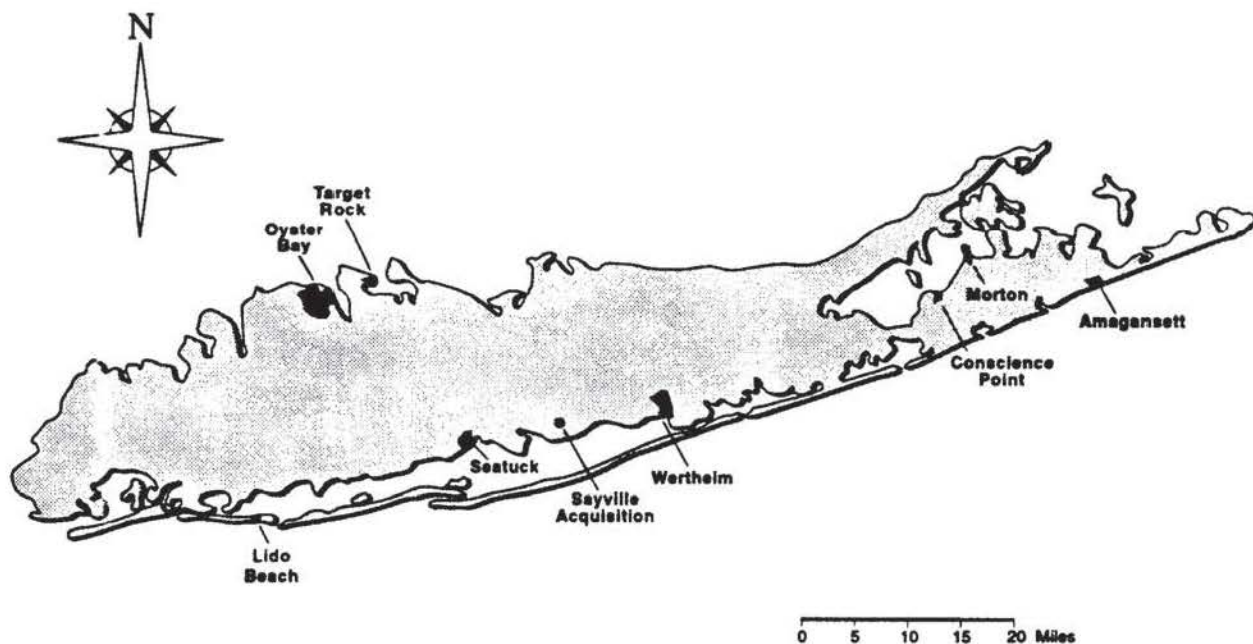


STATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Long Island, NY National Wildlife Refuges



April, 1992

STATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

LONG ISLAND REFUGES

NEW YORK

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PREFACE

The following plan is the result of a recent initiative in Region 5 to produce general management guidance for individual field stations based on stated objectives. Through this planning approach, refuge objectives and management strategies are arrived at by consensus of knowledgeable professionals. It is applied to stations where management issues are relatively clear.

This plan is subject to revision as new information and insights emerge. The plan for Long Island, NY National Wildlife Refuges has been prepared through the joint efforts of:

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INTRODUCTION

This Station Management Plan provides the Refuge Manager with three to five year guidance for managing eight National Wildlife Refuges located on Long Island, NY and other lands and facilities having the potential to become refuge units. The staff and facilities needed to implement this plan are identified.

The conclusions drawn by this plan are presented as the Management Program on pages 57-64. This relatively short section states the direction under which the Long Island Refuges will most likely be managed during the next 3-5 years. The other sections of this document develop the issues, objectives and strategies from which the management program evolved.

A Fish and Wildlife Service planning team met at the Refuge on two occasions to set objectives and develop strategies for their accomplishment. A 3-5 year planning horizon was projected with an understanding that the plan would be evaluated and updated at one to two year intervals.

This planning document provides overall direction for the Refuge. Plans for various specific management subjects have been and will continue to be developed by the Refuge Manager. These plans respond to the overall direction given in the Management Program.

This document will be distributed to groups and agencies who have expressed interest in the Service's management of the Long Island Refuges. Actions proposed in this plan that warrant public review through the National Environmental Policy Act will be processed individually prior to implementation.

Service employees who participated in this process include:

Tom Stewart	Refuge Manager, Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Barbara Pardo	Assistant Refuge Manager
Bill Kolodnicki	Assistant Mgr, Target Rock Refuge
Jim Bell	Refuge Outdoor Recreation Planner
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Bill Leenhouts	Biologist, Refuges Central (former)
<u>FWS Regional Office Personnel</u>	
Don Frickie	Associate Refuge Manager, Refuges North
Curt Laffin	Chief, Technical Services
Tom Comish	Regional Public Use Specialist
Lynn Bjorklund	Cartographer (former)

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages seven National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) and one Wildlife Management Area (Lido Beach) on Long Island, NY. Collectively these refuges protect nearly 6200 acres of wildlife habitat that is managed by the Service to protect and enhance the nation's migratory bird resources. All units are managed by one Refuge Manager and staff stationed at Wertheim and Target Rock Refuges.

In general, management is complicated by the logistics of transporting people and materials to and from the refuges and by the fact that each refuge is adjacent to high concentrations of human activity. The high visibility of the refuges provides good opportunities for building supportive constituencies on one hand but vulnerability to trespass and vandalism on the other.

Management has traditionally been influenced by the needs to 1) overcome public misunderstanding about the refuges and the Fish and Wildlife Service and, 2) protect Service lands and resources from numerous external land use influences.

Summaries of each refuge follow in alphabetical order.

AMAGANSETT NWR

Amagansett Refuge consist of 36 acres of barrier beach and primary dune habitat, located in the unique double dune barrier beach area near East Hampton, New York. Several species of plants indigenous to the barrier beaches of the mid-Atlantic coast can be found here in their natural environment. The area is bordered by 100 acres of undeveloped land owned by the Nature Conservancy. It is the largest unaltered area of this habitat type in New York.

An estimated 4,000 visitors use the beach annually.

Land for Amagansett Refuge was acquired under authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

CONSCIENCE POINT NWR

Conscience Point Refuge is located near North Sea, New York, approximately five miles west of Morton National Wildlife Refuge.

This 60-acre parcel consist of old fields, oak beech climax forest, small kettle holes, freshwater marsh and a 15-acre salt marsh. This habitat is very diverse and has species diversity probably unequaled on Long Island within such a small acreage.

The refuge is used, with permit, by school groups and conservation groups for wildlife oriented activities only.

Little habitat management is performed on the refuge. Wildlife surveys indicate a diversity of species using the refuge including the American black duck, Canada goose, mallard, great blue heron, American bittern, red-tailed hawk, northern harrier, red shouldered hawk and an abundance of white-tailed deer.

A special use permit was issued in 1989 to the Nature Conservancy to conduct long-term monitoring of the maritime grassland on the refuge.

Conscience Point Refuge was acquired by the Service under authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

LIDO BEACH WMA

Lido Beach Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located on the south shore of Long Island approximately 20 miles east of New York City. The area is 22 acres of salt marsh and part of the Hempstead estuary which is important for waterfowl, wading birds, and shorebirds. The Long Beach School District operates the SEALINK Environmental Education Center adjacent to the refuge. Through a cooperative agreement, they conduct education programs on the property. Approximately 3,200 students and 50 teachers from the Long Beach School District use the area each year.

Lido Beach WMA was acquired via transfer of Federal property.

OYSTER BAY NWR

Oyster Bay is a 3,204 acre Refuge located on the north shore of Long Island ten miles west of Target Rock Refuge. Bay bottom comprises 78% of the refuge, unconsolidated shoreline (3%), and estuarine stream bed (9%).

The refuge is used very heavily for summer recreational boating, with approximately 3,000 boats during peak days. The construction of illegal docks and other structures is a major problem in the refuge. Shoreline development and poor harbor management are current concerns.

This large marine refuge is one of only a few remaining shellfishing areas open in the county of Nassau, and hosts a large variety of marine organisms including harbor seals and sea turtles. Substantial wintering waterfowl populations use this Refuge. It is not officially open to hunting, although hunting has historically occurred here.

Oyster Bay Refuge was acquired by the Service under authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

MORTON NWR

Morton Refuge is a 187 acre peninsula located on the north shore of Long Island's south fork in Southampton Township. It was acquired in 1954 as a gift from Elizabeth Morton. This one and one-half mile long peninsula, known by the local residents as Jessup's Neck, separates Little Peconic Bay from Noyac Bay.

This Refuge is a seasonally staffed from April through August by a volunteer from the Student Conservation Association.

Three miles of narrow undeveloped shoreline consisting of sand and small stones outline the refuge. The tip of the Neck has steep and heavily eroded bluffs approaching 50 feet in height. Morton also contains upland deciduous forest, a small freshwater pond, a brackish pond, kettle holes, tidal flats, salt marsh, freshwater marsh, and old fields. Annual visitation is about 50,000.

The most picturesque of the Long Island refuges, Morton also provides habitat for several state or federally listed threatened or endangered species, including piping plover, roseate and least tern, osprey and Kemp's Ridley and loggerhead sea turtle.

Morton Refuge was acquired by the Service under authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

SEATUCK NWR

Seatuck Refuge is located in Islip, NY, on the south shore of Long Island. The 196 acre refuge borders on Great South Bay and consists of salt marsh, old field, brush, and woodland habitats. Even though the refuge is surrounded by suburban development, diverse populations of wildlife are present. Nesting osprey, large numbers of deer, shorebirds, waterfowl and songbirds occur here.

The refuge was acquired under authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act through a donation in 1968. A relative of the donor has life estate privileges on a portion of the property and lives in a large home on the refuge.

TARGET ROCK NWR

Target Rock is an 80-acre refuge located on the north shore of Long Island about 40 miles east of New York City. It attracts about 60,000 visits a year. Its wooded uplands rest on glacial moraine which sweeps down to Huntington Harbor. The rocky coastline is a favorite spot for visitors who can look across Long Island Sound and view Connecticut on clear days. The large glacial erratic from which the refuge takes its name, stands out

along the shore. The English were said to use the rock for target practice during the Revolutionary War. The refuge was donated to the Service in 1967, several buildings and remnants of gardens from the former Estate, remain.

