

# Tennessee NWR Planning Example

## Learning Objective:

Work through station-level example to better understand station role in SHC process



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# Tennessee NWR



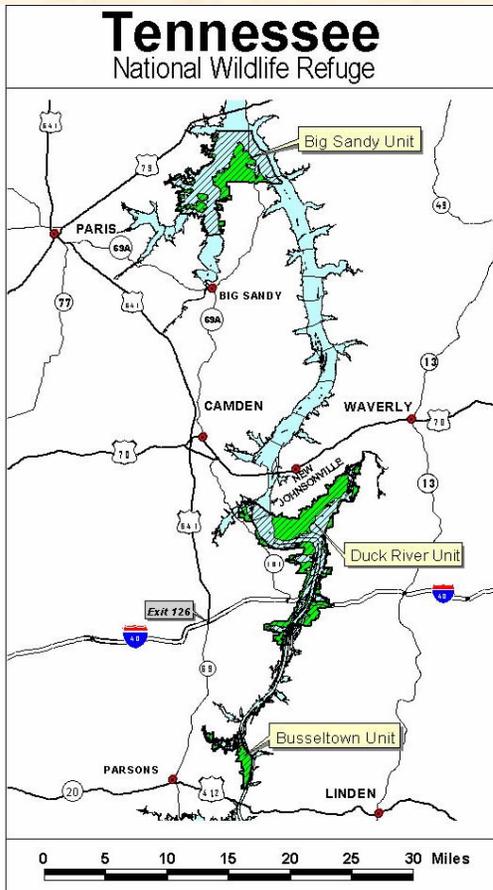
- Habitat for migratory birds, especially waterfowl.
- Habitat and protection for T&E species such as several mussels, one fish, two wading birds, and two bats.
- Provide wildlife dependent recreational opportunities



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# Vicinity Map



- Refuge runs along 65 miles of the Tennessee River
- The refuge is comprised of three units: Duck River Unit (26,738 acres), Big Sandy Unit (21,348 acres), and Busseltown Unit (3,272 acres)
- total acreage of 51,358 acres.



# Habitats on Refuge

- Open Water – 26,384 ac
- Woody – 19,938 ac
- Agriculture – 3,175 ac
- Moist Soil – 1,119 ac



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# Biological Planning

## Who was involved?

- 2004 Biological Review team included:
  - Ecological Services, Migratory Birds
  - Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency
  - Tennessee Dept. Environment and Conservation
  - University of Tennessee
  - Ducks Unlimited
  - Tennessee Valley Authority
  - Tennessee Wildlife Federation
- Landscape approach recommended



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# How were needs identified?

- Resources of concern were identified within international, national, regional, or ecosystem goals/plans; state fish and wildlife conservation plans; and recovery plans for threatened and endangered species.



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# Which resources are priorities?

- Wintering ducks; Black Ducks; Breeding Wood Ducks
- Migrant geese
- Upland Mature Forest Landbirds
- Savanna/Grassland Landbirds
- Shorebirds



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# What is the goal?

- Maintain, restore, and enhance diverse and resilient habitats and essential processes necessary to support sustainable populations of migratory and resident wildlife species indigenous to the Lower Tennessee-Cumberland Ecosystem



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# Conservation delivery

## What are the management actions?

- Actively manage habitat to meet population goals stepped down from national plans
- Work with partners to protect naturally occurring habitats and promote sanctuary areas for waterfowl and mussels



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# Working with Partners

- Worked with partners (TVA and TWRA) to achieve refuge habitat objectives to meet wildlife objectives in landscape management plans
- Specific actions provide important buttonbush and annual grasses/sedges for early migrants and shorebirds to support landscape level population objectives



# Outcome based monitoring

- Monitor waterfowl numbers during migration, band wood ducks to meet state quotas and band black ducks to meet Joint Venture targets for continental population monitoring.
- Habitat management results in opportunities for quality wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing opportunities.



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# Discussion

- Was this a complete approach to landscape level planning?
- Were all partners involved?
- Were all important species considered?
- Could something have been done differently?



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# Other partners to consider



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# Strategic plans to consider

- NFHAP targets:
  - Reconnect fragmented river, stream, reservoir, coastal, and lake habitat to allow access to historic spawning, nursery and rearing grounds.
  - Enhance degraded reservoir fisheries habitat through water level manipulations to improve fish production on 10,000 acres of reservoir habitat.

