



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge



**Comprehensive Conservation Planning
Public Scoping Meeting November 5, 2009**

Comprehensive Conservation
Planning





Meeting Goals:

- Acquaint you with the Refuge System and the Don Edwards SF Bay Refuge
- Describe the CCP process
- Find out more about you
- Answer questions about the Refuge and the Refuge System
- Gather public comments





Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System:

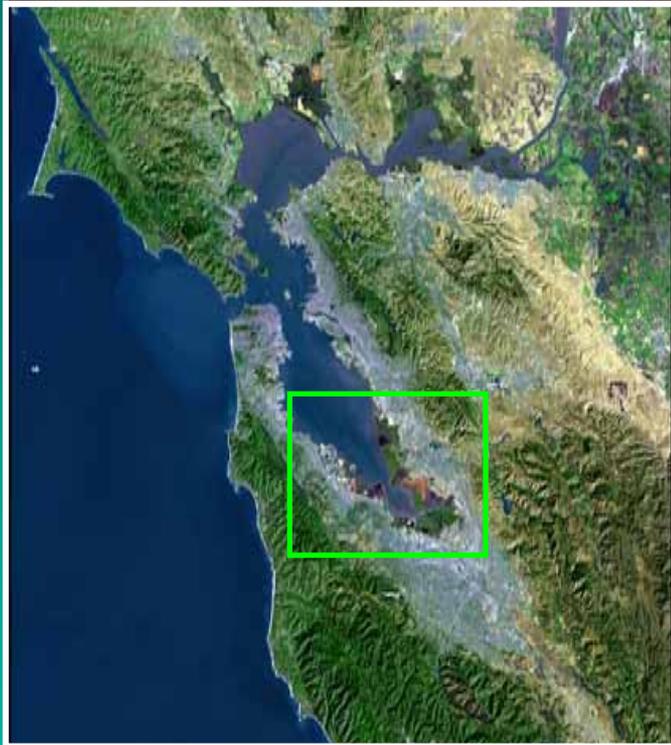
“...to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.”

Refuge Improvement Act, Sec. 4





Refuge History



- **Established by Congress in 1972**
- **First lands not acquired until 1974**
- **Original acquisition boundary: 23,000 acres**
- **Expanded to 43,000 acres in 1988**
- **Refuge currently owns or leases 30,000 of those acres**





Refuge Purposes

"... for the preservation and enhancement of highly significant wildlife habitat ... for the protection of migratory waterfowl and other wildlife, including species known to be threatened with extinction, and to provide an opportunity for wildlife-oriented recreation and nature study ..." 86 Stat. 399, dated June 30, 1972.

"... particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program." 16 U.S.C. § 667b (An Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife, or other purposes)

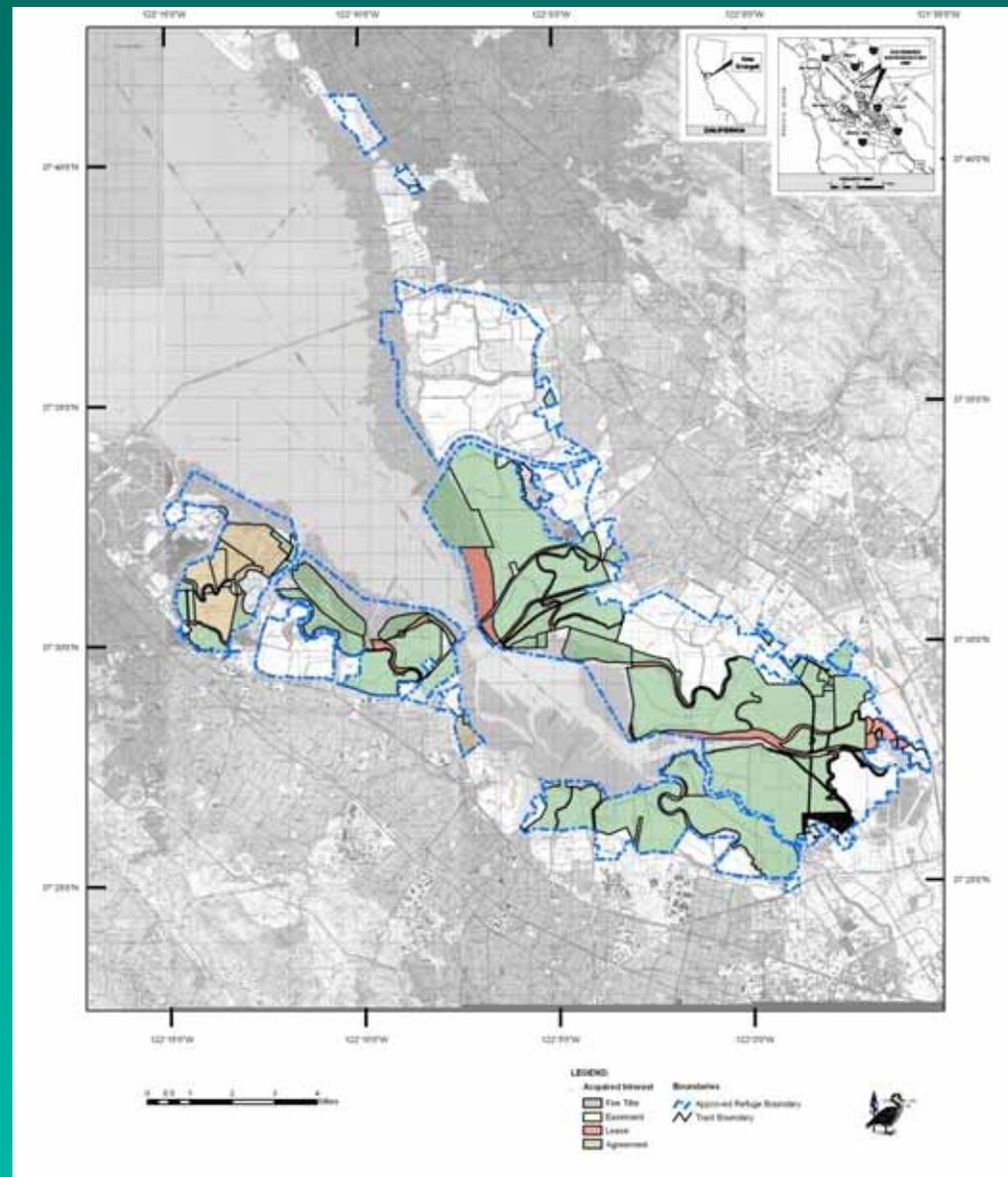
"... to conserve (A) fish or wildlife which are listed as endangered species or threatened species or (B) plants ..." 16 U.S.C. § 1534 (Endangered Species Act of 1973)

"... for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources ..." 16 U.S.C. § 742f(a)(4) "... for the benefit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in performing its activities and services. Such acceptance may be subject to the terms of any restrictive or affirmative covenant, or condition of servitude ..." 16 U.S.C. § 742f(b)(1) (Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956)





- Spans southern end of San Francisco Bay, within the counties of Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Mateo.
- Headquarter office located in Fremont
- Environmental Education Center in Alviso.