The land was acquired under authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

WERTHEIM NWR

The 2,400 acre Wertheim Refuge is located on the south shore of Long Island. Of the total acreage, approximately 45 percent is oak-conifer forest, 20 percent open water ponds, rivers and bays and 35 percent salt, brackish and freshwater marshes. The refuge is bisected by the Carmans River which enters from the north, meanders through the refuge and empties into Bellport Bay. Yaphank Creek, Little Neck Run, Big Fish Creek and Little Fish Creek join the Carmans River within the refuge. Wertheim protects one of the last undeveloped estuaries on Long Island. The topography is flat and soils are sandy.

The refuge originated in 1947 as a donation from Cecile and Maurice Wertheim, who maintained the area as a private reserve for duck hunting. The Carmans River is one of the last areas to freeze in the winter and is important to migrating and wintering waterfowl. The headquarters for the Long Island Refuge Complex is located here.

Land for Wertheim Refuge has been acquired under authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and the Refuge Recreation Act.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Planning Team followed basic planning procedures to arrive at its conclusions. The Refuge background was considered as well as current management guidance and direction that affects all national wildlife refuges. Using this basic foundation, the team developed issues, objectives and strategies that are organized consistent with the Assistant Regional Director's goals for Region Five refuges:

- I. AN UP-TO-DATE BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION BASE ON REFUGE RESOURCES
- II. MAXIMUM USE OF FWS LANDS TO RESTORE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES
- III. MAXIMUM USE OF AVAILABLE HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE MIGRATORY BIRD RESOURCE
- IV. HEALTHY POPULATIONS OF FISH SPECIES ON REFUGES
- V. CONTAMINANT FREE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES
- VI. A PUBLIC THAT, 1) VALUES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES, 2) UNDERSTANDS EVENTS AND ISSUES RELATED TO THESE RESOURCES, AND 3) ACTS TO PROMOTE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
- VII. ACQUISITION AND PROTECTION OF ADDITIONAL HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE WILDLIFE RESOURCE
- VIII. MINIMAL LOSS OF HABITAT AND PROPERTY CAUSED BY WILDFIRE
- IX. COMPLIANCE WITH HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE PROTECTION LAWS AND REGULATIONS
- X. EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF FUNCTIONS THAT SUPPORT RW OBJECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT

The Team first identified the issues that must be resolved to develop and implement long-term wildlife, public use and related management programs. These issues (pages 15-18) clarify causes of problems.

Objectives were formulated to state what has to be accomplished to alleviate or rectify issues. Objective were ranked High, Medium or Low based on their importance and "doability" given current management situations. The objectives, with their strategies, were then grouped according to the team's interpretation of the feasibility of adequately accomplishing each objective with the current staff and funding. The categories include:

- A1 ONGOING OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES THAT CANNOT STOP AND ARE BEING DONE ADEQUATELY WITH CURRENT STAFF AND FUNDS
- A2 HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES THAT ARE ONGOING BUT ARE NOT BEING ACCOMPLISHED ADEQUATELY WITH CURRENT STAFF AND FUNDS
- B OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES THAT ARE ONGOING AND SHOULD NOT STOP
- C HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES THAT CANNOT PROGRESS OR BEGIN WITHOUT ADDITIONAL STAFF AND FUNDS
- D OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES THAT CAN WAIT

This grouping of objectives allowed the team to understand which strategies should continue, or be implemented, with reasonable expectation of success given current staff and funds. It also conveys to the Refuge Manager, his staff and the Regional Office where progress cannot be anticipated without additional management resources.

In addition to the objectives that were developed in response to the ARD's goals the team identified eight special project objectives that reflect Congressional interest in appropriating funds for construction of two visitor/education centers, one in the vicinity of Wertheim Refuge and one in the vicinity of Oyster Bay Refuge.

The 3-5 year management overview for the refuge complex is based on modest increases in staff and funding. The 3-5 year management emphasis therefore, reflects objective groups A1, A2 and B plus activities related to anticipated Congressional action.

REFUGE SYSTEM MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

LEGAL DIRECTION

The primary purpose for acquisition of all Long Island refuges was the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. This Act established the legal mandate that the Fish and Wildlife Service will manage these lands to perpetuate the nations migratory bird resources. A few parcels have been acquired under authority of the Refuge Recreation Act.

Management must also comply with federal environmental laws, executive orders and regulations affecting land and water use as well as the conservation and management of fish and wildlife resources. Management is further guided by the National Wildlife Refuge Management System Administration Act of 1966 that authorized the Secretary of the Interior to permit uses of a refuge "whenever he determines that such uses are compatible with the major purposes for which such areas were established." The Refuge Recreation Act of 1962 also requires that any recreational use of refuge lands be compatible with the primary purposes for which a refuge was established and not inconsistent with other previously authorized operations.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 provides for the protection and rehabilitation of historic and archaeological resources that occur on any refuge.

POLICY DIRECTION

The policies of the Fish and Wildlife Service for the National Wildlife Refuge System are stated in its primary management document, the Refuge Manual:

The goal of the National Wildlife Refuge System is "to provide, preserve, restore and manage a national network of lands and waters sufficient in size, diversity, and location to meet society's needs for areas where the widest possible spectrum of benefits associated with wildlife and wildlands is enhanced and made available."

To achieve this goal, each refuge emphasizes specific contributions it can make that are consistent with the following long-range System objectives (given in priority order):

1. To preserve, restore, and enhance in their natural ecosystem (when practicable) all species of animals and plants that are endangered or threatened with becoming endangered.

2. To perpetuate the migratory bird resource.
3. To preserve a natural diversity and abundance of fauna and flora on refuge lands.
4. To provide an understanding and appreciation of fish and wildlife ecology and people's role in their environment, and to provide refuge visitors with high quality, safe, wholesome, and enjoyable recreational experiences oriented toward wildlife to the extent these activities are compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established.

MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The complexities and projected costs associated with long-term management of the eight Long Island NWR units have traditionally overwhelmed Refuge Managers. This Plan attempts to break this tradition and set a 3-5 year course of direction that will allow the Refuge Manager to gain control and begin to develop far reaching wildlife management and public use programs.

The Plan focuses on nine management areas that will progress concurrently assuming the Refuge Manager has adequate funding and staff, and barring unforeseen difficulties. Some related activities are currently underway. There are numerous routine management activities that also will continue; they are not discussed in this document. The nine focus areas are:

1. Develop and implement a refuge specific wildlife and wildlife habitat inventory plan that will provide sufficient information to guide development of wildlife management programs for Refuge units having high wildlife potential.
2. Maximize piping plover production at Jessup Neck on the Morton Unit. Management will include documenting nesting and brood rearing, preventing human disturbance of the birds, conveying to the public the reasons for closing the area, and minimizing the loss of plovers to predators.
3. Increase the refuge staff to a level that can make reasonable progress toward implementing this plan.
4. Seek alternative funding and support, beyond that provided by the FWS, to implement this plan and conduct other Refuge functions.
5. Plan a long-range public use program, using as a base, the major visitor center projected to be built at the Wertheim Unit.
6. Encourage further wildlife habitat protection from two directions. First continue to assist the FWS Division of Realty in its efforts to acquire additional wetlands and adjacent upland in the Cow Neck and Conscience Point area, and second, encourage outside interests such as towns, State agencies, and private groups to acquire or otherwise protect Long Island wildlife habitat.
7. Correct immediate deficiencies with public use facilities at the Morton Unit to enhance the effectiveness of conveying the message that Jessup Neck is important to the recovery of piping plovers and to the needs of other water dependent migratory bird species.

8. Determine the usefulness of all Refuge buildings and structures; remove those serving no Refuge function and rehabilitate/maintain those to be retained.
9. Enhance the effectiveness of the Refuge maintenance function.

The Refuge Manager will reassess these nine management areas annually. During each assessment the list will be updated for the next three to five year period.

ISSUES

Issues identification was a critical first step for the planning team because issues establish planning direction through clarification of real problems. Due to the complexity of the management situation the team decided to first identify issues that influence all Long Island refuges and then to state those that are specific to each refuge. These discussions generated numerous thoughts and concerns that were not necessarily tied to an issue. These were captured as lists of assets and liabilities for each refuge and are summarized on pp 19-23 .

ISSUES COMMON TO ALL LONG ISLAND REFUGES

WILDLIFE

The Refuge Manager's flexibility to plan for and implement wildlife management is restricted by:

- the lack of adequate refuge-specific wildlife and habitat information,
- the consumption of staff time and funds to maintain buildings and other facilities.
- the consumption of staff time to respond to public inquiries and concerns, and
- the excessive amount of staff time consumed while travelling to and from the eight Refuge Units.

HABITAT PROTECTION

High land costs greatly curtail the Service's effectiveness toward protecting habitat through acquisition.

Up to 600 acres of Long Island wetland habitat have been seriously degraded because it is overgrown with the exotic plant phragmites.

Up to 400 acres of Long Island shallow water habitat is of little use to native wildlife due to excessive grazing by mute swans and their aggressive dispositions.

High deer populations may be degrading upland habitat at Seatuck and Wertheim NWRs.

PUBLIC USE

The Refuge does not provide adequate access for disabled visitors.

The Refuge is missing short-term opportunities to gain public support for protecting and managing Long Island's wildlife and its habitat.

The Refuge is not prepared for the type of long-term public use program that will be necessary following construction of a Long Island NWR visitor center.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Incidents of trespass, vandalism and more serious crimes are increasing on and in the vicinity of some Refuge Units.

ADMINISTRATION

Logistics of getting to the eight Refuge Units fosters inefficiencies.

Maintenance of buildings and other facilities consume inordinate amounts of Refuge funds and staff time.

Facility construction and rehabilitation costs on Long Island are exorbitant.

Numerous outside forces strive to influence Refuge direction and management.

FWS funding appropriations are, and will continue to be, unresponsive to the magnitude of Refuge needs.

All LI Refuges are infested with Lyme disease transmitting ticks.

REFUGE SPECIFIC ISSUES

WERTHEIM

The deer herd is at or near habitat carrying capacity.

Boating and canoeing on the Carmans River and its tributaries disturb nesting and wintering waterfowl.

Juvenile trespass, arson, vandalism, and drug use has increased significantly on the Refuge.

SEATUCK NWR

The Refuge Manager does not have adequate administrative control over use of the Refuge by outside entities.

MORTON NWR

Boat access and related human activity threaten the fledgling success of piping plovers and other nesting birds on Jessup Neck.

TARGET ROCK NWR

The mansion is an attractive nuisance and a source of embarrassment to the FWS.

