

# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



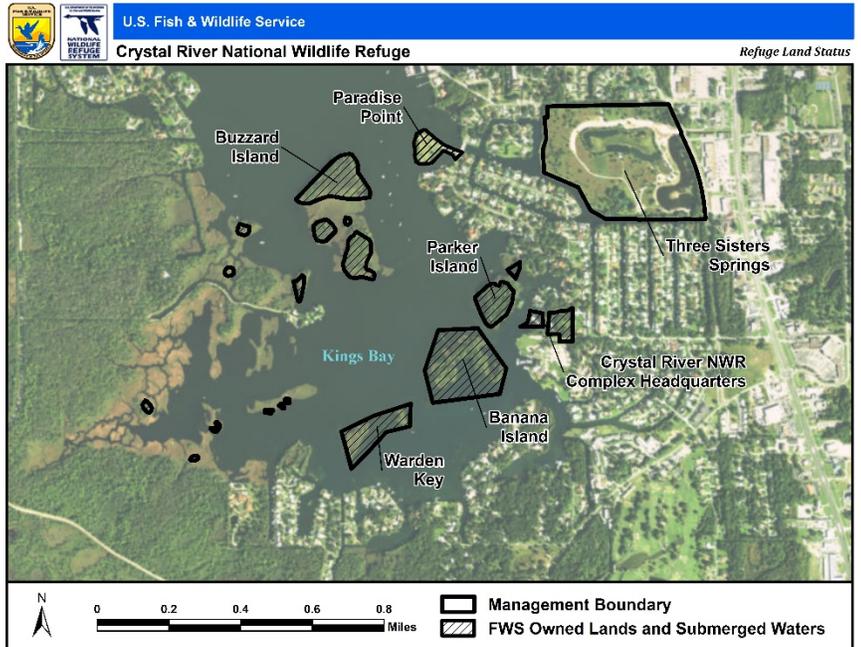
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has resumed its Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) development and accompanying environmental analysis for the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The CCP will determine the resource management goals and visitor recreational activities for the Refuge over the next 15 years. Changes have occurred since initial public scoping meetings were held in 2008 and 2013 (e.g., the Three Sisters Springs property was acquired in 2010, the Kings Bay Manatee Refuge was designated in 2012, and the manatee was down-listed in 2017) that need to be included in development of a long-term management plan for the Crystal River NWR. We are inviting the public to attend an additional scoping meeting to help shape future management options for the refuge.

## Priority Issues Raised to Date

Several priority issues (listed below) were identified during previous scoping efforts. The 2017 scoping period will provide additional information and concerns for the Refuge to consider while developing the CCP.

### Overarching Issues

- Effects of increasing ecotourism activities on wildlife and habitat
- Complex jurisdictional issues
- Complex regulatory issues
- Need for strong and effective partnerships
- Need for enhanced and effective media communications and community relations



### Wildlife and Habitat Management

- Decline in and threats to Crystal River NWR habitats, including impacts on water quality and quantity
- Threats to West Indian manatees
- Lack of wildlife and habitat survey and monitoring

### Visitor Services

- Need for effective outreach and environmental education programs to minimize negative impacts from human activities
- Need for management of access to Three Sisters Springs when manatees are present
- Need for development of the Three Sisters Springs property in accordance with the management plan

### Refuge Administration

- Need for additional administrative resources to address increasing public use of and impacts to refuge lands and waters

## Estimated Timeline for Completion of the Crystal River NWR CCP:

October 2017 – Conduct Public Scoping

Mid-Late 2018 – Conduct Public Review and Comment on Draft CCP and Environmental Assessment

Late 2018-Early 2019 – Complete Final CCP

## For More Information:

Attend the 2017 Public Scoping Meeting Visit

the Refuge's website:

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Crystal\\_River/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Crystal_River/)

Email: [CrystalRiverCCP@fws.gov](mailto:CrystalRiverCCP@fws.gov)

Contact the Refuge Manager: 352-563-2088

Contact the CCP Planner: 912-816-8113

# Public Scoping Meeting

Topic:

**Future Management  
of Crystal River NWR**

Date:

**October 26, 2017**

Time:

**Thursday, 5:30-7:30 pm**

Location:

**The Plantation at Crystal  
River  
Magnolia Ballroom  
9301 W. Fort Island Trail  
Crystal River, FL 34429**

## The Public Meeting

A brief presentation on the Refuge and planning process will be delivered at 6:00PM. The open house style meeting will address the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP; a 15-year management plan) for Crystal River NWR. The meeting is specific to future management of Crystal River NWR.

## How to Submit Comments?

Written Comments:

Mail: PO Box 924, Freeport, FL 32439

Email: [CrystalRiverCCP@fws.gov](mailto:CrystalRiverCCP@fws.gov)

## Deadline for Comments

To ensure consideration of your comments in the development of the draft CCP, please submit them by **December 1, 2017**.

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
CRYSTAL RIVER NWR CCP  
PO BOX 924  
Freeport, FL 32439

## 2 Key Definitions:

**Crystal River NWR** - part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), which is a system of lands and waters set aside specifically for the management of fish and wildlife resources. National wildlife refuges can be established by Executive Order by the President, through a Congressional action, or administratively through conservation planning by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. National wildlife refuges are managed under a variety of laws and policies, notably the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (1997), the Refuge Administration Act (1966), and the Refuge Recreation Act (1962). The CCP will address future management of Crystal River NWR.

**Kings Bay Manatee Refuge** - a special manatee protection area that was designated by an administrative action known as rulemaking under the Endangered Species Act (1973) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (1972). The Kings Bay Manatee Refuge is not a national wildlife refuge. No federal land or water ownership results from the establishment of a manatee protection area. Although the Kings Bay Manatee Refuge was created by an administrative action and although it is not a national wildlife refuge, it is managed by Crystal River NWR. The CCP will not change the restrictions outlined in the designation of the Kings Bay Manatee Refuge.