Appendix E

Steve Vitum/USFWS

Black Creek

Public Scoping Report in Refuge Newsletter

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge Newsletter

Spring 2000

In This Issue

- Comprehensive Conservation Planning: What is it? Who is leading the effort? Why is this planning effort starting now?
- About Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge
- Getting involved in the planning process
- Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge draft goals and vision statement
- Issues Workbook
- Planning Schedule
- Next Steps

Open Houses

The refuge will be hosting 3 open houses for the public. We invite you to come and share your ideas about the refuge.

Open Houses

October 24, 2000 7:00pm
Swanton Village Municipal Complex
Large Meeting Room
Swanton, Vermont

October 25, 2000 7:00pm
St. Albans Town Educational Center
St. Albans, Vermont

October 26, 2000 7:00pm
University of Vermont Campus
Aiken Center, Room 104
Burlington, Vermont

Comprehensive Conservation Plans

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is starting work on a long-term plan for Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge. A practical guide will be prepared for managing the refuge and protecting important wildlife habitat for the next 10 to 15 years. This guide will be called a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP).

This CCP for Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge will:

- Outline the direction and expectations of management operations of the Refuge for the next 10-15 years
- Clarify the role the Refuge will continue to play as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System and in local communities,
- Identify how the Refuge can best help protect important habitats and species;
- Establish which public uses are compatible with managing for wildlife

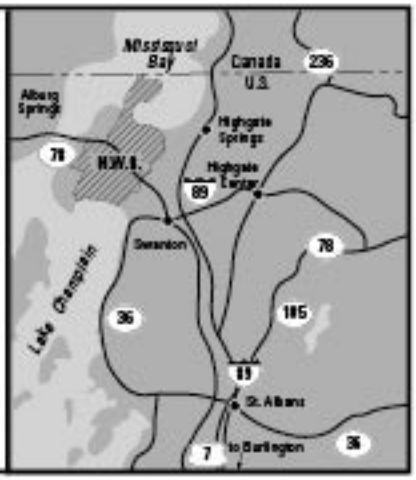
This planning effort provides a unique opportunity for the Service to involve individuals and local communities in the long-term management of your National Wildlife Refuges. You can play a significant role in the development of this long-term plan.

To develop such a plan, the Refuge needs your help answering the following questions:

- How are we doing with habitat and wildlife management and protection, public use, endangered species, and partnerships?
- What could the Service do better for wildlife and for you?
- How can we work together?

Missisquoi
National Wildlife Refuge

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1943, is located on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain near the Canadian border in Franklin County, Vermont. The refuge headquarters is two miles northwest of Swanton, on Route 78.



2

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge Planning

Why is this planning effort starting now?

In October 1997, Congress passed the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. It establishes the mission of the Refuge System, a new process of determining compatible public use activities on refuges, and requires us to prepare CCPs for each refuge. The Refuge Improvement Act states that, first and foremost, the National Wildlife Refuge System must focus on wildlife conservation.

Digging for clues! *Visitors to Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge may have noticed the archeologists and anthropologists working on the Refuge. These researchers are looking for artifacts of Missisquoi's rich cultural history. USFWS Photo*

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission

"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."

Who's Leading This Effort?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service is the Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the nation's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for the continuing benefit of people. The Service has major responsibilities for migratory birds and fish, endangered species, and certain marine mammals.

The Service also manages the National Wildlife Refuge System, the world's largest collection of lands set aside specifically for the protection of fish and wildlife populations and habitats. The refuge system began in 1903, when President Theodore Roosevelt designated Pelican Island, a 3-acre pelican and heron rookery in Florida, as a bird sanctuary. Today, there are more than 500 national wildlife refuges from Alaska to Puerto Rico that encompass more than 93 million acres of the nation's best wildlife habitat. National wildlife refuges typically offer a variey of recreational opportunities and many have visitor centers, wildlife trails, and environmental education programs. Nationwide, more than 34 million visitors hunt, fish, observe and photograph wildlife, or participate in interpretive activities on refuges each year.

The Refuge

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1943 under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. As one of the earliest refuges established with Migratory Bird funds, it continues to protect premiere habitat for migrating birds, especially waterfowl. The 6,592-acre refuge protects the Missisquoi River delta's marshes, open water, old fields, and wooded swamps. The Refuge and surrounding area combine to provide important feeding, resting, and breeding habitats for migratory birds, particularly waterfowl.

