

Ravenswood Working Group (USFWS Presentation)



7 Refuges
Approximately 45,000 acres
Established to protect migratory birds, listed plants, animals and insects

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex

The complex includes the following refuges: San Pablo Bay NWR, Marin Islands NWR, Antioch Dunes NWR, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR, Ellicott Slough NWR, Salinas River NWR, and Farallon NWR. The map shows the geographical layout of these refuges along the California coast, with major cities like San Francisco, San Jose, and San Diego marked for reference.

National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997



- Establishes a strong and singular wildlife conservation mission for the Refuge System
- Requires that the Secretary of the Interior maintain the biological integrity, diversity and environmental health of the Refuge System

National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997

- Established in Law the Mission:
"The mission of the 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

- Requires completing CCPs for all refuges in the System
- Recognizes that wildlife-dependent recreational uses when determined to be compatible, are legitimate and appropriate public uses of the Refuge System

Wildlife-Dependent Recreational Uses



Hunting



Fishing



Wildlife Observation



Photography



Environmental Education



Interpretation

National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997

- Recognizes that these wildlife-dependent recreational uses are the priority general public uses of the Refuge System and should be encouraged when compatible
- Establishes a new process for determining compatible uses on refuges

Closed Until Open

The Code of Federal Regulations states

" . . . all areas included in the NWRS are closed to public access until and unless we open the area for a use or uses . . . "

What is a Compatible Use?

A proposed or existing use that, in the sound professional judgment of the Refuge manager, will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System or the purpose for which the refuge was established.

Factors Considered in Making a Compatibility Determination

- Impacts to Biological and other Refuge Resources
- Consistency with the Refuge Purpose and the Mission of the NWRS
- Potential for Conflicts Among Uses

Factors Considered in Making a Compatibility Determination

- Availability of Funding, Personnel and Facilities
- Public Safety
- Quality of the Experience

Is a Proposed Use Appropriate?

- The Refuge Improvement Act recognizes the 6 wildlife dependent public uses as appropriate
- New policy provides refuge managers with guidance for determining other appropriate uses