

Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) is available for Agassiz NWR, Minnesota.

The CCP was prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Goals and objectives in the CCP describe how the agency intends to manage the refuge over the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Final CCP are available on compact disk or hard copy. You may access and download a copy via the planning Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/agassiz/index.html> or you may obtain a copy by writing to the following address: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, 22996 290th Street NE., Middle River, Minnesota 56737-9754.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margaret Anderson at (218) 449-4115.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Agassiz NWR, established in 1937, is located in the northwest corner of Minnesota at the juncture of the northern boreal forest, the eastern deciduous forest, and the tallgrass prairie. The Refuge's 61,500 acres are a key breeding ground for 17 species of ducks, as well as an important migration rest stop for waterfowl, but it is also noted for gray wolves, moose, and nesting Bald Eagles.

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 *et seq.*), requires a CCP. The purpose in developing CCPs 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 science, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction for conserving wildlife and their habitats, the CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update these CCPs at least every 15 years.

A major focus of the refuge for the next 15 years will be to manage a large area of uplands as a grassland/shrubland matrix. This action will increase critical native habitats that

have declined locally and in Minnesota over the past century, such as prairie grasslands, sedge meadow, and bur oak/savanna. Simultaneously, the Refuge will aim to reduce the area now taken over by lowland shrub, aspen/mixed hardwood, and cattail or phragmites-dominated marsh, which either have lower intrinsic value for wildlife or have simply become too abundant. In turn, these habitat shifts will help those wildlife species associated with the rarer habitats.

The Refuge proposes to restore a more natural sinuosity on two interior watercourses by lowering water levels in three pools. The loss of conifers in the Wilderness Area, possibly due to high water conditions, will also be studied.

Expanded public use opportunities include enhancing winter wildlife viewing with a designated, un-groomed cross-country/snowshoe/walking trail. New hunting opportunities to be provided include: archery/deer, muzzleloader/deer, and ruffed grouse hunting during and after the firearms/deer season; and a "youth" waterfowl hunt in the Farmed Pool area in conjunction with the state youth waterfowl hunt season and regulations.

Dated: June 21, 2005.

Robyn Thorson,

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Mound City, MO

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces that the final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) is available for Squaw Creek NWR, Mound City, Missouri. The CCP was prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and using the preferred alternative, goals, and objectives, we describe how the Service intends to manage this refuge over the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the final CCP and EA are available on compact diskette or hard copy, you may obtain a copy by writing to: Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 158, Mound City, Missouri 64470 or you may access and download a copy at this Web site: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/squawcreek/index.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron Bell at (660) 442-3187.

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 *et seq.*) requires the Service to develop a CCP for each National Wildlife Refuge. The purpose in developing a CCP 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, the CCP identifies wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update these CCPs at least every 15 years in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4370d).

The planning process for Squaw Creek NWR began in 1999. Five management alternatives were considered. Alternative D, Optimizing Wildlife Habitat and Fish and Wildlife Populations With Enhanced Levels of Wildlife-dependent Recreation is the preferred alternative. This alternative seeks to maximize wildlife habitat and population management practices and opportunities without adversely impacting current levels of wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities. There will be no expansion of existing authorized boundaries.

The CCP identifies and increases wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public including: Initiating a managed spring snow goose hunt; investigating the potential for a fishing access area and a white-tailed deer hunt for physically challenged visitors; and enhancing trails for wildlife observation and

photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

Dated: May 13, 2005.

Charles M. Wooley,

Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ft. Snelling, Minnesota.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Applications for Endangered Species Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The public is invited to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species. We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

DATES: We must receive written data or comments on these applications at the address given below, by September 26, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Victoria Davis, Permit Biologist).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victoria Davis, telephone (404) 679-4176; facsimile (404) 679-7081.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public is invited to comment on the following applications for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered and threatened species. If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of the following methods. You may mail comments to the Services Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES** section) or via electronic mail (e-mail) to "victoria_davis@fws.gov." Please submit electronic comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the Service that we have received your e-mail message, contact us directly at the

