Crossett Port Authority
Crossett Arkansas

December 1, 2015

TO: Tina Chouinard
Natural Resource Planner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
49 Plainsbrook Place
Jackson, TN 38305
Fax 731-664-1566

RE: Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge
Proposed Habitat Management Plan

The Crossett Port is located on the Ouachita River in Ashley County Arkansas, and is located in the middle of the Felsenthal Refuge. We ship barge loads of calcium chloride from the Crossett Port to New Orleans, LA. Therefore, we must maintain a 9 ½ foot channel on the river. The Army Corp of Engineers has been good about working with us to maintain the water level that allows this shipping. Georgia Pacific uses the river for discharge as well. The Objective 5 of the Management Plan would prohibit this use. We respectfully request that Alternative B and C be removed from your plan.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dan Pevy, Chairman
Crossett Port Authority
1701 Main Street
Crossett, AR 71635
870-364-6953

Cc: Mike Smith
Crossett Economic Development Foundation
400 Main Street
Crossett, AR 71635

Cc: Gene Higginbotham
Arkansas Waterway Commission
101 East Capital Avenue Suite 370
Little Rock, AR 72201

Comment: Drop the 4 AM start, Them young morons live for the boat race, If somebody wants to spend a night out in the cold - good for them - with the hunting ethics Those boat races have - They will set up beside you anyway - this would cut down on boating accidents

Comment: Figure the sq ft of ATV TRIALS. ✓ ATV
Nothing compared to the total 65,000 sp
How could this small (very small) of trails ✓
impact 65000 ac.

Comment: Being that an option is to take the best of All 3 Alternatives it was my determination that Obj 1 was not an issue with proposed "B" Obj 2 was not argued Obj #3 No ? were raised OBJ #4 was the hot Topic & everyone is saying giving the duck hunter a water level & access as well as habitat for ducks. Obj #5 No real discussion other than it would be good for ducks but may hurt fishing. Obj #6 leave trails as is, no Real Value to closing only causes access issues for visitor.

ATV

* Not sure why Δ sanctuary

Comment: I have hunted and fished in FNWR all of my adult life, my main activity is raccoon hunting with dogs. My father is 77 yrs old and a life long coon hunter, eliminating 18 miles of trails specifically the pine island trails would effectivly end his use of the refuge. We are lifelong workers and tax payers and would like to see current trails kept and mainted. I am wanting Alternative A the current plan to be kept in place. Taxpayers fund the refuge and eliminating current trails would cut off access to a large area of FNWR.

ATV

Comment: In both proposals both Pine Island and south Trail to old Hutting camp will be closed. I'm nearly 78 years old and I am able to hunt off these Trails at night. My partner and I use a Rhino. I am unable to go To Union Co. To hunt. The Goose Lake Trail gets so bad I can't travel it. If These Two Trails are closed, my hunting is over.

ATV

"A" Maintain all existing Trails - This benefits Sr. Citizens

Bachelors of Science Forestry

Comment: Le4' annual or semi annual drawdown to improve (residual) Stand health.

WM

Increase plan C water management plan to November 15 1/10 increments. Remove water January 15. Spreads out hunters ↑ Waterfowl sanctuaries

WM

S

Comment: Thank you for your dedication and hard work with our draft H.M.P./EA as a step down from YOUR 2010 C.C.P.

OBVIOUSLY our Water Management issue is NOT only very delicate to the HEALTH of our Bottomland Hardwoods but is ALSO MOST COMPLEX.

PLEASE Act CAUSIOUSLY AND Thouroughly understand the TREMENDOUS IMPACT the disastorous FLOOD/EXTREME DROUGHT contributed to our forest's demise. THANK YOU!!

WM

BUF

ATV

Comment: I disagree with eliminating any ATV/UTV trails. We are already Limited to these trails, as off trail Access is prohibited currently.

