

If adopted, the expansion will help meet the objectives of the Blueprint by protecting the hydrology of the swamp and advancing species recovery. The expanded lands may also offer priority public uses such as hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, and education to the more than 400,000 annual visitors driving a growing ecotourism economy within the community.

7. Would a minor expansion have an impact on the nomination for the Refuge to become a World Heritage Site?

No, the expansion would neither help nor deter any consideration to become a World Heritage Site. In addition, future inclusion as a World Heritage Site would not affect management of the refuge.

8. How does the Refuge acquire additional lands?

The Service only acquires land from property owners who are interested and willing to sell their property. If the expansion is adopted, the Service will develop a plan that outlines proposed acreage the Service would be interested in buying should landowners voluntarily decide they are willing to sell property.