



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# Guam National Wildlife Refuge

*Planning Update 2, November 2007*



*Crabs on the beach at the Refuge's Ritidian Unit. Photo: USFWS.*

## Greetings from Guam National Wildlife Refuge

*This Planning Update is the second in a series of updates distributed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to keep you informed about the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for Guam National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). This update provides an overview of the results of public scoping.*

*Please feel free to contact Project Leader Chris Bandy, if you have any questions. See page 4 for contact information.*

## In This Update:

About the CCP.....	2
Map.....	3
Planning Schedule.....	4
Points of Contact.....	4

## Results of Public Scoping for the Refuge's CCP

### Summary of CCP Scoping Efforts

Guam National Wildlife Refuge has begun an important multi-year process to develop a CCP that will guide overall Refuge management for the next 15 years.

The public involvement phase of the process began with a public meeting at Refuge Headquarters on July 14, 2007, followed by a 9-day informal open house at the Refuge's Nature Center. Public comments were encouraged and accepted through August 31, 2007.

### Thank you for Participating

Thank you for participating in public scoping. We received 27 comment letters or e-mail messages from representatives of university, agency, and nongovernmental organizations, and others. Your efforts to help plan the Refuge's CCP are much appreciated and will improve the quality of our document.

### Summary of Issues of Concern

We received comments expressing support of and interest in developing a CCP. We will address all comments as we develop the CCP and environmental analysis documents.

### Scope of the Project

The CCP will focus on managing habitat, wildlife, and visitor services at the Ritidian Unit.

High priority cooperative management programs on the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy overlay refuge units will be included in the CCP as a guide, however, not all aspects of conservation planning on the overlay refuges will be addressed in the CCP. Management of the overlay refuges will be more fully addressed in the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans currently being revised by the Navy and Air Force.

continued on next page

Scoping summary continued . . .

**Ritidian Unit Habitat and Wildlife Management**

Commenters recommended the CCP address native snails, declining ironwood trees, native plants and fruit bats, sea turtles, fish and other marine species, the effects of climate change, degradation of coral reef habitat, public use and related coral deterioration, and monitoring requirements.

**Ritidian Unit Visitor Services**

Commenters suggested developing a volunteer docent program, infusing Chamorro culture into the overall visitor experience, and regularly scheduling various public tours.

**Facilities**

Commenters suggested keeping the beach road sand, implementing a speed limit of 2-3 mph, and developing road signs directing visitors to the Refuge.

**Refuge Qualities**

We received a suggestion that the Refuge should be a place of serenity; establishing noise restrictions (for radios, visitors, etc.) to protect wildlife and maintain a serene experience for visitors.

**About the CCP**

When Congress amended the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (Act) in 1997, it ratified an underlying philosophy that “wildlife comes first” on refuges. The Act:

- Provides the Service with guidance for managing refuges to ensure the long-term conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.
- Identifies six wildlife-dependent public uses on National Wildlife Refuges—wildlife observation and photography, hunting, fishing, interpretation, and environmental education.
- Strengthens the compatibility determination process used to assure that all activities permitted on a refuge do not conflict with the refuge’s purposes and goals.
- Requires all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System to be managed in accordance with an approved CCP.

The Guam Refuge’s CCP will describe Refuge goals, objectives, and management strategies for

