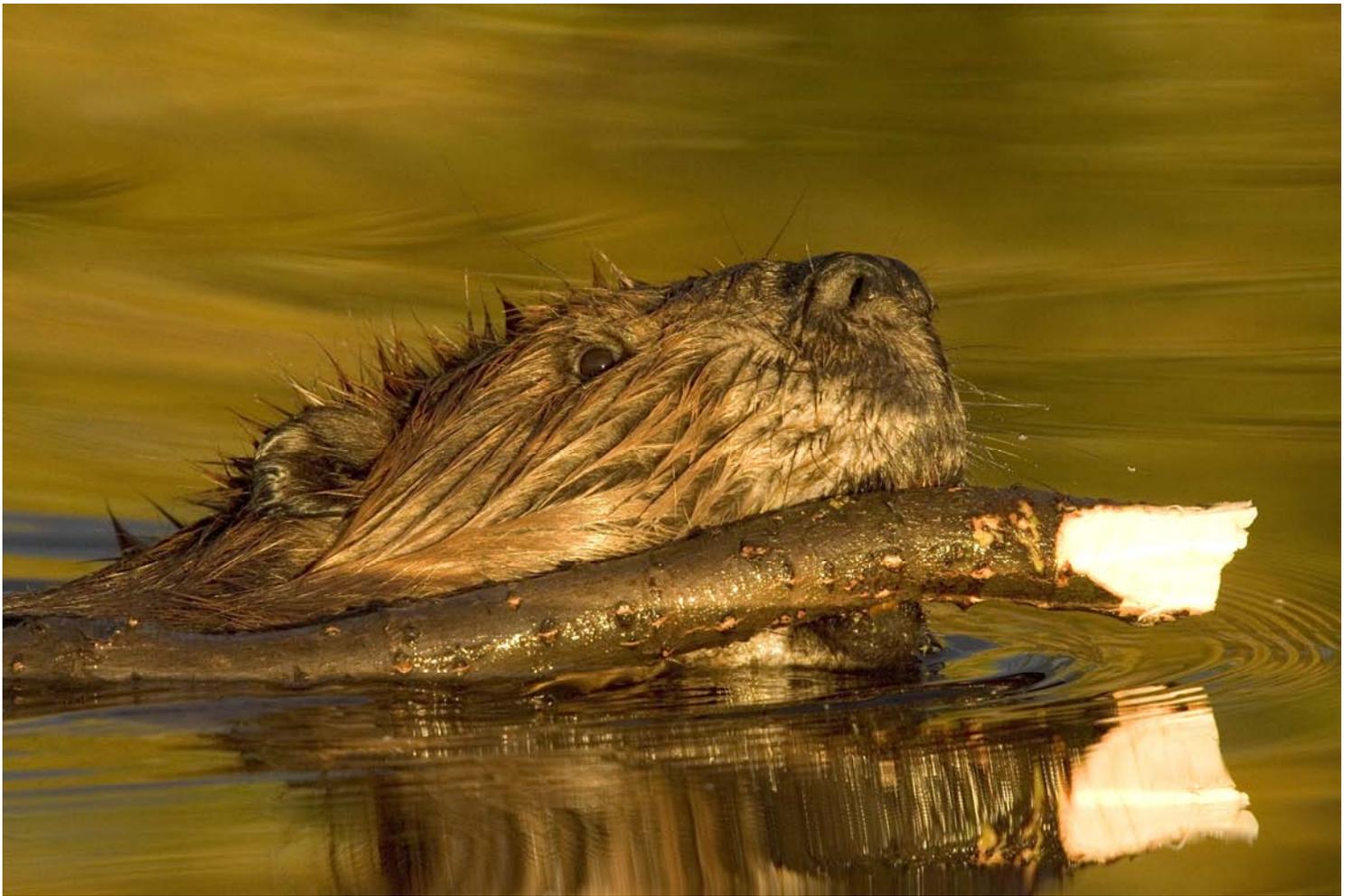




U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge



September 2008



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.



Refuge 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*

The comprehensive conservation plan details program planning levels that are substantially greater than current budget allocations and, as such, is for strategic planning and program prioritization purposes only. This plan does not constitute a commitment for staffing increases or funding for future refuge-specific land acquisitions, construction projects, or operational and maintenance increases.

Revised
Comprehensive Conservation Plan

for the

Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge

September 2008

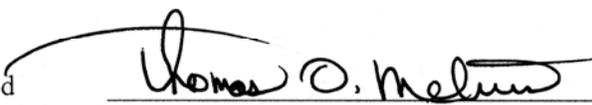
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United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Regional Office, National Wildlife Refuge System-Alaska
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Dear Reader:

This Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (plan) for Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge will guide management of the Refuge for the next 15 years. This plan provides a vision, goals, and objectives for future management of the refuge. It addresses the issues raised during public scoping and comments received during public review of the draft plan. Based upon comments received our management will be based on a modified Alternative C (Preferred Alternative) from the draft.

Comments received during public review of the draft plan and our responses to them are included in this document in Appendix N. The environmental assessment and draft plan are on file with our offices in Fairbanks and Anchorage.

Draft compatibility determinations for Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge were included in the draft revised comprehensive conservation plan and comments were accepted as part of the review of that plan. Our responses to comments on those draft compatibility determinations are also addressed in Appendix N. A discussion of compatibility determinations can be found in Appendix J, section 2.4. More information on the compatibility process and the complete text of each compatibility determination can be found at the refuge office or at <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/completed.htm>.

You may obtain a copy of the final plan, a summary, or a compact disk containing both at the offices listed below. You may also view the plan online at: <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/plans.htm>.

Requests for copies of the plan, CD-ROMs, or further information should be directed to:

Peter Wikoff, Planning Team Leader
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Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone: (907) 786-3357
Email: fw7_kanuti_planning@fws.gov

<http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/index.htm>

Requests for further information about the Refuge should be directed to:

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Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Phone: (907) 456-0329
Email: kanuti_refuge@fws.gov

<http://kanuti.fws.gov/>

Thank you for your interest

Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge

Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan



“Kk’oonootne” is the Koyukon Athabascan name that led to an early mapmaker assigning “Kanuti” to the Refuge’s namesake river. Kk’oonootne means “well-traveled river by both man and animals.” Another possible meaning is “fish roe river.” The Kanuti River has also been called “Old Man River.” Native place names and their meanings in Kanuti Refuge and the areas around the villages of Allakaket and Alatna were gathered by Koyukuk River resident and elder Eliza Jones in the late 1980’s and early 1990. Eliza Jones worked closely with then Refuge Information Technician Johnson B. Moses, an Allakaket elder with extensive local knowledge of Refuge resources. Place names used in this plan were based on their report (Jones and Arundale 1997). The translations of animal and plant names come from the Koyukon Athabascan language dictionary (Jetté and Jones, 2000). (Photo B. Raften, USFWS)

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the numerous people who helped with this document but were not listed as official preparers. Many were involved in editing specific sections or reading and commenting on the entire plan. Without their efforts, this plan would be a far inferior document.

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Michael Whalen, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Eliza Jones, Koyukon linguist

The tribes of Allakaket, Alatna, and Evansville

Glenn Stout, Galena Management Area Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Members of the public, agencies, and non-governmental organizations who attended scoping meetings and provided comments

And finally, all the Fish and Wildlife Service Employees, too numerous to thank individually and ranging geographically from Alaska to Washington, D.C., who provided comments and text.