



# San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex Planning Update #2—Fall 2008

## Greetings from the Refuge Manager

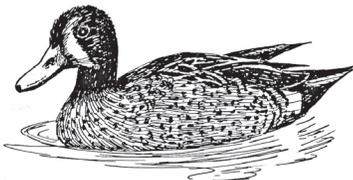
San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Complex) is made up of the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Merced NWR, San Joaquin River NWR, and Grasslands Wildlife Management Area (WMA). We invite you to participate in the public scoping process to develop a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the San Luis and Merced NWRs and Grasslands WMA. The CCP for the San Joaquin River NWR was completed in 2007. This multi-year process will produce a plan to help guide management of these Refuges for 15 years.

Your ideas and comments will be an important part of the planning process. Recently we mailed out Planning Update #1, which provided background about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Wildlife Refuge System, and the Complex. The update explained how comprehensive conservation planning fits into the overall picture of refuge management.

Throughout the CCP process we will frequently refer to the background materials provided in Planning Update #1. If you did not receive a copy and would like one, please let us know and we will be glad to send you one.

I hope you will feel free to contact me or Sandy Osborn, Refuge Planner, if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at one of our future meetings.

Kim Forrest  
Refuge Manager



Blue-winged Teal  
Tom Kelley

## Participate in the Public Scoping Meetings

To begin developing the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), San Luis NWR Complex will hold public scoping meetings to help identify issues and gather information. Please check our website for updates prior to the meeting dates: <http://www.fws.gov/cno/refuges/planning/ccp.cfm>

### DATE #1: Wednesday, Sept. 24

**Times:** (two separate meetings)  
1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** San Luis NWR Complex Headquarters, 947-C W. Pacheco Blvd. Los Banos, CA 93635

**Directions:** The office is located on Pacheco Blvd (Hwy 152) between West I St and Ortigalita Rd. Look for the shopping center with the JC Penneys and Ryan's Place Restaurant. The office is located at the west end of the shopping center behind Ryan's Place Restaurant

**Phone:** (209) 826-3508

### DATE #2: Thursday, Sept. 25

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Merced College, Leshar Building, Room 111, 3600 M Street Merced, CA 95348

**Directions:** The campus is located at the corner of M St and Yosemite Ave. From central Merced, travel northbound on M St. Shortly after crossing Yosemite Ave, turn right on Community College Dr. Park in Parking Lot A. The Leshar Building is behind the Admin Building at the north end of the parking lot. Visitors may also park in Parking Lot C, accessed by turning onto Blue Devil Ln from Yosemite Ave. There may be a \$1 parking fee. (see the campus map at [http://www.mccd.edu/about\\_us/contact\\_us/campmap.htm](http://www.mccd.edu/about_us/contact_us/campmap.htm))

**Phone:** (209) 826-3508

Sandy Osborn, Refuge Planner  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
California and Nevada Region  
2800 Cottage Way, W-1832  
Sacramento, CA 95825

# More information to help you get involved

## Why is this planning effort starting now?

In October 1997, Congress passed the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, which states that, first and foremost, the National Wildlife Refuge System must focus on wildlife conservation. This law establishes: (1) the mission of the Refuge System; (2) a new process of determining compatible public use activities on refuges; and (3) requires us to prepare CCPs for each refuge.

### National Wildlife System mission:

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

### Goals of this planning process:

- Outline Refuge management priorities for the next 15 years;
- Describe significant Refuge resources and their importance;
- Identify how the Refuge can best protect these resources;
- Clarify what public uses are, and are not, compatible with managing significant resources;
- Identify the Refuge's role within the local community and as a national resource.



*Swainson's Hawk*  
Paul Kerris

## What are Refuges all about?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, part of the Department of the Interior, is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the nation's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats. The Service also manages the National Wildlife Refuge System, the world's largest collection of lands set aside specifically for the protection of fish and wildlife populations and habitats. Refuges also offer a variety of wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities, and many have visitor centers, hiking trails, and environmental education programs.

