

Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge



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Help Shape the Future of Your National Wildlife Refuge

Greetings,

The Fish and Wildlife Service is preparing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) to help guide the conservation of natural resources and promote appropriate public uses of the Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Your ideas and concerns are important to us and will aid us in preparing a plan that is sensitive to your needs.

We invite you to attend one of the Open Houses to be held in local communities in August 2001. Alternatively, you may choose to complete the enclosed Issues Workbook, details of which are included elsewhere in this document. The Open Houses will provide a forum for us to not only inform you of exactly what we are doing, but will offer an informal setting for you to share with us your thoughts about this important resource and how you would like to see it managed. If you are interested in Arrowwood NWR, we want to hear from you. Dates, times, and locations of the open houses are provided in this document and will also be announced in local newspapers and on the radio.

The Refuge staff is also available to meet with individuals or groups at any time. If you are interested in a special presentation, or would like to make arrangements to meet individually, please contact the Refuge Headquarters.

We look forward to working with you throughout this exciting and important planning process.

Sincerely,

Mark Vaniman
Refuge Manager

Background

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Part of the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the only Federal agency with the specific mandate to conserve the nation's fish, wildlife, and plants for the benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mission:



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mission is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

National Wildlife Refuge System

The Service manages the National Wildlife Refuge System, the largest collection of lands set aside specifically for the protection of fish and wildlife populations and habitats. The Refuge System began in 1903 when President Theodore Roosevelt designated a pelican and heron rookery in Florida as the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. Today, over 530 national wildlife refuges are spread from Alaska to Puerto Rico and Maine to Hawaii.

National wildlife refuges provide important habitat for native plants and many species of mammals, birds, fish, insects, amphibians, and reptiles. They also play a vital role in preserving endangered and threatened species. Refuges offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities and many have visitor centers, wildlife-observation trails, and environmental education programs. Nationwide, more than 30 million visitors annually hunt, fish, observe, and photograph wildlife or participate in interpretive activities on refuges.

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission



The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and

where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

National Wildlife Refuge System

Four Guiding Principles

- ✓ **Habitat.** Fish and wildlife will not prosper without high-quality habitat, and without fish and wildlife, traditional uses of refuges cannot be sustained. The Refuge System will continue to conserve and enhance the quality and diversity of fish and wildlife habitat within refuges.
- ✓ **Public Use.** The Refuge System provides important opportunities for compatible wildlife-dependent recreational activities involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation.
- ✓ **Partnerships.** America's sportsmen and women were the first partners who insisted on protecting valuable wildlife habitat within wildlife refuges. Conservation partnerships with other Federal agencies, State agencies, Tribes, organizations, industry, and the general public can make significant contributions to the growth and management of the Refuge System.
- ✓ **Public Involvement.** The public should be given a full and open opportunity to participate in decisions regarding acquisition and management of our national wildlife refuges.

Arrowwood NWR Background

The Arrowwood NWR is situated in the Prairie Pothole Region of North Dakota. It was established in 1935 as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. Located along the James River in east central North Dakota, Arrowwood's 15,934 acres are made up of lakes, marshes, coulees, and cultivated fields. As the river meanders its way across the prairie it passes through four main water areas; Arrowwood, Mud and Jim Lakes and the DePuy Marsh. These are naturally occurring riverine lakes that have had control structures added at their

outlets. Spring and fall bring spectacular numbers of birds to the area during their annual migrations and resident wildlife, such as grouse and white-tailed deer, can be seen year-round.

The Arrowwood NWR Planning Process

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required to manage all refuges in accordance with an approved Comprehensive Conservation Plan, which, when implemented, will achieve refuge purposes; help fulfill the Refuge System mission; maintain and, where appropriate, restore the ecological integrity of each refuge and the Refuge System; help achieve the goals of the National Wilderness Preservation System; and meet other mandates. The CCP will guide management decisions and set forth goals, objectives, and strategies to accomplish these ends. Step-down management plans may also be required to provide additional details about meeting CCP goals and objectives and to describe strategies and implementation schedules. Each plan will be founded on principles of sound fish and wildlife management and available science, and be consistent with legal mandates and other Service policies, guidelines, and planning documents. The Service will prepare refuge plans that, above all else, ensure that **WILDLIFE COMES FIRST** on national wildlife refuges.

Want to Get Involved?

To gather as much public input and to reach as many people as possible, the Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge staff has developed several opportunities for your participation.

