

V. Consultation and Coordination

A planning team (Table 5-1) composed of representatives from various Service divisions was formed to prepare the Draft CCP and Environmental Assessment. Initially, the team focused on identifying the issues and concerns pertinent to Refuge management. The team met on several occasions from August 1997 to January 2004. During this period, the team sought the contributions of experts (Table 5-2) from various fields.

To expand the range of issues and to generate potential alternatives, the planning team assembled a scoping team consisting of representatives from agencies and organizations (Table 5-3) concerned about the future management of the Refuge. The scoping team met on September 18, 1997. Shortly thereafter, on October 28, 1998, the planning team held a public meeting to gain the insights of local citizens and their perceptions of the issues and concerns facing the Refuge.

The issues and alternatives generated from these meetings, coupled with the input of the planning team, are summarized in Chapters 1 and 3 of this environmental assessment.

Table 5-1: Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Planning team members.

Ray Aycock,
Supervisory Wildlife Management Biologist (former),
Wildlife and Habitat Management Office, Jackson, Mississippi

John Earle, *Refuge Operations Specialist (former)*,
Lake Ophelia NWR Complex, Marksville, Louisiana

Dave Erickson, *Refuge Planner*,
Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia

Mike Esters, *Acting Refuge Manager (former)*,
Lake Ophelia NWR Complex, Marksville, Louisiana

John Forester, *Fisheries Biologist*,
Baton Rouge Fisheries Assistance Office, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Jennifer Harris, *Refuge Planner (former)*,
Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia

Dennis Sharp, *Project Leader (former)*,
Lake Ophelia NWR, Marksville, Louisiana

Eric Smith, *Refuge Manager (former)*,
Central Louisiana NWR Complex, Marksville, Louisiana

Donna Stanek, *Outdoor Recreation Planner (former)*,
Lower Mississippi Valley Ecosystem, Crossett, Arkansas

Bob Strader, *Supervisory Wildlife Management Biologist (current)*,
Wildlife and Habitat Management Office, Jackson, Mississippi

David Walther, *Wildlife Biologist*,
Lafayette Ecological Services Office, Lafayette, Louisiana

Mike Chouinard, *Project Leader (current)*,
Central Louisiana NWR Complex, Marksville, Louisiana

Tina Chouinard, *Natural Resource Planner*, Central Louisiana NWR Complex, Marksville, Louisiana

Richard Crossett, *Refuge Biologist*,
Central Louisiana NWR Complex, Marksville, Louisiana

Ben Mense, *Deputy Project Leader (former)*,
Central Louisiana NWR Complex, Marksville, Louisiana

Table 5-2: Expert contributors to the Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan and their areas of expertise.

Name	Field of Expertise
<p>Blaine Elliott, <i>Cartographer</i>, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Office, Vicksburg, Mississippi</p>	<p>Geographical information system, cartography</p>
<p>Pete Jerome, <i>Refuge Supervisor</i>, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Refuges, Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia</p>	
<p>Frank Bowers, <i>Supervisory Wildlife Biologist</i>, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Habitat Management, Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia</p>	<p>Wildlife management, ecosystem management</p>
<p>Michael Jordan, <i>District Conservationist</i>, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Avoyelles Parish, Marksville, Louisiana</p>	<p>Soil and water conservation, Federal land conservation programs</p>
<p>Dexter Soileau, <i>Law Enforcement Officer</i>, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Lake Ophelia NWR Complex, Marksville, Louisiana</p>	<p>Wildlife law enforcement, visitor protection</p>
<p>Chuck Hunter, <i>Migratory Bird Biologist</i>, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia</p>	<p>Migratory bird management</p>
<p>Richard Crossett, <i>Wildlife Biologist</i>, Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge, Marksville, Louisiana</p>	<p>Geographic information system, maps, and figures</p>
<p>Anita Goetz, <i>Private Lands Biologist</i>, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, Lafayette, Louisiana</p>	<p>Research and writing on affected environment</p>
<p>Richard Kanaski, Regional Archaeologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Savannah, Georgia</p>	<p>Research and writing on cultural resources</p>
<p>Dr. Bob Gramling, <i>Sociologist</i>, Delta Research Corporation, Lafayette, LA</p>	<p>Research and writing on socioeconomic environment and effects</p>

Table 5-3: Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge Scoping Team members.

Catherine Bordelon, Avoyelles Wildlife Federation, Marksville, Louisiana
Don Brouillette, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Consolidated Farm Services Agency, Marksville, Louisiana
Wilbert Carmouche, Avoyelles Parish Office of Tourism, Marksville, Louisiana
Dave Fruge, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, Lafayette Ecological Services Office, Lafayette, Louisiana
Louis Gros, Avoyelles Soil and Water Conservation District, Marksville, Louisiana
Sidney Joffrion, Avoyelles Wildlife Federation, Marksville, Louisiana
Vicki Joffrion, Avoyelles Wildlife Federation, Marksville, Louisiana
Albin Lemoine, Avoyelles Parish School Board, Marksville, Louisiana
Stuart McLane, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District, Vicksburg, Mississippi
Roderick Scott, Office of U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu, Alexandria, Louisiana
Kerney Sonnier, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Opelousas, Louisiana
Bob Stewart, Office of U.S. Congressman John Cooksey, Alexandria, Louisiana