The CCP will address long-term plans for the refuge. Public uses, such as fishing, hunting, boating, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, interpretation and environmental education will be evaluated. Habitat management for migratory waterfowl and other species, and management practices for the state-listed spiny soft shelled turtle will be addressed. With help from Refuge partners opportunities for land protection will be proposed. The Refuge looks forward to hearing what ideas you have about Missisquoi NWR.

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Issues Workbook

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge Goals

1. Maintain a healthy and diverse river delta ecosystem with a full range of natural processes, natural community types, and the full spectrum of native plants and animals.

2. Protect and enhance federal trust resources (migratory birds, interjurisdictional fish, threatened and endangered species) and other species of special concern.

3. Foster cooperative actions and partnerships with local communities, agencies, organizations, and the Province of Quebec to promote and further refuge goals.

4. Foster public understanding and appreciation of the value of the Missisquoi River delta ecosystem and the role of the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge in protecting and sustaining this valuable resource.

5. Increase public awareness and understanding of the role of the National Wildlife Refuge System and the need for fish and wildlife management through promoting priority public uses (Big 6) where compatible.

Getting Involved

You can help us focus our planning effort on those things that matter to you and your community. Your comments will assist us in identifying the best alternatives for long-term management of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge.

This newsletter has been mailed to everyone on our mailing list and will be handed out to everyone who attends the Open House meetings. The following workbook provides an effective way for us to share background information and to hear your ideas and concerns on important issues affecting the Refuge. We have compiled a list of questions to provide a basis for comparing your comments with others we receive. Answer any or all that are important to you. Feel free to add additional comments in the spaces provided, attach additional pages, give us a call, Email, or write us at the address provided on the last page.

The comments we receive in the workbooks and at the public meetings will help us identify issues and develop goals and objectives.

Values, Vision and the Service's Role

1. How many times a year do you visit Missisquoi National Wildife Refuge? (Please indicate the approximate number of days you visit per year)

_____ never
_____ 1-5
_____ 5-25
_____ 25-50
_____ 50+

2. What do you value most about the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge? With a larger perspective in mind, what do you value most about the Missisquoi River basin?

3. What do you consider to be the most important issue facing the refuge/ this area?

4

Vision Statement Issues Workbook

Looking Ahead to 2015

The Missisquoi river delta is an international resource of importance for the people of the United States and Canada. The Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge is a critical link in the maintenance of the ecological integrity of this river delta which provides breeding, staging, and migration habitat for thousands of waterfowl and other migratory birds annually. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with our partners, collaborate with other conservation efforts to reach out and forge broad alliances to protect and manage this vast and diverse resource to sustain a healthy ecosystem for future generations.

The Refuge protects the largest and most diverse wetland complex in the upper Lake Champlain basin. The diverse floral community is overshadowed only by the faunal diversity represented by the multitude of migratory bird species that use the Refuge. The future of the Missisquoi NWR and the sustained integrity of the river delta ecosystem relies on the understanding of the biolgical processes that created and maintain this large wetland complex and the human influence on the past, present, and future uses of the area.

Missisquoi NWR is a welcoming destination for those who wish to learn about the Missisquoi river delta and the history and wildlife of the Refuge. Enjoyed by backyard neighbors as well as new visitors, the refuge offers unique opportunities to pursue outdoor-related activities such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, interpretation and environmental education (Big 6).

The cultural resources at the Refuge provide valuable insight into the history and way of life of early Native Americans. Understanding this history is critical to the understanding of human activity on the river delta.

4. What do you think of our Vision Statement and goals (see sidebar pg. 3 and 4) Any comments/suggestions?

5. What technical services would you like Refuge staff to provide to your local community? (check if appropriate)

_____ wetlands management
_____ management of endangered species
_____ management to benefit wildlife
_____ land protection funding
_____ control of invasive plant and animal species
_____ volunteer opportunities
_____ grants for habitat management
_____ fishing/hunter education
_____ environmental education

_____ Other: _____

Opportunities for people

Environmental education, interpretation, fishing, hunting, photography, and wildlife observation are considered to be priority opportunities for people on National Wildlife Refuges. These opportunities are made available and managed based on the needs of wildlife at each refuge.

