

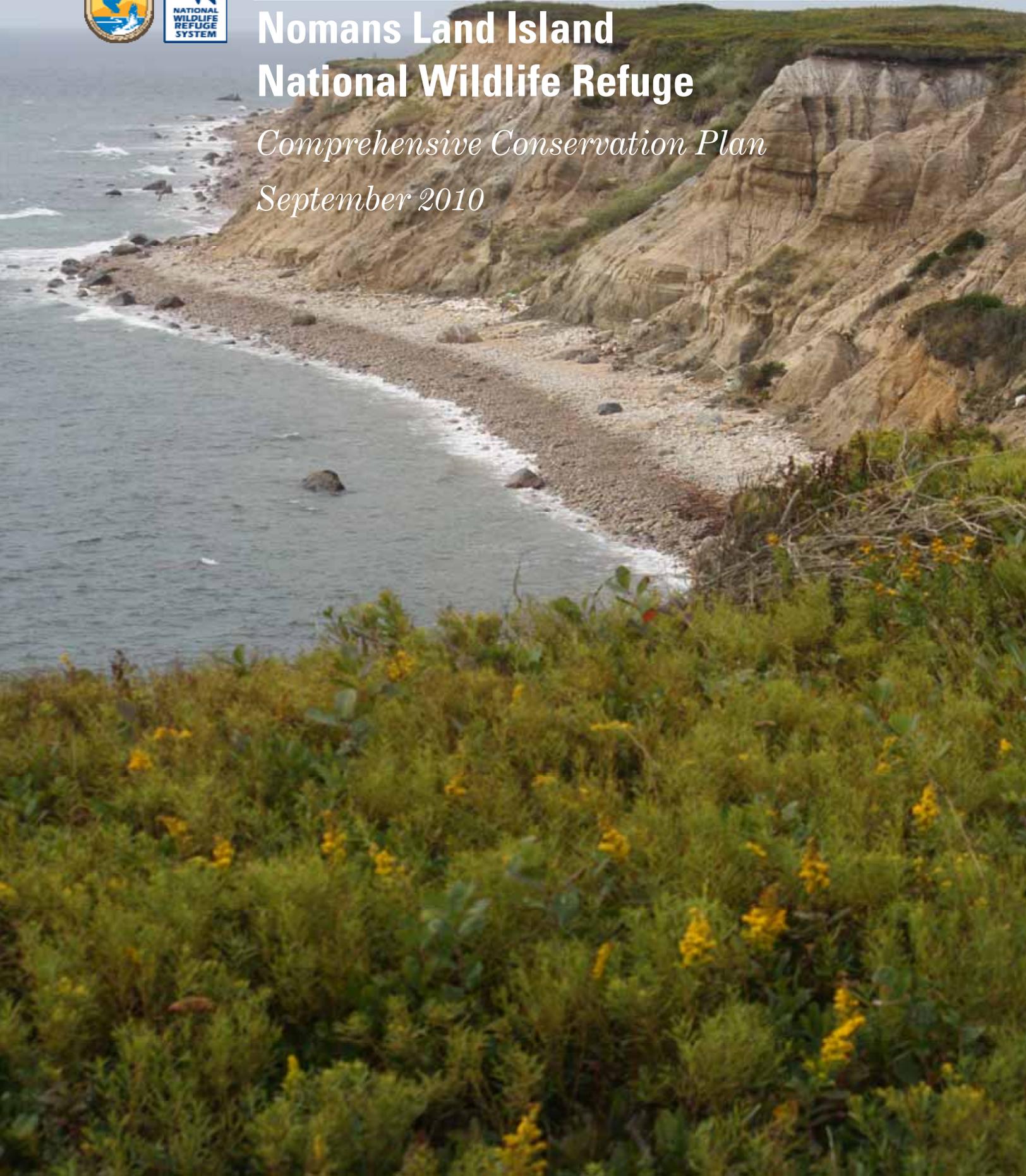


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Nomans Land Island National Wildlife Refuge

Comprehensive Conservation Plan

September 2010





This 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.



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September 2010

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9/9/10

Date

Acting



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Refuge Vision Statement

We envision Nomans Land Island NWR to be a vital and unique maritime resource for migratory birds along the Atlantic Flyway. Our management will perpetuate the diversity of nesting, resting, and foraging habitats used by passerines, raptors, waterfowl and seabirds throughout the island. In particular, species of regional conservation concern including the peregrine falcon will benefit from land which is free from mammalian predators and from present-day human disturbances.

Nomans Land Island has a culturally rich human history that began thousands of years ago and our management will ensure that this legacy endures. Culturally sensitive management actions on the island, and strong partnerships with the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and other partners, will foster cultural awareness and an appreciative and knowledgeable public.

With its recent history of human use, Nomans Land Island NWR will be a place few people can experience firsthand; yet we will provide meaningful alternatives for members of the public to experience the beauty and singularity of the Refuge. Through partnerships, education, interpretation and outreach, we hope to instill a sense of wonder about complex and dynamic coastal ecosystems, and underscore the value of the Refuge in conserving those resources.

Nomans Land Island National Wildlife Refuge

Comprehensive Conservation Plan *September 2010*

Abstract

Type of Action:	Administrative
Lead Agency:	U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
Responsible Official:	Marvin E. Moriarty, Regional Director, Region 5
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This Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Nomans Land Island National Wildlife Refuge is the culmination of a planning effort involving the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, local partners, refuge neighbors, private landowners, and the local community. The CCP establishes 15-year management goals and objectives for wildlife and habitat, public use and access, and administration and facilities. This document also contains eleven appendices that provide additional information supporting our analysis.

This plan includes an array of management actions that, in our professional judgment, work best toward achieving the purposes of the refuge, our vision and goals for those lands, and goals in state and regional conservation plans. We recommended Alternative C from the Environmental Assessment (EA)/draft CCP to our Regional Director as the best alternative for managing this refuge over the next 15 years. He selected it for development into this final CCP.

Through implementation of this plan, we will focus on refining our biological program to prioritize focal species and habitats, and making improvements to our visitor services and cultural resources programs. This will be facilitated through recommending wilderness designation for the Refuge, developing a partnership agreement with the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), and evaluating the release of New England cottontail on the Refuge. All of our programs will be enhanced through partnerships and collaborations within the region.

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