Trespass has increased with adjacent residential development.

OYSTER BAY NWR

The Refuge boundary is not clearly marked or understood.

Several unauthorized docks encroach into the Refuge intertidal zone; several others are proposed.

Multiple jurisdictions complicate effective enforcement of apparently unauthorized activities of Refuge neighbors that have altered habitat through removal of intertidal vegetation.

Discharges from commercial and recreational boats threaten water quality.

Boating disturbs wintering and migrating waterfowl.

The deed is nonspecific on FWS jurisdiction

The potential for non-point source pollution is high.

Additional commercial and residential developments are proposed on Bay shores.

The Service's Fish & Wildlife Enhancement function is inadequately staffed to devote attention to the Refuge Manager's concern over construction of docks in the intertidal zone.

LIDO BEACH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

FWS does not maintain or manage Lido Beach even though dozens of teachers use it for environmental education.

REFUGE ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Due to management complexities unique to Long Island, the team went beyond issue identification and listed refuge specific assets and liabilities. Those identified with an asterisk (*) are of higher concern and had immediate influence on the direction projected by this plan.

WERTHEIM NWR

Assets

- * Centrally located among current Long Is. refuges
- * Potential sites for a Refuge visitor center
 - Large wildlife resource base
 - High potential for wildlife management
 - Open marsh water management has potential to improve wetland habitat quality
 - High potential for public contact
 - Usable buildings and housing are available
 - There is an active recreational fishing program

Liabilities

- * There are too many buildings on the Refuge complex
- * The maintenance facilities have no heat or running water and are inadequately small
- * Law enforcement needs are rising, especially concerning juvenile offenders
- * An excessive area of wetland has been overtaken by phragmites
- * The Refuge has no indoor education facility or a site for giving talks and programs
- * The mute swan population is excessive
 - Littering and disposal of trash and junk automobiles is common
 - The Refuge has little authority to control wildlife disturbance caused by recreational fishing, boating and canoeing on the Carmans River and its tributaries
 - The Long Island railroad bisects the Refuge; passing trains disturb wildlife and can spark wildfire
 - The Refuge susceptibility to wildfire is enhanced by high fuel presence and an increase in arson

AMAGANSETT NWR

Assets

- * Potential to divest FWS interest through negotiation with The Nature Conservancy is good
 - The Refuge is a protected example of a unique double dune/swale ecosystem
 - Maintenance costs are low (fencing and posting)
 - Contains rare plants

Liabilities

- * Time consuming and of almost no benefit to respond to reports of trespass
- Long distance from headquarters (2 hrs each way)
Public "wandering" on beach and in dunes conflicts with wildlife use

CONSCIENCE POINT NWR

Assets

- * Potential for acquisition of large tracts of excellent wildlife habitat
- Upland in this area may be an important song bird staging area
Upland has potential for grassland management to benefit waterfowl and other species
Lowlands contain unique maritime grasses

Liabilities

The Refuge is mostly upland
A one hour drive is required to travel from the headquarters to the Refuge.

MORTON NWR

Assets

- * Supports nesting piping plovers and least terns
- * Endangered roseate terns feed in adjacent waters
- * High wildlife values including feeding habitat for least and roseate terns
- * Good public contact point with potential for more Active constituency base (75% of visitors are local, repeat visitors)
Potential for fee collection

Liabilities

- * Signs, buildings and trails require maintenance
 - * Trespass and plover nesting disturbance occurs through boat access to Jessup Neck beaches
- There is no permanent staff at the Refuge
A one hour drive is required to travel from the headquarters to the Refuge.
The public use area is heavily infested with deer ticks.

TARGET ROCK NWR

Assets

- * Possibility to reduce Refuge management burden through negotiation with Trust of Public Lands or other group
- Good public contact point (highest visitation but most are probably local, repeat visitors)
Contains upland habitat for migrating passerine birds
Provides Refuge housing
Potential for fee collection

Provides office space for Target Rock & Oyster Bay Refuges
Provides housing for Law Enforcement staff in support of CITES enforcement

Liabilities

- * The mansion is an attractive nuisance
- * Adjacent residences cause trespass and encroachment
Long distance from headquarters through difficult traffic (1.5 hrs each way)
Lacks adequate access for disabled visitors
High maintenance requirement for trails, building and roads

OYSTER BAY NWR

Assets

- * Active constituency, especially "Friends of the Bay"
- * Water quality protection advocacy from commercial shellfish industry
- * Deed is restricted to prevent construction in intertidal and subtidal zone
High use by wintering and migrating waterfowl
High potential for public contact (via a mooring point system)

Liabilities

- * Unauthorized structures have encroached onto the Refuge
Long distance from headquarters through difficult traffic (2 hrs each way)
Deed restriction limits potential for wildlife management
Potential for oil spills from operation of two adjacent oil storage facilities
High density of boating is a pollution source and disturbs wildlife
The Refuge is not posted (open water cannot be posted)

SEATUCK NWR

Assets

- * Active wildlife research program that is "required" to respond to Service needs
- * Good potential for wildlife management and habitat diversity
- * Good potential for environmental education and wildlife interpretation
Closed to public
Usable buildings and housing with potential for more
Active open marsh water management program

Liabilities

- * Dense deer population with restricted movement due to fencing
- * High maintenance costs
- * Webster home maintenance cost will be high when FWS accepts responsibility
- * Numerous outside pressures and political forces hamper Refuge

management

- * Presence of the Seatuck Foundation complicates administrative procedures and oversight of refuge operations
- Mosquito production is high
- Open marsh water management disturbs wildlife
- Surrounded by dense suburban environment that brings litter, vandalism, feral pets, etc.

LIDO BEACH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Assets

- * Good constituency in the private environmental group, Sealink
- * Good potential environmental education in conjunction with Sealink
- Potential for divesting FWS interest
- Potential for public contact

Liabilities

- Remote from headquarters (2-2.5 hrs each way)
- Previously disturbed area
- Litter
- Most urbanized area among Long Island Refuges

REFUGE OBJECTIVES

This section includes all objectives developed by the planning team. They are responsive to Refuge issues and were developed with the assumption that adequate staff, funds and facilities would be available to implement all strategies. This was an unrealistic assumption but it gave the team flexibility to formulate an adequate array of management options with which to structure an effective management program. In the next section, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES, objectives are separated into five categories that reflect actual staff and funding situations, and strategies are developed for meeting each objective. The categories are:

- A1 ONGOING OBJECTIVES THAT CANNOT STOP AND ARE BEING DONE ADEQUATELY WITH CURRENT STAFF AND FUNDS
- A2 HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVES THAT ARE ONGOING BUT ARE NOT BEING ACCOMPLISHED ADEQUATELY WITH CURRENT STAFF AND FUNDS
- B OBJECTIVES THAT ARE ONGOING AND SHOULD NOT STOP
- C HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVES THAT CANNOT PROGRESS OR BEGIN WITHOUT ADDITIONAL STAFF AND/OR FUNDS
- D OBJECTIVES THAT CAN WAIT

Strategies for accomplishing objectives are developed in the categorized list.

Analysis of objectives from the perspective of these categories gave the planning team flexibility to develop a management direction that meshes with realistic and anticipated changes in staff and funds.

The first group of objectives are for special projects. All other objectives are organized consistent with the Assistant Regional Director's ten Goals for refuges in the Service's Northeast Region. Each objective's Category (A1), (A2), (B), (C), or (D) is indicated just prior to the objective statement.

SPECIAL PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Congressional funding is expected to be appropriated for planning and design of two Refuge visitor/education centers on Long Island; one at Wertheim Refuge and one at Oyster Bay Refuge. The following objectives will guide the initial stages of these projects. All related work is contingent on obtaining Congressional funding.

WERTHEIM REFUGE VISITOR AND FISH AND WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER

OBJECTIVE: (A) Finalize an agreement with Suffolk County for locating a visitor/education facility on the Robinson Duck Farm land.

OBJECTIVE: (A) Develop accurate and cost-effective plans, designs, cost estimates and construction contracts for the Wertheim Refuge Visitor/Fish and Wildlife Education Center.

OBJECTIVE: (A) Develop and implement an operational plan and related programs for the Wertheim Refuge Visitor/Fish and Wildlife Education Center that effectively and innovatively conveys the Long Island Complex station message.

OBJECTIVE: (A) Comply with the NEPA process and other permit requirements during construction of the Wertheim Refuge Visitor/Fish and Wildlife Education Center.

OYSTER BAY REFUGE FISH, WILDLIFE AND MARINE EDUCATION CENTER

OBJECTIVE: (A) Finalize an agreement with the Town of Oyster Bay for locating an education facility on the Capone property.

OBJECTIVE: (A) Develop accurate and cost-effective plans, designs, cost estimates and construction contracts for the Oyster Bay Refuge Fish, Wildlife and Marine Education Center.

OBJECTIVE: (A) Develop and implement an operational plan and related programs for the Oyster Bay Refuge Fish, Wildlife and Marine Education Center that effectively and innovatively conveys station messages for Oyster Bay and Target Rock Refuges.

OBJECTIVE: (A) Comply with the NEPA process and other permit requirements during construction of the Oyster Bay Refuge Fish, Wildlife and Marine Education Center.

GOAL I OBJECTIVES: BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION BASE ON REFUGE RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE: (A1) Build and maintain an effective inventory containing current information on the distribution and abundance of wildlife, habitat types, plant communities and select invertebrate species on Long Island Refuges.

OBJECTIVE: (B) Establish and maintain an inventory of land uses on areas adjacent to Refuges.

GOAL II OBJECTIVES: MAXIMUM USE OF USFWS LANDS TO RESTORE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Piping Plover

OBJECTIVE: (A2) Maximize piping plover production at, and in the vicinity of Morton, Seatuck, Target Rock and Oyster Bay Refuges consistent with the Atlantic Coast Piping Plover Recovery Plan.

Roseate Tern

OBJECTIVE: (A2) Maintain or increase the quality and quantity of habitat available to roseate terns on Refuges and adjacent lands.

Sandplain Gerardia

OBJECTIVE: (A2) Perpetuate the Sandplain gerardia population that occurs on the Sayville land acquisitions.

State Protected Species

OBJECTIVE: (C) Protect New York State listed species indigenous to Long Island Refuges.

Sea Turtles

OBJECTIVE: (D) Protect sea turtles which use Refuge habitats.

GOAL III OBJECTIVES: MAXIMIZE USE OF AVAILABLE HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE MIGRATORY BIRD RESOURCE.