## What activities can be enjoyed at Refuges?

There are laws and policies which guide management of public use on National Wildlife Refuges. Only those public uses which are determined to be compatible with the mission of the Refuge System and the purposes of the Refuge are allowed. The Refuge Improvement Act identified six wildlife dependent public uses as priority uses:

- Environmental Education
- Wildlife Photography
- Environmental Interpretation
- Hunting
- Wildlife Observation
- Fishing

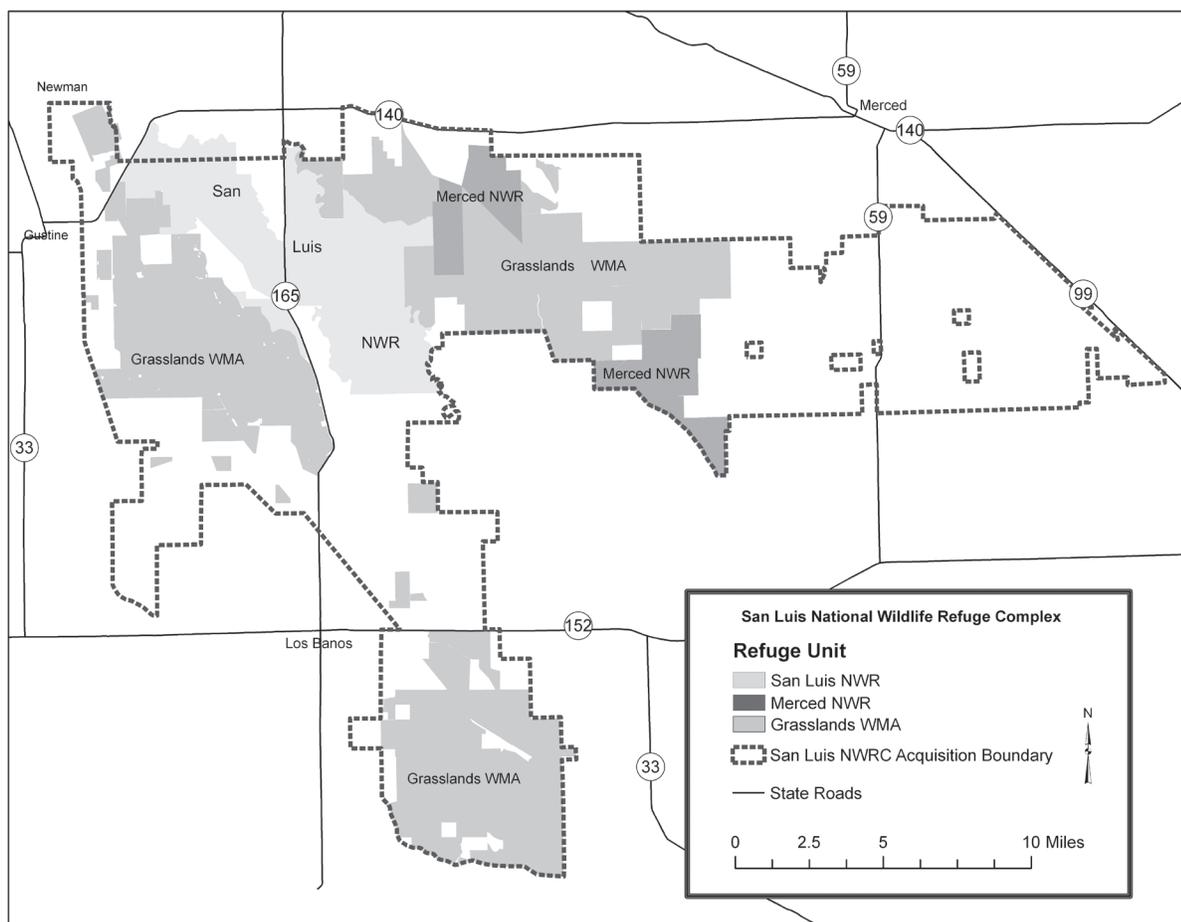
## Please feel free to contact us!