Four Management Units

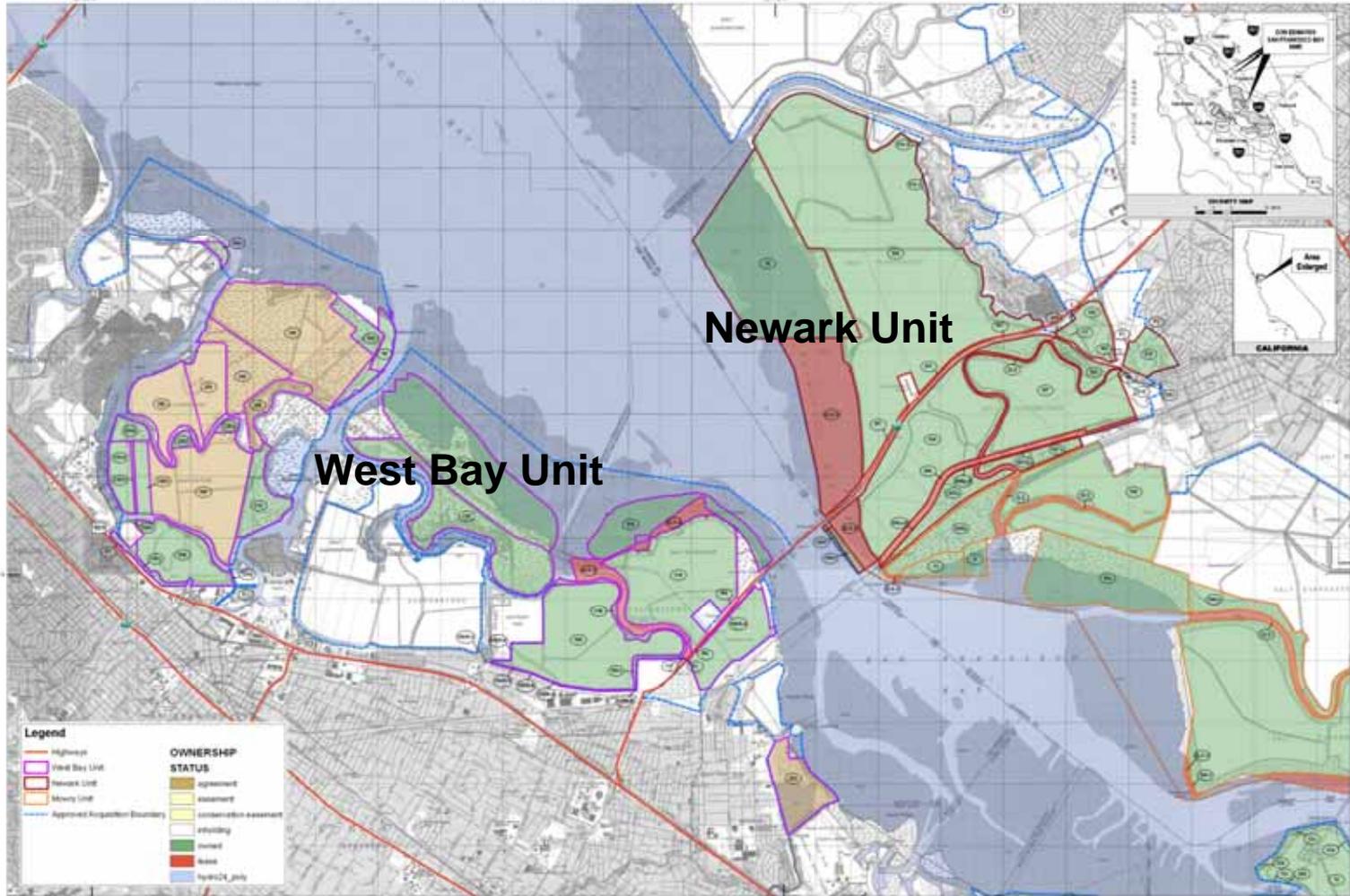
- Newark Unit
- Mowry Unit
- Alviso Unit
- West Bay Unit





Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

West Bay and Newark Units of the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge