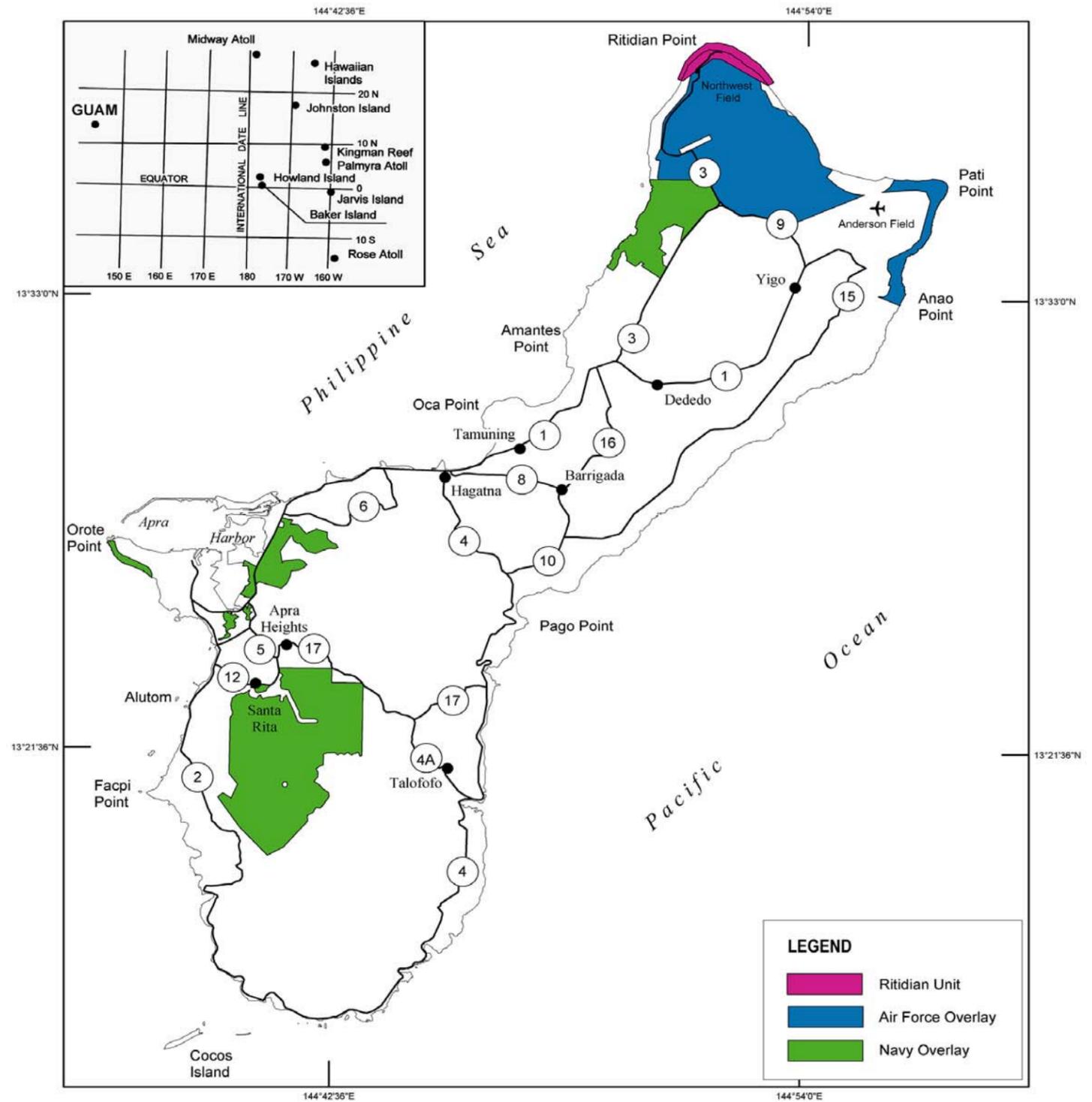
achieving the purposes for which the Refuge was established. It will be reviewed and periodically updated. The CCP will ensure that Refuge management reflects the purposes of the Refuge and the mission, policies, and goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The CCP will also:

- Inform the public about proposed Refuge management actions.
- Provide a vision statement that describes desired future conditions for the Refuge.
- Ensure that current and future uses of the Refuge are compatible with its purposes.
- Provide long-term continuity in Refuge management.
- Provide opportunities for public input on management decisions.
- Provide budget justification for operation, maintenance, and facility development requests.

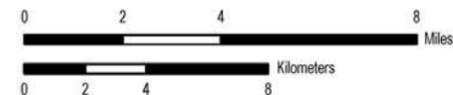
As we develop the CCP, we will also be developing an environmental analysis document that evaluates the consequences of implementing various management alternatives. This analysis will be developed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



Green turtles, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, nest on the Ritidian Unit’s beach. Photo: USFWS.



PRODUCED IN THE DIVISION OF REFUGE PLANNING  
 PORTLAND, OREGON  
 LAND STATUS CURRENT TO: 3/15/05  
 MAP DATE: 5/30/07  
 BASEMAP: DRG 24K  
 MERIDIAN:  
 FILE: 07-057-1.MXD



## Planning Schedule

<b>Planning Step:</b>	<b>Target Date:</b>
Planning Update 1.....	July 2007
Public scoping meeting.....	July 14, 2007
Public Open House.....	July 15-22, 2007
Planning Update 2 (scoping results).....	November 2007
Develop CCP.....	1 year
Open house–review preliminary alternatives; Planning Update 3.....	Spring 2008
Public review of Draft CCP and EA.....	Summer 2008
Response to public comments on the draft CCP/EA; Planning Update 4.....	Fall 2008
Distribution of final CCP/EA and final Planning Update.....	December 2008

*We will keep you informed if the target dates change as CCP planning progresses.*

## Points of Contact

To be included on the mailing list, provide comments, ask questions, or request information, please contact:

Chris Bandy, Project Leader  
Guam National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 8134, MOU-3  
Dededo, Guam 96929  
(671) 355-5096  
chris\_bandy@fws.gov

Comments may be faxed to (671) 355-5098 or emailed to: [FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov](mailto:FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov). Include “Guam NWR CCP” in the subject line.

Visit the planning website at: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning> and select the link for “Projects Online” then select “Guam NWR.”

General information about Refuges and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available at: <http://www.fws.gov>.



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P.O. Box 8134, MOU-3  
Dededo, Guam 96929

*Change of address requested.*

In this issue:  
Review a brief summary of the public scoping comments we received regarding future management of Guam National Wildlife Refuge.