

ELC

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Refuge Manager, Yazoo Refuge

DATE: January 29, 1969

FROM : Acting Regional Supervisor, Division of Refuges, Atlanta, Ga.

SUBJECT: Hillside Floodway

During our recent telephone conversation you indicated you had not received any maps or information concerning the Hillside Floodway area. Eventually this refuge will be administered from the Yazoo Refuge. According to recent information from the Corps of Engineers, it does not appear that this Bureau will have any management responsibility on the area during calendar year 1969. However, we should observe the effects of flooding this winter in an effort to form ideas about how the refuge should be managed in the future.

You are encouraged to visit the Hillside Floodway area when it is convenient to familiarize yourself with the situation.

George L. Wiseman
George L. Wiseman

Attachment

Be Wise - Safetyize



PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

of

A NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

in

THE HILLSIDE FLOODWAY AREA

Holmes County, Mississippi

The National Wildlife Refuge System is dedicated to the conservation of fish and wildlife. A proposed national wildlife refuge in the Hillside Floodway would serve as an integral part of the system in the lower Mississippi Flyway. A refuge here would be managed to preserve and perpetuate migratory and resident birds and animals for the optimum enjoyment of people, now and in the future. Refuge programs will afford opportunities for public hunting, nature study, fishing, and similar wildlife-oriented recreation pursuits.

Role of Refuge in Flyway: The Hillside Floodway project area will enhance national and State waterfowl programs by preserving much needed wetlands and providing for a better distribution of waterfowl. The Hillside area is located 80 miles southeast of Natchez National Wildlife Refuge, 120 miles west of Natchez, and 150 miles northeast of Grand Gulf Refuge.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

The objectives of a refuge at this location are:

1. The development of land and water resources to provide migration and wintering habitat for waterfowl;
2. Improved distribution of migratory bird populations within the State and the flyway, thus offering opportunities for greater public enjoyment.
3. The development of habitat and facilities to encourage the development of a resident flock of Canada geese.
4. The development of production habitat and facilities for wood ducks.
5. The preservation and management of natural populations of waterfowl and big game animals, birds, and fish, and other wildlife indigenous to central Mississippi;

6. Provision for public recreational and hunting opportunities, for both waterfowl and upland game.

7. Provision for economic use of the land compatible with wildlife management needs.

8. Provision for birdwatching, photography, picnicking, and nature study through an active conservation-education program.

9. The preservation of a segment of the native bottomland flora and fauna typical of the region, in as near a natural condition as possible.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT GOALS

Ducks: To maintain a desirable distribution of waterfowl, the Bureau will develop and manage habitat on the Hillside Floodway area to encourage a peak population of 25,000 - 30,000 ducks during the wintering season with a seasonal total of about two million duck-use days. Wood duck production will be given special attention with a goal of producing large numbers of woodies annually.

Canada geese: The Hillside Floodway project offers excellent opportunities to develop habitat capable of supporting Canada geese. The Bureau will undertake management on the proposed refuge to facilitate the development of a large resident flock.

Other Migratory Birds: Herons, egrets, ibises, snipe, and other birds associated with marsh and water are common within the Hillside Project area. Management practices will encourage high use of the proposed refuge by these and other migratory birds.

Furbearers: Mink are perhaps the most important furbearing animal in the area. Beaver and muskrat are quite common. Refuge objectives would be to provide for populations of furbearers that are compatible with other wildlife species. Harvestable populations will permit trapping by individuals.

Upland Game Animals: White-tailed deer, bobwhite quail, rabbits, and squirrels are common throughout the area. Hunting will be permitted as an annual operational program.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife-oriented management will be provided on the proposed refuge area in the Hillside Floodway project. This will be accomplished by providing habitat management and control of wildlife-oriented activities on the area in accordance with the Refuge Act of 1966 and 1967. The Refuge Act of 1966 provides for the establishment of the Hillside Floodway project.

<u>Recreation Type</u>	<u>Specific Objective</u>	<u>Estimated Annual Use Days</u>
Hunting	Waterfowl	4,000
	Deer	2,000
	Mourning Doves	1,300
	Squirrels	4,000
	Quail	200
	Raccoon	500
Fishing	Sport	10,000
Other Uses	Nature Study,	
	Sightseeing,	
	Walking, Birding,	
	Photography, etc.	30,000
Total Public Use Days		50,000

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

The proposed refuge within the Hillside Floodway Project will ultimately include approximately 15,000 acres. The area will contain about 5,000 acres of agricultural land, which will be farmed cooperatively by local farmers and the Bureau for the production of waterfowl foods. The remainder of the area is primarily forested--half in bottomland hardwood and half in black willow--bottomash type. The timbered portion will be managed for the production of most producing hardwoods as a source of food for waterfowl and resident game.

Several small creeks and springs flow into the area from the east bluff and several small lakes are found on the area that will serve well as waterfowl resting areas as well as for wood duck nesting and rearing purposes. Strategically located low-level dikes with control gates will be constructed to permit the controlled flooding of certain bottomland hardwood forest areas. These green-timber reservoirs will be flooded during the winter and dewatered in the spring.

A minimum of development will be required to make the area attractive to many species of migrating birds and resident game.

Physical Plans: Facilities for enjoyment and protection of the area will be required. These include service and maintenance buildings and equipment sheds.

Staffing: Initially a staff of four persons will be required to administer the proposed refuge. These include a refuge manager, clerk, and two maintenance men.

ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COSTS

Water Facilities.....	\$300,000
Buildings.....	100,000
Fencing and Posting.....	5,000
Roads.....	50,000
Recreational Development.....	100,000
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT	\$555,000

ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATION COSTS

Maintenance.....	\$ 10,000
Management.....	15,000
Recreation.....	20,000
Population Management.....	15,000
Conservation Education.....	5,000
TOTAL	\$ 65,000

Prepared by - Division of Refugees
Region IV

11/5/1968