Open Houses

We are conducting four Open Houses, as follows:

- ★ **August 14, 2001, Tuesday**
Jamestown, Law Enforcement Center,
205 6th Street SE, 4-7 pm
Pingree, Edmunds/Pingree Community Center,
Highway 281 South, 8-11 pm
- ★ **August 15, 2001, Wednesday**
Carrington, Dakota Central Telecommunications
Cooperative, 630 5th Street North, 4-7 pm
Kensal, Kensal Community Café,
424 Main Street, 8-11 pm

These Open Houses will be announced in local newspapers and on radio.

Issues Workbooks

You may also get involved by completing the attached Issues Workbook.

Issues Workbook

The workbook is provided to everyone on our mailing list and anyone who attends an open house. Additional copies will be kept at Refuge headquarters for distribution by request.

Read through each of the sections and jot down your thoughts. Let us know how you feel about the issues and whether you have additional issues or concerns. Your responses to these questions will help us better understand our constituents and public opinion and guide the planning process. All of the comments we receive, by whatever means, will be considered in the preparation of the CCP. However, in order to be most helpful, **please provide comments and return the Issues Workbook by September 30.**

After you have completed the Workbook, simply fold it in half (with the preaddressed return mailer on the outside), tape it together (do not staple), put on the proper postage, and drop it in the mail. Thanks for your help; we really appreciate it. If you have any questions or would like more information about this project, please call **Arrowwood NWR at 701-285-3341.**

1. What do you value most about Arrowwood NWR?

Please indicate a rating of 0, 1, 2 or 3 with:

0 = don't know

1 = no value

2 = some value

3 = most value

Topic	Rating
Open Space	
Fish and Wildlife Habitat	
Wildlife Observation	
Hunting Opportunities	
Fishing Opportunities	
Trapping Opportunities	
Birdwatching Opportunities	
Scenic Quality	
Religious and Cultural Opportunities	
Native Prairie Grasslands	
Research Opportunities	
Photography Opportunities	
Historical/Archaeological Interpretation	
Education & Interpretive Programs	
Other (Please Specify)	

Comments:

2. What do you want the future to hold for Arrowwood NWR?

Please indicate a rating of 0, 1, 2 or 3, with:

0 = don't know

1 = no importance

2 = some importance

3 = most importance

Topic	Rating
More Public Use and Access	
Less Public Use and Access	
More Recreational Opportunities	
Less Recreational Opportunities	
Biodiversity Increased	
Sustainable Wildlife Populations	
More Farming and Ranching Opportunities	
Stricter Enforcement of Regulations	
Increased Resource Stewardship	
More Economic Uses (e.g., haying, grazing)	
Little or No Change from Today	
Other (Please Specify)	

Comments:

3. What concerns do you have about Arrowwood NWR?

Please indicate a rating of 0, 1, 2 or 3, with:

0 = don't know

1 = no concern

2 = some concern

3 = most concern

Topic	Rating
Wildlife Disturbance	
Habitat Disturbance	
Incompatible Use (Please Specify)	
Pesticides	
Exotic Plants/Weeds	
Increasing Public Use and Access	
Federal Control	
Religious and Cultural Opportunities	
Reduced Water Management Capabilities on Refuge	
Predator Control	
Other (Please Specify)	

Comments:

4. Any additional problems or issues you want to see addressed in the CCP?

5. What improvements would you recommend for Arrowwood NWR?

6. In what town and state do you reside?_____

7. Any additional thoughts, suggestions, comments, or criticisms that you would like to share with us?

Important!

Would you like to be on our Mailing list?

In order to place your name and address on our mailing list, we must have your written permission. This is because Federal government mailing lists must be released to the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Act. If you wish to receive future information about the Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Planning Project, please fill in the information requested below and return this form to the following address. (If you have already completed one of these forms you do not need to fill out another one.) If you are returning a completed Issues Workbook, you may return this form with it.

Return to: Arrowwood NWR Planning Project
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
7745 11th Street, SE
Pingree, ND 58476-8308

Yes, I wish to be on the mailing list to receive future information about the Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Planning Project. I understand that names and addresses on Federal mailing lists must be released to the public upon request, under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1974.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

If you are acting in an official capacity as the representative of an organization, please complete the following two items:

Organization: _____

Title: _____

Fold here, tape the two halves together (do not staple), affix postage, and drop in the mail.

Place
Stamp
Here

**Arrowwood NWR Planning Project
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
7745 11th Street SE
Pingree, ND 58476-8308**

