

**Appendix H**  
**Preliminary Draft Goals and Objectives Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge**  
**December 5, 1996**



## **Biological Program**

- A. Conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity consistent with natural ecological processes.

A-1 Inventory and monitor wildlife populations on an annual basis as delineated in the Wildlife Inventory Plan consistent with funding, time, weather, equipment, etc.

A-2 Monitor bird populations annually using methods, including but not limited to Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) stations, Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas bird counts, and International Migratory Bird Day.

A-3 Monitor goose populations annually and continue to develop strategies for dealing with the declining populations of Interior white-fronted geese in conjunction with partners.

A-4 Complete the vegetation mapping project of Land Bank lands in cooperation with Gana-A' Yoo by the year 2000.

A-5 Develop a program for collecting baseline information at the level necessary to ensure the stability of wildlife populations, fish stocks, and their habitats within areas potentially affected by mining activities by the end of FY 1997. Implement the program as soon as possible.

A-6 Ensure that biological information about refuge resources is accessible to current and future staff and others by completing project reports within one year of termination of the project.

A-7 Enhance refuge GIS program as needed to accomplish refuge goals and objectives in cooperation with the Regional Office and partners.

A-8 Update and continue implementing the Refuge's fisheries management plans in conjunction with the Fisheries Resource Office within the next five years.

A-9 Develop partnerships with organizations such as the University of Alaska Fairbanks interested in looking at large-scale global pollution and environmental change by providing refuge sites and logistical support within the next five years. Refuge sites may provide ideal locations for collection of baseline data as well as long-term monitoring.

- B. Ensure the natural character, vigor, and species diversity of the boreal forest and tundra environments by perpetuating a fire regime both natural and prescribed, which maintains a mosaic of habitats native to interior Alaska.

B-1 Complete revision of the refuge fire management plans by June 1997.

B-2 Continue to cooperate with the Alaska Fire Service on management of wildland fires to ensure a natural fire regime on the Refuge and to protect life, property, and other resources.

B-3 Investigate, through annual meetings and personal contacts, the opportunities to use prescribed fire on or adjacent to the Refuge to restore the natural fire regime and to protect life, property, and other resources.

B-4 Continue public involvement and interagency involvement and interagency coordination to ensure communications and effective education about refuge fire management.

B-5 Continue the collection, analysis, and application of fire management information needed for sound management decisions as described in plans and technical reports.

C. Perpetuate the natural water regime on the Refuge with particular emphasis on ensuring water quality and quantity necessary to preserve aquatic habitats.

C-1 Work with the Water Resources Branch to investigate and acquire water rights on the Refuge within the next 10 years.

C-2 Work with the Water Resources Branch to investigate and complete navigability determinations on all refuge waterways within the next five years, and produce GIS maps of federal waters within the next 10 years.

C-3 Develop a program for collecting baseline information on water quality and quantity at the level necessary to detect potential changes from mining activities on the Kaiyuh Flats by the end of FY 1997. Implement the program as soon as possible.

### **Outreach and Education**

D. Provide information and maintain open communication for a greater understanding and appreciation of fish and wildlife ecology, habitat preservation, and refuge management that assists in addressing resource issues important to local residents, the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and others.

D-1 Conduct school programs and community meetings in each village at least once a year.

D-2 Continue to work with local school districts to develop teacher workshops on natural resource and refuge-related topics.

D-3 Continue to respond to requests from the public and other agencies for information about the Refuge.

D-4 Continue to work with partners to provide and develop education and outreach materials such as seasonal kiosks, displays, monthly radio programs, videotapes, and brochures.

D-5 Continue appropriate student internships and other employment opportunities for local youth to learn about refuge management and careers in natural resources.

### Public Use

E. Ensure that public uses are compatible with refuge purposes, goals, and mandates.

E-1 Meet with each special use permittee at least once a year to discuss provisions of their permit and related issues. Continue to inspect selected special use activities to ensure compliance with permit conditions.

E-2 Participate with local fish and game advisory committees, the federal regional subsistence council, and Federal Subsistence Board to facilitate information exchange and rule-making.

E-3 Continue to monitor public use and use this information to investigate potential conflicts and make management decisions.

E-4 Continue the annual hunter check station on the Nowitna River during the moose season.

E-5 Continue to identify public use data needs (such as harvest information and specific use areas) and develop programs to collect these data to facilitate effective refuge management.

E-6 Continue law enforcement activities as necessary throughout the year.

### Special Areas

F. Maintain the special values of the Nowitna Wild River and Koyukuk Wilderness.

F-1 Continue to monitor activities on the Nowitna Wild River and in the Koyukuk Wilderness for compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Wilderness Act, and ANILCA. If problems are detected, appropriate actions will be taken.

G. Understand and protect the cultural and paleontological resources of the Refuge.

G-1 Work with the regional archaeologist to determine appropriate special area designations for the Batza Tena obsidian source and the Palisades paleontological site by 1998.

G-2 Use appropriate management tools, such as fire management and law enforcement, to protect these cultural and paleontological sites by the end of FY 1997.

G-3 Investigate developing a stewardship program for the Batza Tena obsidian source with the village of Huslia during 1997.

G-4 Continue working with partners at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to develop a field school or other research program for the Palisades paleontological site by 1998.

### Administration

H. Provide and maintain adequate facilities and equipment to ensure a safe and secure working environment to accomplish refuge purposes, goals, and mandates.

H-1 Continue to investigate leasing or constructing a shop and warehouse complex that meets OSHA standards and provides security for refuge property in Galena.

H-2 Continue to investigate leasing or constructing suitable hangar facilities in Galena for three airplanes.

H-3 Maintain and upgrade quarters, bunkhouse, and administrative cabins to provide safe and secure living accommodations for employees in subarctic conditions.

I. Ensure that Refuge has adequate personnel to meet operational needs.

I-1 Continue and enhance the refuge volunteer program.

I-2 Hire a permanent GIS/computer specialist during FY 1997 to support refuge operations. This position could serve the Selawik Refuge as well as the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge.

I-3 Add a permanent fire ecologist and a permanent fisheries biologist to the refuge staff before FY 2000. These positions would also serve the Innoko and Selawik refuges.