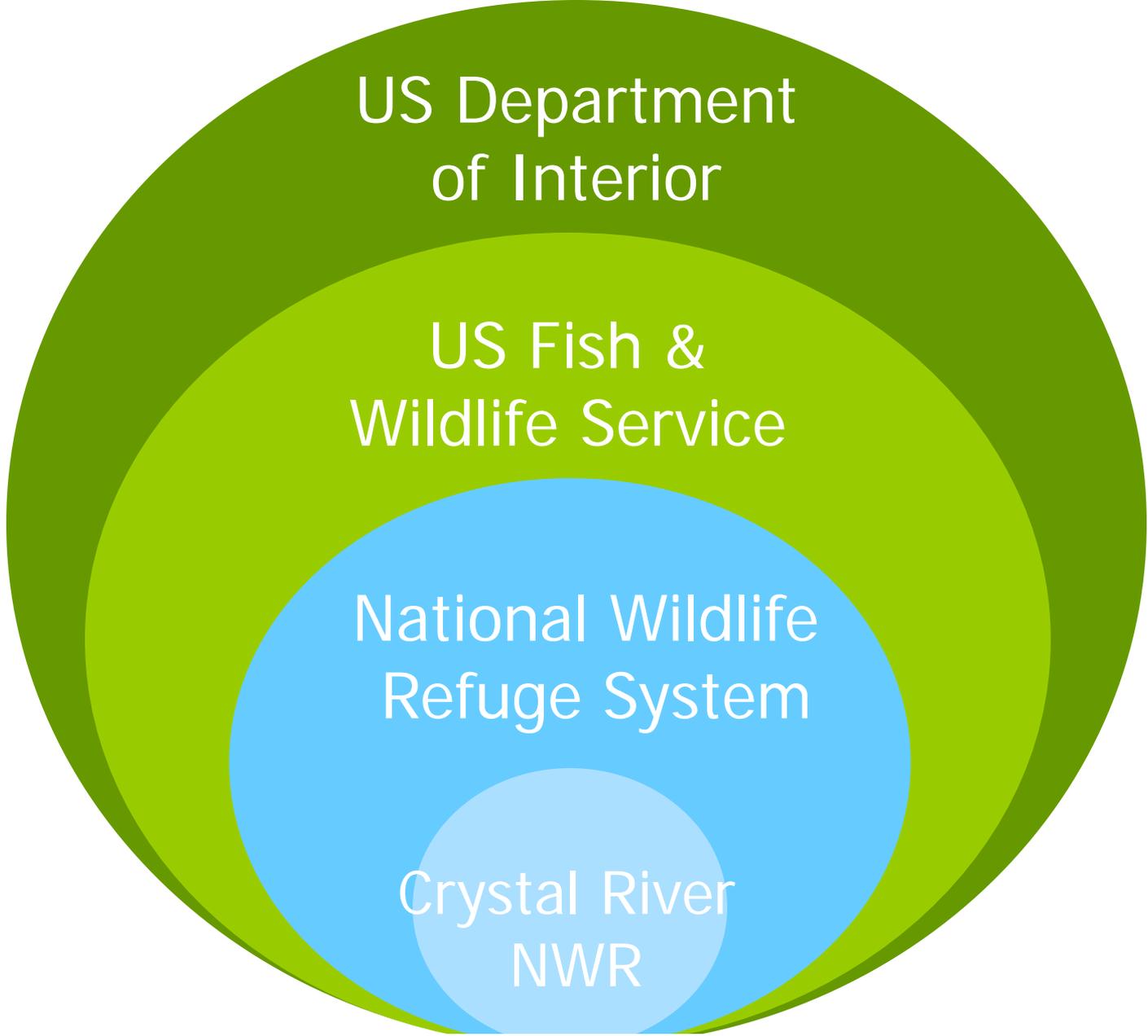


Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge

October 26, 2017
Public Scoping Meeting
Comprehensive Conservation Plan

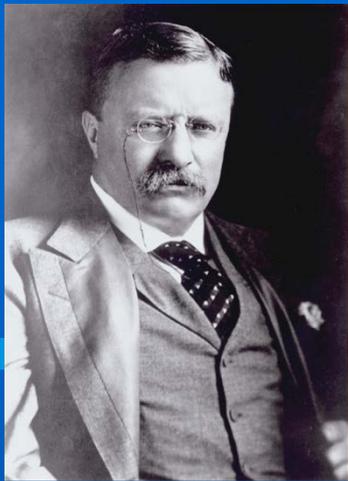


U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service





National Wildlife Refuge System

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an Executive Order designating that Pelican Island be “reserved and set aside...as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds.”



