

[From Winter 1997-98]

CNWR's New Education and Interpretive Center

CNWR Manager, John Schroer, and I recently traveled to Massachusetts to brief Fish and Wildlife Regional management about plans for a new Education & Interpretive Center (EIC).

As a result of the meeting, the dream of opening a new EIC by the year 2003 (the 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System) is moving toward reality. Progress includes: a declaration by the Regional Director, Ronald Lambertson, that CNWR is the Region's number one priority site for a new visitor center; news that the Regional Director plans to ask for Service-wide support to have a visitor center at Chincoteague Refuge be declared as the number one priority site in the nation; a January 27, 1998, meeting with community leaders and other interested parties that will be sponsored by the refuge to further clarify and define the refuge's vision for the new EIC; and, a future EIC briefing for Service Director, Jamie Clark, and Assistant Director for Refuges and Wildlife, Rick Coleman.

A draft Project Identification Document (PID) which outlines the messages, themes, exhibits, sub-themes, and administrative office areas for the new EIC has been completed. The PID will be used by architects and exhibit planners to provide some blueprints and visual design concepts for the new EIC.

If you would like to help with this important project, please call me at (757) 336-6122.

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