1. What are your favorite activites to engage in while on the refuge?

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Issues Workbook

Springtime on the Missisquoi River. *Flood events, such as this, are a natural processes common to the river delta.*

Planning Schedule

October 2000
Open houses to identify issues and opportunities for the refuge

Ongoing
Meetings with agencies, groups, and other interested partners

Through May 2001
Defining issues, developing strategies and alternatives

Fall 2001
Draft CCP/ Environmental Assessment released and distributed

Winter 2001
Final CCP/ Environmental documents released and distributed

Premier birding. *Missisquoi NWR is a great place for bird watching.*

2. What improvements, changes or new activities are needed to provide better service to the public?

3. Do our recreational facilities meet your needs? (trails, parking, signs, etc.)

Habitat and Wildlife

NWRs are actively managed to maintain and improve the quality of fish and wildlife habitats. Healthy ecosystems include a diversity of native habitats and species. Refuges are managed to maintain and improve conditions for native fish, wildlife, and plants and their natural communities. Emphasis is placed on threatened and endangered species, and migratory birds.

1. What changes or improvements could be made in habitat and/or species management on the Refuge?

2. Are there specific areas within the Northern Lake Champlain Basin that, in your opinion, need protection? If so, please list them here, and explain why you think they are important.

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Issues Workbook

Fishing is fun! *Refuge staff offer a variety of special programs and activities each year. USFWS Photo*

What are the Next Steps?

The following are the primary steps of the comprehensive planning process:

1. Compile existing information on natural resources and public use
2. Identify resource issues, opportunities, and ideas
3. Identify resource goals
4. Identify alternative ways to protect fish and wildlife, resolve the identified issues, and meet goals
5. Prepare a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and environmental assessment for public review
6. Evaluate comments, revise draft plan, and adopt the final plan for the refuge

The Refuge is addressing steps 1 and 2 at this time. Your thoughts and comments are important to help identify the issues and opportunities to consider in the plan.

3. Which options should the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursue in protecting important habitats that are not currently in a National Wildlife Refuge? (Please check your top 3 choices)

A. _____ land acquisition
B. _____ conservation easements
C. _____ purchasing development rights
D. _____ partnerships with private land owners
E. _____ working with the State
F _____ environmental education
G. _____ habitat restoration
H. _____ no active involvement
I. _____ other (please specify)

Administration

1. What concerns do you have about the Refuge? What is working well? What is not? How can we improve?

2. Are there groups we should work with to improve opportunities for wildlife and people?

3. Have you, or are you planning to, attend one of the Open Houses?

Yes____ No_____

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Issues Workbook

Please forward your workbook to:

Lindsay Krey
300 Westgate Center Dr.
Hadley, MA 01035-9589

by December 15, 2000. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please contact us if you have any questions or need additional information. Also, we would be happy to meet with your group or organization to discuss this process.

Mark Sweeny, Refuge Manager
371 North River Street
Swanton, VT 05488-0163
phone: (802) 868-4781
email:
FW5RW_MSQNWR@fws.gov

Heron Rookery. *Missisquoi NWR is an important nesting area for many species, including these herons. USFWS Photo*

That is it! Thanks for your time!

Important: Now that you are finished, please separate pages 3-7, put them into the self-addressed envelope and drop it in the mail by December 15, 2000. We'll let you know the results as soon as we can. Please help us keep our mailing list updated by completing the following.

Are You on the Mailing List?

If you wish to receive future mailings about the Missisquoi NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan, please fill in the information requested below

_____ (Yes) Keep me on your mailing list
_____ (Yes)Add me to the mailing list to receive future information about the CCP Process
_____ (No) Please take me off your mailing list

Name:_____
(please print)

Address:_____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

If you are acting in an official capacity as the representative of an organization, please complete the following two items.

Organization: _____

Title: _____

Thank you for your contribution to your National Wildlife Refuge!
The future of the Missisquoi NWR and the sustained integrity of the river delta ecosystem relies on the understanding of the biolgical processes that created and maintain this large wetland complex and the human influence on the past, present, and future uses of the area.

Important: Please realize that names on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan mailing list become part of the public record for the planning process. The Service must release these names, if someone requests it, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1974

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge
RD 2, Route 78
Swanton, VT 05488-0163

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge Newsletter 2

Spring 2001

Important facts about newsletter responses

Newsletter responses are instrumental to the planning process. Thank you for taking time to complete and send in your response! We've summarized all the responses received before February 14th in this newsletter.

It is important to remember a few facts regarding these responses:

- All responses are important to this planning process.
- Some opinions may not reflect the goals or policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and may not be implemented.
- Responses do not represent a random sample, rather the individual opinion of those who received a newsletter, and took time to complete and return it.

