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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has decided not to acquire the Canaan Valley Institute building and associated land in Davis, W.Va., according to Ron Hollis, refuge manager at Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

In recent months the Service was considering accepting a donation of the building from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for use as a new headquarters and visitor center for Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge and as a national center of excellence in outdoor youth education. That center was envisioned as a hub not only for the Service and CVI, but also for partners such as the National Youth Science Foundation, the Student Conservation Association, and other groups whose mission is to get youth outdoors.

The Service's decision not to acquire the state-of-the-art, LEED-certified green CVI building was made after considering public comments.

The refuge, which attracts more than 30,000 visitors annually, can continue to use its existing headquarters and visitor center. However, the building ultimately needs to be replaced to meet Department of the Interior standards. The building, a former restaurant that was built in 1975 and remodeled in 2003, is in need of approximately \$1 million in repairs.

Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge is one of 72 refuges in the Northeast and one of 562 refuges in the nation. It consists of nearly 17,000 acres in the Allegheny Mountains. The valley's high elevation and location combine to create a cool, moist climate more typical in Maine and Canada. The refuge is home to 580 species of plants and 288 species of animals, including many rare species that abound in the high elevation wetlands. More information is on the refuge's homepage http://www.fws.gov/refuge/canaan_valley and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/canaanvalleynwr>.