

Comprehensive Conservation Plan

St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge



Public Scoping Meetings
July 15 & 16, 2009



St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge CCP

Meeting Agenda

- ▶ Overview of USFWS and CCP Process
- ▶ Current Resource Information for St. Vincent NWR
- ▶ Open Forum – Your Comments, Concerns, and Issues



History

The Wildlife Conservation Movement Takes Hold

- ❖ Years of slaughter of pelicans, egrets, and other birds for their plumes brought many of these birds to the brink of extinction.
- ❖ Audubon and the American Ornithological Union led the movement to permanently protect Pelican Island.
- ❖ Pelican Island: the last breeding ground for brown pelicans along the entire east coast of Florida.

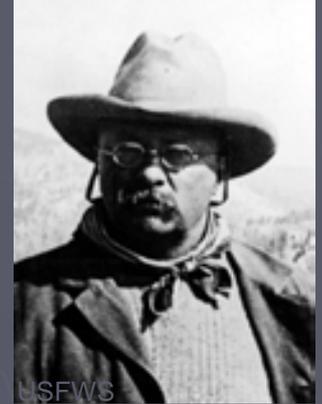


USFWS

Paul Kroegel, first refuge manager

History

Presidential Leadership: Theodore Roosevelt



"Wild beasts and birds are by right not the property merely of the people who are alive today, but the property of unknown generations, whose belongings we have no right to squander."

Theodore Roosevelt

- ❖ On March 14, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt officially protected tiny five-acre Pelican Island Bird Reservation.
- ❖ Birth of the NWRS.... "a promise to America to preserve our wildlife heritage and prevent many species from certain extinction."

History

A Century Later: The National Wildlife Refuge System



Loggerhead Sea Turtle

- ❖ Grown to 150 million acres
- ❖ Includes habitat for over 280 threatened and endangered plants and animals



