

Proposed Expansion of Upper Ouachita and Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuges



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



- The US Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to expand Upper Ouachita and Felsenthal NWRs boundaries.

- We want to hear and understand your ideas, comments and concerns



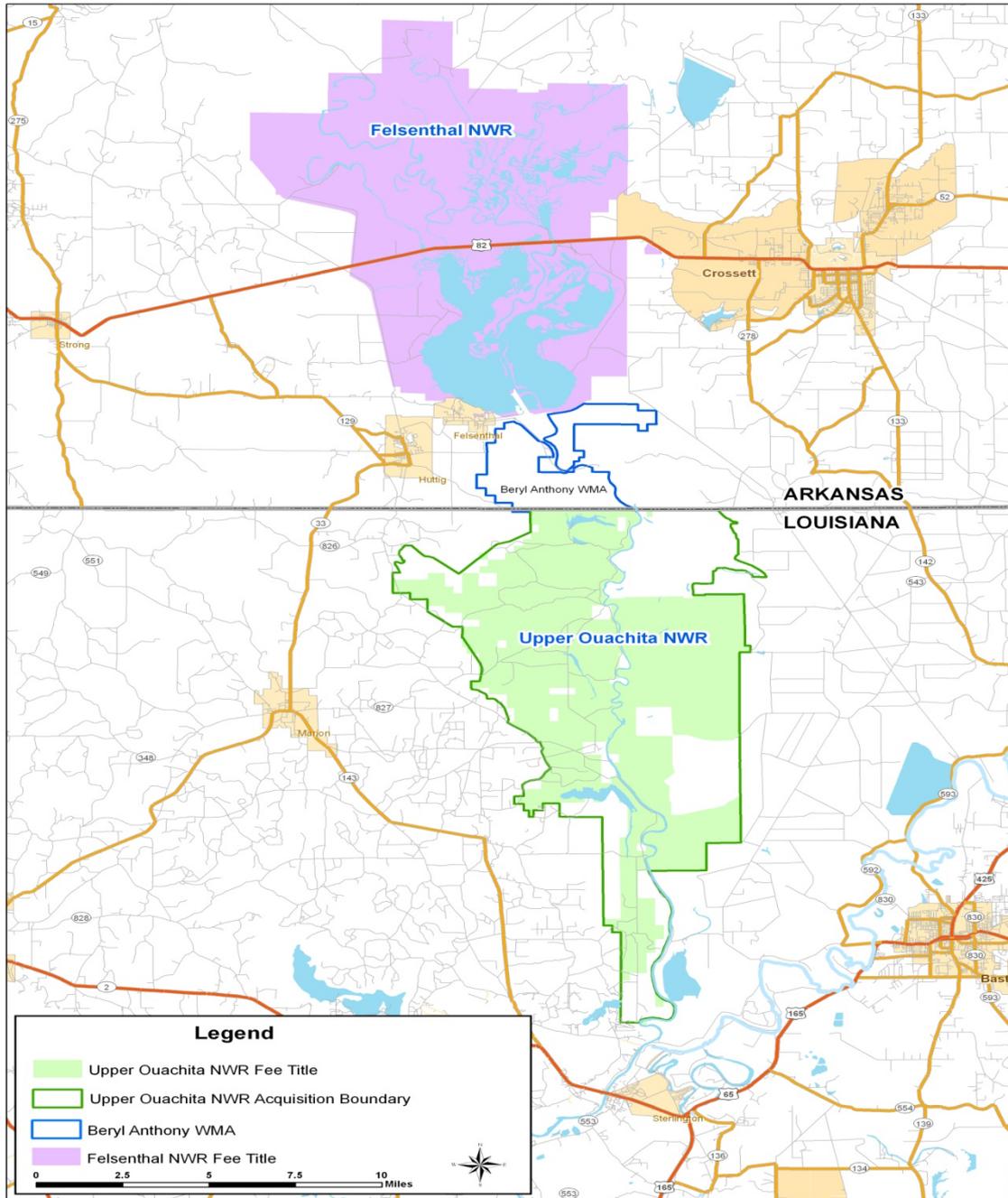
by R. David Breithaupt

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



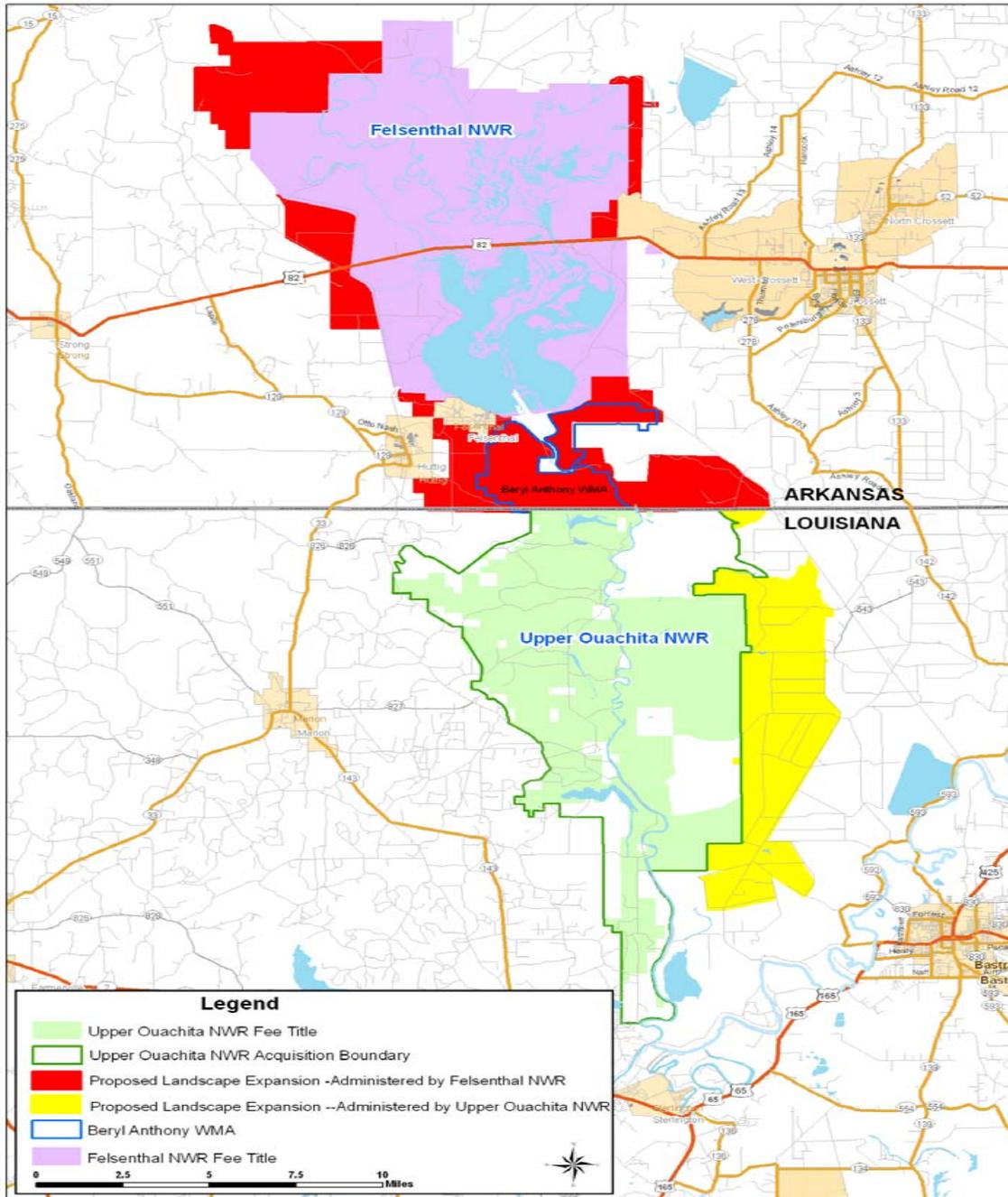


Upper Ouachita and Felsenthal NWRs





Proposed Landscape Expansion of Upper Ouachita and Felsenthal NWRs



Why is the Proposed Expansion Important?

- Connects the two refuges

Protects:

- More than 172,000 acres of forested lands
- 113,550 acres of bottomland floodplain habitat
- 58 river miles



by Burg Ransom

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Why is the Proposed Expansion Important?

- Supports the goals of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker Recovery Plan
- Provides habitat for wintering waterfowl
- Protects Louisiana black bear habitat
- Create one contiguous block of land to provide habitat for all native species of birds, mammals, and fish



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Land Acquisition Planning Process

Two phase process begins with a focused need to protection wildlife and/or habitat

