



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning
MAILSTOP 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 25486, DFC
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

STREET LOCATION:
134 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

RECEIVED

OCT 05 2012

Ravalli County Commissioners

Large
Book on
Glenda's
Counter.

SEP 14 2012

--	--	--	--	--	--

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is your copy of the final and summary of the *Comprehensive Conservation Plan* (Plan) for Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge (refuge). This Plan describes the vision for the future, as well as the management goals and objectives in the areas of wildlife and habitat management, monitoring and research, cultural resources, wildlife-dependent recreation, partnerships, and refuge operations. This plan will guide management of the refuge for the next 15 years.

Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge, encompassing 2,800 acres, is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The refuge is located in the Bitterroot Valley of southwest Montana in Ravalli County, 25 miles south of Missoula. The refuge is located within the floodplain of the Bitterroot River, which flows along the refuge's western boundary. The overriding purpose of the refuge is to provide habitat for migratory birds such as waterfowl, shorebirds, grassland-dependent birds, and raptors. The refuge is also an important place for the public to learn about the unique resources of the refuge and the surrounding Bitterroot Valley along with the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Plan is also available for download or viewing on the Service's website at: <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/planning>. The Service would like to thank all the people who participated in the planning and public involvement process. The substantive comments submitted helped us prepare a better Plan for the future of this unique refuge.

Sincerely,

David Lucas
Chief, Division of Refuge Planning