Wood Stork

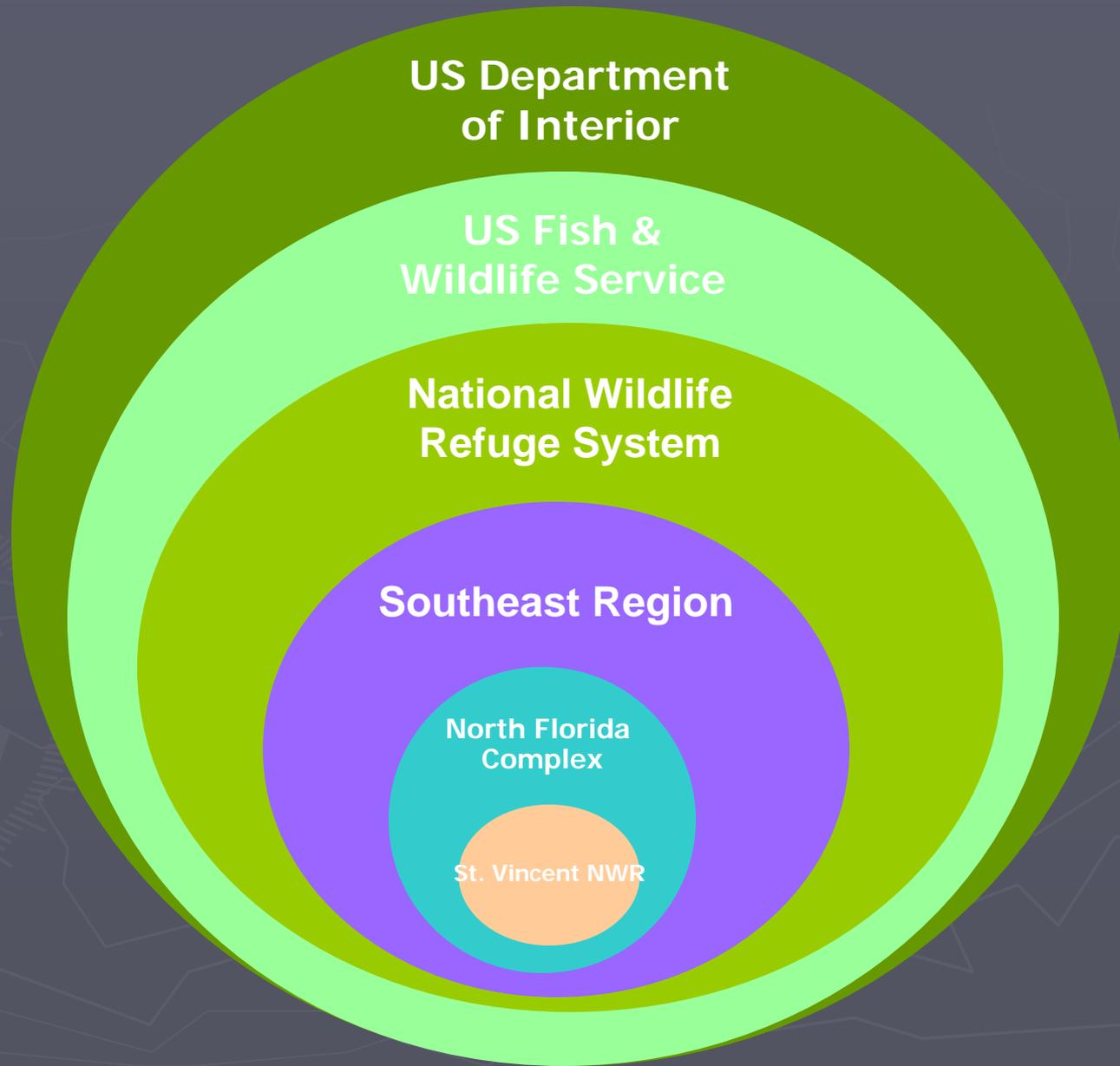


Eastern Indigo



Red Wolf

Organizational Structure



Organizational Structure

550 National Wildlife Refuges



Policy

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission Statement

- ❖ To administer a national network of lands and waters
- ❖ For the conservation, management, & where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, & plant resources and their habitats within the United States
- ❖ For the benefit of present & future generations of Americans

Policy

1997 Refuge System Improvement Act

- ▶ Defines the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System
- ▶ Mandates that a CCP be prepared for each refuge by 2012
- ▶ States the conservation focus of the Refuge System: Wildlife First
- ▶ Outlines the “Big Six” priority public uses

Policy

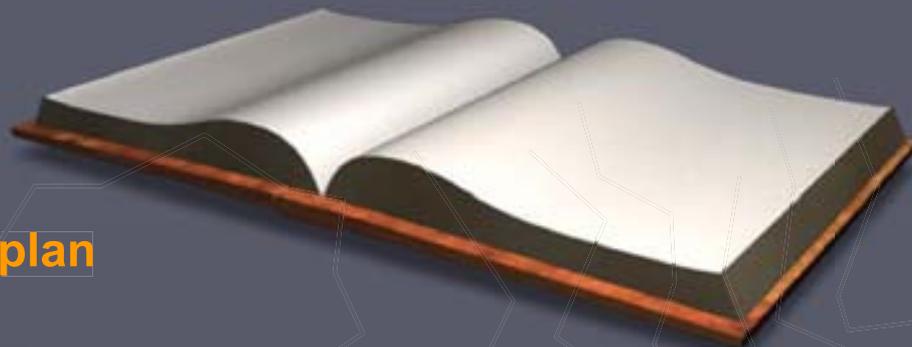
“Big Six” Priority Public Uses

- ▶ Hunting
- ▶ Fishing
- ▶ Wildlife photography
- ▶ Wildlife observation
- ▶ Environmental interpretation
- ▶ Environmental education

Act says each are an appropriate use on a refuge and should facilitate these uses when possible and compatible (but it does not mandate these uses).

