

## **Appendix C. Refuge 2003 Draft EIS**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. 1993. REFUGES 2003: A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE. JANUARY 1993.**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Refuge 2003 EIS is to select a 10-year management plan for wildlife refuges nationwide to meet the challenges of protecting fish and wildlife resources and the public's use and enjoyment of those resources in the future.

### **Need**

The need for this document stems from expansion of the Refuge System; additional responsibilities related to Alaska lands, wetlands protection, coastal resources, cultural resources, environmental protection, and public access; expansion of the scope for the protection and recovery of the threatened and endangered species program; the change in public values, interests, and leisure-time activities; the need for protection of refuge lands from intensified resource use as a result of population growth; and pressure from the public to use refuges for compatible and noncompatible activities.

### **Alternatives**

This document identifies and analyzes seven alternative approaches for management of the Refuge System over the next 10 years. The alternatives represent an array of policies and programs, and reflect a variety of management orientations emphasizing natural resource and public-use management. The following list describes each alternative:

- The Projected Current (No Action) Alternative consists of a continuation of existing programs with no significant management direction or policy changes through 2003.
- The Balanced (Proposed Action) Alternative focuses on a balanced approach to management of the Refuge System with emphasis placed on ecosystem management, wildlife-related uses, and resolution of problems affecting the Refuge System. Other emphases include increased interpretive and education activities, reduction in nonwildlife

activities, and a substantial increase in visitor centers.

- The Sanctuary Alternative involves prohibition of recreational and commercial activities, except in Alaska. Refuge use and habitat management activities would be minimized, monitoring and research would be limited, and refuge visitation would be restricted to particular sites.
- The Wildlife Observation Alternative promotes nonconsumptive recreational and educational uses of refuge lands. Biodiversity and ecosystem management would be emphasized in association with an array of wildlife and wildland observation opportunities.
- The Ecosystem Management Alternative emphasizes land management from an economic perspective and place the top priority of the Refuge System on conservation of natural diversity. Restoring and maintaining ecological processes and biological communities would be the main focus of management.
- The Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing Alternative emphasizes maximizing hunting, trapping, and fishing opportunities on refuges.
- The Maximum-Multiple-Use Alternative emphasizes recreation and economic activities throughout the Refuge System. The greatest emphasis would be placed on wildlife species and habitats with high potential to produce economic returns (e.g., grazing, farming, hunting, trapping, wildlife observation).

### **Level of Detail of Analysis**

Included in this appendix are tables from the Refuge 2003 Draft EIS that summarize and categorize the level of detail of analysis.