WATERFOWL

Black Duck

OBJECTIVE: (B) Optimize black duck production on Refuges having nesting potential.

OBJECTIVE: (B) Optimize high quality migration and wintering habitat for black ducks.

Canvasback

OBJECTIVE: (B) Provide high quality migration and wintering habitat for canvasbacks at the Oyster Bay Refuge.

Greater Scaup

OBJECTIVE: (B) Provide high quality migration and wintering habitat for greater scaup at the Oyster Bay Refuge.

Wood Duck

OBJECTIVE: (B) Provide wood duck reproductive habitat.

OTHER MIGRATORY BIRDS

Terns

OBJECTIVE: (B) Protect tern habitats on Refuges and adjacent lands.

Osprey

OBJECTIVE: (B) Provide undisturbed osprey nesting sites on Refuges.

Woodcock

OBJECTIVE: (C) Implement woodcock production habitat management at Wertheim Refuge.

Shorebirds

OBJECTIVE: (C) Protect available shorebird nesting habitat on Wertheim, Seatuck, Conscience Point, Morton, Target Rock and Oyster Bay Refuges.

OBJECTIVE: (C) Protect shorebird migration habitat on all Long Island Refuges.

Wading Birds

OBJECTIVE: (C) Protect and manage breeding colony sites and other necessary habitats for wading birds.

Migratory Passerine Birds

OBJECTIVE: (C) Manage Refuge habitats to provide a diversity of breeding and migration habitats that support passerine and other migratory birds.

Upland Habitat Diversity

OBJECTIVE: (C) Maintain a diversity of upland wildlife habitats such as forest openings, various forest growth stages, grasslands, shrubs and ecotones that support migratory birds and other wildlife species at Long Island Refuges.

Raptors

OBJECTIVE: (D) Provide nesting habitat for raptors indigenous to Long Island.

OBJECTIVE: (D) Provide foraging habitat for migrating falcons and other accipiters.

GOAL IV OBJECTIVES: HEALTHY POPULATIONS OF FISH SPECIES ON REFUGES

OBJECTIVES: (C) Maintain the diversity of fish species indigenous to Long Island Refuges, manage Refuge aquatic habitats to maintain abundant populations of forage fish for piscivorous wildlife, and promote recreational angling when and where it is compatible with Refuge purposes and consistent with Refuge objectives.

GOAL V OBJECTIVES: CONTAMINANT FREE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

OBJECTIVE: (A2) Remove or contain contaminants found on Long Island refuges.

OBJECTIVE: (B) Develop and implement an Oyster Bay oil spill response plan.

GOAL VI OBJECTIVES: A PUBLIC THAT (1) VALUES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES, (2) UNDERSTANDS EVENTS AND ISSUES RELATED TO THESE RESOURCES, AND (3) ACTS TO PROMOTE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

OBJECTIVE: (A2) Implement the Refuge Public Use Management Plan that is based on accomplishment of the following generic objectives for public use management on Region Five Refuges:

- * Ensure that public use activities and facilities are compatible with Refuge purposes and consistent with wildlife uses and management objectives; develop and implement strategies to eliminate non-compatible

situations.

- * Assess the need for and, where necessary, develop and adhere to visitor carrying capacities.
- * Convey to all visitors, highlights of the Refuges's contribution to fish and wildlife conservation as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- * Convey to all visitors that public use may be restricted on some parts of the Refuge because Refuges are primarily for wildlife.
- * Orient and guide all Refuge visitors with effective self-service signs.
- * Ensure that all visitor sites and facilities function effectively and are necessary, safe, welcoming and visually attractive.

OBJECTIVE: (B) Establish and maintain constituency support for Long Island wildlife and wildlife habitat protection and management emphasizing that local controls can protect wildlife habitat and serve other local needs as well.

OBJECTIVE: (B) Ascertain and evaluate school teachers' responses to teacher training workshops at Long Island Refuges.

OBJECTIVE: (C) Complete an architectural and engineering review of the Morton Refuge Visitor Center to develop and improve its use, appearance and overall deteriorated state.

OBJECTIVE: (C) Complete a concept plan for interpretive displays, exhibits and educational programs that focus on Long Island Refuge messages and related management activities.

OBJECTIVE: (C) Provide adequate Refuge access for disabled visitors (where feasible) to convey the station message.

OBJECTIVE: (C) Initiate entrance fee programs at Target Rock and Morton Refuges.

OBJECTIVE: (C) Convey the Oyster Bay Refuge station message to all boaters and adjacent property owners using the Bay.

OBJECTIVE: (D) Determine the feasibility of opening Seatuck Refuge to public use under a fee collection system.

GOAL VII OBJECTIVES: ACQUISITION AND PROTECTION OF ADDITIONAL HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE WILDLIFE RESOURCE.

OBJECTIVE: (A2) Stimulate wildlife habitat land protection actions by individuals, local and state agencies and private groups.

OBJECTIVE: (C) Increase USFWS land and easement holdings of important Long Island wildlife habitats.

GOAL VIII OBJECTIVES: MINIMAL LOSS OF HABITAT AND PROPERTY CAUSED BY WILDFIRE.

OBJECTIVE: (A2) Maintain current wildfire suppression and pre-suppression activities.

GOAL IX OBJECTIVES: COMPLIANCE WITH HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE PROTECTION LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

OBJECTIVE: (A2) Comply with historical/archaeological resource protection laws and regulations

OBJECTIVE: (C) Obtain H/A survey of Robinson Duck Farm site.

OBJECTIVE: (C) Obtain H/A survey of the Capone acquisition site at Oyster Bay.

OBJECTIVE: (C) Obtain H/A survey of the Sayville acquisition site.

GOAL X OBJECTIVES: EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF FUNCTIONS THAT SUPPORT RW OBJECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT.

OBJECTIVE: (A1) Obtain funds, equipment, volunteer help and other resources to supplement Refuge funds and staff.

OBJECTIVE: (A1) Clarify various USFWS legal authorities, jurisdictions, and restrictions.

OBJECTIVE: (A2) Ensure the health and safety of Refuge users, including staff.

OBJECTIVE: (A2/B) Periodically review, update and comply with written agreements established with other agencies and groups.

OBJECTIVE: (B) Provide adequate human resources to accomplish the objectives of this plan.

OBJECTIVE: (B) Limit boat moorings in Oyster Bay to a level that does not threaten Refuge qualities.

OBJECTIVE: (B/C) Implement recommendations from the 1990 safety inspection.

OBJECTIVE: (C) Enhance the cost-effectiveness, safety and efficiency of buildings and structures.

OBJECTIVE: (C) Develop a maintenance program, including adequate facilities and staff, to maintain the Long Island Complex.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

In this section the objectives are organized according to their respective categories. Strategies are added that provide guidance for the work needed to accomplish each objective.

CATEGORY A1 (INCLUDING SPECIAL PROJECTS)

ONGOING OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES THAT CANNOT STOP AND ARE BEING DONE ADEQUATELY WITH CURRENT STAFF AND FUNDS

These objectives are among the most important. Progress is being made toward their accomplishment because the current staff is able to implement related strategies using available resources. Work will continue in these areas under this plan.

All ten refuge goals are listed below, even though some do not have related objectives in this category.

Objective and strategies for two special projects are included at the end of this category. Work will not proceed on these projects unless specific Congressional funds are appropriated.

GOAL I. BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION BASE ON REFUGE RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE: Build and maintain an effective inventory containing current information on the distribution and abundance of wildlife, habitat types, plant communities and select invertebrate species on Long Island Refuges.

Strategies:

Implement the Refuge's 1990 wildlife inventory plan.

Supplement the 1990 wildlife inventory plan to include additional census techniques for inventorying other fauna, flora and select invertebrates not covered by the 1990 plan.

Develop and maintain an inventory of terrestrial and aquatic habitats on Refuge lands.

Develop and maintain a Geographic Information System (GIS) to include information pertinent to the management of wildlife at Long Island Refuges.

Acquire computer capability to support the Refuge wildlife and habitat inventory.

GOAL II. MAXIMUM USE OF USFWS LANDS TO RESTORE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Piping Plover

Roseate Tern

Sandplain Gerardia

State Protected Species

Sea Turtles

Peregrine Falcon

Bald Eagle

GOAL III. MAXIMIZE USE OF AVAILABLE HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE MIGRATORY BIRD RESOURCE.

WATERFOWL

Black Duck

Canvasback

Wood Duck

GRreater Scaup

OTHER MIGRATORY BIRDS

Terns

Osprey

Woodcock

Shorebirds

Wading Birds

Migratory Passerine Birds

Raptors

Upland Habitat Diversity

GOAL IV. HEALTHY POPULATIONS OF FISH SPECIES ON REFUGES

GOAL V. CONTAMINANT FREE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

GOAL VI. A PUBLIC THAT (1) VALUES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES, (2) UNDERSTANDS EVENTS AND ISSUES RELATED TO THESE RESOURCES, AND (3) ACTS TO PROMOTE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

GOAL VII. ACQUISITION AND PROTECTION OF ADDITIONAL HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE WILDLIFE RESOURCE.

GOAL VIII. MINIMAL LOSS OF HABITAT AND PROPERTY CAUSED BY WILDFIRE.

GOAL IX. COMPLIANCE WITH HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE PROTECTION LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

GOAL X. EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF FUNCTIONS THAT SUPPORT REFUGE OBJECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT.

OBJECTIVE: A1 Obtain funds, equipment, volunteer help and other resources to supplement Refuge funds and staff.

Strategies:

Encourage individuals and groups to contribute time and resources to Refuge projects.

Encourage establishment of refuge support groups such as "Friends of a Refuge Unit" or "Friends of The Refuge Visitor Center".

Develop and implement a group of roving volunteer interpreters at Target Rock Refuge.

OBJECTIVE: Clarify various USFWS legal authorities, jurisdictions, and restrictions.

Strategies:

(A1) Obtain a solicitor's opinion to clarify USFWS legal authority, jurisdiction and responsibility to restrict uses in the water column over bottoms owned by USFWS, especially in Oyster Bay.

(B) Obtain a solicitor's opinion on the proper distribution of funds collected by local authorities for boat moorings and beach access on Long Island Refuges.

(D) Obtain a solicitor's opinion on the Refuge Manager's responsibility to manage boat moorings at Squassex Landing.