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

566 National Wildlife Refuges



National Wildlife Refuge System Mission



*To administer a **national network** of lands and waters for the **conservation, management, & where appropriate, restoration** of the fish, wildlife, & plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of **present & future generations** of Americans*



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

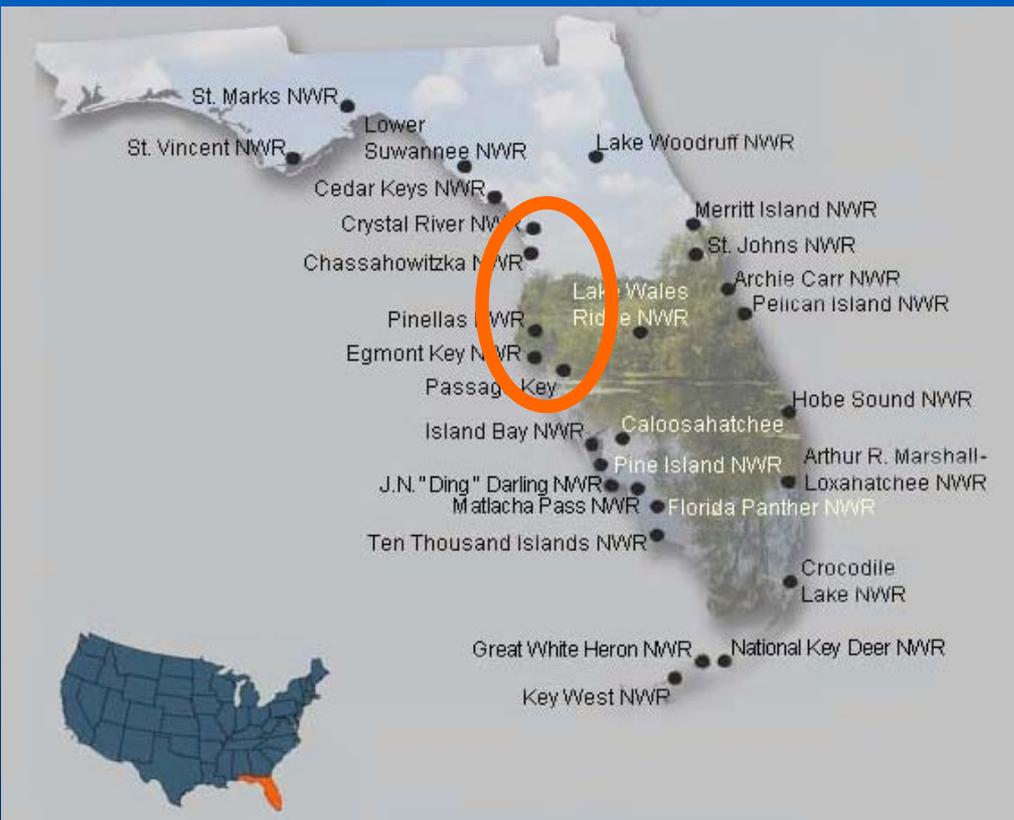
Legislative Mandates and Authorities



- Management of individual refuges is dictated by the legislation, executive order, or administrative action that created the unit (**refuge purpose(s)**).
- Operation and management are also influenced by a variety of other laws and policies.
 - Refuge **Recreation Act** of 1962
 - National Wildlife Refuge System **Administration Act** of 1966
 - National Wildlife Refuge System **Improvement Act** of 1997



Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex



Includes 5 Refuges

- Crystal River
- Chassahowitzka
- Pinellas
- Egmont Key
- Passage Key

~ 32,000 acres

5 counties



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Key Definitions

Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge

Kings Bay Manatee Sanctuaries

Kings Bay Manatee Refuge

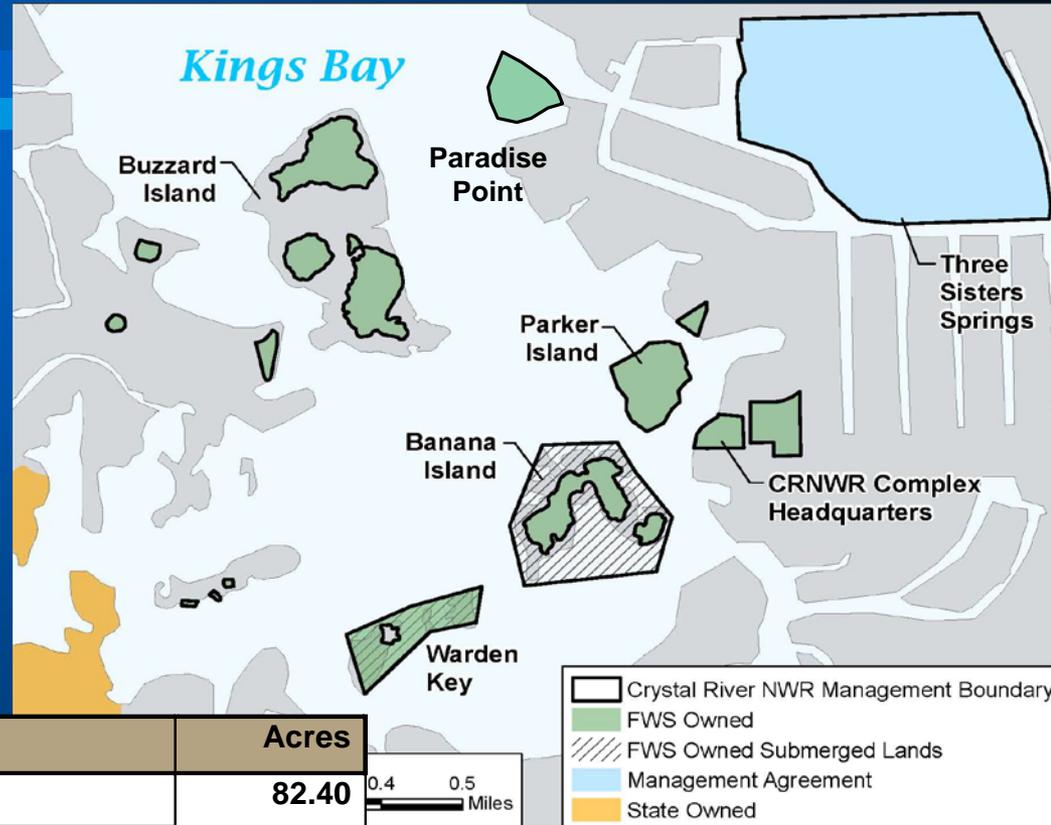


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Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge

- CCP will address future management of Crystal River NWR
- Established in 1983 under the Endangered Species Act of 1973



Land Status	Owner	Acres
Owned by Service	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	82.40
	23.70 acres of islands in Kings Bay	82.40
	3.66 acres for the Headquarters Site	
	18.98 acres of submerged lands in Kings Bay	
	33.79 acres In the Homosassa area	
	2.27 acres Paradise Point	
Managed by Service – Three Sisters Springs	City of Crystal River and Southwest Florida Water Management District	57.10

Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge

Primary Purpose:

To provide habitat and protection for the West Indian manatee



Photo by Carol Grant



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Kings Bay Manatee Sanctuaries

- Established under Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Winter designation
- Managed by Crystal River NWR