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission

"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."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is developing a long-term plan for Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge. This plan will be a practical guide for managing the refuge and protecting important wildlife habitat for the next 10 to 15 years. This guide will be called a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). As an important part of this planning process, we have been collecting input from the public, conservation organizations, and local and state government agencies. This newsletter is an update on the status of this effort and summarizes comments we have heard so far.

Our first newsletter was mailed in October, 2000 to more than 600 people. It was also made available to refuge visitors and those who attended our public meetings. Over 60 workbooks were returned. Additionally, in October we hosted three open houses in Swanton, St. Albans, and Burlington. We hoped to gather information and ideas from local residents, adjacent landowners, refuge visitors, and other organizations from both of these efforts.

We received a number of good suggestions and ideas. While comments varied, it was clear that most people believe that Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge is a special place, with unique natural resources and valuable recreation opportunities. Almost everyone who responded to the workbooks said that the management and protection of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge is very important. Most were also excited about the potential for new and expanded public use programs as a result of the new headquarters facility. We hope you will take time to review the comments we received.

Missisquoi
National Wildlife Refuge

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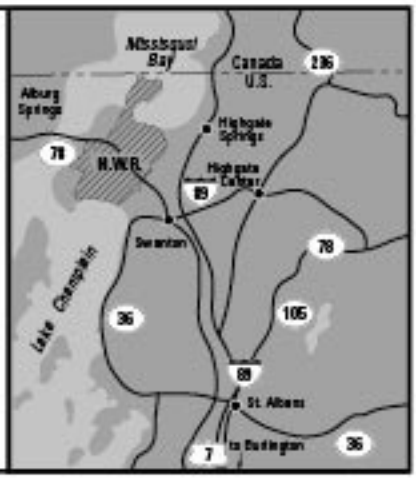

2

Workbook Responses

What do you consider to be the most important issue facing the Refuge/ this area?

Nearly a third of the respondents felt that public use issues were the most important facing the area. Many respondents were concerned about the overuse of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) while others requested that more areas be open for public use activities, particularly hunting and fishing. Another important issue addressed was water quality. Many respondents expressed concern over the water quality in the bay and river. Management and conservation of the Refuge natural resources was another for some. Many people expressed their appreciation for the unique habitat and wildlife opportunities the Refuge offers. Respondents expressed concern over the impacts development in the area has on natural resources. Other items of interest included the development of the new headquarters facility, Native American involvement with the Refuge, invasive species control, Route 78 expansion, and staffing deficiencies at the Refuge.

Many respondents suggested that Refuge staff continue to monitor activites on the Refuge and get more involved with activities in the community.

Who responded to our workbook?

Almost half of those responding to our workbook visit Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge 1-5 times per year. We were excited to find that the other half visit the refuge more than five times per year, with four respondents stating they visit the refuge over 50 times per year! We were also pleased to receive comments from a number of conservation organizations in the areas as well as many residents. Thanks for giving us your time and your thoughts.

Many visitors to Missisquoi NWR enjoy special programs presented by Refuge staff.

What do you value most about the Missisquoi NWR? With a larger perspective in mind, what do you value most about the Missisquoi River basin?

Fifty one percent of the respondents specifically stated they valued Missisquoi NWR most for its wildlife and habitat value. Of that 51%, 12% noted that the value is in part because of the diversity of flora and fauna as well as the great number of unique species and habitat types. Another 25% valued the Refuge most for its protection of this habitat from development and some specifically stated they appreciated having public land in their community. A number of comments celebrated the Refuge's outstanding waterfowl hunting opportunities. Others valued the wildlife observation, fishing, environmental education, and photography opportunities the most.

Are there specific areas within the Northern Lake Champlain Basin that, in your opinion, need protection? If so, please list them here, and explain why you think they are important.

Respondents offered a variety of suggestions for areas to be protected. Here are just a few.

- Wetland, floodplain forest areas
- Wetlands regardless of size
- Rock River Basin, Pike River Basin, South River, Chazy Rivers
- Isle La Motte Coral Reef
- King's Bay wetland complexes
- Missisquoi River riparian lands, wildlife travel corridors, wetland functions
- Spiny soft-shell turtle habitat
- Staging areas for migratory birds and sensitive habitat such as nesting, basking, and overwintering areas for spiny soft-shell turtles

3

Workbook Responses

We asked respondents to check technical services they thought would be appropriate for Refuge staff involvement.