Please contact us if you have any questions or need additional information. Also, we would be happy to meet with your group or organization to discuss this project. Direct all inquiries to:

Kim Forrest, Refuge Manager  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
San Luis NWR Complex  
PO. Box 2176  
947-C W. Pacheco Blvd.  
Los Banos, CA 93635  
(209) 826-3508  
Kim\_Forrest@fws.gov

Office hours: Monday-Friday,  
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

You can also find information and a copy of Planning Update #1 at our website <http://www.fws.gov/cno/refuges/planning/ccp.cfm>





# San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Fall 2008

## Comprehensive Conservation Planning

### San Luis NWR Complex Issues Workbook

*This is an Issues Workbook for you to use in formulating your comments. The information you provide in this Issues Workbook will be very helpful in assisting Complex staff in developing a draft plan. Please complete and mail by **October 22, 2008**.*

#### Help us keep our mailing list updated

If you wish to receive future "Planning Updates" about the San Luis NWR Complex's Comprehensive Conservation Plan, please fill in the information below.

(Yes) Add me to your mailing list       (No) Take me off your mailing list

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you acting in an official capacity as the representative of an organization?

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Values, Vision, and the Service's Role

1. What activities do you engage in on San Luis and/or Merced NWRs or plan to in the near future?

2. What things do you value most about the Complex?

3. In a sentence or two, describe your future vision for the Complex. You may want to list a vision for wildlife, wildlife habitats, visitor services or other aspects of the Complex.

4. What do you consider the most important problems facing the Complex today?

5. What services would you like the Refuges to provide? (check if appropriate)

wetlands management

upland habitat management

management to benefit wildlife

volunteer opportunities

control of invasive and non-native species, including plants

enhanced visitor services

habitat enhancement on private lands

enhanced educational services

other: \_\_\_\_\_

Provide specific comments concerning services you would like to see.

6. Please indicate any additional comments you wish to make on values, vision, or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's role.

7. What role would you like the Complex to play in the conservation of natural areas and wildlife, regionally in Merced County?

## **Fish, Wildlife, Plants, and Their Habitats**

San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex provides important habitat for a wide variety of species, including several rare and declining species of plants and animals.

1. Are any of the following issues a major concern to you on the Complex? If so, please check (or number in priority order) your top choices.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> endangered species and rare plant conservation         | <input type="checkbox"/> control of invasive plant species     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> waterfowl management                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> control of animals                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> grazing programs                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> water rights and related issues       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fish habitat restoration                               | <input type="checkbox"/> water quality                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lack of active management to improve wildlife habitats | <input type="checkbox"/> Refuge inholdings and boundary issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reintroduction of wildlife                             | <input type="checkbox"/> other issues (please specify):        |

2. If possible, please provide additional details on why you selected the above choices. In particular we would be interested to know specific locations of concern.

3. Please include below any additional comments on fish and wildlife habitat issues and concerns.

## **Recreation, Education, and Access**

It is important to recognize there are laws and policy which guide management of public use on National Wildlife Refuges. National Wildlife Refuges are closed to public use until officially designated open and only those public uses that are “compatible” with the purpose(s) for which a refuge was established are allowed.

1. Are any of the current activities or the current levels of use on the Refuge(s) a concern to you?

2. Do current recreational facilities on the Refuges meet your needs? Please explain.

3. Which visitor activities would you like to have (or have enhanced) on the Refuges? Please check all that apply.

wildlife observation

environmental education

fishing

photography

hunting

hiking

wildlife interpretation

boating

other activity (please specify)

4. Please indicate here any additional comments on recreation, education, and public access.

***IMPORTANT: Please mail your completed workbook to the address below by Oct. 22, 2008 (fold this side up, tape, stamp, and send).***

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Place  
first-class  
stamp here

Sandy Osborn, Refuge Planner  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
California and Nevada Region  
2800 Cottage Way, W-1832  
Sacramento, CA 95825