

Chapter 5.



USFWS

Viewing Pod at the Refuge

Consultation and Coordination with Others

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5.1 Introduction

This chapter describes how we included others in developing this CCP and how we plan to continue consulting and coordinating with others in the future. It details how we invited and encouraged the partnership of other Federal and State agencies; civic, public, and private conservation and education organizations; and the affected public in our decisions about managing the refuge. It also identifies who contributed in writing the plan or significantly contributed to its contents.

According to Service Policy, we must review and update our final CCP at least once every 15 years. We may update the plan sooner if we determine that we need to 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.

5.2 Planning to Protect Land and Resources

We began the CCP process for Patuxent Research Refuge in December 2009 with a kick-off meeting at the refuge. We discussed the current status of the refuge, important issues to be addressed in the CCP, and the status and sources of data for the analysis. We defined a core planning team to include managers and staff from the refuge, a representative from the USGS PWRC, a representative from the Service Division of Migratory Bird Management, the Service Chesapeake Bay Field Office, Service regional planners, and an MD DNR representative.

We published and distributed our first newsletter in February 2010. On March 23 and 24, 2010, we held public scoping meetings at NWVC and MD DNR's headquarters in Annapolis, Maryland to solicit comments from the community and other interested parties on the scope of the CCP and the issues and impacts that should be evaluated in the CCP/EA.

We held a number of core planning team and partner meetings throughout the planning process to review habitat management, visitor services and research. Table 5-1 outlines the planning meetings that we held during the process.

Table 5-1. List of Planning Meetings

Date	Topic	Audience
January 14, 2010	CCP issues and opportunities	Refuge and PWRC staff
May 18, 2010	Refuge vision	Refuge staff
May 19, 2010	Habitat management	Core planning team
August 4, 2010	Public Use alternatives	Core planning team
August 5, 2010	Habitat alternatives	Core planning team
February 22, 2010	Research goal	Refuge and PWRC staff
November 30 - December 2, 2010	Impoundment management	Core planning team and additional experts
January 25, 2011	Habitat management	Core planning team
January 26, 2011	Land protection	County, State, and NGO

Date	Topic	Audience
	opportunities	representatives
April 11 - 12, 2011	Impoundment management	Core planning team and additional experts
May 24, 2011	Grassland management	Core planning team and additional experts
June 29, 2011	Alternatives	Core planning team
October 4, 2011	Alternatives	PWRC research managers

On October 10, 2012, we published a Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* announcing the release of the draft CCP/EA for 45 days of public review and comment. We also distributed a newsletter and sent out a press release announcing the public comment period. The *Federal Register* notice, newsletter, press release, and our planning Web site also announced the two public meetings in October 2012. At the meetings we gave a short overview of the refuge and the CCP planning process, and recorded all the comments and suggestions provided at the meeting. After the end of the comment period, we compiled and considered all the public comments we received and drafted a response to each substantive comment. The responses to these comments can be found in appendix I. Based on these comments, we reviewed and revised the CCP.

We compiled the final CCP for the Regional Supervisor, Regional Chief, and Regional Solicitor’s Office before submitting it to the Regional Director for review and approval. The Regional Director determined that a FONSI was appropriate, and approved the final CCP. In May 2013, we published another *Federal Register* Notice of Availability to announce the availability of the final CCP. The notice completes the planning and compliance requirements for implementation of a final CCP.

5.3 Contact Information

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5.4 Members of the Core Planning Team

Service Personnel

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Jennifer Hill, Planner, Patuxent Research Refuge
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Tarik Adams, Assistant Facilities Manager, Patuxent Research Refuge
Sandy Spencer, Wildlife Biologist, Patuxent Research Refuge
Holliday Obrecht, (retired) Wildlife Biologist, Patuxent Research Refuge
Bill Perry, Natural Resource Planner, Planning Team Leader, Regional Office
Les Vilchek, Cartographer, USFWS
Melanie Steinkamp, Migratory Bird Biologist, Region 5 Migratory Birds Program
Dan Murphy, Chesapeake Bay Field Office
Susan McMahon, Deputy Refuge Chief, Region 5
Ken Richkus, Division of Migratory Bird Management
Tom Bonetti, Natural Resource Planner (former Planning Team Leader), Regional Office
Nancy McGarigal, Natural Resource Planner (former Planning Team Leader), Regional Office
Meredith Bixby, Assistant Planner, USFWS Regional Office
Katie Fox, Assistant Planner, USFWS Regional Office

Other Core Team Members

John French, Research Manager, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Christine Conn, Director, MD DNR Strategic Land Planning

Other Contributors

Glenn Therres, MD DNR
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Harold Laskowski, (retired) Regional Biologist, Region 5, Prime Hook NWR
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