



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Planning and Review of Inventory and Monitoring on Refuges (PRIMR)

Natural Resource Program Center

The Natural Resource Program Center is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System and will directly support the science-based management of the Nation's 554 National Wildlife Refuges and 38 Wetland Management Districts that manage more than 150 million acres of public lands and waters across the United States in all 50 States, several Territories, and the marine environment.

The underpinning legislation guiding the formation of the Center is the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-57). The Act states that the Secretary shall, "monitor the status and trends of fish, wildlife, and plants in each refuge."

Background

Under a 1997 amendment to the National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) Improvement Act the Secretary of the Interior, among other directives, is charged to monitor the status and trends of fish, wildlife and plants in each refuge. Inventorying and monitoring activities are critical to implementing these directives and were already were a major focus on each of the nation's 550-plus refuges, but the Refuge System had no efficient way to collect, synthesize and catalogue these endeavors on a national scale. The *Strategic Plan for Inventories and Monitoring on National Wildlife Refuges – Adapting to Environmental Change* provides direction on implementing a nationally-coordinated inventory and monitoring initiative. As part of this initiative, the Inventory and Monitoring Policy directs each refuge to produce a standardized inventory and monitoring plan. The Planning and Review of Inventory and Monitoring on Refuges (PRIMR) database was developed to streamline the process of developing these plans



Mussels Research, Credit: USFWS

What it is

The PRIMR database is designed to provide detailed information about I&M activities occurring throughout the entire Refuge System and be flexible enough to accommodate regional needs. Ultimately, PRIMR will be centralized and integrated with other I&M database products such as the Geospatially Referenced Archive Service (GRAS).

Information in PRIMR will include: the species to be inventoried and the time frame, as well as survey objectives, protocols and methodologies. Historical surveys can also be documented within the PRIMR database, but the raw datasets, reports and geospatial data for each survey will be uploaded into GRAS.



Mississippi Sandhill Crane Recovery Work, Credit: USFWS

Where will it be

The PRIMR database is currently housed at the Natural Resource Program Center (NRPC) and eventually will be available online through the Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS).

Why it is needed

Refuge biologists require an easy, efficient tool for developing sound and scientifically credible I&M plans that can be accomplished with existing resources. Through centralization, this information will be accessible system-wide to facilitate landscape-scale management efforts and used to identify monitoring activities that would benefit from standardized protocols.

When it's available

PRIMR is now available and being used in each region. Regional I&M staff are assisting field stations with data collection.

Contact

For additional information about

PRIMR contact:

Todd Sutherland

National Data Manager

Todd_Sutherland@fws.gov

(970) 266-2926

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges>



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Fokechick Bay, Alaska, Credit: USFWS