



# Public Notice

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**Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas) [www.fws.gov/southwest/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/)**

## **Refuges Seek Input on Farming Program Draft Compatibility Determination**

Washita and Optima National Wildlife Refuges (Refuges) are soliciting public comments on draft Compatibility Determinations (CDs) that assesses the compatibility of cooperative farming with achieving the Refuge purpose. The public is invited to review both of the draft CDs and provide comments to the Refuges by December 5, 2010.

A CD is a written determination that a Refuge use will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the System mission or the purposes of the refuge. In compliance with The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Policy on National Wildlife Refuge System Uses (603 FW 2), refuges are required to prepare CDs for Refuge uses, defined as recreational uses, refuge management economic activities, or other uses of a refuge by the public. Cooperative farming at both Washita and Optima NWR is a refuge management economic activity due to the generation of a commodity that is sold for income or revenue. Therefore, the CDs provide documentation that cooperative farming is compatible with the purpose for which each Refuge was established.

This announcement initiates the 30-day public comment period. Copies of the draft CDs are available at Refuge Headquarters and on the Southwest Region Division of Planning website located at: <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/Plan/planindex.html>

Comments will be accepted until December 5, 2010, and will assist the Refuges in finalizing their CD. Comments should be sent to Daniel\_Moss@fws.gov, or mailed to Refuge Manager, Washita/Optima National Wildlife Refuges, 20834 E. 940 Rd., Butler, OK, 73625-5001.

This review of the Refuges' farming program is part of a nationwide review of all Refuge farming programs. The status of all farming programs being reviewed throughout the southwest and draft documents are available at the aforementioned website as well.

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