



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Seney National Wildlife Refuge

1674 Refuge Entrance Rd.

Seney, MI 49883

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Seeks Public Input on Future Management of Harbor Island, Huron and Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuges

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will be hosting open house events to request input from the public in developing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for islands in the Great Lakes that are managed as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. This announcement covers three island refuges in Lakes Huron, Michigan and Superior that are managed by the staff at Seney National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) located on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The island refuges are Harbor Island NWR (Lake Huron), Huron NWR (Lake Superior), and portions of Michigan Islands NWR (Hat, Shoe, Pismire, Gull Islands in Lake Michigan).

The CCP is a 15 year plan that identifies issues, goals, objectives, and a strategy for refuge management. Ultimately, CCP planning charts a course that best addresses the issues, fulfills the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and fulfills the mission and purpose of each refuge. Additionally, the plan provides neighbors and others a clear picture of what the Service intends to do in terms of managing habitat, protecting wildlife, and providing a place where people can enjoy wildlife-dependent activities.

Planning will begin with open house events. The event for Harbor Island NWR will be held at the Drummond Island Town Hall.

Drummond Island, Michigan
Thursday, July 23, 2009, 5-8 p.m.
Drummond Island Town Hall
Drummond Island, MI

Interested citizens may stop by any time during the open house, and stay as long as they wish, to speak with refuge/Service staff or submit comments. Comment forms will be made available so that written comments can be submitted in person or mailed in later. "We want to hear the public's ideas on management of Harbor Island" said Greg McClellan, acting refuge manager. "I hope everyone who is interested will attend and share their perspectives. These open houses provide an opportunity to identify areas of improvement, issues, or express support or non-

support of on-going management of the islands. These comments will form the basis for management alternatives to be evaluated in the CCP” said McClellan.

If someone cannot attend an open house and would like to submit written comments, they can be sent to Greg McCellan, Acting Refuge Manager, Seney NWR, 1674 Refuge Entrance Rd., Seney, MI 49883. Comments may also be sent through the Service’s Planning website at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/GreatLakesIslands>

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 150-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 550 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.