U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge

Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment

April 2012

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mission Statement
The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission Statement
The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.
-National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997

Comprehensive conservation plans provide long-term guidance for management decisions and set forth goals, objectives, and strategies needed to accomplish refuge purposes and identify the Service's best estimate of future needs. These plans detail program planning levels that are sometimes substantially above current budget allocations and, as such, are primarily for Service strategic planning and program prioritization purposes. The plans do not constitute a commitment for staffing increases, operational and maintenance increases, or funding for future land acquisition.

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Dear Reader:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to provide you with a copy of the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in the State of Texas. This plan identifies the role that the refuge will play in support of the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Wildlife Refuge System. It provides long-term guidance to the refuge's management programs and activities.

The plan was developed by an interdisciplinary planning team which evaluated three management alternatives and chose Alternative B as the proposed action. The Service believes this management action is a positive step in conserving and managing the refuge's fish and wildlife resources.

The Service would like to thank you for participating in the planning process. Comments you submitted helped us prepare a better plan for the future of the refuge.

Additional copies of this plan may be obtained by contacting the Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR, P.O. 519, Eagle Lake, TX 77434. The plan is also available on the Service's Internet website as follows:
http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/Plan/planindex.html

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our fish and wildlife conservation efforts.

Sincerely,

Benjamin N. Tuggle 4/27/12

Dr. Benjamin N. Tuggle, Regional Director — Date
U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Region 2

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COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ATTWATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Austin and Colorado Counties, Texas

Prepared by:
Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 519
Eagle Lake, TX 77434

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
Division of Planning
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

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COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL
For
Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, Austin and Colorado Counties, TX

The attached Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge has been prepared by Regional Office and Refuge staff. The contents and format are found to be in compliance with Service Policy on the preparation of Comprehensive Conservation Plans, and is hereby submitted for approval.

Submitted by:

Terry Rossignol, Refuge Manager
Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge

3/27/2012
Date

Monica Kimbrough, Natural Resource Planner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2

4/2/2012
Date

Concurrence by:

Kelly McDowell, Refuge Supervisor, TX/OK
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2

4/13/2012
Date

Aaron Archibeque, Regional Chief, NWR System
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2

4/20/12
Date

Approved by:

Dr. Benjamin N. Tuggle, Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2

4/27/12
Date

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