



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge (Proposed)

*Draft Land Protection Plan/
Environmental Assessment*

January 2016



Front cover:

Shrublands in Maine

Kirk Rogers

Clockwise from top right:

New England cottontail

Meagan Racey/USFWS

Prairie warbler

Kevin Fleming

Monarch butterfly

Bill Thompson

American woodcock

Carlos Guindon/USFWS

Back cover:

Shrublands in Maine

Kirk Rogers



This blue 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 560 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.

Executive Summary

Executive Summary	ES-1
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Chapters**Chapter 1 The Purpose of, and Need for, Action**

Introduction	1-1
Relationship to Service Policies and Landscape-level Conservation Goals	1-1
Status of Shrubland-Dependent Wildlife	1-5
Threats to Resources	1-9
Purpose of this Proposal	1-10

Chapter 2 Alternatives

Introduction	2-1
Alternative A – No Action	2-1
Alternative B – The Service-Preferred Alternative	2-5
Alternatives or Actions Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study	2-18

Chapter 3 Affected Environment**Resources of the Area of Interest**

Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation	3-1
Physical Environment	3-2
Socio-Economic Environment	3-6
Biological Environment	3-11

Description of Sub-Regions Containing Refuge Acquisition Focus Areas

Maine/New Hampshire Coast Sub-Region	3-22
Merrimack Valley-New Hampshire Sub-Region	3-31
Southeastern Massachusetts Sub-Region	3-35
Southeastern Connecticut/Rhode Island Coast Sub-Region	3-40
New York/Connecticut Border Sub-Region	3-46

Chapter 4 Environmental Consequences

Introduction	4-1
Impact Analysis and Relationship to Scale	4-2
Effects on Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation	4-3
Effects on the Physical Environment	4-4
Effects on the Socio-Economic Environment	4-9
Effects on the Biological Environment	4-14
Cumulative Impacts	4-27

Chapter 5 Coordination and Consultation

Partners	5-1
New England Cottontail Coordination	5-1
Refuge Acquisition Focus Areas	5-2
Public Involvement	5-3

Bibliography

Bibliography	Bibl-1
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Chapters (cont.)

Acronyms

Acronyms	Acro-1
----------------	--------

Glossary

Glossary	Glos-1
----------------	--------

Appendixes

Appendix A Conceptual Management Plan

Introduction	A-1
Criteria and Target Acreages	A-1
Managing Habitat for Priority Shrubland Species	A-3
Acquisition Decisions and Management Planning	A-9
Bibliography	A-9

Appendix B FAQs about Refuge Land Acquisition

FAQs about Refuge Land Acquisition	B-1
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List of Tables

Table 1	Refuge Acquisition Focus Areas	2-8
Table 2	Fee and Easement Costs by RAFA	2-15
Table 3	Counties Associated with Geographic Regions and Refuge Acquisition Focus Areas	3-6
Table 4	Populations of Affected Counties and States (2014)	3-7
Table 5	Population by Geographic Region (2014)	3-7
Table 6	Population Projections	3-7
Table 7	Occupation by Industry, 2009 to 2013	3-8
Table 8	Relative Occupation by Industry, 2009 to 2013	3-8
Table 9	Changes in Occupations by Industry: 2005 to 2013	3-9
Table 10	Regional Conservation Plans and Priority Species for Shrublands and Young Forest Habitats	3-16
Table 11	Current Breeding Bird and Habitat Estimates for all RAFAs combined ..	3-18
Table 12	Maine/New Hampshire Coast Sub-Region Conserved Lands	3-22
Table 13	Maine/New Hampshire Coast Sub-Region Land Cover Types	3-26
Table 14	Merrimack Valley North Conserved Lands	3-31
Table 15	Merrimack Valley North Land Cover Types	3-31
Table 16	Southeastern Massachusetts Sub-Region Conserved Lands	3-35
Table 17	Southeastern Massachusetts Sub-Region Land Cover Types	3-35
Table 18	Southeastern Connecticut/Rhode Island Coast Sub-Region Conserved Lands	3-41
Table 19	Southeastern Connecticut/Rhode Island Coast Sub-Region Land Cover Types	3-41

List of Tables (cont.)

Table 20	New York/Connecticut Border Sub-Region Conserved Lands	3-46
Table 21	New York/Connecticut Border Sub-Region Land Cover Types	3-46
Table 22	Context for Impact Analysis	4-2
Table 23	Revenue-to-Expenditure Ratios by Land Use in New Hampshire Communities Studied	4-11
Table 24	Current and Proposed Breeding Bird and Habitat Estimates for all RAFAs Combined	4-16
Table 25	NEC Conservation Strategy-Recovery Goals	4-25
Table A.1	Refuge Acquisition Focus Area Target Acres	A-2

List of Maps

Map 1	Bird Conservation Regions	1-6
Map 2	Area of Interest	1-12
Map 3	Proposed Refuge Acquisition Focus Areas: Overview	2-7
Map 4	Cape Elizabeth-Scarborough Refuge Acquisition Focus Area	3-23
Map 5	Berwick-York and Rollinsford Refuge Acquisition Focus Areas	3-24
Map 6	Oyster-Dover-Bellamy Refuge Acquisition Focus Area	3-25
Map 7	Cape Elizabeth-Scarborough Refuge Acquisition Focus Area: Land Cover Types	3-27
Map 8	Berwick-York and Rollinsford Refuge Acquisition Focus Areas: Land Cover Types	3-28
Map 9	Oyster-Dover-Bellamy Refuge Acquisition Focus Area: Land Cover Types	3-29
Map 10	Merrimack Valley North Refuge Acquisition Focus Area	3-32
Map 11	Merrimack Valley North Refuge Acquisition Focus Area: Land Cover Types	3-33
Map 12	Plymouth Refuge Acquisition Focus Area	3-36
Map 13	Mashpee Refuge Acquisition Focus Area	3-37
Map 14	Plymouth Refuge Acquisition Focus Area: Land Cover Types	3-38
Map 15	Mashpee Refuge Acquisition Focus Area: Land Cover Types	3-39
Map 16	Rhode Island East-West Refuge Acquisition Focus Area	3-42
Map 17	Pachaug-Ledyard Refuge Acquisition Focus Area	3-43
Map 18	Rhode Island East-West Refuge Acquisition Focus Area: Land Cover Types	3-44
Map 19	Pachaug-Ledyard Refuge Acquisition Focus Area: Land Cover Types	3-45
Map 20	Northern Housatonic Refuge Acquisition Focus Area	3-48
Map 21	Northern Housatonic Refuge Acquisition Focus Area: Land Cover Types	3-49

List of Figures

Figure 1	Predicted Stopover Bird Densities Based on Radar Data	3-19
Figure A.1	Conceptual Model for the Conservation of the New England Cottontail: An example configuration of habitat networks or metapopulations	A-3