SCALE: 1:20,000

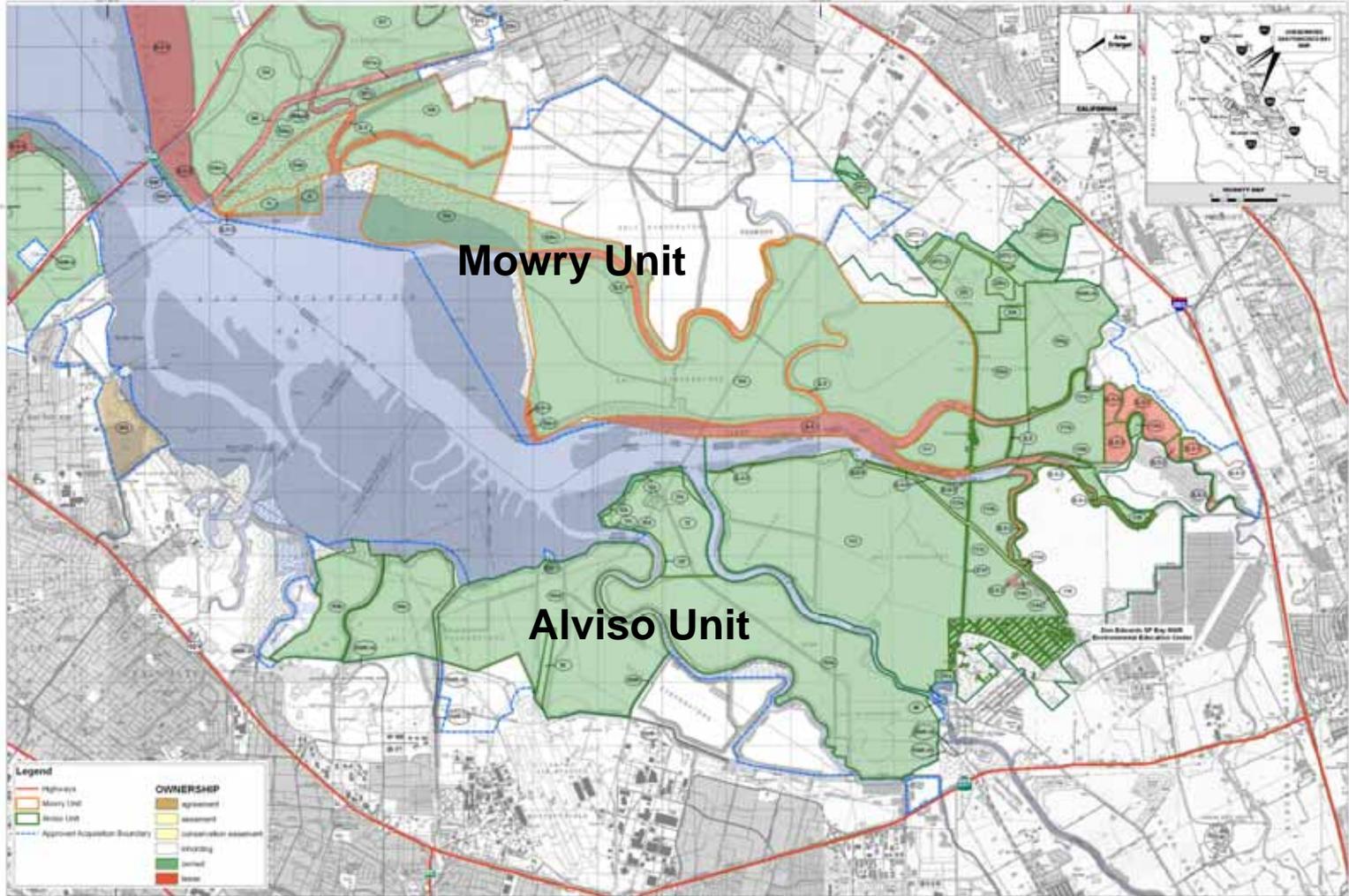


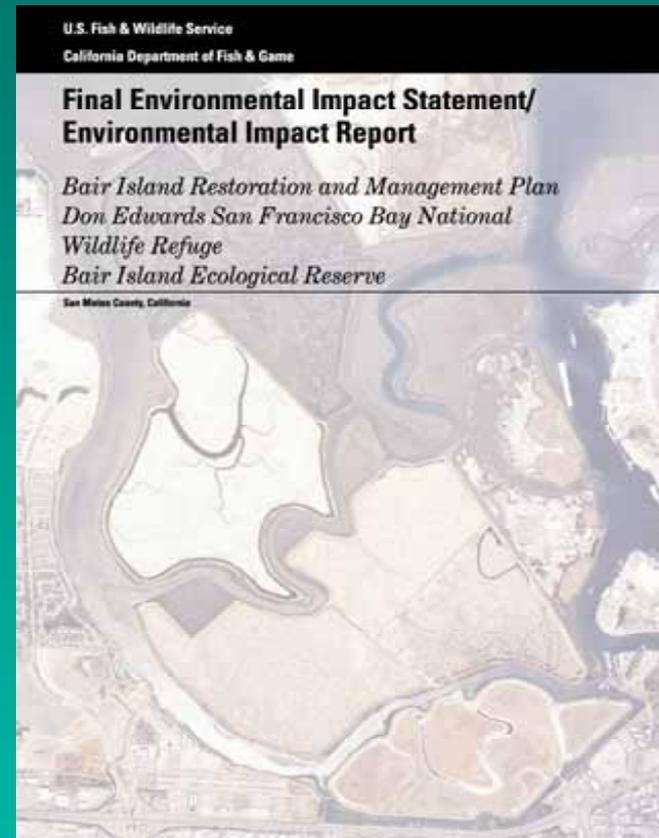
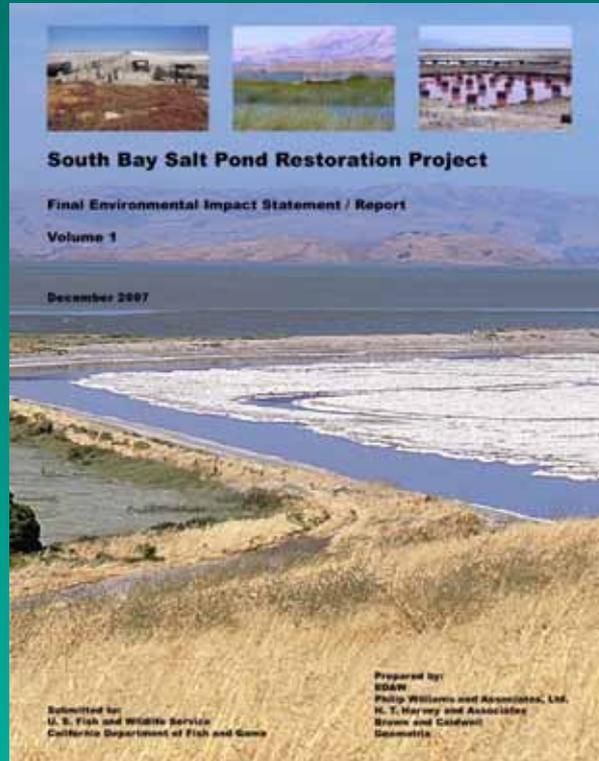


