
DATES: MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016, FROM 10:30 A.M. TO 5 P.M. (EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME). FOR DEADLINES AND DIRECTIONS ON REGISTERING TO ATTEND, SUBMITTING WRITTEN MATERIAL, AND GIVING AN ORAL PRESENTATION, PLEASE SEE “PUBLIC INPUT” UNDER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

ADDRESS: THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE SOUTH PENTHOUSE ROOM, MAIN INTERIOR BUILDING, 1849 C ST. NW., WASHINGTON, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: JOSHUA WINCHEL, COUNCIL DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM, 5275 LEESBURG PIKE, FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041–3803; TELEPHONE: (703) 358–2639; OR EMAIL: joshua_winchell@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT, 5 U.S.C. APP., WE ANNOUNCE THAT WILDLIFE AND HUNTING HERITAGE CONSERVATION COUNCIL WILL HOLD A MEETING.

BACKGROUND

THE COUNCIL ADVISES THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, REPORTING THROUGH THE DIRECTOR, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (SERVICE), IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM); DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS); CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE (USFS); CHIEF, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS); AND ADMINISTRATOR, FARM SERVICES AGENCY (FSA). THE COUNCIL’S DUTIES ARE STRICTLY ADVISORY AND CONSIST OF, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR: 1. IMPLEMENTING THE RECREATIONAL HUNTING AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE CONSERVATION PLAN—A TEN-YEAR PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION; 2. INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF AND SUPPORT FOR THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROGRAM; 3. FOSTERING WILDLIFE AND HABITAT CONSERVATION AND ETHICS IN HUNTING AND SHOOTING SPORTS RECREATION; 4. STIMULATING SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AND HABITAT RESOURCES THROUGH OUTREACH AND EDUCATION; 5. FOSTERING COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION AMONG STATE, TRIBAL, AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS; INDUSTRY; HUNTING AND SHOOTING SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN; WILDLIFE AND HABITAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS; AND THE PUBLIC; 6. PROVIDING APPROPRIATE ACCESS TO FEDERAL LANDS FOR RECREATIONAL SHOOTING AND HUNTING; 7. PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS THAT BENEFIT WILDLIFE, HUNTING, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION ON PRIVATE LANDS; AND 8. WHEN REQUESTED BY THE DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON, PERFORMING A VARIETY OF ASSESSMENTS OR REVIEWS OF POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND EFFORTS THROUGH THE COUNCIL’S DESIGNATED SUBCOMMITTEES OR WORKGROUPS.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE COUNCIL IS AVAILABLE AT HTTP://WWW.FWS.GOV/WHCC.

MEETING AGENDA
THE COUNCIL WILL CONVENE TO CONSIDER ISSUES INCLUDING:
1. WILDLIFE HABITAT AND HEALTH;
2. FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LANDS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT;
3. ENHANCING AND EXPANDING OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES; AND
4. OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS.

THE FINAL AGENDA WILL BE POSTED ON THE INTERNET AT HTTP://WWW.FWS.GOV/WHCC.

PUBLIC INPUT

IF YOU WISH TO

ATTEND THE MEETING

SUBMIT WRITTEN INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS BEFORE THE MEETING FOR THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER DURING THE MEETING

GIVE AN ORAL PRESENTATION DURING THE MEETING

YOU MUST CONTACT THE COUNCIL COORDINATOR (SEE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT) NO LATER THAN MARCH 10, 2016.

ATTENDANCE
TO ATTEND THIS MEETING, REGISTER BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THE DATES LISTED IN “PUBLIC INPUT” UNDER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR NAME, TIME OF ARRIVAL, EMAIL ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER TO THE COUNCIL COORDINATOR (SEE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT).

SUBMITTING WRITTEN INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS
INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY SUBMIT RELEVANT INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS FOR THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service


U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lands in the Northeast Region; Draft Long Range Transportation Plan

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a draft long-range transportation plan (LRTP) for public review and comment. The draft LRTP outlines a strategy for improving and maintaining transportation assets that provide access to Service-managed lands in the Northeast Region (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia) over the next 20 years.

DATES: To ensure our consideration of your written comments, please send them no later than April 6, 2016.

ADDRESS: Send your comments or requests for copies of the draft LRTP for Service lands in the Northeast Region by one of the following methods:
- U.S. Mail: Carl Melberg, Acting Regional Transportation Program Coordinator, Northeast Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035.
- Email: carl.melberg@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please put the words “Draft Long Range Transportation Plan” in the subject line of your electronic mail.

INTRODUCTION

This LRTP has six categories of goals: Coordinated Opportunities; Asset Management; Safety; Environmental; Access, Mobility, and Connectivity; and Visitor Experience. Under each goal, we present distinct objectives that move us to the goal.

1. Coordinated Opportunities: The program will seek joint transportation opportunities that support the Service mission, maximize the utility of Service resources, and provide mutual benefits to the Service and external partners.

Objectives:
- Identify and increase key internal and external partnerships at the national, regional, and unit levels.

- Implement coordinated and cooperative transportation partnerships in an effort to improve the Service’s transportation infrastructure.
- Integrate transportation planning and funding for wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries into existing and future Service management plans and strategies (e.g., comprehensive conservation plans and comprehensive hatchery management plans).
- Increase awareness of Alternative Transportation Systems and associated benefits.
- Develop best management practices for transportation improvements on Service lands.
- Serve as a pilot project for the implementation of a Region-level transportation planning process within the Service.

LRTP Mission, Goals, and Objectives

Through a collaborative effort, the Service’s National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) and Fish and Aquatic Conservation program, in cooperation with the Division of Refuge Field Support within the Service’s Northeast Region, have contributed to defining the mission, goals, and objectives presented in this document. The resulting mission, goals, and objectives are intended to provide a systematic approach to guide the process for evaluating and selecting transportation improvement for the Service lands in the Northeast Region. These guiding principles have shaped the development, conclusions, and recommendations of this LRTP.

M I S S I O N

To support the Service’s mission by connecting people to fish, wildlife, and their habitats through strategic implementation of transportation programs.

G O A L S A N D O B J E C T I V E S

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