

addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, plans identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

We establish each unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System with specific purposes. We use these purposes to develop and prioritize management goals and objectives within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to guide which public uses will occur on these refuges. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation efforts of these important wildlife habitats, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

We will conduct a comprehensive conservation planning process that will provide opportunity for Tribal, State, and local governments; agencies; organizations; and the public to participate in issue scoping and public comment. We request input for issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the management of Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. We invite anyone interested to respond to the following two questions:

1. What problems or issues do you want to see addressed in the comprehensive conservation plan?
2. What improvements would you recommend for Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge?

We have provided the above questions for your optional use; you are not required to provide information to us. Our Planning Team developed these questions to gather information about individual issues and ideas concerning this refuge. Our Planning Team will use comments it receives as part of the planning process; however, we will not reference individual comments in our reports or directly respond to them.

We will also give the public an opportunity to provide input at a public scoping meeting to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, during the development phase of the plan. This event will be advertised through local media outlets. You may also submit comments anytime during the planning process by writing to the address in the **ADDRESSES** section. All information provided voluntarily by mail, phone, or at the public meeting becomes part of our official record (*i.e.*, names,

addresses, letters of comment, input recorded during meeting).

We will conduct the environmental review of this project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); NEPA Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508); other appropriate Federal laws and regulations; and our policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations. All comments we receive on our environmental assessment become part of the official public record. We will handle requests for such comments in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, NEPA [40 CFR § 506.6(f)], and other Departmental and Service policies and procedures. When we receive a request, we generally will provide comment letters with the names and addresses of the individuals who wrote the comments.

Bayou Sauvage Refuge was established in 1990. Consisting of 22,770 acres and situated within the city limits of New Orleans, it is the Nation's largest urban wildlife refuge. Objectives of the refuge are to: enhance populations of migratory, shore, and wading birds; encourage natural diversity of fish and wildlife species; protect threatened and endangered plants and animals; protect archaeological resources; provide for scientific research and environmental education with emphasis on wetlands; and provide opportunities for fish and wildlife-dependent recreation in an urban setting.

**Authority:** This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105–57.

Dated: March 7, 2007.

**Jacquelyn B. Parrish,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment for Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Bibb and Twiggs Counties, Georgia.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service intends to gather information necessary to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental

assessment for Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. This notice is furnished in compliance with the Service's comprehensive conservation planning policy to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be considered in the planning process.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments must be received by July 16, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Address comments, questions, and requests for more information to Carolyn Johnson, Deputy Project Leader, Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge, 718 Juliette Road, Roundoak, Georgia 31038; Telephone: 478/986–5441; or you may correspond with Ms. Johnson via the Internet at [Carolyn\\_Johnson@fws.gov](mailto:Carolyn_Johnson@fws.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee), requires the Service to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose in developing a comprehensive conservation plan is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, plans identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation. Public input into this planning process is essential.

Each unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System is established with specific purposes. These purposes are used to develop and prioritize management goals and objectives within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to guide which public uses will occur on the refuge. The planning process is a means for the Service and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation efforts of this important wildlife habitat, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with the refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

A comprehensive conservation planning process will be conducted that will provide opportunities for Tribal, State, and local governments; agencies; organizations; and the public to participate in issue scoping and public comment. The Service invites anyone interested to respond to the following questions:

1. What problems or issues do you want to see addressed in the comprehensive conservation plan?

2. What improvements would you recommend for the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge?

The above questions have been provided for your optional use. You are not required to provide any information. The Planning Team developed these questions to gather information about individual issues and ideas concerning the refuge. The Planning Team will use comments it receives as part of the planning process; however, it will not reference individual comments or directly respond to them.

Open house style meeting(s) will be held throughout the scoping phase of the comprehensive conservation plan development process. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and other media announcements will be used to inform the public and state and local government agencies of the opportunities for input throughout the planning process.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); NEPA Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508); and other appropriate Federal laws and regulations. All comments received become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and Service and Departmental policies and procedures.

Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1989 to protect, maintain, and enhance the forested wetland ecosystem of the Ocmulgee River floodplain. The refuge consists of 6,500 acres situated along the fall line separating the Piedmont and Coastal Plains.

The refuge has a diversity of vegetation communities, including mixed hardwood-pine, bottomland hardwoods, tupelo gum swamp forests, creeks, tributaries, beaver swamps, and oxbow lakes. The refuge is rich in wildlife diversity, including white-tailed deer, wood ducks, black bears, alligators, wild turkey, a nesting pair of bald eagles, and excellent wintering habitat for waterfowl. Extensive

bottomland hardwoods provide critical habitat for neotropical songbirds of concern, such as Swainson's warbler, wood thrush, prothonotary warbler, and yellow-billed cuckoo. The combination of warm weather and wet areas at Bond Swamp Refuge provides ideal conditions for a variety of reptile and amphibian species.

**Authority:** This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105–57.

Dated: February 8, 2007.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

**Editorial Note:** This document was received in the Office of the Federal Register on May 11, 2007.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge, Jackson, Jennings and Monroe Counties, IN, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, Becker County, MN, Tamarac Wetland Management District, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard and Koochiching Counties, MN, and Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuge Authorized Within the Twenty Counties That Lie Along the Missouri River From Kansas City to St. Louis, MO**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information necessary to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and associated environmental documents for the Muscatatuck, Tamarac, and Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) and Tamarac Wetland Management District (WMD). We furnish this notice in compliance with our CCP policy to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be considered in the planning process.

In addition, the Service is inviting comments on archeological, historic, and traditional cultural sites in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

Special mailings, newspaper articles, internet postings, and other media

announcements will inform people of the opportunities for written comments.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments or requests for more information can be sent to the appropriate refuge at the following addresses:

1. Attention: Refuge Manager, Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge, 12985 East U.S. Hwy 50, Seymour, IN 47274.

2. Attention: Refuge Manager, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge or Tamarac Wetland District, 35704 County Road 26, Rochert, MN 56578.

3. Attention: Refuge Manager, Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuge, 4200 New Haven Road, Columbia, MO 65201.

You may also find information on the CCP planning process and submit comments electronically on the planning Web site <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning> or you may e-mail comments to [r3planning@fws.gov](mailto:r3planning@fws.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Marc Webber, Muscatatuck NWR, 812–522–4352; Barbara Boyle, Tamarac NWR and WMD, 218–847–2641; or Tom Bell, Big Muddy NWR, 573–876–1826.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** With this notice, we initiate the CCP for the Muscatatuck NWR with headquarters in Seymour, IN; the CCP for the Tamarac NWR and Tamarac WMD with headquarters in Rochert, MN; and the CCP for the Big Muddy NWR with headquarters in Columbia, MO.

### Background

#### *The CCP Process*

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee), requires the Service to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for each national wildlife refuge. Land parcels managed by the Service within a Wetland Management District are also units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The purpose in developing a comprehensive conservation plan is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, plans identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation.