

Appendix G

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Least tern

Land Protection Plan

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Introduction and Purpose

This draft Land Protection Plan (LPP) provides detailed information about our proposal to expand Nantucket National Wildlife Refuge (Nantucket NWR, refuge) on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts. This LPP identifies the proposed land protection boundary for the Nantucket NWR. Working with numerous partners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service, we, our) delineated 1,790 acres of biologically significant land on the island of Nantucket. These acres are encompassed by the recommended acquisition boundary established in Alternative B of the Nantucket NWR Environmental Assessment and Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (EA/draft CCP). We plan to protect these lands through transfers at no cost, fee-title acquisition, conservation easements, and management agreements. Of the total acreage, we recommend acquiring 180 acres in fee title through transfers at no cost, 10 acres in fee title through purchase, 916 acres in conservation easements, and 684 acres through management agreement.

The purposes of this LPP are to

- provide landowners and the public with an outline of Service policies, priorities, and protection methods for land in the project area;
- assist landowners in determining whether their property lies within the proposed acquisition boundary; and
- inform landowners about our long-standing policy of acquiring land only from willing sellers (We will not buy any lands or easements if the owners are not interested in selling).

The LPP presents the methods the Service and interested landowners can use to accomplish their objectives for wildlife habitat within the refuge boundary. The maps (G-1 through G-5) show the study area boundary and the land parcels in the preferred action area (i.e., as defined in Alternative B of the EA/draft CCP). A corresponding table identifies each parcel, its tax map number, acreage, and our priority and recommended option for acquiring and protecting its habitat.

Project Description

Service-preferred Action: Refuge Land Protection Boundary

Nantucket NWR, located within the area known locally as “Great Point,” is part of the Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex (refuge complex). The refuge complex consists of eight refuges in Eastern Massachusetts which are managed from the Refuge Complex Headquarters at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Sudbury, Massachusetts. Nantucket NWR is one of four refuges located on Cape Cod and the Islands; Monomoy, Nomans Land Island, and Mashpee National Wildlife Refuges are also part of the refuge complex. The Nantucket NWR has been managed under agreement with The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) for several decades. Great Point is known as one of the best surfcasting locations in New England because of the riptide which brings bluefish and striped bass to the point. The refuge is also a destination for hundreds of visitors each year seeking to enjoy a Nantucket beach or a tour of the Great Point Lighthouse. Great Point is the destination for nearly 90 percent of the visitors who enter TTOR’s Coskata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge. The proposed refuge expansion would protect a combination of wetland, upland, maritime dune, beach, and scrub-shrub habitat supporting migratory birds, federally listed and State-listed threatened and endangered species, and regionally significant wildlife and plant communities on Nantucket Island.

Migratory bird and threatened and endangered species’ habitat are among the primary reasons for expanding the refuge and guiding its management.

- Numerous migratory colonial waterbirds, songbirds, raptors, freshwater wetland birds, and waterfowl take refuge, forage, and nest in the maritime dune, beach, forest, scrub-shrub, grassland, and wetland habitats that are found on Nantucket Island.
- Nantucket Island provides habitat for many protected plants and animals, including federally listed threatened and endangered species. Species of concern documented to be present on the island include piping plover, roseate tern, American oystercatcher, and common tern. Striped bass, bluefish, and other game fish are found in the nearshore saltwaters of Nantucket. All these species of wildlife and fish benefit from the land protection being done on Nantucket Island. Approximately 45 percent of the island is protected long-term by many conservation organizations.

To this end, the preferred action (Alternative B, the “Landscape-level Conservation and Cooperative Partnerships for Balanced Wildlife Management and Wildlife-Dependent Recreation (Service-preferred Alternative)”) for the proposed expansion of Nantucket NWR establishes a land protection boundary of approximately 1,790 acres. This boundary was developed out of numerous meetings with conservation partners and came from a habitat review based on aerial photography and Geographic Information System (GIS) maps, and a familiarity with on-the-ground habitat features on the part of the local stakeholders.

Refuge Purposes

The approximately 21-acre Nantucket NWR was established in 1973 when the Service acquired the property under the Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife or other purposes from the U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard). The purpose for the establishment of the refuge includes the following:

“for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds...”
16 U.S.C. § 715d (Migratory Bird Conservation Act).

Status of Resources to be Protected

Wildlife and Habitat Resources

The proposed refuge expansion area includes many specific parcels throughout Nantucket Island, which are described below.