Following is a list of those services and the number of respondents that supported each method:

- 22 Wetlands management
- 19 Management of endangered species
- 27 Management to benefit wildlife
- 14 Land protection funding
- 33 Control of invasive plant and animal species
- 18 Volunteer opportunities
- 17 Grants for habitat management
- 31 Fishing/hunting education
- 26 Environmental Education

Are there groups we should work with to improve opportunities for wildlife and people?

Respondents offered a number of suggestions for involvement in the CCP process. We mailed a newsletter in November to many of the new contacts. The Refuge will continue to reach out to the community for input in the planning process.

What improvements, changes or new activities are needed to provide better service to the public?

Respondents offered many comments on improvements and changes the Refuge could make. A number of respondents are anxious to see the Refuge offer new educational programs and facilities. They expressed an interest in seeing the new headquarters facility completed. Some people suggested that the Refuge needs to be easier to contact and provide better information to the public regarding its purpose and activities. Several people suggested the Refuge post special information on a website and distribute more brochures and reading material to the community.

Along with interest in educational programs, several respondents requested more guided programs and walks. Others suggested additional wildlife observation platforms and wildlife viewing opportunities along trails and overlooks. However, several respondents were concerned about expanding access and opportunities that might disturb habitat and wildlife. At least three respondents were concerned about balancing hunting and fishing activities with other non-consumptive uses.

A number of people addressed difficulties accessing the Refuge primarily for wildlife viewing and hunting, and suggested making easier access points for handicapped visitors. Others proposed opening all Refuge roads and boat ramps for public access.

Many respondents commented on hunting on the Refuge. Some requested that more areas be open to the public, while others requested that hunting regulations should be better posted and controlled. Several respondents requested that duck blind staking along the Refuge boundary be better controlled. At least one respondent wished that hunting be closed on the Refuge.

Other respondents commented on the importance of emphasizing a variety of species in the management of the Refuge. One person suggested the Refuge construct more nest structures. It was also noted that the Refuge needs additional staffing.

4

Workbook Responses

Which options should the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursue in protecting important habitats that are not currently in a National Wildlife Refuge?

Following is a list of suggested options and the number of respondents that supported each one:

- 22 land acquisition
- 26 conservation easements
- 20 purchasing development rights
- 37 partnerships with private land owners
- 16 working with the State
- 22 environmental education
- 23 habitat restoration
- 1 no involvement

Twenty one respondents said that fishing was one of their favorite activites on the refuge.

Do our recreational facilities meet your needs? (trails, parking, signs, etc.)

Twenty five people responded "yes" to this question. Other suggestions included:

- improve signage, boat launch facilities, boundary postings, walking trails
- create more access points
- maintain facilities better
- provide better educational facilities, include an exhibit on cultural resources
- construct new headquarters facility and modernize other facilities
- provide new observation areas

What changes or improvements could be made in habitat and/or species management?

Forty two people answered this question. Of those, 21% said that they did not know what improvements could be made.

Some suggested that the refuge consider an active predator management program, including cormorant control. Others emphasized the importance of managing for a variety of species, particularly non-waterfowl species and a broad range of habitats.

Some people emphasized the importance of visitor education about Refuge species and habitats. They also suggested the development of educational components to accompany management programs would be very helpful.

Others recommended building wood duck boxes, nesting islands, food plots, and introducing new types of food for wildlife. Some respondents also felt the refuge should expand habitat and wildlife research and monitoring programs for management decisions.

At least two respondents recommended looking into efforts to reopen potholes and waterways that have silted in and been overtaken with vegetation. A couple of respondents expressed the need to control invasive species.

5

Draft Vision Statement

The Missisquoi River delta is an international resource of importance for the people of the United States and Canada. The Missisquoi National WildlifeRefuge is a critical link in the maintenance of the ecological integrity of this river delta which provides breeding, staging, and migration habitat for thousands of waterfowl and other migratory birds annually. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with its partners, collaborates with other conservation efforts to forge broad alliances to protect and manage this vast and diverse resource to sustain a healthy ecosystem for future generations.

The Refuge protects the largest and most diverse wetland complex in the upper Lake Champlain basin. The diverse floral community is overshadowed only by the faunal diversity represented by the multitude of migratory bird species that use the Refuge. The future of the Missisquoi NWR and the sustained integrity of the river delta ecosystem relies on an understanding of the biological processes that created and maintain this large wetland complex and the human influence on the past, present, and future uses of the area.

Missisquoi NWR is a welcoming destination for those who wish to learn about the Missisquoi River delta and the history and wildlife of the Refuge. Enjoyed by backyard neighbors as well as new visitors, the refuge offers unique opportunities to pursue outdoor-related activities such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, interpretation and environmental education (Priority Public Uses).

