

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Newsletter - September 2008

Comprehensive Conservation Planning

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) has started work on a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. This plan will establish management goals and objectives for all refuge programs over the next 15 years. Wildlife, habitat, land protection, 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 far-reaching plan!

Contact Information

We will continue to provide updates about our CCP process. If you are interested in further information, have questions or would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact us in the following ways:

In Person or by Mail:

1101 Casey Road
Basom, NY 14013

By Phone:

585.948.5445

Via the Internet:

Email: fw5rw_irqnwr@fws.gov

Website: www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois



Refuge Manager Thomas Roster at a public meeting

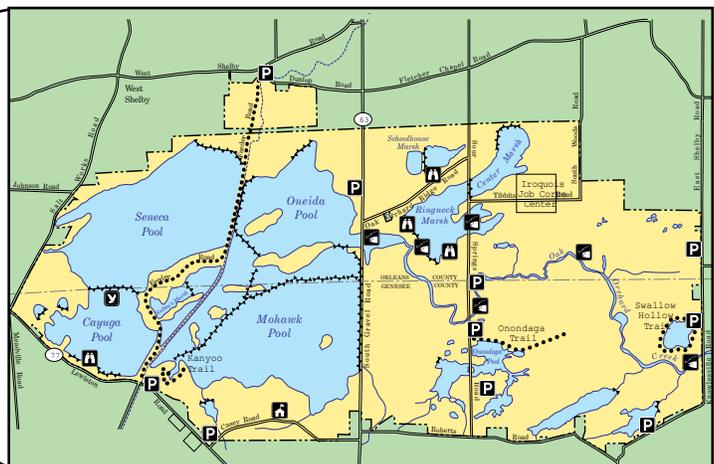
Where We've Been...

In the spring of 2008, staff at Iroquois NWR sought public input on all aspects of refuge management as part of the Comprehensive Conservation Planning process.

An introductory newsletter was mailed to over 360 refuge neighbors, sporting groups, local politicians, conservation groups and state agencies to inform them of the CCP development process. Copies of the newsletter were also available at the refuge visitor contact station, through the refuge website, and at community outreach events.

Iroquois NWR hosted public meetings on April 8, 9 and 10, 2008 which were held in Batavia, Albion and the Refuge Headquarters in Alabama, respectively. Each day the public could attend either an open house style meeting in the afternoon or a more structured meeting in the evening. Approximately 20 people attended over the three days.

A written public comment period was also open from February 26 – April 30, 2008 during which time people could mail, email or drop off comments.



How Did We Get Here?

1903

Theodore Roosevelt

Established the first National Wildlife Refuge.

1929

Migratory Bird Conservation Act

Gives authority to purchase lands for migratory birds.

1934

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (Duck Stamp Act)

Provides a source to purchase land for migratory birds through the sale of Duck Stamps.

1958

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge established.

1966

National Wildlife Refuge System Act

Creates guidelines for the administration and management of all areas in the system, including requiring activities on refuges be compatible.

1997

National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act

Clarified the mission and management priorities, created priority public uses, and requires that each refuge complete a comprehensive conservation plan.

Today

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge staff are now working on the CCP process.

All written comments we received were compiled and categorized into the themes below. Comments were received from over 40 individuals and several stakeholder groups.

Theme	Number of Comments Received
Fishing	6
Habitat Management	20
Hunting	53
Land and Water Protection	4
Overall Refuge Comments	15
Environmental Education	1
Interpretation	2
Wildlife/Nature Observation	16
Wildlife/Nature Photography	3
Other Non-consumptive Public Use Comments	2

This summer, the core committee comprised of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service staff and representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation came together to start drafting a vision statement for Iroquois NWR which will address where we would like to see the refuge in the future. This meeting also provided us with the opportunity to review the comments received and discuss what issues are currently facing the refuge.

Where We're Going...

Once the draft vision statement, goals (what we want to do), and objectives (how to achieve the goals) are completed, they will be shared with the public for comment and review. During this entire process, we will continue to focus on the missions of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the National Wildlife Refuge System, and the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge establishing legislation. Additional updates will be provided as the process continues.



© USFWS

