

Appendix G. Environmental Action Statement (EAS)

Within the spirit and intent of the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1500-1508), and other statutes, orders, and policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following administrative record and determined that the following proposed action does not require additional NEPA documentation.

Proposed Action, Alternatives, and NEPA Documentation

The proposed action is to implement an Inventory and Monitoring Plan (IMP) for Seney National Wildlife Refuge and satellites (Kirtland's Warbler Wildlife Management Area, Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge, Huron National Wildlife Refuge, and Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge). This IMP is a refinement of the 2009 (Seney NWR and Kirtland's Warbler WMA) and 2013 (Gravel Island, Green Bay, Harbor Island, Huron, and Michigan Islands NWR) Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) and associated Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Refuges. This IMP provides more-specific guidance for surveys of Refuge's fish, wildlife, plant, habitat, and abiotic resources to fulfill the Refuge's purposes and help achieve Refuge's goals and objectives.

The EA for Seney National Wildlife Refuge CCP and satellites CCPs included goals and objectives for the refuge and assessed the impacts associated with a range of reasonable alternatives to achieve those goals and objectives. The rationale for selection of one specific alternative for implementation is explained in the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) accompanying the final CCPs. The goals, objectives, and survey strategies included in this IMP fall within the bounds of those described and assessed in the CCPs and EAs or EISs.

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1502.9, no additional NEPA documentation is required to implement this IMP beyond the EA and FONSI prepared concurrently with the CCPs. No substantial changes to the proposed action alternative that was identified, analyzed, and selected for implementation within the CCP, EA, and FONSI are proposed through this IMP. Similarly, no significant new information or circumstances exist relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts.

In accordance with 43 CFR 46.205 and 40 CFR 1508.4, some surveys within this IMP are covered by the following Departmental categorical exclusion because they would not have significant environmental effects.

"Research, inventory, and information collection activities directly related to the conservation of fish and wildlife resources which involve negligible animal mortality or habitat destruction, no introduction of contaminants, or no introduction of organisms not indigenous to the affected ecosystem." 516 DM 8.5B(1)

1/18/2018

Project Leader/Refuge Manager

Date

[Note: this signature and dating is not required if a statement is placed below the IMP signature page indicating that the Project Leaders signing of that page applies to all contents of this IMP].

References:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2009. Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Seney National Wildlife Refuge. USFWS Region 3. Bloomington MN.*
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2009. Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Kirtland's Warbler Wildlife Management Area. USFWS Region 3. Bloomington MN.*
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2013. Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Gravel Island, Green Bay, Harbor Island, Huron, and Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuges. USFWS Region 3. Bloomington MN.*