Great Point Lighthouse, Coast Guard

The Great Point Lighthouse is located within the refuge boundary on a one-acre parcel of land that was transferred to the Coast Guard in 1987 to replace the lighthouse that fell into the ocean as a result of erosion and the migration of the point westward. This is not a historic structure and the light is now automated. The Trustees of Reservations currently maintain the lighthouse structure under a license with the Coast Guard. Because this inholding is completely surrounded by refuge land, the Service is interested in acquiring the lighthouse property. We propose to acquire this property as a no-cost transfer for wildlife purposes from the Coast Guard.

Coskata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge, The Trustees of Reservations

Coskata-Coatue’s 916 acres stretch just beyond The Haulover north to the southern end of Nantucket NWR. Coskata-Coatue is known for its wildlife habitat, rare plants, and recreational value. Habitats include forested upland (consisting of maritime oak and a maritime red cedar savanna), wetlands, saltmarsh, a unique saltmarsh-maritime shrubland complex, the Great Point Lagoon, dune complexes, and beaches. It offers a variety of public activities, including 16 miles of over sand vehicle and walking trails, seasonal hunting, fishing opportunities, and guided natural history tours which include a stop at the Great Point Lighthouse. TTOR has expressed an interest to work with the Service to develop a permanent conservation easement with the Service so that the Great Point Peninsula could be managed as one wildlife refuge.

Migratory and nesting colonial waterbirds, songbirds, raptors, freshwater wetland birds, and waterfowl utilize the TTOR property. The forests, forested wetlands, swales, and glade area also provide habitat important for a diverse group of reptiles, amphibians, and other species. This property allows crucial connection and a critical component of land protection for Nantucket NWR.

Coatue Wildlife Refuge and the Haulover, Nantucket Conservation Foundation

The Coatue Wildlife Refuge contains over 390 acres of barrier beach that shelters Nantucket Harbor from the Sound. With the exception of a few small private inholdings this refuge is owned and managed for conservation purposes by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation (Foundation). Coatue is considered part of a larger wildlife refuge system that includes 104 acres at The Haulover, which is also owned by the Foundation, the 916 acres (described above) of the Coatue Wildlife Refuge, owned by TTOR, and the approximately 21-acre Nantucket NWR. The Foundation has expressed an interest to work with the Service to develop a Management

Agreement with the Service so that the entire peninsula (which begins at the Wauwinet Gatehouse and includes TTOR, Foundation, and Service property) could be managed as one wildlife refuge.

The entire Coatue Wildlife Refuge is a barrier beach that is constantly shifting and changing. The six points or “cusped spits” that form Coatue’s distinctive scalloped shoreline were formed and are maintained by wind, wave, and tidal action. The north shore, known as the “Chord of the Bay,” and the east facing ocean beach, take the brunt of strong winds and storm tides, which occasionally overwash the narrowest areas. Thus the Coatue Wildlife Refuge is a dynamic beach that provides harsh but critical habitat for unique wildlife and plants, including federally threatened and endangered species, as well as State-listed species.

Access to the Coatue Wildlife Refuge is limited to narrow, soft sand roads that can only be traversed by four-wheel drive vehicles. As with the TTOR property, migratory and nesting colonial waterbirds, songbirds, raptors, freshwater wetland birds, and waterfowl utilize the Foundation property. This property also allows crucial connection and a critical component of land protection for Nantucket NWR.

Nantucket Loran Station, Coast Guard

The Nantucket Loran Station will be decommissioned because the Coast Guard will cease sending the Loran-C signal. The property totals approximately 85 acres in the Village of Siasconset, Massachusetts. The property is split by Lower Beach Road which bisects the property. The northern part of the property currently has an antenna tower with an access road to the antenna, and six houses on the southeast corner. This northern part of the property supports important heathland habitat. In addition, there is a fairly large wetland complex that covers at least half the property.

The southern portion of the property below Lower Beach Road is where the former antenna was located prior to being moved to the northern part of the property. There are two barrack-style buildings and the former antenna pad with a short access road. The habitat on the southern portion of the property is composed of beach and dune habitat. The adjacent beach areas are very sparsely developed with limited human activity. This area is critical habitat for piping plovers as defined in the Piping Plover Recovery Plan. It is also used by many other species of shorebirds and wading birds. The Service will request a Transfer of Real Property at no cost from the Coast Guard. Some of the buildings on the site could provide storage or housing for future refuge staff.

