

Chapter 5



Erin Victory/TCI

Double-crested cormorant colony

Consultation and Coordination with Others

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Introduction

This chapter describes how we engaged others in developing this CCP. In chronological order, it details our efforts to encourage the involvement of the public and conservation partners: other federal and state agencies, county officials, civic groups, non-government conservation and education organizations, and user groups. It also identifies who contributed in writing the plan or significantly contributed to its contents.

It does not detail the dozens of informal discussions Refuge staff have had over the last ten years where the CCP was a topic of conversation. Those involved a wide range of audiences, including congressional representatives or their staffs, local community leaders and other residents, Refuge neighbors, Refuge visitors, and other interested individuals. During those discussions, the Refuge manager and staff often would provide an update on our progress and encourage comments and other participation.

According to Service policy, we must review and update our final CCP at least once every 15 years, or sooner, in response to important new information that would markedly change management direction or, our Director or Regional Director deem it necessary. If so, we will once again announce our revised planning and encourage your participation.

Planning to Protect Land and Resources

Our Refuge planning began in 1999 when we initiated a CCP that would encompass all of the refuges in the Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex. We published a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register, and began public scoping. By 2001, we determined that writing a plan for eight refuges was too cumbersome, and to focus on CCPs for the three northernmost refuges in the complex. The efforts for Nomans Land Island NWR were halted at that time.

In 2004, we decided to prepare a joint CCP for Nomans Land and Monomoy refuges, and subsequently convened a new core planning team. A Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on December 13, 2004. Public scoping meetings were held in April 2005 in Chilmark, Massachusetts. Most of the planning effort during this period was focused on the CCP for Monomoy Refuge. We drafted a vision statement and goals and objectives for Nomans Land Island Refuge, and also initiated a wilderness review. However, work on the CCP stalled due in part to the transfer of refuge complex personnel. In resuming the CCP process, it was decided to conduct separate CCPs for Nomans Land Island and Monomoy refuges, with the intention to complete the Nomans Land Island Refuge CCP first.

Our refuge planning for Nomans Land Island resumed informally in July 2008 at an initial strategy meeting between the Refuge staff and regional planning staff. One major outcome of that first meeting was a timetable for accomplishing the major steps in the planning process and determining when and how we should involve others. Please contact the Refuge manager for additional details.

August 13, 2008: Letters were sent out to representatives from the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and MA DFG to reconvene the planning team. Invitations to participate in the planning team were also extended to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff from the Division of Migratory Birds, and Ecological Services.

September 3, 2008: The core planning team, consisting of Refuge and regional staff from Migratory Birds, and a representative from MA DFG, met at the complex headquarters in Sudbury. The other member of the core planning team, a representative from the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) did not participate. We reworked a vision statement, revisited previously drafted goals and objectives, identified new issues and issues from previous scoping efforts, determined what additional resource information we needed to collect and summarize, and discussed what other experts we should consult to help us address planning issues. Partner and public scoping meetings were scheduled for October 2008.

September 2008: We distributed a one page newsletter to over 530 people, organizations and agencies to announce formally the reinitiation of the planning process and the upcoming public meeting in October, and sent out press releases to the Martha's Vineyard Gazette, and Martha's Vineyard Times to announce the public meeting. Invitation letters are sent to twenty people representing seventeen local, state, and national agencies and organizations of potential interest to the upcoming partner meeting in October.

October 14, 2008: We hosted both the partner and public meetings at the Chilmark Library, having published notices about the public meeting in two local newspapers, and in the newsletter. Twelve people representing seven organizations attended the partner meeting, and twenty-three people signed in at the public meeting.

At each meeting, the draft vision, and goals and objectives were posted around the room, as well as the issues identified by previous scoping efforts and the core planning team. A summary of the planning process was presented, and people were encouraged to provide feedback and identify general concerns or issues they have about the Refuge. Comment forms were provided, and staff recorded comments on flip charts. People were notified that there was a one-month comment period, closing on November 14, 2008. Written comments were received from seven individuals and organizations.

December 10, 2008: The core planning team met again at the complex headquarters in Sudbury to identify key issues, and develop the strategies and alternatives for the document.

January 2009 to January 2010: We wrote the EA/draft CCP, including five chapters, nine appendices, and a bibliography and glossary and acronyms. We prepared the EA/draft CCP for internal review.

April/May 2010: The EA/draft CCP was approved by the regional solicitor, and the NOA was sent to the Washington Office for approval and publication in the Federal Register on May 28, 2010. A planning update newsletter was posted on the Nomans Land Island NWR planning website, and was sent out to everyone on the updated Nomans Land Island NWR mailing list to present highlights of the three proposed management alternatives and to announce the public meeting.

