

COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

COPY

Station Name: Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Date Established: September 5, 1990

Establishing Authorities: The Recreation Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. 460k) and the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668 dd-ee).

Purpose for Which Established:

The primary purposes of the Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge as described by the Congressional act authorizing the creation of the Refuge are:

- * to restore native tallgrass prairie, wetland and woodland habitats for breeding and migratory waterfowl and resident wildlife;
- * to serve as a major environmental education center providing opportunities for study;
- * to provide outdoor recreation benefits to the public; and
- * to provide assistance to local landowners to improve their lands for wildlife.

Description of Propose Use:

- A) Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge will be open for hunting of whitetail deer, ring-necked pheasant, bobwhite quail, grey partridge, cottontail rabbit, and fox and grey squirrel in the proposed 1992-1993 Interim Hunting Plan.
- B) All hunting would be conducted in accordance with State hunting seasons, with the exception of Refuge specific regulations including the following:
 - 1. The construction or use of permanent blinds, platforms, or ladders is not permitted.
 - 2. All stands must be removed from the refuge at the end of each day's hunt.
 - 3. Hunting of upland game bird species and cottontail rabbit is permitted from the opening of their respective seasons until the close of deer muzzleloading season.
- C) Hunting will be conducted 1) to assist Iowa DNR in deer herd management and 2) provide public opportunity for wildlife oriented recreation.

Anticipated Impacts on Refuge Purposes:

Hunting as proposed will harvest an estimated 12-20 whitetail deer on the refuge. Other target species, will be harvested in accordance with State regulations.

Hunting activities will disturb other wildlife species causing temporary displacement and possible disruption of behavior in those areas open to hunting.

Hunter competition with and interference to other public uses on the refuge will be minimal.

Hunter safety and the safety of non-hunting users is a concern that will be addressed through scheduling.

Stipulations That Would Make a Use Compatible with Refuge Purposes:

None required.

Justification:

Public hunting as proposed by the Interim Hunting Plan for Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge will not have a significant adverse affect on refuge purposes.

Determination:

Therefore, Public Hunting, as proposed in the 1992 Interim Hunting Plan is compatible with the purposes for which Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge was established.

Determination by: _____

Project Leader

Date

Reviewed by: _____

Division Supervisor

Date

Concurred by: _____

/s/ John I. Christian

Regional Director

Date

MAY 26 1992