

has determined that the preferred action is compatible with the purposes of Banks Lake Refuge and the mission of the NWRS. The Compatibility Determination is attached.

List of Preparers and Coordination

List of Preparers

Michael Lusk, Refuge Manager
Sarah Clardy, Asst. Refuge Manager
Pamela Garrison, Senior FWO
Susan Heisey, Supervisory Park Ranger
Sara Aicher, Supervisory Biologist
Laura Housh, Natural Resource Planner

State Coordination

In addition to coordinating with local Georgia DNR staff, the Service sent a State Coordination letter announcing the proposed hunt packages in the State of Georgia in the winter of 2019.

Tribal Consultation

The listed Tribal entities were invited to comment on the scoping for the proposed hunt, no comments have been received to date.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Okemah, Oklahoma
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Wetumka, Oklahoma
Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama, Atmore, Alabama
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Wewoka, Oklahoma
Seminole Tribe of Florida, Hollywood, Florida
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Miami, Florida

Public Outreach

Public scoping was conducted from September 20 to October 20, 2019 and the Refuge received 18 written comments via email and mail and forty-two comments on our official social media account. In March 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published the draft Hunt Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The draft Hunt Plan and EA proposed opening the Refuge for alligator hunting. On March 23, 2020, we distributed an information bulletin to news organizations and partners through an email to the availability of the hunt plan. The hunt plan was uploaded onto the refuge website. The local public comment period was from March 23, 2020 until April 20, 2020. A total of three