The cultural resources at the Refuge provide valuable insight into the history and way of life of Native Americans. Understanding this history is critical to the understanding of human activity on the river delta.

Workbook Responses

What do you think of our Vision Statement and goals? Any comments/suggestions?

Over 65% of the respondents who answered this question said our draft vision statement was good. We received some suggestions on how to improve our vision statement which included the following:

- focus more on the role of hunting, trapping, and fishing
- focus more on education opportunities
- emphasize more cultural resources
- emphasize more non-game species
- stress the traditional role of the Refuge
- include ways on how the public can help acquire more land
- too lengthy

What concerns do you have about the Refuge? What is working well? What is not? How can we improve?

Concerns

- lack of public awareness of the Refuge
- recently imposed hunting fees
- accessibility to the river
- invasive species
- political decision making
- need for better distribution of information to the public
- hunting guides effect on resources
- water quality
- development of area
- potential impacts of additional activities on the Refuge
- need for more walking trails
- improvement of permit system
- insuffient attention to cultural heritage

Things Working Well

- committed & great staff
- community relations
- Jr. Waterfowl Program
- successful osprey nesting
- "never looked better"
- improved management
- waterfowl efforts
- new facilities coming
- planning effort helpful

What are your favorite activities to engage in while on the Refuge?

Over 60% of the respondents said that wildlife observation was their favorite activity on the Refuge. Nearly 50% also hunt and another 35% also fish. Other activities mentioned were wildlife photography, interpretation and environmental education, as well as canoeing, walking, and just enjoying solitude.

6

Public Meetings and Next Steps

Update on our new headquarters facility

The Refuge is currently working with architects to complete the development of a site plan for the new headquarters facility. The next step is reviewing and finalizing floor plans for the facility. The facility will be located on Tabor Road 1/4 mile south of Route 78. We are planning a public presentation sometime this summer or fall to give you a preview of what our facility will be all about.

Public Meeting Results

In October the Refuge hosted three open houses in Swanton, St. Albans, and Burlington. We requested that the public provide comments and suggestions for our planning process. We received a number of great comments from those who attended.

Many of the meeting attendees had suggestions for management of habitat and wildlife. Several people wanted to discuss closures around osprey nests.

Several people who attended the public meetings expressed interest in the Route 78 improvement project.

Others encouraged the Refuge to plan for additional vegetation and wildlife surveys. University students attending the meetings suggested that college students could be involved with these projects.

Contact information

If you have any comments on the items above, or on anything related to Comprehensive Conservation Planning, please contact us.

Mark Sweeny, Refuge Manager
371 North River Street
Swanton, VT 05488-8148
phone:(802) 868-4781
email:FW5RW_MSQNWR@fws.gov
(802) 868-4781

or

Alison Whitlock, Lead Planner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Dr.
Hadley, MA 01035-9589
(413) 253-8536

Next Steps

We really appreciate your interest in the Refuge and hope you enjoyed hearing what your neighbors had to say. We encourage you to stay involved in the planning process. If you have further comments or thoughts please feel free to contact us.

Thanks again for your participation. We look forward to sharing our plans with you in the future.

Planning Schedule

Ongoing
Meetings with agencies, groups, and other interested partners

Through May 2001
Defining issues, developing alternatives and strategies

Fall 2001
Draft CCP/ Environmental Assessment released and distributed for public comment

Spring 2002
Final CCP/ Environmental documents released and distributed

Missisquoi NWR is an important nesting area for many species, including these herons. USFWS Photo

Please mail your reply to:

Alison Whitlock, Lead Planner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Dr.
Hadley, MA 01035-9589
(413) 253-8536

Are you on the mailing list?

If you did not receive this by mail and wish to receive future mailings about the Missisquoi NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan, please fill in the information requested below.

_____ (Yes) Add me to the mailing list to receive future information about the CCP Process

Name:_____
(please print)

Address:_____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

If you are acting in an official capacity as the representative of an organization, please complete the following two items.

Organization: _____

Title: _____

Thank you for your contribution to your National Wildlife Refuge!
The future of the Missisquoi NWR and the sustained integrity of the river delta ecosystem relies on the understanding of the biological processes that created and maintain this large wetland complex and the human influence on the past, present, and future uses of the area.

Important: Please realize that names on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan mailing list become part of the public record for the planning process. The Service must release these names, if someone requests it, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1974

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge
371 North River St.
Swanton, VT 05488-8148