehicles, and tree cutting except as needed to clear trails.

Generally, refuge habitats are characterized by mature northern hardwood-mixed and conifer (spruce-fir) forest. These forests provide nesting habitat for numerous migratory songbirds, such as the black-capped chickadee, Blackburnian warbler, black-throated blue warbler, hermit thrush,

myrtle warbler, ovenbird and red-eyed vireo. The refuge also supports a wide variety of other wildlife, including deer, bear, coyote, fisher, fox, mink and weasel.

Refuge visitors annually engage in wildlife observation and photography. The refuge is especially popular as a hawk migration viewing area. A 3-mile segment of the 21-mile Wapack Trail traverses the refuge and rewards hikers with a beautiful view of the surrounding mountains.

Who's Leading this Effort?

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service, we, our), part of the Department of the Interior, is the principle federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the nation's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.

We have enlisted the assistance of the Conway School of Landscape Design in Conway, MA to help with various sections of the CCP. The Conway School is a project-oriented, 10-month Masters Degree program in Landscape Design. The school undertakes projects in New England, eastern New York, and recently Panama, for community, municipal and non-profit clients. The CCP for Wapack NWR will be the student team's main focus during the January-March term. While students are responsible for the project, faculty with training in landscape design and planning closely supervise them.

A Conservation Plan for the Future

The CCP process provides an opportunity for States, conservation and local organizations, communities, and concerned citizens to participate in the development of a 15-year master plan for a refuge. As the first step in involving others in the planning process, we plan to host an open house in Peterborough, NH. Participants will have the opportunity at this meeting to learn about existing refuge programs, help the planning team identify key issues, share ideas and concerns, and make recommendations on how the refuge should be managed in the future. We have also drafted a refuge vision statement which we would like comments on.



Wapack NWR

Draft Refuge Vision Statement

Encompassing the North Pack Monadnock Mountain in southern New Hampshire, the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge, provides exceptional mature spruce-fir and northern hardwood-mixed habitat for wildlife, particularly migratory birds. The rock outcrop and cliff on its peak, afford an ideal location to view migrating hawks each fall. We will manage the refuge to preserve its natural conditions in a setting which appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

All visitors are welcome to enjoy opportunities to observe and photograph nature along the three-mile segment of the 21-mile Wapack trail; a spur of the Appalachian Trail. Old and new partnerships with local school, volunteer, community, state and conservation organizations will foster public stewardship of this refuge and its resources, and enhance public understanding of the role of the National Wildlife Refuge System in conserving our nation's trust resources.



Public Meeting Information

Date: February 7, 2007

Time: 7-9 pm

Location:

Peterborough Town Library
2 Concord Street
Peterborough, NH 03458

Meeting Format:

7:00 - 7:30pm - Open House

7:30 - 8:00pm - Service Presentation

8:00 - 9:00pm - Question & Answer,
and Discussion Period

This location is fully accessible.

Information from the open house, and through other public involvement opportunities, will guide the planning team as it develops proposed management alternatives. These alternatives will be included in a draft CCP, which we expect to release for public review and comment by December 2007.



Ovenbird

USFWS/S. Maslowski

Visit our Planning Website

Our website has links to information about the CCP process and how to get involved, the planning schedule, planning updates and newsletters, and much more!

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Wapack/ccphome.html>

For more information:

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

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