



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

# **Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex**

*Comprehensive Conservation Plan  
September 2006*



**Cover Photos:** *Ruddy turnstone - Long Island, NY, © Janet C. Zinn*  
*Sandplain gerardia, Don Sias/The Nature Conservancy*  
*School group at Elizabeth A. Morton NWR, Jack Martinez/USFWS*  
*Wertheim NWR, USFWS*  
(Background) *Elizabeth A. Morton NWR, USFWS*



*This blue goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 96-million acre National Wildlife Refuge system comprised of more than 545 national wildlife refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas. It also operates 65 national fish hatcheries and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid Program which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies.

Comprehensive Conservation Plans provide long term guidance for management decisions and set forth goals, objectives, and strategies needed to accomplish refuge purposes and identify the Service's best estimate of future needs. These plans detail program planning levels that are sometimes substantially above current budget allocations and, as such, are primarily for Service strategic planning and program prioritization purposes. The plans do not constitute a commitment for staffing increases, operational and maintenance increases, or funding for future land acquisition.

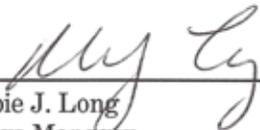


# Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

## *Comprehensive Conservation Plan*

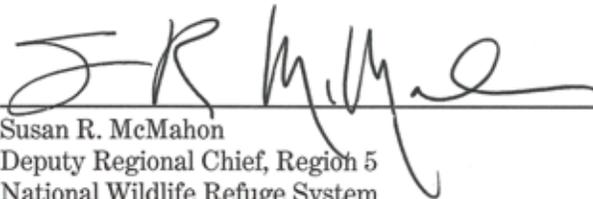
*Amagansett, Conscience Point, Elizabeth A. Morton, Oyster Bay, Seatuck, Target Rock and Wertheim National Wildlife Refuges, the Sayville Unit of Wertheim, and Lido Beach Wildlife Management Area*

**Submitted by:**

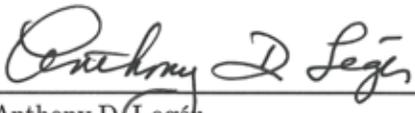
  
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8/24/06  
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Date

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8/31/06  
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# Summary

<b>Type of action:</b>	Administrative
<b>Location:</b>	Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex Suffolk and Nassau Counties, New York
<b>Lead agency:</b>	U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>Responsible official:</b>	Marvin E. Moriarty, Regional Director, Region 5
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This Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex (complex) is the culmination of a planning effort involving a variety of partners and communities. The CCP establishes 15-year management goals and objectives for wildlife and habitat, public use, and partnerships for the complex. The complex includes the Amagansett, Conscience Point, Elizabeth A. Morton, Oyster Bay, Seatuck, Target Rock, and Wertheim refuges, the Lido Beach Wildlife Management Area and the Sayville Unit of the Wertheim refuge. Staff from the refuge complex headquarters office at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Suffolk County, New York will implement this plan for further protection and management of endangered, threatened, and other plant and animal species of concern, including migratory wildlife. The plan is designed to expand and improve opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation, and allow the complex to benefit from its proximity to New York City and urban communities.

The complex will increase existing programs to protect habitats and manage for the threatened piping plover, sandplain gerardia (a rare plant), American eel, mud and box turtles, wintering waterfowl, and neotropical migratory songbirds. Efforts would intensify to control non-native invasive species such as phragmites, and the complex would evaluate and implement new management practices to decrease insecticide use in marsh communities. Other highlights of the CCP include 1) constructing a new headquarters and visitor center at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge that will also serve as an office for Region 5's Long Island Field Office, part of the Division of Ecological Services; 2) strengthening interpretive and environmental education programs throughout the refuges; 3) expanding outreach efforts, such as public relations and volunteer programs; and 4) initiating a regulated early-season (September) hunt and other population control measures to manage over-abundant populations of resident Canada geese at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. The Service will actively pursue land acquisition opportunities within the refuges' approved boundaries, as well as other land protection opportunities. However, this CCP does not propose Service acquisition of additional lands at this time.

# Vision Statement for the Refuge Complex

The Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex will preserve, manage, and restore some of the last significant natural areas for wildlife on Long Island, New York. The Complex will comprise varied and important wildlife habitat, ranging from coastal systems to native grasslands to mature forests. These habitats, present in nine distinct units, will support threatened and endangered species in addition to hundreds of species of migratory birds and other wildlife within the Atlantic Flyway.

Located adjacent to the nation's major media center, the Complex is an ideal setting to increase public awareness, understanding, and support of the National Wildlife Refuge System. We recognize that success is dependent on the Complex becoming an integral part of the community. We will work together with partners and local communities to protect refuge lands and wildlife from increasing pressures and threats. We will provide compatible priority wildlife-dependent recreational and educational opportunities. Through the use of the best scientific information and active habitat management, we will contribute to fulfilling the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System for future generations.

- Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge
- Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge
- Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge
- Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge
- Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge
- Conscience Point National Wildlife Refuge
- Lido Beach Wildlife Management Area
- Sayville Unit of Wertheim
- Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge

**Long Island NWR Complex**  
P.O. Box 21, 360 Smith Road  
Shirley, New York 11967

**September 2006**



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## Acronyms (inside back cover)