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Mowry and Alviso Units of the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge







Alviso Unit

- Duck Hunting
- New section of Bay Trail
- Mercury Studies
- South Bay Salt Pond Project Phase I Restoration:
 - Pond A6
 - Pond A8
 - Pond A16
- Warm Springs: Cattle grazing to manage vernal pools
- Recently acquired Pacific Commons





Mowry Unit

- Limited Duck Hunting
- Maintained and operated by Cargill for Salt production

Newark Unit

Maintained and operated by Cargill for salt production





West Bay Unit

Ravenswood

- Habitat restoration of Pond SF2 underway
- Annual levee maintenance

Bair Island

- Restoration in Progress
 - Inner Bair
 - Middle Bair
 - Outer Bair
- Public Trails





Current Management Activities

Biology

- Invasive plant mapping and monitoring
- Invasive plant removal and/or treatment
- Native plant restoration - greenhouse
- California clapper rail monitoring
- Salt marsh harvest mouse monitoring
- Waterfowl, shorebird monitoring
- Mosquito management
- Water quality monitoring





Current Management Activities, cont'd

Environmental Education, Visitor Services

- Field trip education programs
- Non-profit organization programs
- Festivals and fairs
- Website - brochures
- Docent-led tours
- Waterfowl hunting
- Fishing





CCPs: Improvement of Refuge Management



The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-57)

- *Amended the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to improve the management of the System, and for other purposes.*
- *CCP in place for all Refuges by 2012 to ensure long-term conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.*





Priority Public Uses



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Megan Durham

Hunting



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fishing



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
J & K Hollingsworth

Wildlife



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
J & K Hollingsworth

Photography



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
LaVonda Walton

Environmental Education



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
J & K Hollingsworth

Interpretation

Comprehensive Conservation
Planning





Comprehensive Conservation Planning

- Provide vision and guidance for the management of Don Edwards SF Bay NWR natural and cultural resources during the next 15 years
- Use best available science to help managers achieve the purposes of the Refuge and the Refuge System
- Stakeholder involvement and seeking public comment is critical
- Multi-year process





Components of a CCP

- **Refuge purposes**
- **Vision and goals**
- **Long-range objectives**
- **Management strategies to reach objectives**
- **NEPA analyses and documentation**
- **Appropriate Use Assessment**
- **Compatibility Determinations**
- **Monitoring and assessment programs**





