

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alligator River/Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge
P. O. Box 1969
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Contact: Bonnie Strawser - 252-473-1131



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News Release

November 14, 2008

USFWS Invites Public Comment on Fire Management Plans

Mike Bryant, Project Leader for the NC Coastal Plain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, announced today the opening of a public comment period for the Environmental Assessment and Draft Fire Management Plan for Alligator River and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuges. "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has prepared an Environmental Assessment as part of the process in revising its Fire Management Plan for these refuges. A revision is needed to ensure the Fire Management Plan complies with any management changes called for under the refuges' newly completed Comprehensive Conservation Plans. We encourage people to review the draft plan and let us know what they think," Bryant said.

The Draft Fire Management Plan considers all aspects of fire management on the refuges from wildfire suppression to prescribed burning. The Environmental Assessment evaluates benefits and impacts of three alternatives for the Plan.

The Service is seeking public comments on the draft plan. Some public comments on fire management were captured during the public meetings conducted for Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plans. The refuges would now seek specific input from its cooperators, the public, and others interested in fire management practices on Alligator River and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuges.

Comments should be sent to Kelley Van Druten, PO Box 1969, Manteo, North Carolina 27954, or you may send comments by electronic mail to kelley_vandruten@fws.gov with a subject line, "Draft FMP Comments." Please include your name and home or e-mail address in the message. Your comments are needed by 4 pm on Monday, December 15, 2008 in order to be considered in the development of the Final Fire Management Plan.



Fire Management on national wildlife refuges includes managing wildfire as well as prescribed burning. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service welcomes public comment on the Draft Fire Management Plan for Alligator River and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuges. Comments are needed by 4 pm on Monday, December 15, 2008 and should be sent to Kelley Van Druten, PO Box 1969, Manteo, North Carolina 27954. Email comments are also accepted to: kelley_vandruten@fws.gov with a subject line, "Draft FMP Comments." Photo credit: USFWS