telephone number listed above (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section). Finally, you may hand deliver comments to the Service office listed above (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the administrative record. We will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. There may also be other circumstances in which we would withhold from the administrative record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Applicant: Stephanie Ann Clark, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, TE108506-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, identify, photograph, collect tissue samples, salvage dead specimen, release) the following species: slender campeloma (*Campeloma decampi*), cylindrical lioplax (*Lioplax cyclostomaformis*), Tulotoma snail (*Tulotoma magnifica*), Anthony's riversnail (*Athearnia anthonyi*), Lacy Elimia (snail) (*Elimia crenatella*), painted rocksnail (*Leptoxis taeniata*), plicate rocksnail (*Leptoxis plicata*), round rocksnail (*Leptoxis ampla*), Tumbling Creek cavesnail (*Antrobia culveri*), flat pebblesnail (*Lepyrium showalteri*), royal marstonia (snail) (*Pyrgulopsis ogmorhapha*), armored snail (*Pyrgulopsis (=Marstonia) pachyta*), painted snake coiled forest snail (*Anguispira picta*), noonday snail (*Mesodon clarki nantahala*), Magazine mountain shagreen (*Mesodon magazinensis*), Stock Island tree snail (*Orthalicus reses*), Cumberland elktoe (*Alasmidonta atropurpurea*), Appalachian elktoe (*Alasmidonta raveneliana*), fat three-ridge (mussel) (*Amblema neislerii*), Ouachita rock pocketbook (*Arkansia wheeleri*), birdwing pearl mussel (*Conradilla caelata*), fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*), dromedary pearl mussel (*Dromus dromas*), shiny pigtoe (*Fusconia cor*), finerayed pigtoe (*Fusconia cuneolus*), Chipola slabshell (*Elliptio chipolaensis*), purple bankclimber (mussel) (*Elliptoideus sloatianus*),

Cumberlandian combshell (*Epioblasma brevidens*), oyster mussel (*Epioblasma capsaeformis*), Yellow blossom (pearly mussel) (*Epioblasma florentina florentina*), Curtis pearly mussel (*Epioblasma florentina curtisii*), tan riffleshell (*Epioblasma florentina walkeri*), upland combshell (*Epioblasma metastrata*), Catspaw (=purple cat's paw pearly mussel) (*Epioblasma obliquata obliquata*), southern acornshell (*Epioblasma othcaloogensis*), southern combshell (*Epioblasma (=Dysnomia) penita*), green blossom (pearly mussel) (*Epioblasma torulosa gubernaculum*), Tuberoled blossom (pearly mussel) (*Epioblasma torulosa torulosa*), turgid blossom (pearly mussel) (*Epioblasma turgidula*), cracking pearly mussel (*Hemistena lata*), pink mucket (pearly mussel) (*Lampsilis abrupta*), fine-lined pocketbook (*Lampsilis altilis*), Higgins eye (*Lampsilis higginsii*), orange-nacre mucket (*Lampsilis perovalis*), Arkansas fatmucket (*Lampsilis powelli*), speckled pocketbook (*Lampsilis streckeri*), shinyrayed pocketbook (*Lampsilis subangulata*), Alabama lamp mussel (*Lampsilis virescens*), Carolina heelsplitter (*Lasmigona decorata*), scaleshell mussel (*Leptodea leptodon*), Alabama moccasinshell (*Medionidus acutissimus*), Coosa moccasinshell (*Medionidus parvulus*), Gulf moccasinshell (*Medionidus penicillatus*), Ochlockonee moccasinshell (*Medionidus simpsonianus*), ring pink (mussel) (*Obovaria retusa*), little-wing pearly mussel (*Pegias fabula*), white wartyback (pearly mussel) (*Plethobasus cicatricosus*), orangefoot pimpleback (pearly mussel) (*Plethobasus cooperianus*), clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), black clubshell (*Pleurobema curtum*), southern clubshell (*Pleurobema decimum*), dark pigtoe (*Pleurobema furvum*), southern pigtoe (*Pleurobema georgianum*), Cumberland pigtoe (*Pleurobema gibberum*), flat pigtoe (*Pleurobema marshalli*), ovate clubshell (*Pleurobema perovatium*), rough pigtoe (*Pleurobema plenum*), oval pigtoe (*Pleurobema pyriforme*), heavy pigtoe (*Pleurobema taitianum*), fat pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*), Alabama (=inflated) heelspitter (*Potamilus inflatus*), triangular kidneyshell (*Ptychobranthus greenii*), rough rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrical strigillata*), winged mapleleaf (mussel) (*Quadrula fragosa*), Cumberland monkeyface (pearly mussel) (*Quadrula intermedia*), Appalachian monkeyface (pearly mussel) (*Quadrula sparsa*), stirrupshell (*Quadrula stapes*), pale lilliput (pearly mussel) (*Toxolasma*