

Hunting, Fishing, and Outdoor Recreation Implementation Team Work Plan

Recommendations 17 & 18

Recommendation 17: *The Service will work closely with state fish and wildlife agencies to conduct a review of its current hunting and fishing opportunities, especially opportunities currently offered for youth and people with disabilities. Based on this review, the Service and states will work cooperatively to prepare a strategy for increasing quality hunting and fishing opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges.*

Recommendation 18: *Support and enhance appropriate recreation opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges by partnering with state and wildlife agencies, other governmental bodies, conservation organizations and businesses; and by updating relevant policies and infrastructure.*

Overview: The Hunting, Fishing, and Outdoor Recreation Implementation Team (HFORIT) will work cooperatively with other implementation teams, state fish and wildlife agencies, the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council and the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council to develop policy recommendations, and provide leadership with specific guidelines on how to implement Recommendations 17 and 18.

Approach and Deliverables for Recommendation 17:

- Form a subteam (Data Collection) to develop a list of needed variables and query RAPP to determine if desired data is available.
- Following review of results of the query, the subteam will develop and distribute a questionnaire to Regions and field stations designed to fill gaps in information, capture success stories and potential new opportunities, and validate current use summaries.
- Analysis of information gathered in the query may result in future revisions to RAPP (to assist in monitoring progress in implementation of Recommendation 17).
- The HFORIT will work with the states and other partners to complete a strategy for developing new opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and photography, including opportunities for youth and disabled users, within the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS).
 - Once information is collected and validated from the Data Collection Subteam, work with the states and other partners to complete a strategy for developing new opportunities.
- Form a subteam (Fish Stocking) to evaluate whether recreational fishing opportunities are limited due to requirements of the Biological Integrity, Diversity, and Environmental Health policy (and possibly others). The sub-team will focus on potential effects on existing and potential new fish stocking and recreational fishing opportunities as they relate to policy, and make recommendations to modify policies if appropriate.
- Form a subteam (Outdoor Skills) to develop a System-wide plan to address opportunities related to shooting sports, hunter education, and outdoor skills development. The subteam will coordinate with the Interpretation and Environmental Education Team to take advantage of multiple modes of delivering messages and reaching diverse audiences.

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- Form a subteam (Welcome/Orient Hunters/Anglers) to develop a System-wide plan consistent with applicable provisions of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended, and the Wildlife-Dependent Recreation Policy; recommend any training needs to ensure consistent application of the Act and policy; and, create minimum standards, instructions, and develop an optional tool kit to be used to welcome and instruct new and existing hunters and anglers to the NWRS. The subteam will coordinate with the Communications Team and integrate information into their web strategic communications plan and themed exhibits, as appropriate.

Major Milestones:

- Establish subteams by April, 2012
- Complete draft inventory of current hunting, fishing, fish stocking, wildlife photography, wildlife observation and outdoor skills opportunities by May, 2012
- Integrate questionnaire results and baseline data into RAPP to facilitate our ability to display baseline and expansion of opportunities on an ongoing basis - Due to RAPP coordinators April 2013
- Work with states and councils to finalize questionnaire to Refuge Managers by July, 2012
- Subteam will provide draft inventory to Regions and field stations for validation along with questionnaire by August 1, 2012
- Response from Regions and field station due by September 1, 2012
- Subteam submits final report to HFORIT by December 31, 2012
- HFORIT will work with councils and states to develop a strategy to increase hunting and fishing opportunities on the NWRS based on final report
 - Initial face to face meeting no later than January 15, 2013
 - Complete strategic report by September 30, 2013
- Other subteams (Fish Stocking, Outdoor Skills, Welcome/Orient Hunters/Anglers) complete and submit draft products to HFORIT by January 31, 2013
- HFORIT works with other subteams (Fish Stocking, Outdoor Skills, Welcome/Orient Hunters/Anglers) to complete all products by July 30, 2013

Success and Evaluation: Increased opportunities for quality hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and photography on national wildlife refuges. For evaluation methods, use annual RAPP measures to gauge progress for:

- Number of new hunting opportunities on refuges
- Number of new fishing opportunities on refuges
- Number of new wildlife observation opportunities on refuges
- Number of new wildlife photography opportunities on refuges
- Improved quality of hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and photography opportunities on refuges
- Number of new hunting or fishing opportunities for youth

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- Number of new hunting or fishing opportunities for people with disabilities
- Number of wildlife-dependent recreation support facilities complying with ADA standards

Approach and Deliverables for Recommendation 18

- Form a subteam (Appropriate Use) to review the Appropriate Refuge Use policy, and accompanying guidance to:
 - ensure refuge managers have the best guidance to evaluate proposed new and existing refuge uses before proceeding to a compatibility review and permitting,
 - have a better understanding of what uses can be allowed and why, and
 - develop a mechanism that allows consistent implementation with the overall goal of creating a connected conservation constituency and ensuring conservation objectives are met; and
 - make recommendations on policy revisions and potential training needs as appropriate. Coordinate with Leadership Development Council and NCTC on training and guidance.

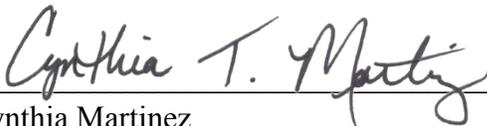
Major Milestones:

- Establish subteam by April, 2012
- Appropriate Use Subteam complete and submit draft products to HFORIT by January 31, 2013
- HFORIT works with subteam to complete all products by July 30, 2013

Success and Evaluation: Appropriate refuge uses are understood and supported by NWRS managers and a growing public conservation constituency. Evaluation metrics include:

- Appropriate refuge uses are clearly defined in all refuge comprehensive conservation plans
- Mechanisms are in place to expand appropriate uses on refuges while meeting conservation objectives

Executive Implementation Council Approval:



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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

MAY 14 2012

Date