

## **Draft Refuge Vision Statement**

Encompassing the North Pack Monadnock Mountain in southern New Hampshire, the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge, provides exceptional mature spruce-fir and northern hardwood-mixed habitat for wildlife, particularly migratory birds. The rock outcrop and cliff on its peak, afford an ideal location to view migrating hawks each fall. We will manage the refuge to preserve its natural conditions in a setting which appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

All visitors are welcome to enjoy opportunities to observe and photograph nature along the three-mile segment of the 21-mile Wapack trail. Old and new partnerships with local school, volunteer, community, state and conservation organizations will foster public stewardship of this refuge and its resources, and enhance public understanding of the role of the National Wildlife Refuge System in conserving our nation's trust resources.

## **Draft Refuge Goals**

Biodiversity Goal: Allow natural processes and disturbances to provide biological diversity and integrity of upland wildlife habitat.

Public Use Goal: Establish a public use program that will encourage low-impact recreation on the Wapack trail and the refuge through interpretive signage.

Partnership Goal: Enhance the conservation, management and stewardship of wildlife resources in the refuge through partnerships with public and private conservation groups, private landowners, State and local entities.

## Summary Table of Draft Management Alternatives (Presented at 3/7/07 Public Meeting)

	PUBLIC USE	BIODIVERSITY	PARTNERSHIP
<b>ISSUES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Lack of service visibility (posting of regulations and boundaries)</li> <li>■ No parking</li> <li>■ Trail Maintenance</li> <li>■ Determining uses that are appropriate and compatible with the Refuge purpose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Need more biological information</li> <li>■ Deed requires Refuge to be managed as a “wilderness”</li> <li>■ Land acquisition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reduced budget and staff</li> <li>■ Need partnerships to achieve goals</li> </ul>
<b>Draft ALTERNATIVE A (Current Management Alternative)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ No hunting (deed restricted)</li> <li>■ No camping</li> <li>■ No dog walking</li> <li>■ Allows appropriate uses consistent with the “wilderness-like” setting</li> <li>■ No improvements in Service visibility (i.e. signage) or parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Managed as a “wilderness”</li> <li>■ Succession is allowed to take place</li> <li>■ Natural disturbances provide integrity of the habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Informal agreement with the Friends of the Wapack, Inc to maintain the section of the Wapack Trail that runs through the Refuge</li> <li>■ Informal relationship with NH Fish and Game Department to resolve issues as they arise</li> </ul>
<b>Draft ALTERNATIVE B (Service-preferred Alternative)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Communicate Refuge rules at trailhead and post all boundaries</li> <li>■ Utilize partnerships to establish parking and maintain trails (i.e. Town of Greenfield, Friends of the Wapack, Inc.)</li> <li>■ Allow dog walking on a leash</li> <li>■ No camping</li> <li>■ Establish designated trail network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Assess and monitor threats to the integrity of refuge habitat. For example, utilize partnerships to complete forest health and wildlife surveys (i.e. U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Protection Program, NH Audubon, individual volunteers)</li> <li>■ Through partnerships with conservation groups, promote a diverse, natural landscape in the region that complements refuge management</li> <li>■ Evaluate land acquisition on case by case basis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pursue partnerships to help meet refuge goals and objectives and contribute to the regional conservation community.</li> </ul> <p><u>Potential Partnerships:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Town of Greenfield</i> - Parking lot</li> <li>■ <i>Friends of the Wapack, Inc</i> - Trail maintenance</li> <li>■ <i>Individual volunteers, NH Audubon</i> - Wildlife surveys</li> <li>■ <i>US Forest Service</i> - Forest health survey</li> <li>■ <i>NH State Parks, Harris Center, local camps</i> - Outreach and education</li> <li>■ <i>NH Fish and Game Department</i> - Law enforcement</li> <li>■ <i>Other conservation organizations (i.e. Monadnock Conservancy, local town conservation commissions, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests)</i> - Monitoring resources</li> <li>■ <i>Crotched Mountain Foundation</i> - Education and regional conservation</li> </ul>