

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Santee National Wildlife Refuge Releases Final Environmental Assessment (EA) & Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability of the final EA and FONSI for the Spatial Habitat and Species Management Plan (SHSP) for Santee National Wildlife Refuge. The final EA and FONSI analyze the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with the SHSP within the Santee National Wildlife Refuge.

Santee NWR, which is approximately 13,000 acres, is located along the northern shore of Lake Marion in the southeastern plains of Clarendon County, South Carolina. Santee NWR was established in 1942 for the protection of migratory birds and their habitat, with an emphasis on migratory waterfowl. The refuge is the most significant inland migratory waterfowl area in South Carolina, and plays an important role for many species of migrating waterfowl by providing wintering grounds and staging areas for migrating waterfowl that winter elsewhere. There is also an abundance of Wood ducks at the refuge and the Wood duck banding program provides one of the best long-term records for wood ducks in the southeast.

The Service provided the draft SHSP, EA, and Cooperative Farming CD for a 30-day review and comment period between June 26<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup> 2026. The notice of availability for the draft SHSP/EA/CD was made available online through the refuge website. The evaluation of the Proposed Action demonstrates that there would be no significant effects to the human environment. Therefore, no further environmental impact analysis is warranted, and a FONSI has been issued.

The documents are now available on the refuge's website: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/santee>.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at: [Jaon\\_craig@fws.gov](mailto:Jaon_craig@fws.gov) or 803-478-2217.

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.

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