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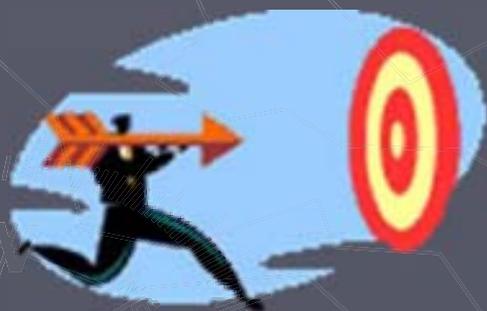
The CCP:



- ✓ Is a **15-year Refuge management plan**
- ✓ Serves the **purposes of the refuges**
- ✓ Works toward fulfilling the **mission of the Refuge System**
- ✓ Describes the **desired future conditions** of the refuges
- ✓ Provides **long-range guidance** and **management direction** for Refuge staff
- ✓ Provides **consistency & continuity** in Refuge management
- ✓ Helps the refuges to maintain and restore **biological integrity, biological diversity**, and **environmental health** of the refuges & the Refuge System
- ✓ Meets other refuge management **mandates & requirements**

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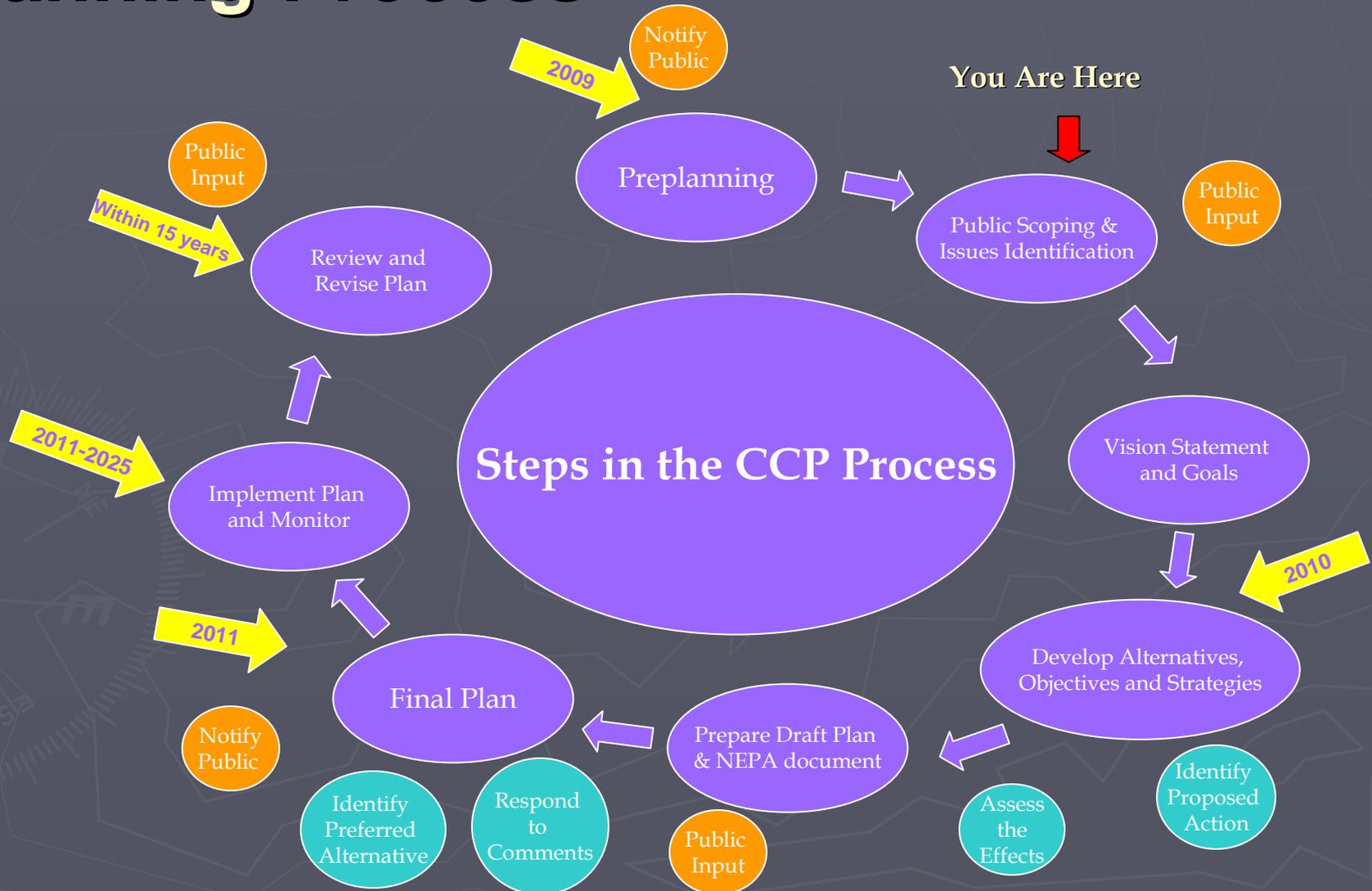
Goals for CCP