Muskeget Island, Town of Nantucket and Privately Owned

Muskeget Island lies west of Nantucket Island and northwest of Tuckernuck Island. The property totals approximately 303 acres and supports maritime dune and beach habitats. The town of Nantucket owns one-third of the island, approximately 120 acres; the remainder is privately owned. Muskeget Island historically supported one of the largest common tern and roseate tern colonies ever reported in New England. The island also supports 62 species on the regional bird list. In 2008, six pairs of piping plovers nested and fledged 12 young plovers. Twenty-three species of wading birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, and passerines have nested on the island in the past. The shallow waters and shoals of Muskeget Channel are highly productive for marine fish and shellfish. Muskeget Island is also a potential reintroduction site for the Northeastern beach tiger beetle, and supports the largest group of breeding gray seals in the United States.

Head of the Plains, GSA (Formerly Federal Aviation Administration)

This parcel is located on the southwest side of Nantucket Island in Madaket. The property totals approximately 120 acres. The habitat consists of 30-40 percent grassland, and 60-70 percent shrubland. This property is within an area designated as rare wildlife and plant species habitat by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. The State-listed rare plants found on the property included sandplain blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium fuscatum*), bushy rockrose (*Helianthemum dumosum*), and Nantucket shadbush (*Amelanchier nantucketensis*). There is also potential, existing, or historical habitat for the New England Cottontail. The property is bound by conservation lands owned by the Nantucket Land Bank and the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. The Service is interested in acquiring this property through a no cost transfer for wildlife purposes from the General Services Administration.

Lohmann/Jellamie Property, Privately Owned

This property is an inholding on TTOR's Coskata-Coatue property, located close to the Nantucket NWR boundary. The property totals approximately 17 acres and is maritime dune habitat. There are two camps (seasonal houses) on the property. Because of the proximity of this property to the refuge, these camps could serve as seasonal refuge or partner housing.

Threats to the Resource

The loss, alteration, and fragmentation of habitat all pose the greatest threats to wildlife on Nantucket Island. The Trustees of Reservations, Nantucket Conservation Foundation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have protected the majority of this peninsula with the exception of several scattered parcels of private land. In order to maintain the important wildlife habitat, it is critical that these three groups protect the peninsula in a consistent manner. If not, potential fragmentation alters the habitat by breaking up large, contiguous blocks into smaller patches that are unsuitable for area-sensitive species. New or altered roads fragment habitats and create barriers to animal movements between habitats. Preserving the large, contiguous blocks of habitat that remain on Nantucket Island and maintaining their connectivity are crucial for the long-term viability of populations of area-sensitive wildlife. These threats, albeit present, are not yet particularly common on Nantucket Island and there is still time to protect the island and its resources. Development continues to fragment the large shrubland parcels inhabited by area-sensitive species of raptors and passerines.

White-tailed deer pose a significant threat to forest and shrubland health and forest regeneration on Nantucket Island's upland and wetland forests. High numbers of deer take refuge in residential areas or on public or private lands where hunting is not allowed or limited. Their over-browsing can eliminate native shrub layers and damage breeding habitat for many species, particularly shrub-nesting birds. In addition, over-browsing can create an environment conducive for invasive plants germinating and crowding out native species, thereby eliminating rare plant communities and forest regeneration of native species.

Continuing Partnership Effort

The threats to the resource described above make preserving land on Nantucket Island both crucial and challenging. As real estate values increase due to the influx of people from across the country searching out vacation properties, the need to act quickly to preserve key parcels remaining on Nantucket Island becomes more apparent. For that reason, we recognize the need to collaborate with other conservation organizations on Nantucket Island. Therefore, we would work to combine our efforts with those of many partners, such as The Trustees of Reservations, the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, the Maria Mitchell Foundation, the Nantucket Land Bank, the Nantucket Land Council, Sconset Land Trust, MassWildlife, National Park Service, Massachusetts Audubon Society, as well as numerous other partners yet to be identified. Many of our partners already own or have future plans to protect lands on Nantucket Island through fee-title and/or conservation easements. Still others have completed on-the-ground habitat restoration projects on Nantucket Island. These partners use their individual mission statements to focus protection and restoration efforts. Taken together, those mission statements cover the protection of shrubland, both federally listed and State-listed rare, threatened and endangered species, scenic areas, wetlands, grassland habitats, and open space that the local community has identified as significant.

Action and Objectives

Land Protection Area

Working with numerous partners, the Service delineated 1,790 acres of biologically significant land on Nantucket Island. The area contains portions of Nantucket Island's important defined ecosystems. The Service concludes that acquiring identified habitat areas through Alternative B over time will also provide for the protection of rare and unique habitats on Nantucket Island. Alternative B would also help many non-game species that continue to rely on the availability of ample and quality habitat. Additionally, this habitat complex

would provide ample opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation, new and dynamic partnerships, and scientific research.

Maps and Ownership Table

Maps G-1-G5 and Table G.1 show all land parcels within the acquisition boundary proposed under the Service's preferred action (Alternative B). We provide this information to inform landowners of our interest in lands in that area. We would acquire either full or partial interest in land parcels by fee purchase, as available from willing sellers over time and as the availability of funding allows. We also plan to develop cooperative management agreements on other public lands in the project area.

Land Protection Priorities

All of the lands we include in the preferred action area have significant resource values and high potential for ensuring habitat connectivity between the refuge and surrounding conservation lands. In general, the availability of land from willing sellers, and the availability of funding at that time will influence the actual order of land protection. However, as landowners offer us parcels, and as funds become available, we will base the priority for land protection on several factors. Priority is assigned as follows:

Priority 1: Priority 1 parcels contain most of the lands and habitats that meet the threshold for Federal protection. They are

- parcels that contain a significant amount of functioning undisturbed or relatively undisturbed habitats of significant importance that support Federal trust species (e.g., federally listed species, migratory birds);
- parcels that contain potentially significant habitat for federally listed species found within the refuge acquisition boundary;
- parcels that border the Nantucket NWR;
- parcels that have a significant value for migratory birds, with prime nesting and foraging habitats for federally listed or State-listed species;
- parcels that are currently under the ownership or jurisdiction of another Federal agency; and
- parcels that contain potentially significant habitat for endangered species found in close proximity to the refuge.

Priority 2: Priority 2 parcels are located throughout the preferred action area and contribute to meeting the threshold for Federal protection including

- parcels that are of significant importance to Nantucket Island;
- parcels that help to restore or maintain habitat connectivity;
- parcels that support State-listed rare species;
- areas of high potential for habitat restoration or enhancement; and
- parcels of moderate value to a variety of migratory bird species or of significant value to a limited number of migratory bird species.

Our intention is to minimize the need to acquire residences and buildings on these lands, while protecting and restoring habitat, so parcels of this nature will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. With the above criteria in mind, we configured our boundaries for fee and easement areas. The Service reserves the right to be flexible

with the detailed priority list above, because a number of factors also influence the priority of land protection, including the availability of willing sellers and the availability of funding. In addition, the Service must be flexible in its methods and priorities of land protection to meet the needs of individual landowners.

Protection Options

We will use the following options to implement this Land Protection Plan.

Option 1: management or land protection by others

Option 2: less-than-fee acquisition by the Service

Option 3: fee acquisition by the Service

Service policy in acquiring land is to acquire only the minimum interest necessary to meet refuge goals and objectives, and acquire it only from willing sellers. Our proposal includes a combination of options 1, 2, and 3 above. We believe this approach offers a cost-effective way of providing the minimal level of protection needed to accomplish refuge objectives while also attempting to meet the needs of local landowners.

Option 1. Management Agreements or Land Protection by Others

A great deal of land on Nantucket Island is already owned by our partners or managed by our partners through conservation easements. It should also be emphasized that the protection on Nantucket Island fits well into a large landscape scale wildlife and habitat corridor that is being pieced together in the area. The Service's land protection proposal to use Management Agreements would serve as an important keystone in this conservation effort. The following partners both manage and own properties that are ecologically associated with the Nantucket NWR:

- The Trustees of Reservations
- Nantucket Conservation Foundation
- Nantucket Land Bank
- Nantucket Land Council
- Massachusetts Audubon Society
- Town of Nantucket
- Local land trusts

Option 2. Less-than-fee Acquisition

Under option 2, we will protect and manage land by purchasing only a partial interest, typically in the form of a conservation easement. This option leaves the parcel in private ownership, while allowing us control over the land use in a way that enables us to meet our goals for the parcel or that provides adequate protection for important adjoining parcels and habitats. The structure of such easements will provide permanent protection of existing wildlife habitats while also allowing habitat management or improvements and access to sensitive habitats, such as for endangered species or migratory birds. It will also allow for public use where appropriate. We will determine, on a case-by-case basis, and negotiate with each landowner, the extent of the rights we will be interested in buying. Those may vary, depending on the configuration and location of the parcel, the current extent of development, the nature of wildlife activities in the immediate vicinity, the needs of the landowner, and other considerations.

