U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge

Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment

September 2013

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

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission Statement
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 Improvement Act of 1997

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.

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Dear Reader:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to provide you with a copy of the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Oklahoma. This CCP identifies the role that the Refuge will play in support of the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and National Wildlife Refuge System. It provides long-term guidance to the refuge's management programs and activities.

The CCP was developed by an interdisciplinary planning team, which evaluated two management alternatives and chose Alternative B as the proposed action. The Service believes this management action is a positive step in conserving and managing the refuge's fish and wildlife resources.

The Service would like to thank you for participating in the planning process. Comments you submitted helped us prepare a better plan for the future of the Refuge.

Additional copies of this CCP may be obtained by contacting the Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge, 16602 County Road 465, Colcord, OK 74338. The CCP is also available on the Service's Internet website as follows:
http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/Plan/planindex.html

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our fish and wildlife conservation efforts.

Sincerely,

Joy E. Nicholopoulos

Dr. Benjamin N. Tuggle, Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2

SEP 16 2013
Date

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COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

OZARK PLATEAU NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, Mayes, Ottawa, and Sequoyah Counties, Oklahoma

Prepared by:
Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge
16602 County Road 465
Colcord, OK 74338

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
Division of Planning
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

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COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL
For
Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge,
Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, Mayes, Ottawa, and Sequoyah Counties, Oklahoma

The attached Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge has been prepared by Regional Office and Refuge staff. The contents and format are found to be in compliance with Service Policy on the preparation of Comprehensive Conservation Plans, and is hereby submitted for approval.

Submitted by:

Sarah Catchot, Natural Resource Planner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2

03/22/13
Date

Richard Stark, Refuge Manager/Biologist
Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge

04/24/13
Date

Concurrence by:

Jeff Haas, Project Leader
Sequoyah and Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuges

4/24/13
Date

Kelly McDowell, Refuge Supervisor, TX/OK
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2

9/6/2013
Date

Aaron Archibeque, Regional Chief, NWR System,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2

9/11/13
Date

Approved by:

for Dr. Benjamin N. Tuggle, Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2

9/12/13
Date

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