SPECIAL PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Congressional funding is expected to be appropriated for planning and design of two Refuge visitor/education centers on Long Island; one at Wertheim Refuge and one at Oyster Bay Refuge. The following objectives and strategies will guide the initial stages of these projects. All work is contingent on obtaining Congressional funding.

WERTHEIM REFUGE VISITOR AND FISH AND WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER

OBJECTIVE: Finalize an agreement with Suffolk County for locating a visitor/education facility on the Robinson Duck Farm land.

Strategies:

Request that the Regional Office Division of Realty work with Suffolk County to finalize an agreement for Service use of the former Robinson land.

Assist Division of Realty personnel during their efforts to finalize an agreement with Suffolk County.

OBJECTIVE: Develop accurate and cost-effective plans, designs, cost estimates and construction contracts for the Wertheim Refuge Visitor/Fish and Wildlife Education Center.

Strategy:

Hire or contract with a landscape architect, or related expert, to manage development of the Center from initial planning through construction. (2-3 year position)

OBJECTIVE: Develop and implement an operational plan and related programs for the Wertheim Refuge Visitor/Fish and Wildlife Education Center that effectively and innovatively conveys the Long Island Complex station message.

Strategy:

Hire a permanent Outdoor Recreation Planner to develop and ultimately manage the Wertheim Refuge Center, education and outreach programs.

OBJECTIVE: (A) Comply with the NEPA process and other permit requirements during construction of the Wertheim Refuge Visitor/Fish and Wildlife Education Center.

Strategy:

Hire a consultant to manage the NEPA process and obtain permits related to construction and operation of the Wertheim Center.

OYSTER BAY REFUGE FISH, WILDLIFE AND MARINE EDUCATION
CENTER

OBJECTIVE: Finalize an agreement with the Town of Oyster Bay for locating an education facility on the Capone property.

Strategies:

Request that the Regional Office Division of Realty work with the Town of Oyster Bay to finalize an agreement for Service use of the Capone land.

Assist Division of Realty personnel during their efforts to finalize an agreement with the Town of Oyster Bay.

OBJECTIVE: Develop accurate and cost-effective plans, designs, cost estimates and construction contracts for the Oyster Bay Refuge Fish, Wildlife and Marine Education Center.

Strategy:

Hire or contract with a landscape architect, or related expert, to manage development of the Center from initial planning through construction. (2-3 year position)

OBJECTIVE: Develop and implement an operational plan and related programs for the Oyster Bay Refuge Fish, Wildlife and Marine Education Center that effectively and innovatively conveys station messages for Oyster Bay and Target Rock Refuges.

Strategy:

Hire a permanent Outdoor Recreation Planner or Education Specialist to develop and ultimately manage the Oyster Bay Refuge Center, education and outreach programs.

OBJECTIVE: Comply with the NEPA process and other permit requirements during construction of the Oyster Bay Refuge Fish, Wildlife and Marine Education Center.

Strategy:

Hire a consultant to manage the NEPA process and obtain permits related to construction and operation of the Oyster Bay Refuge Center.

CATEGORY A2

HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES THAT ARE ONGOING BUT ARE NOT BEING ACCOMPLISHED ADEQUATELY WITH CURRENT STAFF AND FUNDS

The objectives and strategies in this category are very important and do receive some management attention. However, the Refuge Manager does not have sufficient human resources or funds to accomplish these objectives within his desired time frame. If additional staff or funds were provided these are the areas to which they would most likely be directed.

All ten refuge goals are listed below, even though some do not have related objectives in this category.

GOAL I. BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION BASE ON REFUGE RESOURCES

GOAL II. MAXIMUM USE OF USFWS LANDS TO RESTORE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Piping Plover

OBJECTIVE: Maximize piping plover production at, and in the vicinity of Morton, Seatuck, Target Rock and Oyster Bay Refuges consistent with the Atlantic Coast Piping Plover Recovery Plan.

Strategies:

Assess the impact of predation on piping plover production.

Control predation in areas having piping plover nesting potential where predation is a problem.

Assess the potential to establish protected plover habitat on lands in the vicinity of Refuges.

Provide adequate law enforcement actions to protect piping plovers from public disturbance on Refuge lands.

Roseate Tern

OBJECTIVE: Maintain or increase the quality and quantity of habitat available to roseate terns on Refuges and adjacent lands.

Strategies:

Assess the impacts of disturbance by predators on roseate tern use of Refuge lands.

Control the actions of predators, where appropriate, in areas having roseate tern nesting potential.

Assess the potential to establish roseate tern habitat on non-Refuge land in the vicinity of Long Island Refuges.

Provide adequate law enforcement actions to protect roseate terns from disturbance on Refuge lands.

Sandplain gerardia

OBJECTIVE: Perpetuate the Sandplain gerardia population that occurs on the Sayville land acquisitions.

Strategies:

Comply with the Sandplain gerardia Recovery Plan.

Monitor the distribution and abundance of Sandplain gerardia at the Sayville land acquisitions.

Seek habitat and population management guidance from the sandplain gerardia recovery team and other authorities.

Seek funding and guidance for the protection of the Sayville tract from inappropriate uses.

State Protected Species

Sea Turtles

GOAL III. MAXIMIZE USE OF AVAILABLE HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE MIGRATORY BIRD RESOURCE.

WATERFOWL

Black Duck

Canvasback

Wood Duck

Greater Scaup

OTHER MIGRATORY BIRDS

Terns

Osprey

Woodcock

Shorebirds

Wading Birds

Migratory Passerine Birds

Raptors

Upland Habitat Diversity

GOAL IV. HEALTHY POPULATIONS OF FISH SPECIES ON REFUGES

GOAL V. CONTAMINANT FREE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

OBJECTIVE: Remove or contain contaminants found on Long Island refuges.

Strategies:

Assist Fish and Wildlife Enhancement personnel with the monitoring of water, sediments and selected vertebrates.

Identify potential contaminant sites on Refuge lands.

GOAL VI. A PUBLIC THAT (1) VALUES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES, (2) UNDERSTANDS EVENTS AND ISSUES RELATED TO THESE RESOURCES, AND (3) ACTS TO PROMOTE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

OBJECTIVE: Implement the Refuge Public Use Management Plan that is based on accomplishment of the following generic objectives for public use management on Region Five Refuges:

- * Ensure that public use activities and facilities are compatible with Refuge purposes and consistent with wildlife uses and management objectives; develop and implement strategies to eliminate non-compatible situations.
- * Assess the need for and, where necessary, develop and adhere to visitor carrying capacities.
- * Convey to all visitors, highlights of the Refuges's contribution to fish and wildlife conservation as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- * Convey to all visitors that public use may be restricted on some parts of the Refuge because Refuges are primarily for wildlife.
- * Orient and guide all Refuge visitors with effective self-service signs.
- * Ensure that all visitor sites and facilities function effectively and are necessary, safe, welcoming and visually attractive.

Strategies:

Implement the actions and seek funding for projects proposed in the Long Island Refuges Public Use Plan.

GOAL VII. ACQUISITION AND PROTECTION OF ADDITIONAL HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE WILDLIFE RESOURCE.

OBJECTIVE: Stimulate wildlife habitat land protection actions by individuals, local and state agencies, and private groups.

Strategy:

Convey to landowners, private groups, local authorities and state land management agencies that their actions can complement Refuge land protection programs and directly influence the well-being of LI wildlife and wildlife habitats.

GOAL VIII. MINIMAL LOSS OF HABITAT AND PROPERTY CAUSED BY WILDFIRE.

OBJECTIVE: Maintain current wildfire suppression activities.

Strategy:

Develop and implement a wildfire suppression plan.

GOAL IX. COMPLIANCE WITH HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE PROTECTION LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

OBJECTIVE: Comply with historical/archaeological resource protection laws and regulations

Strategies:

Report any vandalism or looting of archaeological sites to the Regional Historic Preservation Officer (RHPO) and Regional law enforcement personnel, in compliance with the Antiquities Act and Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA).

Initiate RHPO review of all non-federal ground disturbing activities on the Complex, in compliance with the permitting provisions of the ARPA and the Antiquities Act.

Participate in the archaeological resource management survey program being conducted at R-5 refuges in compliance with Sec. 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Initiate RHPO review of any Service-proposed actions which could involve ground disturbance or impact upon historic architectural resources on the refuge, in compliance with Sec. 106 of the NHPA.

GOAL X. EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF FUNCTIONS THAT SUPPORT REFUGE OBJECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT.

OBJECTIVE: Ensure the health and safety of Refuge users, including staff.

Strategies:

Assess and remedy safety and health hazards that arise on Long Island Refuges.

Secure funding for, and implement, Lyme Disease testing of all Refuge staff, SCA volunteers and family members living in Refuge housing.

Procure and post tick warning signs at Refuges.

OBJECTIVE: Periodically review, update and comply with written agreements established with other agencies and groups.

Strategies:

Comply with, and update as necessary, the following agreements:

- Re~~Augen~~modate an Enhancement field station at Seatuck
- Accommodate a Law Enforcement Office and living quarters at Target Rock Refuge.
- Maintain the Seatuck Refuge north boundary fence and entrance gate.
- Honor Mr. Webster's five acre life estate at Seatuck Refuge.
- Allow vector control agencies to apply nonchemical mosquito control techniques at Seatuck and Wertheim Refuges.
- Comply with the deed stipulation to provide environmental education at the Wellington tract of Wertheim Refuge.
- Share in the maintenance of the Target Rock Refuge entrance road.
- Honor the Oyster Bay Refuge reverter clause that transfers land back to the Town of Oyster Bay if the USFWS allows construction on Refuge land.
- Honor the Environmental Defense Fund court decision prohibiting chemical control of mosquitos on all Dept. of Interior lands on Long Island, barring a threat to human health.

CATEGORY B

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES THAT ARE ONGOING AND SHOULD NOT STOP

The following objectives and strategies are receiving varying amounts of attention, albeit less than desired. Related work is responsive to a variety of factors such as being prerequisite to other important work, or having specific legal ramifications, Congressional interest or relationship to high Regional priorities. When available, additional staff and funds will be directed to some of these strategies.

All ten refuge goals are listed below, even though some do not have related objectives in this category.

GOAL I. BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION BASE ON REFUGE RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE: Establish and maintain an inventory of land uses on areas adjacent to Refuges.

Strategies:

Monitor land use trends on areas bordering Refuges.