- ✓ Ensure wildlife comes first
- ✓ Help fulfill the Refuge System mission and purposes for refuge establishment
- ✓ Encourage an ecosystem approach to refuge planning
- ✓ Provide a forum for active public involvement
- ✓ Give priority to wildlife-dependent recreational uses

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Planning Process



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What will Be Addressed in the Plan?

EVERYTHING

- Wildlife and Fisheries
- Habitat Management
- Cultural Resources
- Public Use Activities
- Facilities and Maintenance
- Staff and Funding Needs
- Law Enforcement
- Private Lands Involvement



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Your Role

Submit Comments:

At the Public Meetings

After the Public Meetings

By Email: Stvincentccp@fws.gov

By Mail: P.O. Box 447
Apalachicola, FL 32329

By Fax: 850-653-9893



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St. Vincent
National Wildlife Refuge
Comprehensive Conservation Plan



Would you like more information on this planning effort?

If so, we need your written permission. Federal government mailing lists are subject to the Freedom of Information Act of 1974 and require the release of these lists to the public, upon request. Please fill out this form and return it to the listed address.

**St. Vincent NWR CCP
P.O. Box 447
Apalachicola, FL 32329**

Please add me to the mailing list for the St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan. I wish to receive additional information about this planning effort. I understand that the names and addresses on federal government mailing lists must be released to the public upon request, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1974.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please type or print:

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State, Zip _____

Optional:
email address _____

If you are acting as the representative of an organization, please also provide:

Organization _____

Title _____

Mailing List Request Form



Want to stay
informed throughout
the planning process?

Get on the mailing list to
receive meeting notices,
planning updates, and more!

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Purpose of Today's Meeting

Collect input to help determine *priority* issues for the Refuge

- ❖ Received input from advisory teams
- ❖ Draft from CCP Planning Team
- ❖ Input from our Interagency partners
- ❖ **Public Scoping Meetings**



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How to decide priority issues?

- ❖ Issue must be within refuge's jurisdiction
(we can do something about them)
- ❖ Issue may be something controversial
- ❖ Issue is within our authority & something that can be addressed
in a plan
- ❖ Issue can be addressed with existing staff,
partnerships or modest increases of staff

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What Happens Next



St. Vincent NWR - Time Frame

July 15 & 16 2009

Public Scoping

November 2010

Internal Review Draft CCP/EA

February 2011

Draft CCP/EA

2011

Public Meetings/comments

September 2011

Final CCP approved



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Decision Making Process

Final Decisions Guided By:

- ❖ Mission and Goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge Improvement Act -1997)
- ❖ Refuge Purpose(s)
- ❖ Law and Policy that Govern the Refuge System
- ❖ Public Use – Big 6
- ❖ Compatibility Policy

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Who Will Make the Final Decisions

- ✓ Planning Team (USFWS & State) – Develops Plan
- ✓ Regional USFWS Director – Atlanta, GA
- ✓ USFWS Director – Washington, D.C.



Conclusion

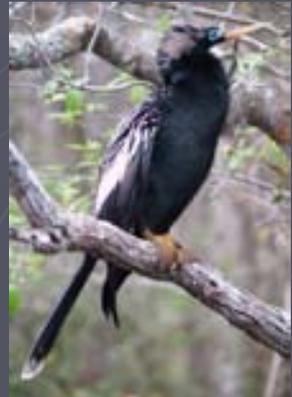
- ❖ Sound wildlife conservation principles guide our decisions
- ❖ Public issues and concerns can influence management direction

THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

A Place Where



"WILDLIFE COMES FIRST"



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Questions?

