



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Comprehensive Conservation Plan

September 2010



Front and back covers:

Northern pintails
USFWS



*This blue goose, designed by
J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become
the symbol of the National Wildlife
Refuge System.*

The *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service* is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 150-million acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of more than 550 national wildlife refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance Program which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies.

Comprehensive Conservation Plans provide long term guidance for management decisions and set forth goals, objectives, and strategies needed to accomplish refuge purposes and identify the Service's best estimate of future needs. These plans detail program planning levels that are sometimes substantially above current budget allocations and, as such, are primarily for Service strategic planning and program prioritization purposes. The plans do not constitute a commitment for staffing increases, operational and maintenance increases, or funding for future land acquisition.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge

*Comprehensive Conservation Plan
September 2010*

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9/1/2010

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Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Comprehensive Conservation Plan September 2010

Abstract

Type of Action: Administrative—Development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service

Location: Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge
Virginia Beach, VA

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This Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the 9,120 acre Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge is the culmination of a planning effort involving several Virginia state agencies, local partners, refuge neighbors, private landowners, the Back Bay Restoration Foundation, and the local community. This CCP establishes 15-year management goals and objectives for wildlife and habitats, public use, and administration and facilities.

Under this plan, we will enhance the conservation of wildlife through habitat management, as well as providing additional visitor opportunities on the Refuge. Public use would be improved through activities such as the expansion of the deer hunt, new hiking trails, and new, medium-sized headquarters/visitor contact station (HQ/VCS) at a new location.



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Refuge Vision Statement

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge will work closely with partners and communities to provide a biologically healthy natural environment that restores abundant fish, wildlife and plant populations. Special consideration will be given to those species whose survival is in jeopardy.

In keeping with the Refuge mission, we will provide a healthy haven of land and water to support Back Bay's diverse wildlife communities, with an emphasis on migratory waterbird and songbird management. We will strive to promote active stewardship of these natural resources for present and future generations, while also providing opportunities for compatible public uses. In doing this, we hope to ensure a sound coexistence between wildlife and people that will allow people to share our passion and appreciation of Back Bay's many natural resources, while also enhancing the quality of life in Back Bay.

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