

## Appendix H. 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 the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge. This IMP is a step down plan from the 2008 Comprehensive Conservation Plan and associated Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Refuge. 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 Patoka River NWR CCP 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 CCP. The goals, objectives, and survey strategies included in this IMP fall within the bounds of those described and assessed in the CCP and EA or EIS.

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 CCP. 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)

4/11/2018

**X** Heath Hamilton

Heath Hamilton

Refuge Manager (Acting)

Signed by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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].*

Reference: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2008. *Environmental Assessment of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan For Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge*. USFWS Region 3. Bloomington MN.

