

# **Appendix A: Finding of No Significant Impact**



## Finding of No Significant Impact

### Environmental Assessment and Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge, Indiana

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to identify management strategies to meet the conservation goals of the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The EA examined the environmental consequences that each management alternative could have on the quality of the physical, biological, and human environment, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA evaluated three alternatives for the future management of the Refuge.

The alternative selected for implementation is *Alternative 3*. The preferred alternative for Patoka River NWR increases opportunities for wildlife dependent recreation, increases the amount of bottomland forest, maintains stopover habitat for migratory waterbirds, provides habitat for the federally endangered Interior Least Tern, increases the amount of acres under moist soil management, and considers stream channel restoration options for the Patoka River and its tributaries.

For reasons presented above and below, and based on an evaluation of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment, we have determined that the action of adopting Alternative 3 as the management alternative for the Refuge is not a major federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of Section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

#### Additional Reasons:

1. Future management actions will have a neutral or positive impact on the local economy.
2. This action will not have an adverse impact on threatened or endangered species.

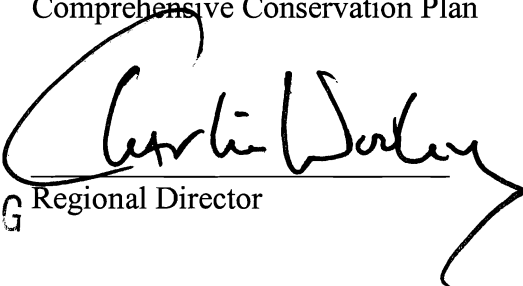
#### Supporting References:

Environmental Assessment  
Comprehensive Conservation Plan

ACTING

Regional Director

Date

  
9/2/08