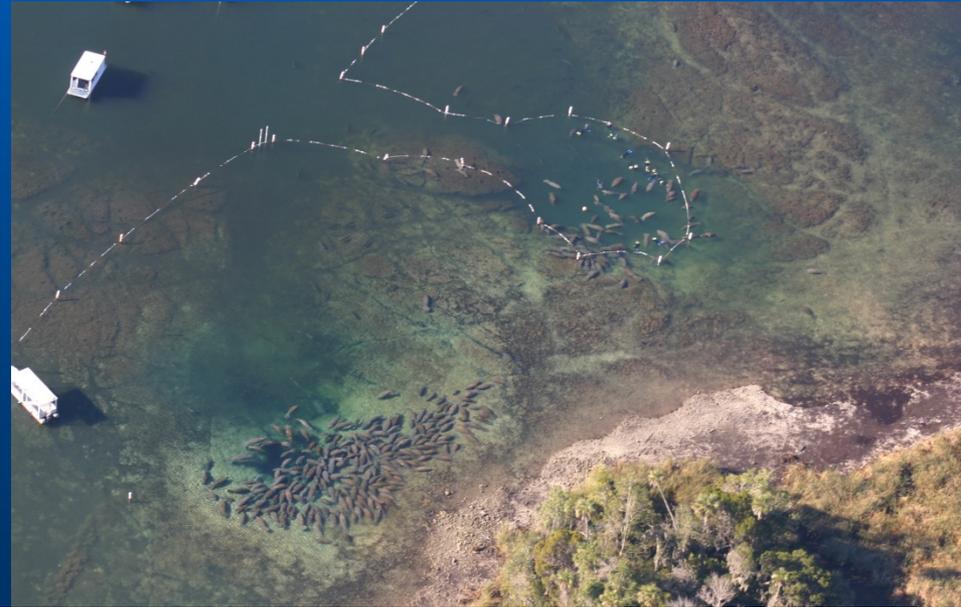


Manatee Sanctuaries in Kings Bay	Acres
Banana Island Manatee Sanctuary (11.12.1980)	3.41
Sunset Shores Sanctuary (11.12.1980)	5.62
Magnolia Springs Sanctuary (11.12.1980)	3.40
Buzzard Island Sanctuary (5.12.1994)	18.00
Tarpon Springs Sanctuary (5.12.1994)	4.60
Warden Key Sanctuary (5.12.1994)	4.00
Three Sisters Springs Sanctuary (10.16.1998)	0.25
Total	39.28



Kings Bay Manatee Sanctuaries

- CCP **will not** change the restrictions outlined in the designations of the Kings Bay Manatee Sanctuaries
- CCP **will not** address how the sanctuaries are managed



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Kings Bay Manatee Refuge

- Established in 2012 under the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Reduce take associated with watercraft and manatee viewing activities
- Year-round designation
- Managed by Crystal River NWR





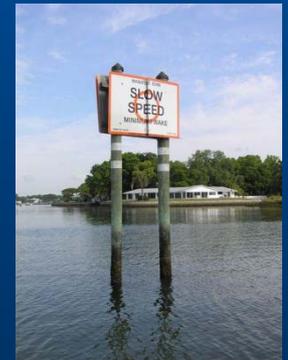
Kings Bay Manatee Refuge

- ✓ Regulates watercraft speed
- ✓ Prohibits anchorage in high-speed area (June 1 - Aug 15)
- ✓ Established 12 prohibited activities
- ✓ Temporary "no-entry" areas adjacent to existing sanctuaries and/or additional specified springs
- ✓ Temporary "no-entry" areas before or after manatee season during unusual cold events