GOAL II. MAXIMUM USE OF USFWS LANDS TO RESTORE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Piping Plover

Roseate Tern

Sandplain Gerardia

State Protected Species

Sea Turtles

GOAL III. MAXIMIZE USE OF AVAILABLE HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE MIGRATORY BIRD RESOURCE.

WATERFOWL

Black Duck

OBJECTIVE: Optimize black duck production on Refuges having nesting potential.

Strategies:

Document the current availability of, and potential for, black duck nesting at each Long Island Refuge.

Seek New York State approval for use of chemicals to eliminate phragmites from habitat having high black duck nesting potential.

Eliminate phragmites from potential black duck habitat via chemical, mechanical or other techniques.

Assess the impact of predators on black duck production on Long Island Refuges.

Control the actions of predators in areas having high black duck nesting potential.

Assess the impacts of human disturbance on black duck productivity.

Control public activities which impact black duck production.

OBJECTIVE: Optimize high quality migration and wintering habitat for black ducks.

Strategies:

Document the current availability of, and potential for, black duck migration and wintering habitats at each Long Island Refuge.

Control human disturbance on, and adjacent to, good quality black duck migration and wintering habitat.

Provide sanctuary areas for wintering and migrating black ducks.

Explore the potential to enhance the quality and quantity of wintering black duck food resources; implement feasible techniques.

Canvasback

OBJECTIVE: Provide high quality migration and wintering habitat for canvasbacks at Oyster Bay Refuge.

Strategies:

Document the current availability of, and potential for, canvasback migration and wintering habitat at Oyster Bay Refuge.

Control human disturbance on, and adjacent to, good quality canvasback migration and wintering habitat at Oyster Bay Refuge.

Provide sanctuary areas for wintering and migrating canvasback.

Explore and implement techniques to increase canvasback food resources.

Greater Scaup

OBJECTIVE: Provide high quality migration and wintering habitat for greater scaup at the Oyster Bay Refuge.

Strategies:

Document the current availability of, and potential for, greater scaup migration and wintering habitat at Oyster Bay Refuge.

Control human disturbance on, and adjacent to, good quality greater scaup migration and wintering habitat at Oyster Bay Refuge.

Provide sanctuary areas for wintering and migrating greater scaup.

Explore and implement techniques to increase greater scaup food resources.

Wood Duck

OBJECTIVE: Provide wood duck reproductive habitat.

Strategies:

Maintain at least 50% occupancy of wood duck nesting boxes at Wertheim Refuge.

Examine the need for additional wood duck nesting boxes at the Oyster Bay, Seatuck, Morton and Target Rock Refuges.

Protect trees with suitable nesting cavities at Long Island Refuges.

Maintain and enhance wood duck brood and post-breeding habitats at Long Island Refuges.

OTHER MIGRATORY BIRDS

Osprey

OBJECTIVE: Provide undisturbed osprey nesting sites on Refuges.

Strategies:

Assess proposals by other agencies and groups to construct osprey nesting platforms on Refuges.

Cooperate with other agencies and groups to construct osprey nesting platforms approved by the Refuge manager.

Terns

OBJECTIVE: Protect tern habitats on Refuges and adjacent lands.

Strategies:

Reestablish and maintain, through cooperation with local and interested groups, nesting colonies of tern species at islands and other locales where they historically nested.

Cooperate with local and other interests to protect tern habitats from human disturbances, predation losses, development impacts and other threats.

Woodcock

Shorebirds

Wading Birds

Migratory Passerine Birds

Raptors

Upland Habitat Diversity

GOAL IV. HEALTHY POPULATIONS OF FISH SPECIES ON REFUGES

GOAL V. CONTAMINANT FREE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

OBJECTIVE: Develop and implement an Oyster Bay oil spill response plan.

Strategy:

Participate in the development of the Oyster Bay Harbor Management Plan.

GOAL VI. A PUBLIC THAT (1) VALUES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES, (2) UNDERSTANDS EVENTS AND ISSUES RELATED TO THESE RESOURCES, AND (3) ACTS TO PROMOTE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

OBJECTIVE: Establish and maintain constituency support for Long Island wildlife and wildlife habitat protection and management emphasizing that local controls can protect wildlife habitat and serve other local needs as well.

Strategies:

Identify constituent groups and interested individuals for each Refuge.

Seek out and establish contact with "atypical" groups such as Boards of Realtors, Chambers of Commerce and local/county land use control agencies and boards.

Inform constituents of USFWS plans and actions.

Establish and maintain contact with Island wide and Refuge specific news media people.

Establish and maintain communication with elected officials and their staffs.

Emphasize a public affairs function using Refuge staff.

OBJECTIVE: Ascertain and evaluate school teachers' responses to teacher training workshops at Long Island Refuges.

Strategy:

Request, through ARD-FWE, that Refuge and Long Island Sound Estuary Project education programs be evaluated by educators from the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay Estuary Programs.

GOAL VII. ACQUISITION AND PROTECTION OF ADDITIONAL HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE WILDLIFE RESOURCE.

GOAL VIII. MINIMAL LOSS OF HABITAT AND PROPERTY CAUSED BY WILDFIRE.

GOAL IX. COMPLIANCE WITH HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE PROTECTION LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

GOAL X. EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF FUNCTIONS THAT SUPPORT REFUGE OBJECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT.

OBJECTIVE: Implement recommendations from the 1990 safety inspection.

Strategies:

Develop and implement safety plans called for in the inspection report.

NOTE: Specific safety inspection recommendations are too numerous to list. Essentially all refuge buildings are old and burdened with safety deficiencies related to faulty electrical wiring, failing septic systems, asbestos, storage and structural problems to name a few. Efforts are being made to respond to these needs through development and implementation of safety plans. However, the magnitude of this task is overwhelming and may never be completed.

OBJECTIVE: Provide adequate human resources to accomplish the objectives of this plan.

Strategy:

Add the following positions to the currently approved staff of eleven:

- 1 Assistant Refuge Manager, for Morton, Conscience Point and Amagansett Refuges
- 2 Clerk Typist (Oyster Bay/Target Rock and Wertheim Refuges)
- 1 Permanent Biological Technician
- 1 Facilities Manager
- 2 Landscape Architect (contingent of Congressional funding for visitor/education centers)
- 1 Outdoor Recreation Planner
- 1 Environmental Education Specialist
- 2 Recreational Aids
- 1 Refuge Law Enforcement Officer
- 4 Maintenance Workers

OBJECTIVE: Limit boat moorings in Oyster Bay to a level that does not threaten Refuge qualities.

Strategy:

Determine the boat mooring capacity of Oyster Bay.

Renegotiate the MOU with the Town of Oyster Bay to better regulate boat moorings.

CATEGORY C

HIGH PRIORITY BUT CANNOT PROGRESS OR BEGIN WITHOUT ADDITIONAL STAFF AND FUNDS

These are important objectives and strategies but will receive little attention during the next three to five years unless priorities change to elevate their status. Additional staff or funds will not be directed to these strategies until those in Categories A and B have been accommodated.

All ten refuge goals are listed below, even though some do not have related objectives in this category.

GOAL I. BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION BASE ON REFUGE RESOURCES

GOAL II. MAXIMUM USE OF USFWS LANDS TO RESTORE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Piping Plover

Roseate Tern

Sandplain Gerardia

State Protected Species

OBJECTIVE: Protect New York State listed species indigenous to Long Island Refuges.

Strategies:

Document occurrence of state listed species on Long Island Refuges.

Cooperate with the New York Endangered Species Coordinator to plan and implement beneficial actions for state listed species when those actions are compatible and consistent with Refuge purposes and objectives.

Sea Turtles

GOAL III. MAXIMIZE USE OF AVAILABLE HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE MIGRATORY BIRD RESOURCE.

WATERFOWL

Black Duck

Canvasback

Wood Duck

Greater Scaup

OTHER MIGRATORY BIRDS

Osprey

Terns

Woodcock

OBJECTIVE: Implement woodcock production habitat management at Wertheim Refuge.

Strategies:

Develop and implement a Long Island Complex Woodcock Management Plan.

Maintain and create woodcock singing grounds and diurnal foraging habitat.

Shorebirds

OBJECTIVE: Protect available shorebird nesting habitat on Wertheim, Seatuck, Conscience Point, Morton, Target Rock and Oyster Bay Refuges and Lido Beach WMA.

Strategies:

Determine availability of shorebird nesting habitat on Wertheim, Seatuck, Conscience Point, Morton, Oyster Bay and Target Rock Refuges and Lido Beach WMA.

Manage high quality shorebird nesting habitats and protect nesting and territorial birds from disturbance by humans and pets during nesting and brooding rearing seasons.

OBJECTIVE: Protect shorebird migration habitat on all Long Island Refuges.

Strategies:

Determine locations of potential shorebird migration habitat at each Refuge.

Manage high quality shorebird migration habitat and protect migrating birds from human disturbance.

Wading Birds

OBJECTIVE: Protect and manage breeding colony sites and other necessary habitats for wading birds.

Strategies:

Maintain Refuge staff awareness of wading bird colonies on Long Island.

Control human disturbance in the vicinity of Refuge colonies.

Encourage other agencies to control human disturbance in the vicinity of colonies under their control.

Manage suitable Refuge lands as foraging and breeding habitats for wading birds.

Migratory Passerine Birds

OBJECTIVE: Manage Refuge habitats to provide a diversity of breeding and migration habitats that support passerine and other migratory birds.

Strategies:

Create and maintain diverse upland habitat types, including stands of large mature forest, at the Wertheim Refuge.

Maintain grasslands and permit the maturation of forest stands at Conscience Point, Morton, Seatuck and Target Rock Refuges.

Maintain and enhance wetland and beach habitats on Refuge lands.

Raptors

Upland Habitat Diversity

OBJECTIVE: Maintain a diversity of upland wildlife habitats such as forest openings, various forest growth stages, grasslands, shrubs and ecotones that support migratory birds and other wildlife species at Long Island Refuges.

Strategies:

Apply management techniques that will perpetuate a diversity of upland habitats at Wertheim, Seatuck, Morton, Conscience Point and Target Rock Refuges.

Monitor the size and condition of the white-tailed deer herd and its impact on vegetation at Amagansett, Conscience

Point, Morton, Seatuck and Wertheim Refuges.

Reduce white-tailed deer herds to levels consistent with habitat carrying capacity at Refuges where they are retarding habitat diversity, impacting forest succession or negatively impacting rare flora.

