

COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Use: Commercial Fishing

Refuge Name: Great River National Wildlife Refuge

Establishing and Acquisition Authority(ies):

Refuge Established: August 1, 1958

Refuge Authorities: 16 U.S.C. § 715d (Migratory Bird Conservation Act); 16 U.S.C. § 664 (Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act); 16 U.S.C. § 460K-1 (Refuge Recreation Act); 16 U.S.C. § 460K-2 (Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. § 460K-4), as amended); 16 U.S.C. § 3901b, 100 Stat. 3583 (Emergency Wetlands Resources Act, 1986); 16 U.S.C. § 668dd(a)(2) (National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act)

Refuge Purpose(s):

“...for uses as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds.” 16 U.S.C. § 715d (Migratory Bird Conservation Act)

“...shall be administered by him [Secretary of Interior] directly or in accordance with cooperative agreements...and in accordance with such rules and regulations for the conservation, maintenance, and management of wildlife, resources thereof, and its habitat thereon...” 16 U.S.C. § 664 (Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act)

“...suitable for – (1) incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreation development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of endangered species or threatened species...” 16 U.S.C. § 460K-1 (Refuge Recreation Act)

“...the Secretary...may accept and use...real...property. Such acceptance may be accomplished under the terms and conditions of restrictive covenants imposed by donors...” 16 U.S.C. § 460K-2 (Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. § 460K-4), as amended)

“...the conservation of the wetlands of the Nation in order to maintain the public benefits that provide and to help fulfill international obligations contained in various migratory bird treaties and conventions...” 16 U.S.C. § 3901b, 100 Stat. 3583 (Emergency Wetlands Resources Act, 1986)

“...conservation, management, and...restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats...for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans...” 16 U.S.C. § 668dd(a)(2) (National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act)

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission:

“The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.”

Description of Use: This Compatibility Determination updates and supersedes the Compatibility Determination developed concurrently with the refuge’s Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and authorized in 2004. This Compatibility Determination will permit the harvest of fish, on a commercial fishing basis, for all species listed on state game and fish code as being legal for commercial take, except that some species, such as the paddlefish, may not be taken or possessed on refuge units. Permits would be required on refuge units which include isolated wetlands or other controlled aquatic units. On Great River NWR these would include the Fox Island Division in Clark County, Missouri and the Long Island Division in Adams County, Illinois. Refuge areas which are open to river navigation may not require SUP where adequate state regulations protect compatibility.

Availability of Resources: Funds have been available to maintain existing program level, which has been periodic and low impact on staff or station fiscal resources. It is not anticipated that funds would be inadequate to manage this use in the future as it is outlined in the Mark Twain NWR Complex Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Additionally, fees for SUPs would help offset any additional expenses.

Anticipated Impacts of the Use: No negative environmental impacts are expected to occur with current and projected use levels, and any impacts realized will be managed to result in positive benefits to the refuge resources. The permitted activities covered by this determination and managed through Special Use Permits are supportive of the CCP goals for habitat management and water quality.

Public Review and Comment:

Determination:

_____ Use is Not Compatible