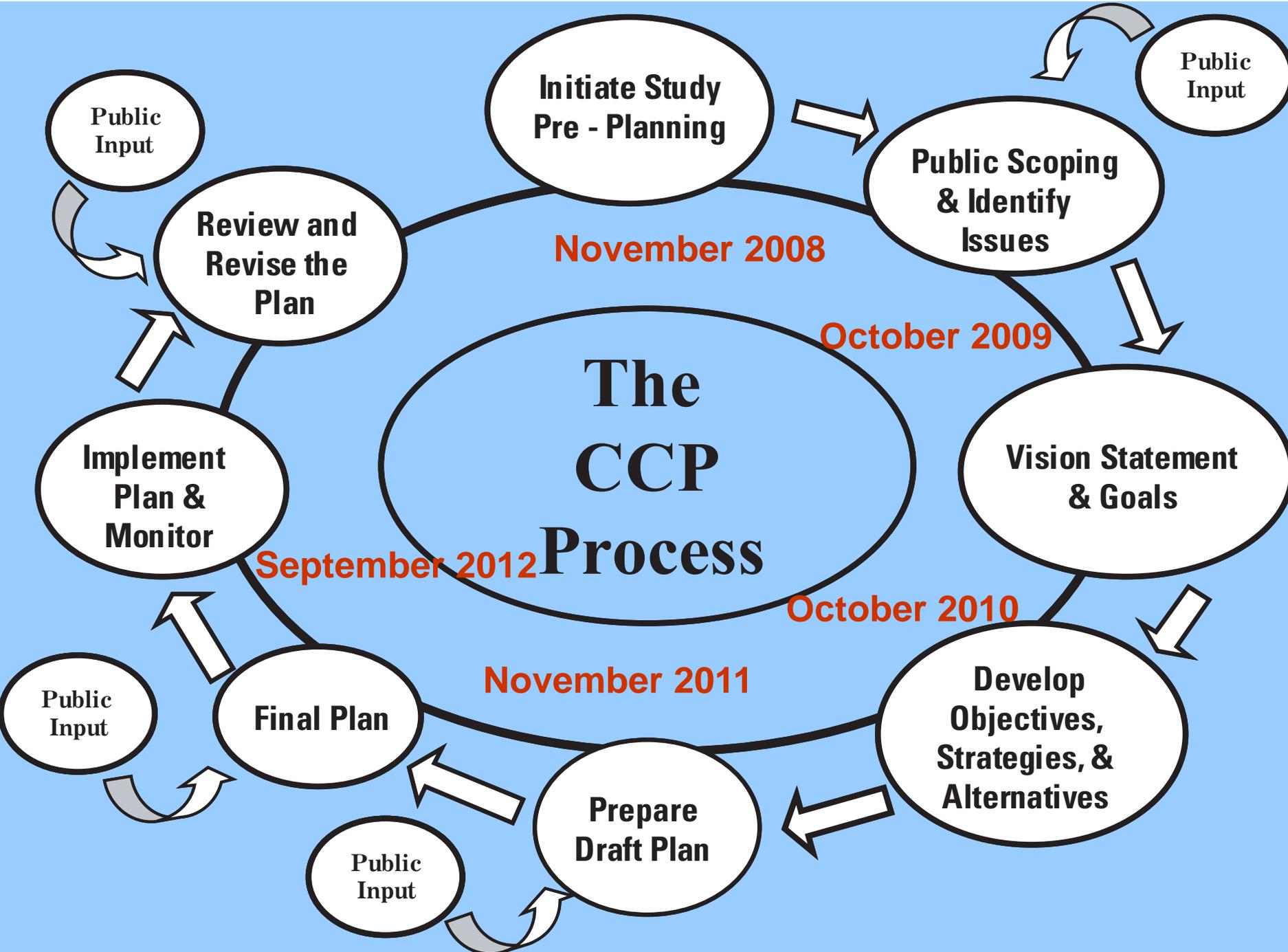
What are Appropriate Uses and Compatibility Determinations?

In accordance with the Improvement Act, proposed uses on Refuges must be compatible with refuge purposes and the Refuge System Mission.

Two-step process to determine compatibility:

- 1) Appropriate Use Policy- first screen to determine whether use fits with refuge purposes and Refuge System Mission.
- 2) Compatibility Determination (CD)- if use is appropriate a CD is prepared to determine if the use is compatible.





**Initiate Study
Pre - Planning**

November 2008

**Public Scoping
& Identify
Issues**

October 2009

**Vision Statement
& Goals**

October 2010

**Develop
Objectives,
Strategies, &
Alternatives**

November 2011

**Prepare
Draft Plan**

Final Plan

**Implement
Plan &
Monitor**

**Review and
Revise the
Plan**

**Public
Input**

**Public
Input**

**Public
Input**

**Public
Input**

**The
CCP
Process**



Key Issues:

- **Protection and Management of Listed Species**
- **Protection and Management of Migratory Birds**
- **Habitat Enhancement and Restoration**
- **Climate Change**
- **Public Access**
- **Water Quality/Urban Runoff/Contaminants**
- **Historic/Cultural Resources**
- **Adjacent Land Uses**
- **Land Acquisition**





Planning Schedule

October 2010

Announce management alternatives

November 2011

Publish Draft CCP for public review

September 2012

Publish Final CCP





How You Can Help

- **Bring us your ideas and questions**
- **Help us identify and clarify issues**
- **Assist us in reviewing refuge goals**
- **Get others involved**
- **Stay informed**
- **Attend future meetings**





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