GOAL IV. HEALTHY POPULATIONS OF FISH SPECIES OF REFUGES

OBJECTIVES: Maintain the diversity of fish species indigenous to Long Island Refuge, manage Refuge aquatic habitats to maintain abundant populations of forage fish for piscivorous wildlife, and promote recreational angling when and where it is compatible with Refuge purposes and consistent with Refuge objectives.

Strategies:

Obtain a solicitor's opinion clarifying Refuge jurisdiction within the water column over Refuge owned bottoms.

Seek fishery management guidance from the Service's Office of Fishery Assistance and from other appropriate sources.

Manage Refuge owned riparian habitats to benefit fish communities.

Cooperate with NYDEC Fishery Management personnel and programs.

Prepare and implement a plan for managing fish communities in Refuge impoundments.

Comply with fishing strategies in the Refuge Public Use Management Plan.

GOAL V. CONTAMINANT FREE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

GOAL VI. A PUBLIC THAT (1) VALUES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES, (2) UNDERSTANDS EVENTS AND ISSUES RELATED TO THESE RESOURCES, AND (3) ACTS TO PROMOTE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

OBJECTIVE: Complete an architectural and engineering review of the Morton Refuge Visitor Center to develop and improve its use, appearance and overall deteriorated state.

Strategies:

Request that the Regional Office of Engineering provide either an engineering review of the Morton Refuge visitor contact station, or cost estimates for having a consultant conduct such a review.

Obtain funding necessary to complete the work proposed by the engineering review.

OBJECTIVE: Complete a concept plan for interpretive displays, exhibits and educational programs that focus on Long Island Refuge messages and related management activities.

Strategies:

Develop a funding proposal for a consultant to write an interpretation/education concept for the LI Refuges

or

Host a team of Region Five Outdoor Recreation Planners who would visit the Refuge for the purpose of assisting the Refuge ORP with development of an interpretation/education concept.

OBJECTIVE: Provide adequate Refuge access for disabled visitors (where feasible) to convey the station message.

Strategies:

Improve accessibility for the disabled at the Morton and Target Rock Refuges.

Ensure restrooms and trails meet standards for visitors with disabilities.

OBJECTIVE: Convey the Oyster Bay Refuge station message to all boaters and adjacent property owners using the Bay.

Strategies:

Implement the Sea Grant Oyster Bay public education program.

Obtain funds to implement the Sea Grant education program.

OBJECTIVE: Initiate entrance fee programs at Target Rock and Morton Refuges.

Strategies:

Implement programs when funds become available.

Assess fee collection programs annually.

GOAL VII. ACQUISITION AND PROTECTION OF ADDITIONAL HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE WILDLIFE RESOURCE.

OBJECTIVE: Increase USFWS land and easement holdings of important Long Island wildlife habitats.

Strategies:

Acquire 200 acres of adjacent County land north of the Wertheim Refuge known as the Robinson Duck Farm and the Brookhaven Associates land.

Acquire the National Audubon Society's Scully Sanctuary adjacent to the Seatuck Refuge.

Recommend high priority acquisition sites based on the areas surveyed by the Long Island Estuary Program.

Recommend acquisition of federally owned Calverton wetlands/pine barrens complex.

GOAL VIII. MINIMAL LOSS OF HABITAT AND PROPERTY CAUSED BY WILDFIRE.

GOAL IX. COMPLIANCE WITH HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE PROTECTION LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

OBJECTIVE: Obtain H/A survey of Robinson Duck Farm site.

Strategy:

Request guidance and assistance from the Regional Historic Preservation Officer.

OBJECTIVE: Obtain H/A survey of the Capone acquisition site at Oyster Bay.

Strategy:

Request guidance and assistance from the Regional Historic Preservation Officer.

OBJECTIVE: Obtain H/A survey of the Sayville acquisition site.

Strategy:

Request guidance and assistance from the Regional Historic Preservation Officer.

GOAL X. EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF FUNCTIONS THAT SUPPORT REFUGE OBJECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT.

OBJECTIVE: Enhance the cost-effectiveness, safety and efficiency of buildings and structures.

Strategies:

Prepare and implement a building/structure utilization plan that identifies:

- Administrative office space needs.

- Housing needs for current and projected staff and the existing buildings to be used for housing.
- Building needs for public use and the existing buildings that will be used for public use.
- Building needs for storage and the existing buildings that will be used for storage.
- Building needs for maintenance and the existing buildings that will be used for maintenance.
- Schedule for removal of existing buildings and structures that do not serve Refuge functions.
- Costs to convert existing buildings to other uses and to remove excess buildings.
- Legal constraints that prevent conversion or removal of existing buildings.

Remove buildings and structures that serve no Refuge function.

Rehabilitate usable buildings and structures.

OBJECTIVE: Develop a maintenance program, including adequate facilities and staff, to maintain the Long Island Complex.

Strategy:

Equip and staff, with two maintenance workers, a mobile maintenance vehicle to conduct routine maintenance according to a schedule such as:

Morton/Conscience Pt.	2-3 days/wk
Seatuck	2 days/wk
Target Rock/Oyster Bay	1-2 days/wk

CATEGORY D

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES THAT CAN WAIT

The following objectives and strategies will not be implemented in the foreseeable future. It is unrealistic to anticipate sufficient increases in staff or funds to allow work in these areas.

All ten refuge goals are listed below, even though some do not have related objectives in this category.

GOAL I. BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION BASE ON REFUGE RESOURCES

GOAL II. MAXIMUM USE OF USFWS LANDS TO RESTORE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Piping Plover

Roseate Tern

Sandplain Gerardia

State Protected Species

Sea Turtles

OBJECTIVE: Protect sea turtles which use Refuge habitats.

Strategies:

Document sea turtle use on Long Island Refuges.

Assist ongoing sea turtle research efforts on Long Island.

GOAL III. MAXIMIZE USE OF AVAILABLE HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE MIGRATORY BIRD RESOURCE.

WATERFOWL

Black Duck

Canvasback

Wood Duck

Greater Scaup

OTHER MIGRATORY BIRDS

Osprey

Terns

Woodcock

Shorebirds

Wading Birds

Migratory Passerine Birds

Raptors

OBJECTIVE: Provide nesting habitat for raptors indigenous to Long Island.

Strategies:

Manage forested areas to produce suitable nest cavities and mature trees.

Install predator guards at select sites having potential for raptor nesting. Install nest boxes for cavity nesting raptors if required.

OBJECTIVE: Provide foraging habitat for migrating falcons and other accipiters.

Strategies:

Maintain fields suitable as foraging habitat for migrating falcons and other accipiters at Wertheim, Seatuck and Conscience Point Refuges.

Upland Habitat Diversity

GOAL IV. HEALTHY POPULATIONS OF FISH SPECIES OF REFUGES

GOAL V. CONTAMINANT FREE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

GOAL VI. A PUBLIC THAT (1) VALUES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES, (2) UNDERSTANDS EVENTS AND ISSUES RELATED TO THESE RESOURCES, AND (3) ACTS TO PROMOTE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

OBJECTIVE: Determine the feasibility of opening Seatuck Refuge to public use under a fee collection system.

Strategy:

Develop a specific public use management program for Seatuck Refuge.

GOAL VII. ACQUISITION AND PROTECTION OF ADDITIONAL HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE WILDLIFE RESOURCE.

GOAL VIII. MINIMAL LOSS OF HABITAT AND PROPERTY CAUSED BY WILDFIRE.

GOAL IX. COMPLIANCE WITH HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE PROTECTION LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

GOAL X. EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF FUNCTIONS THAT SUPPORT RW OBJECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT.

INFORMATION NEEDS

The planning team identified the following needs for information that will enhance the Refuge Managers ability to make anticipated management decisions. No specific actions are proposed for obtaining this information. The list will be used to guide individuals, education institutions and others desiring to do research related work on Long Island Refuges.

Impact caused by urbanization and resulting habitat isolation of Refuges.

Status and population trend of Refuge reptiles and amphibians.

How to effectively respond to oil and hazardous material spills and to rehabilitate oiled and impacted wildlife.

Visitor use statistics - including boating population at Oyster Bay and Wertheim.

Impact caused by recreational boating in Oyster Bay and the Wertheim Refuges.

Determine the effectiveness of each component of the Refuge's fish and wildlife education program.

Potential demand for uses of the Long Island and Oyster Bay visitor/education centers.

Impact to Refuge fish, wildlife and habitats caused by alteration to, and activities in, Refuge watersheds.

Positive and negative impacts from various Open Marsh Water Management techniques.

Impacts caused by shellfishing at the Oyster Bay Refuge.

MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

This section of the Station Management Plan draws conclusions from analysis of all objectives and strategies and presents them as the management direction to be pursued. It also identifies management needs that cannot be implemented unless current priorities change or additional staff and/or funds become available to the Long Island Refuges. Objectives that simply cannot be addressed during the 3-5 year time frame of this plan are also noted.

The first discussion of management direction deals with special projects related to planning and design work for major visitor/education facilities proposed for Wertheim and Oyster Bay Refuges.

All other guidance in the Management Program is consistent with the Assistant Regional Director's ten refuge management Goals:

- I. AN UP-TO-DATE BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION BASE ON REFUGE RESOURCES
- II. MAXIMUM USE OF FWS LANDS TO RESTORE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES
- III. MAXIMUM USE OF AVAILABLE HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE MIGRATORY BIRD RESOURCE
- IV. HEALTHY POPULATIONS OF FISH SPECIES ON REFUGES
- V. CONTAMINANT FREE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES
- VI. A PUBLIC THAT, 1) VALUES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES, 2) UNDERSTANDS EVENTS AND ISSUES RELATED TO THESE RESOURCES, AND 3) ACTS TO PROMOTE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
- VII. ACQUISITION AND PROTECTION OF ADDITIONAL HABITAT TO PERPETUATE THE WILDLIFE RESOURCE
- VIII. MINIMAL LOSS OF HABITAT AND PROPERTY CAUSED BY WILDFIRE
- IX. COMPLIANCE WITH HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE PROTECTION LAWS AND REGULATIONS
- X. EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF FUNCTIONS THAT SUPPORT RW OBJECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT

In previous sections of this plan objectives were grouped within the following categories:

- A1 ONGOING OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES THAT CANNOT STOP AND ARE BEING DONE ADEQUATELY WITH CURRENT STAFF AND FUNDS
- A2 HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES THAT ARE ONGOING BUT ARE NOT BEING ACCOMPLISHED ADEQUATELY WITH CURRENT STAFF AND FUNDS
- B OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES THAT ARE ONGOING AND SHOULD NOT STOP
- C HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES THAT CANNOT PROGRESS OR BEGIN WITHOUT ADDITIONAL STAFF AND FUNDS

D OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES THAT CAN WAIT

The Refuge Manager will allocate most Refuge staff time and funds toward accomplishing objectives from Categories A1 and A2. Three to five year management direction related to these objectives is given under the heading Primary Management Emphasis. Work on Category B objectives, Secondary Management Emphasis, will be influenced by changes in priority and by the demands placed on management resources to accomplish Category A objectives.