I disagree with the erosion and associated problems as stated. A timber company will cause more erosion during one thinning than these ATV trails ever will.

WM

I would Like to see the GTR flooded during waterfowl season to 70 ft. MSL or atleast 68 msL. As it does No good for the trees to be saved that benefit waterfowl if they have No Water.

Comment: (1) No Road Closing ATV ✓

(2) Raise the Water Level for Water Fowl ✓
When Ducks can Find food in Nov.

(3) For Lowering Water Level in July WM
But Do Maint on Cuts in River to Fishing Areas

(4) Cut Back on Timber catting. TV ✓

If I Had to Chose I would Vote For
C Man, Plan

Comment: On Raising The water I think if U are going to raise the water WM
Do it where it can be Put to youse for the Duck hunters the Ducks will
have more water for the ducks to Stay longer and Feed and duck hunters Can Spead out
and Every one wont be on top of each other, Shuting ATV Trails down older peopel
wont have ways to hunt + Peapel will have trobel getting there game out of the woods + ATV ✓
getting to some of there fishy holes, on the No Hunting Zones It was fine the
way it was because now you have more dry land in no hunting Zone we are doing this
for duck hunters nothing else Seems now we dont have ass much water to hunt
and Spead out There is a lot of Duck hunters and we dont have Room like it is,

Comment: 1 foot drawdowns everyyear are a great idea. It worked before! You need to gain to public trust again!!! WM

My plan would be to begin Dec 15 raise the pool 2 tenths per day until 68' msl is reached; to be held foe 15 days, then released at 1 tenth everyotherday until drawdown is complete. This should be done at least five year then discuss results. A 15 year plan is BAD; to many variables; This water Management with PLAN B would be the best: Although this has some really Bad stuff in it. As explained in public comments that Melve

Comment: - I support a Drawdown every year WM

- Maintain current Sanctuary acres
- I support raising water levels starting in December, but flooding doesn't have to be every year.
- Also, More timber harvest are needed on The refuge. The only way to get desired advance Regeneration is to provide More sunlight threw harvesting. TM

Comment: Alternative A, I am against closing any trails ATV
We need more trails + handicap trails, There is to much
land on refuge that has no access except if you are in ✓
the lease that has it cut off. The trails on pine Specific ATV
island road need to be left open. We have to many elderly ①
and handicap hunters who use them. Some of the trail ②
closures are going to concentrate hunters and make
it a safety issue. Leave every thing as it is. Let hunters
help with the feral hogs. H

Comment: I love the fact that We Can Hunt + Fish Down Here
in the Refuge and I Thank Each of you for your work, I know it is
not Easy. I would like to Vote for alternative A, Please ✓
Consider opening more trails + I would like to See a Longer Squirrel ATV ✓
Season with Dogs. Please Consider Letting People Kill these Hogs
+ get Rid of them they are Ruining Everything in the Refuge Hogs ✓
I Would Be Willing to ~~Be~~ take my tractor + Chain Saw + help
Clean the trails if it Would help. I have a lot of Heath Problems
+ this is the only Place I Can Hunt, thank you

Comment: Plan C is good

Alternative B is a ~~waterfla~~ Ducks Hunt Killer ✓

Alternative A is not working ✓

Comment: A – No change except ✓

Summer Drawdown

Comment: Keep The Original Mission Statement

Migratory Bird Refuge - Waterfowl and Wildlife

This is What Was Purposed in the Creation of the Reserve...

Comment: Leave it AS is!

Comment: I support taking care of the Refuge in the best way possible. We need to protect the entire area and habitat. Duck hunting is important and should be given a high priority.

I urge that nothing be done to harm the ✓
Flow of the Saline River. any negative impact on the Saline could affect the City of Warren's wastewater effluent limits, the regulations are already very strict,

Comment: I Like Ride The trils an fish. I Thank the Lord we have them

I would like to vote Alernative A

we need more Riding trile ATV ✓✓