- Preliminary Planning
- Detailed Planning



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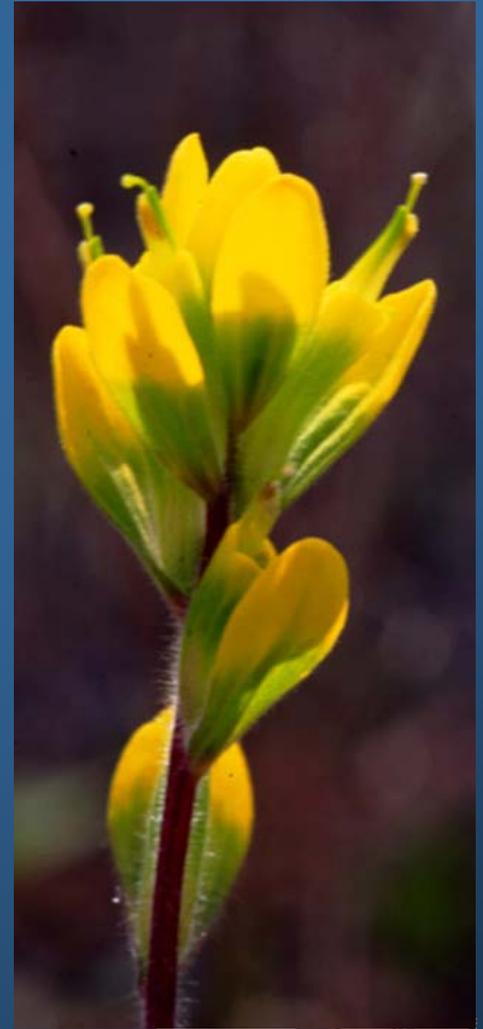
Preliminary Planning Phase

- Internal phase that all proposed major refuge expansion or establishment projects must complete
- Service's Director balances the benefits and costs of the proposal with national goals and objectives for approval or disapproval to proceed with detailed planning.



Detailed Planning Phase

- Public Scoping Meetings are held
- A draft Land Protection Plan (LPP) and NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) are developed which incorporates public scoping comments



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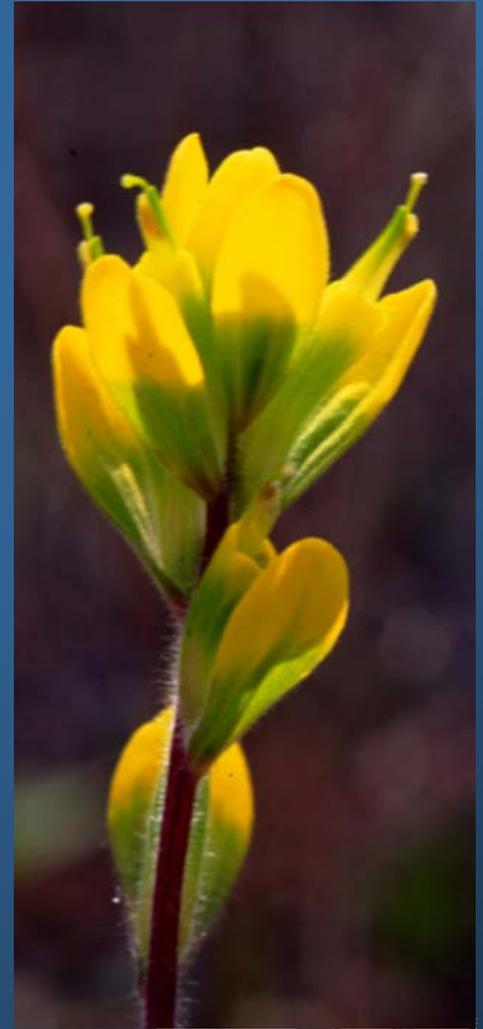


Detailed Planning Phase

Documents the project's compliance with:

- All applicable laws
- Executive orders
- Policies and other mandates

The Draft LPP and EA sent out for public review



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LPP Final Approvals

- Must be submitted to the Service's Washington Office for Final Approval by the Director of the Service.
- Only if:
 - Director approves expanding the refuges
 - Funding is available
- Then
 - We may then acquire an interest in lands from willing sellers within the newly approved acquisition boundary.



Acquisition Boundary Doesn't Affect Land Ownership Rights

Any landowner who is within an approved acquisition boundary retains:

- All the rights
- Privileges
- And responsibilities of private land ownership
- Even if the surrounding parcels are purchased by the Service



by Robert H., USFWS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Acquisition Process

FWS Identifies interested landowners

For interested landowners:



- FWS obtains permission to appraise their properties
- FWS Prepare written offers

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How do we pay for the additional land?

Not from general tax revenue

Migratory Bird Conservation Fund
collected from:

- Sale of Federal Duck stamps
- Entrance fees from certain national wildlife refuges
- Import duties on arms and ammunition
- Authority: Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

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How do we pay for the additional land?

The Land and Water Conservation Fund includes monies collected from the sale of offshore oil leases.

Principal source of funding for land acquisition for outdoor recreation by :

- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service.

Congress typically identifies which lands will be funded

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Wildlife and Habitats Are National Native Treasures



by Burg Ransom

Protecting Today - For Tomorrow

