Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division, Game Management Section personnel and a CITES tag is issued. Temporary and CITES tags may be used only once. The possession of any alligator hide not tagged is prohibited.

Justification: The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 identified hunting as one of the six priority, wildlife-dependent recreational uses to receive enhanced consideration over other public uses in planning and management. The Service attempts to provide opportunities for this use in the NWRS where compatible. Managing wildlife has always been a priority since refuge establishment in 1985. Continuing to offer and expand hunting opportunities (where possible and compatible) supports the Service's goal of Connecting People with Nature in addition to multiple objectives and strategies stated in the Refuge's CCP. Hunting allows visitors to enjoy the outdoors and connect with nature in a natural setting, which is not only healthy mentally and physically, but can build a life-long appreciation for wildlife and their habitats. When wildlife populations are managed carefully and monitored, allowing hunting on the Refuge will not materially detract from or interfere with the purposes for establishment of the Refuge and the mission of the NWRS. This CD is based on best available science and sound professional judgement.

NEPA Compliance for Refuge Use Decision: *Place a* $\sqrt{}$ *in appropriate space.*

____ Categorical Exclusion without Environmental Action Statement

____ Categorical Exclusion and Environmental Action Statement

 $_{\rm v}$ Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

____ Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision