

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Santee National Wildlife Refuge
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Information Bulletin



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Santee National Wildlife Refuge Seeks Comments on Draft Environmental Assessment, Compatibility Determination and Draft Spatial Habitat and Species Management Plan (SHSP)

Santee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR, refuge) is located in Summerton, South Carolina. Santee National Wildlife Refuge, encompassing 15,000 acres, was established in 1942 and is located in the upper Atlantic Coastal Plain region of South Carolina. The refuge is superimposed on the lands and waters of the 110,600-acre Lake Marion reservoir in Clarendon County. The South Carolina Public Service Authority, a.k.a. Santee Cooper, created Lake Marion as a hydroelectric project on the Santee River. Santee NWR benefits migratory waterfowl, neo-tropical songbirds and other birds, and terrestrial and aquatic wildlife in this ecosystem. The refuge contains a wide diversity of habitats including mixed hardwoods, mixed pine hardwoods, pine plantations, marsh, croplands, old fields, ponds, impoundments, and open water.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing management objectives and strategies for habitats on Santee NWR for priority resources of concern stepped down from the Santee NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan. The current proposal would further manage forested, grassland, and managed wetland habitat on the refuge.

The documents are now available on the refuge's website (<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/santee>) for your review and comment. The public review and comment period is open for 30 days from June 26, 2026, to July 26th, 2026. Comments submitted by U.S. mail should be sent to: Public Comment, Santee National Wildlife Refuge, 2125 Fort Watson Rd., Summerton, SC 27148. Comments submitted by email should be sent to: jason_craig@fws.gov with "Santee" in the subject line. Concerns expressed during the public comment period will be addressed in the final SHSP.

Across the country, national wildlife refuges work closely with state and Federal agencies, Native American Tribes, local governments, non-governmental organizations, private partners, and the public, to engage them in refuge management activities and proposals.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.