



Comprehensive Conservation Plans

Quick Facts

- National wildlife refuges (all or in part) and wetland management districts in the Midwest Region:

Illinois: 10 NWRs

Indiana: 3 NWRs

Iowa: 7 NWRs, 1 WMD

Michigan: 7 NWRs, 1 WMD

Minnesota: 12 NWRs,
8 WMDs

Missouri: 10 NWRs

Ohio: 3 NWRs

Wisconsin: 8 NWRs, 2 WMDs

Current Status

From moose and wolves at Agassiz NWR in Minnesota to champion trees at Mingo refuge in Missouri, refuges in the Service's Midwest Region encompass a wide diversity of fish, wildlife and habitats. In all, the refuge system supports 52 refuges and 11 wetland management districts in the eight-state Midwest Region. Administering these diverse units can pose myriad challenges for refuge managers, who daily face decisions not only on fish and wildlife management, but public use and other interests as well.

How we address these issues shapes the future of national wildlife refuges. Comprehensive conservation plans, or CCPs, document our goals and what we intend to accomplish on each refuge in the next 15 years. State conservation agencies are special partners in our planning effort. State representatives are invited to be members of our planning teams and attend our training course on Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Planning. State representatives help formulate the plans and review drafts of the documents.

In comprehensive conservation planning, the Service asks staff as well as a wide range of people, agencies and organizations what they see as the primary issues facing the refuge, and asks how those issues should be resolved. Ultimately, comprehensive conservation planning charts a course that best addresses the issues, fulfills the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System and fulfills the mission and purpose of the refuge.



Hot Topics:

Comprehensive Conservation Plans describe the **desired future conditions** of a refuge.

The Comprehensive Conservation Plans fit within a hierarchy that ranges from **national and ecosystem-level plans down to refuge-specific management plans** for habitat and public use.

The **six priority wildlife-dependent recreational** uses receive priority consideration during the preparation of Comprehensive Conservation Plans.

Since the passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act in 1997, Midwest Region staff have completed 11 plans covering 14 refuges; 13 others covering 20 refuges are underway (see map on the back of this sheet). Our goal is to have a plan for every refuge in the region by 2012.

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