

THE CHALLENGE OF PLANNING FOR AND MANAGEMENT OF AN URBAN WILDLIFE
REFUGE IN ALASKA

Abstract
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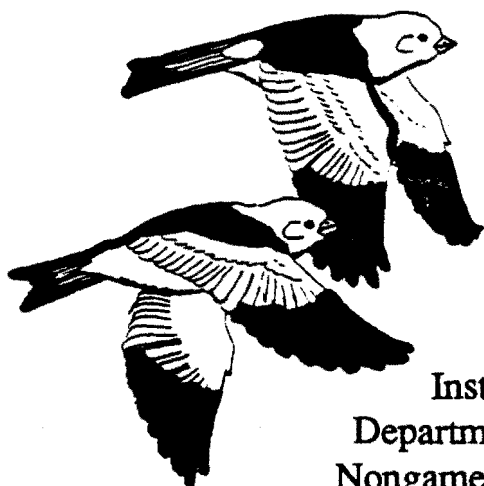
Created in 1976, the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge is comprised of 3,764 acres of intertidal, sedge, grass, and spruce/hemlock plant communities surrounded by a community of over 20,000 people. One hundred seventy-eight species of birds have been observed within or adjacent to the refuge boundaries; 10 of the 20 most common species are waterfowl. The process creating the refuge management plan, due for completion in December 1989, has accentuated conflicting management goals from members of the public, municipal government, and state and federal agencies. This paper addresses identified issues, the conflicts surrounding the issues, and potential methods for resolving these conflicts.

Keywords: Refuge, planning, management, birds, waterfowl.

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