In general, any less-than-fee acquisition will maintain the land in its current configuration with no further subdivision. Easements are a property right, and typically are perpetual. If a landowner later sells the

property, the easement continues as part of the title. Properties subject to easements generally remain on the tax rolls, although the change in market value may reduce the assessment. The Service does not pay refuge revenue sharing on easement rights. Where we identify conservation easements, we will be interested primarily in purchasing development and some wildlife management rights.

Easements are best when

- only minimal management of the resource is needed, but there is a desire to ensure the continuation of current undeveloped uses and to prevent fragmentation over the long-term and in places where the management objective is to allow vegetative succession;
- a landowner is interested in maintaining ownership of the land, does not want it to be further developed, and would like to realize the benefits of selling development rights;
- current land use regulations limit the potential for adverse management practices; or
- only a portion of the parcel contains lands of interest to the Service.

The determination of value for purchasing a conservation easement involves an appraisal of the rights to be purchased, based on recent market conditions and structure in the area. The Land Protection Methods section (see page G-8) further describes the conditions and structure of easements.

Option 3. Fee Acquisition

Under Option 3, we will acquire parcels in fee title from willing sellers, thereby purchasing all rights of ownership. This option provides us the most flexibility in managing priority lands, and ensuring the protection in perpetuity of nationally significant trust resources.

Generally, the lands we will buy require more than passive management (e.g., controlling invasive species, mowing or prescribed burning, planting, or managing for the six priority public uses). We only propose fee acquisition when adequate land protection is not assured under other ownerships, active land management is required, or we determined the current landowner would be unwilling to sell a partial interest like a conservation easement.

In some cases, it may become necessary to convert a previously acquired conservation easement to fee acquisition: for example, when an owner is interested in selling the remainder of interest in the land on which we have acquired an easement. We will evaluate that need on a case-by-case basis.

Land Protection Methods

We may use three methods of acquiring either a full or a partial interest in the parcels identified for Service land protection: (1) purchase (e.g., complete title, or a partial interest like a conservation easement), (2) donations, (3) exchanges and transfer of other Federal property.

Purchase

For most of the tracts in the boundary, the proposed method is listed as *Fee* or *Easement*; however, the method we ultimately use depends partly on the landowner's wishes.

Fee purchase involves buying the parcel of land outright from a willing seller in fee title (all rights, complete ownership), as the availability of funding allows.

Easement purchase refers to the purchase of limited rights (less than fee) from an interested landowner. The landowner would retain ownership of the land, but would sell certain rights identified and agreed upon by both parties. The objectives and conditions of our proposed conservation easements would recognize lands for their importance to wildlife habitat or outdoor recreational activities, and any other qualities that recommend them for addition to the National Wildlife Refuge System (refuge system).

Donation

We encourage donations in fee title or conservation easement in the approved areas. We are not aware currently of any formal opportunities to accept donations of parcels in our land protection boundary.

Exchange

We have the authority to exchange land in Service ownership for other land that has greater habitat or wildlife value. Inherent in this concept is the requirement to get dollar-for-dollar value with, occasionally, an equalization payment. Exchanges usually do not increase Federal land holdings or require purchase funds; however, they also may be very labor-intensive and take a long time to complete.

Transfer of other Federal Property

We have the authority to work with other Federal agencies to have land transferred to the Service at no cost from other Federal agencies. These lands identified for transfer must support and benefit wildlife habitat.

Service Land Protection Policy

Once a refuge land protection boundary has been approved, we contact neighboring landowners to determine whether any are interested in selling. If a landowner expresses an interest and gives us permission, a real estate appraiser will appraise the property to determine its market value. Once an appraisal has been approved, we can present an offer for the landowner's consideration.

Our long-established policy is to work with willing sellers as funds become available. We will continue to operate under that policy. Appraisals conducted by Service or contract appraisers must meet Federal as well as professional appraisal standards. Federal law requires us to purchase properties at their market value, which typically is based on comparable sales of similar types of properties.

We based the land protection boundary on the biological importance of key habitats. This gives the Service the approval to negotiate with landowners that may be interested or may become interested in selling their land in the future. With those internal approvals in place, the Service can react more quickly as important lands become available. Lands in the boundary do not become part of the refuge unless their owners sell or donate them to the Service.