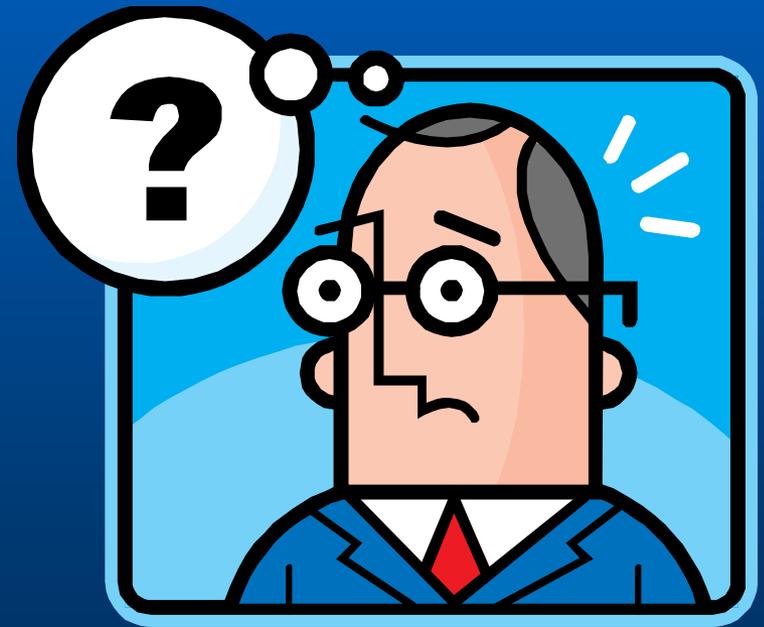


Kings Bay Manatee Refuge

- No federal land or water ownership
- CCP **will not** change the restrictions outlined in the designation of the Kings Bay Manatee Refuge
- CCP **will not** address how the Kings Bay Manatee Refuge is managed



What in the world is a CCP?



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (1997)

- ◆ Strengthens **Wildlife First** focus
- ◆ Process for determining **compatible uses**
- ◆ Outlines **“Big 6”** priority public uses:
 - Hunting**
 - Fishing**
 - Wildlife **Observation**
 - Wildlife **Photography**
 - Environmental **Education**
 - Environmental **Interpretation**



Comprehensive Conservation Plan

- **15-year** management plan
- Serves the **Refuge purposes** and **mission of the Refuge System**
- Describes the **desired future conditions** of the Refuge
- Provides **consistency & continuity** in Refuge management
- Helps maintain and restore **biological integrity, biological diversity, and environmental health**
- Meets other Refuge management **mandates & requirements**



Planning Model





Summary of Issues Raised to Date

Overarching Issues:

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





Summary of Issues Raised to Date

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**





Photo by Tracy Colson

Summary of Issues Raised to Date

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 accord with the **management plan**





Photo by Tracy Colson

Summary of Issues Raised to Date

Resource Protection:

- Increasing wildlife viewing and associated **impacts** and **disturbance**

Refuge Administration:

- Lack of sufficient **administrative resources** to address increasing demands and increasing impacts





Next Steps?

Dates	Actions
Now- early 2018	Evaluate comments received, Develop & analyze alternatives, Develop Environmental Assessment (EA) & draft CCP
Mid- Late 2018	Conduct public review and comment on Draft CCP and EA
Late 2018- Early 2019	Evaluate comments received, Respond to substantive comments, Update CCP as needed and develop Final CCP



Conduct Public Scoping

Submit Public Scoping Comments by
December 1, 2017:



By **Hand Delivery:** 10.26.2017 meeting

By **Email:** CrystalRiverCCP@fws.gov



By **Mail:** PO Box 924, Freeport, FL 32439



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



**Crystal River
National Wildlife Refuge
Comprehensive Conservation Plan**

Do you want more information on this effort?

If so, we need your written permission. Federal government mailing lists are subject to the Freedom of Information Act of 1974 and require the release of these lists to the public, upon request. Please fill out this form and return it to the listed address.

Crystal River NWR CCP/EA

P.O. Box 924

Freeport, FL 32439

Please add me to the mailing list for the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan. I wish to receive additional information about this planning effort. I understand that the names and addresses on federal government mailing lists must be released to the public upon request, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1974.

Signature _____ Date _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address (optional) _____

If you are acting as the representative of an organization, please also provide:

Organization _____

Title _____

Mailing List Request Form



Want to stay informed throughout the planning process?

Get on the mailing list to receive meeting notices, planning updates, and more!

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Please visit our stations and let us know what this Refuge means to you!

- What do you value most about Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge?
- If you could make one change at the refuge, what would it be?
- What would you like to see in the future for the refuge?

Photo by Tracy Colson



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service