Work on Category C and D objectives, Minimal Management Emphasis, will probably not be significant during the next 3-5 years.

The summaries that follow are based on the objectives and strategies found on pages 30-55. The reader must be familiar with them to fully appreciate the management direction that follows. Descriptions of each category, and its objectives and strategies are found on the following pages:

Category A1	Page.....30
Category A2	Page.....35
Category B	Page.....40
Category C	Page.....46
Category D	Page.....53

SPECIAL PROJECTS: VISITOR/EDUCATION CENTERS AT WERTHEIM AND OYSTER BAY REFUGES

Primary Management Emphasis

The Refuge will provide general information in support of legislation related to proposed funding for visitor/education centers at Wertheim and/or Oyster Bay Refuges. Interaction with the Congressional delegation and Congressional staffs will continue. Formal planning and design work requiring engineering and other specialized expertise will not proceed until Congress appropriates related funds.

Secondary Management Emphasis

The Refuge Manager will continue to respond to inquiries about these facilities.

Minimal Management Emphasis

None

GOAL 1 DATA MANAGEMENT

Primary Management Emphasis

A wildlife inventory plan for the Long Island Refuges was approved in 1990 and has since been upgraded to reflect

additional census techniques for inventorying other fauna. The Refuge staff is proceeding with implementation of this plan and refining techniques used to collect, manage and process data. The data base will be computerized.

This is one of the Refuge's highest priorities because effective habitat and wildlife population management decisions cannot be made in the absence of current and accurate wildlife and habitat information.

Secondary Management Emphasis

The Refuge data base will be supplemented with documentation of land uses in the vicinity of each refuge that have the potential to influence the status or condition of refuge wildlife and/or habitat.

Minimal Management Emphasis

None

GOAL II THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Primary Management Emphasis

Piping Plover and Roseate Tern

Management of T&E wildlife will focus on piping plovers and roseate terns.

Actions to minimize human caused disturbance at sites where roseate terns feed and roost will be attempted.

Management for both species will emphasize reduction of human disturbances and losses due to predation. Reduction of human disturbance requires closing sensitive areas to public access and educating people about curtailing behavior that could disturb plovers and terns. Lack of sufficient manpower will curtail the effectiveness of these activities.

Sandplain Gerardia

The endangered plant, Sandplain gerardia, will be partially protected through the transfer of former FAA owned habitat in the Sayville area to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Refuge lacks sufficient human resources to provide full protection for these plants.

Secondary Management Emphasis

None

Minimal Management Emphasis

Efforts to protect species that are listed by the State of New York cannot be implemented unless additional staff and funds are made available.

No management program will be developed for protecting or studying sea turtles that occasionally occur in waters adjacent to Long Island Refuges.

GOAL III MIGRATORY BIRDS

Primary Management Emphasis

None

Secondary Management Emphasis

Black Duck

The potential for black duck nesting on Long Island Refuges will be determined as black duck and habitat information is collected and analyzed through implementation of the wildlife inventory plan. If the potential is high, responsive management plans will be developed and funding will be sought to implement them.

The potential for each Long Island Refuge to support migrating and wintering black ducks will be determined. Management plans will be developed for refuges having good potential. These plans will generate funding proposals for management actions focussing on enhancing the sanctuary and habitat values of these areas.

Canvasback

Wildlife data will be collected and analyzed to determine the potential use of Oyster Bay as a migration and wintering area for canvasback ducks. If the potential is high funding will be sought to develop and implement programs to enhance the sanctuary and waterfowl food source values of the Bay. Wildlife education directed at Oyster Bay users would also be increased.

Greater Scaup

Wildlife data will be collected and analyzed to determine the potential use of Oyster Bay as a migration and wintering area for greater scaup. If the potential is high funding will be sought to develop and implement programs to enhance the sanctuary and waterfowl food source values of the Bay. Wildlife education directed at Oyster Bay users would also be increased.

Wood Duck

If additional staff or volunteer time becomes available effort will be directed to better management of wood duck boxes at Wertheim Refuge. The need for additional boxes at Oyster Bay, Seatuck, Morton and Target Rock Refuges will also be determined. Additional staff and funds will be required to acquire, install and maintain boxes at these refuges.

Terns

Refuge staff will seek to establish cooperative volunteer programs with State, local and interested groups to reestablish and maintain tern colonies on islands where these birds historically nested.

Osprey

Refuge staff will seek to establish cooperative volunteer programs with State, local and interested groups to construct and maintain osprey nesting platforms at refuge locations where these birds may establish nests.

Other Migratory Birds

Programs for the management of woodcock, shorebirds, wading birds, migratory passerine species and upland habitat diversity will not be developed or implemented until significant increases in refuge staffing and funding are obtained for these purposes.

Minimal Management Emphasis

No efforts will be made to increase or enhance nesting or feeding habitat specifically for raptors, other than osprey.

GOAL IV FISH

Primary Management Emphasis

None

Secondary Management Emphasis

None

Minimal Management Emphasis

Management actions to benefit Refuge fish populations are contingent on additional staff and funds. When related management resources become available, refuge waters will be studied to determine the potential for enhancing fish populations as a food source for migratory birds and to improve opportunities for recreational fishing.

GOAL V CONTAMINANT FREE REFUGES

Primary Management Emphasis

Refuge staff will provide assistance to the Service's Fish and Wildlife Enhancement personnel in their efforts to monitor contaminants on or in the vicinity of Long Island Refuges.

When contaminants are found on refuges the Refuge Manager will initiate action through the Regional Contaminants

Specialist to have them removed or contained.

Secondary Management Emphasis

If adequate staff time becomes available the Assistant Refuge Manager at Oyster Bay Refuge will become more active in work related to the Oyster Bay Harbor Management Plan. An oil spill plan will be developed for increasing the Assistant Refuge Manager's role in the cleanup of spills in Oyster Bay.

Minimal Management Emphasis

None

GOAL VI PUBLIC ACTION TO SUPPORT REFUGE PROGRAMS

Primary Management Emphasis

A comprehensive Public Use Management Plan for the Long Island refuges was approved in 1990. It provides guidance for all aspects of the current public use program and proposes funding needs to upgrade and enhance the effectiveness of this program. Public use management will focus on implementing this plan.

Secondary Management Emphasis

If additional funds and staff time become available for public use work they will be used to increase the size and effectiveness of refuge support groups. Emphasis will be to increase refuge visibility and build support from local chambers of commerce, elected officials and news media.

Attempts will also be made to ascertain the effectiveness of teacher training workshops conducted on Long Island refuges.

Planning will proceed for entrance fee collection at Target Rock and Morton Refuges.

Minimal Management Emphasis

No effort will be made to upgrade visitor facilities at Morton Refuge unless specific funds can be obtained for that purpose.

A specific public use program for Seatuck Refuge will not be developed during the 3-5 year time frame of this Station Management Plan.

GOAL VII ACQUISITION OR OTHER PROTECTION OF ADDITIONAL HABITAT

Primary Management Emphasis

The Refuge staff will strive to stimulate local level and private groups to increase their actions related to wildlife

habitat protection through land and easement acquisition and local level land use controls. This will be done through direct interaction with local level and regional groups.

Secondary Management Emphasis

Progress will be made toward acquisition of the 200 acre Robinson Duck Farm or the National Audubon Scully Sanctuary.

The Refuge will continue to provide land protection recommendations to the Long Island Estuary Program.

The Refuge may seek transfer of the Calverton/pine barrens complex to the Service.

Minimal Management Emphasis

None

GOAL VIII MINIMAL LOSS FROM WILDFIRE

Primary Management Emphasis

Current wildfire suppression agreements will be maintained.

Formal wildfire suppression plans will be developed and implemented for individual refuges.

Secondary Management Emphasis

None

Minimal Management Emphasis

None

GOAL IX HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Primary Management Emphasis

Vandalism or looting of historic or archaeological sites will be reported to the Regional Historic Preservation Officer (RHPO) and Law Enforcement.

The Refuge Manager will assure that ground disturbing projects on Refuge lands are reviewed by the RHPO prior to commencement of work.

Refuge staff will assist the RHPO with historic or archaeological resource surveys on Refuge lands and on Long Island land proposed for protection by the Service.

Secondary Management Emphasis

The Refuge Manager will assist with obtaining funds for historic and archaeological resource surveys on lands proposed for acquisition by the Service.

Minimal Management Emphasis

None

GOAL X EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION

Primary Management Emphasis

In spite of the overwhelming backlog of safety deficiencies at numerous old buildings, the health and safety of refuge staff and visitors will be a high priority. Efforts to remedy hazards will continue and all refuge workers will be tested for, and protected from, Lyme disease.

Continuous efforts will be made to obtain funds, equipment, volunteer time and other resources to supplement Refuge funds and staff. Interaction with Refuge support groups will be a key to the effectiveness of this work.

Solicitor opinions will be obtained to clarify various Refuge legal authorities, jurisdictions and restrictions. Specific areas to be clarified include jurisdiction to restrict uses in the water column of Oyster Bay, proper distribution of funds collected for boat moorings and beach access at Long Island Refuges, and responsibilities to manage Squassex Landing boat moorings.

Written agreements that have been established with other agencies and groups will be periodically reviewed and updated if necessary.

Secondary Management Emphasis

Continuous effort will be placed on recruiting high quality personnel to fill approved personnel vacancies.

In addition approval and funding will be sought to add new positions that are required before many of the secondary, and all of the minimum, management actions proposed in this plan can be addressed. Sixteen new positions are identified under the human resource objective of this plan.

A plan for the rehabilitation and use, or removal, of refuge buildings will not be developed or implemented during the 3-5 year time frame of this Station Management Plan unless additional funding is obtained for this purpose.

An adequate and mobile maintenance program will not be developed or implemented for the Long Island Refuges during the 3-5 year time frame of this Station Management Plan unless additional funding is obtained for this purpose.

Minimal Management Emphasis

None