June 23, 2010: We hosted both the partner and the public meetings at the Chilmark Community Center, having published notices about the public meeting in two local newspapers, and in the newsletter. Twenty-four non-Service personnel attended the public meeting. The EA/draft CCP was sent out for public review and comment for 36 days between May 28, 2010 and July 2, 2010.

July – August, 2010: We prepared the final CCP, reviewed and responded to public comments (Appendix J), and submitted the final CCP for internal Service review and approval. A FONSI was prepared and approved by the Regional Director (Appendix K).

Partners Involved in Refuge Planning

Refuge programs enjoy a great deal of support from outside the Service in many arenas: conducting biological surveys, facilitating off-site public use and Refuge programs, restoring habitat, and protecting land. Our partnerships will continue to expand under the increasing interest in conserving Refuge resources. Throughout the CCP planning process, the following partners have been kept apprised of the planning process and their continued involvement has been encouraged.

Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah): Natural Resources staff Bret Stearns, Tribal Historic Officer Bettina Washington, Tribal Historic staff Jonathon Perry and Elizabeth Perry

U.S. Navy: Brian Helland, Dave Barney, and their contractor Brian Corbett of Tetra Tech EC (formerly Foster-Wheeler)

U.S. Coast Guard

Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game: Jason Zimmer, Steve Hurley

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection: Anne Malewicz, Bob Campbell

Town of Chilmark: Tim Carroll

Chilmark Historical Commission: Jane Slater

The Trustees of Reservations: Chris Kennedy

Massachusetts Audubon Society: Suzan Bellincampi

The Sheriff's Meadow Foundation: Adam R. Moore

Chilmark Library: Ebba Hierta

Town of Aquinnah

The Nature Conservancy: Matt Pelikan

Martha's Vineyard Commission

The Vineyard Open Land Foundation

The Vineyard Conservation Society, Inc.

The Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Polly Hill Arboretum

Allan Keith

Contact Information

Elizabeth Herland, Project Leader
Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex
73 Weir Hill Rd.
Sudbury, MA 01776
Phone: 978-443-4661, ext. 11
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/easternmanwrcomplex>

Carl Melberg, Natural Resource Planner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (NWRS)
73 Weir Hill Rd.
Sudbury, MA 01776
Phone: 978-443-4661, ext. 32
<http://northeast.fws.gov/planning>

Planning Team

Elizabeth Herland, Project Leader, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex

Tom Eagle, Deputy Project Leader, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex

Carl Melberg, Regional Natural Resource Planner, Planning Team Leader, USFWS Refuge System

Stephanie Koch, Refuge Complex Biologist, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex

Eileen McGourty, Refuge Complex Biologist, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex

Susan J. Russo, Refuge Complex Visitor Services Manager, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex

Brian Willard, Supervisory Law Enforcement Officer, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex

Shelley Small, Cultural Resources Specialist, USFWS Refuge System

D.J. Monette, Native American Liason, USFWS Refuge System

Bret Stearns, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

Bettina Washington, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

Jason Zimmer, District Manager, MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Steve Hurley, District Fisheries Manager, MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Erin R. Victory, LLC, Consulting Wildlife Biologist, Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.

Karen Terwilliger, President and Natural Resource Consultant, Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.

Other Service Program Involvement

Nancy McGarigal, Regional Natural Resource Planner, USFWS Refuge System

Bill Perry, Regional Natural Resource Planner, USFWS Refuge System

Rick Schauffler, Biologist/GIS Specialist, USFWS Refuge System

Jan Taylor, Regional Refuge Biologist, USFWS Refuge System

Randy Dettmers, Migratory Bird Biologist, USFWS Division of Migratory Birds

Anthony Tur, Endangered Species Biologist, USFWS Ecological Services

Rick Vollick, Regional Fire Planner, USFWS Refuge System

Tim Prior, Retired Deputy Project Leader, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex

Peggy Hobbs, Administrative Officer, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex

Pamela Carota, Office Assistant, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex

Chris Kelly, Refuge Complex Law Enforcement, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex

Assistance from Others

Jonathan Perry, Senior Tribal Cultural Resource Monitor, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

Elizabeth James Perry, Senior Tribal Cultural Resource Monitor, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

Chuckie Green, Environmental and Natural Resource Asst. Director, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

Tracy Monegan Rice, Marine Geologist, Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.

Ellen Snyder, Consulting Wildlife Biologist, Ibis Wildlife Consulting