



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Northeast Region, National Wildlife Refuge System  
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Greetings!

March 21, 2008

We are pleased to announce the release of the *Wapack National Wildlife Refuge Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA)*. In developing this document over the last year, we have involved several U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) programs, state agency and other conservation partners, and members of the local community. Once final, the CCP will establish priorities and guide implementation of all refuge programs over the next 15 years. The draft CCP/EA describes two management alternatives and our analysis of the benefits and consequences of implementing them. We identify Alternative B as the Service's Preferred Alternative. This alternative represents the combination of actions that our planning team recommends for achieving the refuge purpose, vision, and goals.

We are formally announcing the release of the draft CCP/EA in a Federal Register *Notice of Availability*. Publication of this notice initiates a public review and comment period which will end on May 1, 2008. We also want to inform you that we are hosting a public meeting at Shieling Forest on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. An announcement of that meeting, along with contact information and instructions on how to obtain a copy of the plan, is attached. For some of you receiving this letter, we anticipated your interest in the document and included it with this mailing.

After the public comment period, we will compile a summary of comments received and prepare responses to them. We will take those comments into consideration as we develop a final CCP this summer. Our Regional Director will ultimately be responsible for making the final decision on which actions to implement.

Public, partner, state agency, and citizen participation in the CCP planning process has been integral to this plan's development. We look forward to your continued interest and involvement.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nancy McGarigal

Nancy McGarigal  
Planning Team Leader



## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### Wapack National Wildlife Refuge Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has released its draft comprehensive conservation plan for the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge. This 15-year refuge plan establishes management direction for wildlife, habitat, and public use programs. The plan is available on-line at <http://library.fws.gov/CCPs/wapack/index.html>. For a hard copy or cd-rom, call 413-253-8562. A public review and comment period ends May 1, 2008.

The Service plans to host a public meeting to introduce the new Refuge Manager, share highlights of the draft plan, respond to questions, and explain options for submitting comments.

#### Public Meeting Information

<i>Date:</i>	Thursday, April 17, 2008
<i>Time:</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm
<i>Location:</i>	Shieling Forest Old Street Road Peterborough, NH 03458
<i>Schedule:</i>	6:30: - 7:00 pm - Open House 7:00 – 7:30 pm - Presentation 7:30 - 9:00 pm - Discussion

For further information or to submit comments, contact: Nancy McGarigal, Refuge Planner, USFWS, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley MA, 01035; ph: 413-253-8562; or, email: [nancy\\_mcgarigal@fws.gov](mailto:nancy_mcgarigal@fws.gov).