A landowner may choose to sell land to the Service in fee simple and retain the right to occupy an existing residence. That is a "life use reservation." It applies during the seller's lifetime, but can also apply for a specific number of years. At the time we acquire the parcel, we would discount from the appraised value of the buildings and land the value of the reservation. The occupant would be responsible for the upkeep on the reserved premises. We would own the land, and pay revenue sharing to the appropriate taxing authority.

In rare circumstances, at the request of a seller, we can use "friendly condemnation." Although the Service has a long-standing policy of acquiring land only from willing sellers, it also has the power of eminent domain, as do other Federal agencies. We use friendly condemnation when the Service and a seller cannot agree on property value, and both agree to allow a court to determine fair market value. When we cannot determine the rightful

owner of a property, we also may use friendly condemnation to clear title. We do not expect to use friendly condemnation very often, if at all. We would not use condemnation otherwise, as it counters good working relations with the public.

Funding for Fee or Easement Purchase

Much of our funding to buy land comes from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which derives from certain user fees, the proceeds from the disposal of surplus Federal property, the Federal tax on motor boat fuels, and oil and gas lease revenues. About 90 percent of this fund now derives from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leases. The Federal government receives 40 percent of this fund to acquire and develop nationally significant conservation lands. Another source of funding to purchase land is the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which derives from Federal Duck Stamp revenue.

We plan to use LWCF funds to buy either full or partial interests in lands in the project area.

Coordination

Throughout the planning process for the proposed expansion at Nantucket NWR, we solicited and carefully considered public comments on Service land protection. We worked with other Federal partners, the State of Massachusetts, land trusts, local, and Statewide conservation organizations who are directly involved in land protection strategies.

Socioeconomic and Cultural Impacts

We do not predict any significant adverse socioeconomic or cultural impacts. We believe a net positive benefit will result for the local community. Nantucket Island will benefit from increased refuge revenue sharing payments and lower potential costs from these parcels, savings on the cost of community services, increased property values, increased watershed protection, maintenance of scenic values, and increased revenues for local businesses from refuge visitors who participate in bird watching, hunting, and wildlife observation.

Voters on Nantucket Island have consistently supported additional land protection. Land protection by the Service, while aimed at protecting trust resources, watersheds, and other natural resource values, would also maintain the rural island character of Nantucket. Local reaction to proposed development on Nantucket Island tends to be negative.

One concern we heard expressed about Service land protection was the likelihood of reduced public access. We would review all existing public uses on lands that we acquire and will promote the six priority wildlife-dependent uses of the refuge system, including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation as compatible on any land that we acquire in fee title. Other uses may also be permitted provided they are appropriate and compatible with the purposes of the refuge and the mission of the refuge system.

Refuge lands will increase protection for cultural resources in the area. Service ownership will protect known cultural sites against vandalism, and protect unidentified or undeveloped cultural sites from disturbance or destruction. Our interpretation and environmental education programs will continue to promote public understanding and appreciation of Nantucket Island's rich cultural resources.











Table G.1. Proposed Nantucket NWR Land Protection Parcel List.

Parcel ID¹	Municipality²	Deed Acres³	Acquisition Priority⁴	Protection and Acquisition Methods⁵	Ownership
Great Point Lighthouse	Nantucket	1	2	Fee title ownership (No-cost Transfer)	Coast Guard
Coskata Coatue	Nantucket	916	1	Easement (purchase or donation)	TTOR
Coatue	Nantucket	390	1	Management Agreement	NCF
Loran Station	Nantucket	85	1 or 2	Fee title ownership (No-cost Transfer)	Coast Guard
Muskeget Island	Nantucket	303	1	Fee Title ownership (acquisition or donation), Easement (purchase or donation), or Management Agreement	Private and town of Nantucket
Head of the Plains	Nantucket	120	2	Fee title ownership (No-cost Transfer)	GSA (formerly FAA)
Lohmann/Jellamie	Nantucket	17	2	Fee Title (acquisition or donation)	Private

¹ Parcel number from the town of Nantucket dataset

² Municipality where the parcel is located

³ Acreage listed on the parcel deed

⁴ Value assigned to each parcel based on the prioritization approach identified above in the LPP

⁵ Determination based on a number of factors including resource value of the parcel in question and parcel-specific negotiations between the Service and the landowner. The general approach to this determination has been outlined previously in this document.