



Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuges

www.fws.gov/willamettevalley



The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. (National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997)

Turtle Flats - located along the Auto Tour Route at William L. Finley Refuge - USFWS

Comprehensive Conservation Planning Beginning

The Willamette Valley Refuges have initiated a planning process (Comprehensive Conservation Planning, or CCP) to review the wildlife, habitat, and public use activities on all three of the National Wildlife Refuges we manage - Ankeny, Baskett Slough, and William L. Finley.

As we work through this three-year CCP process, we are provided the opportunity to look at the Refuges' habitat management and public use programs from fresh perspectives. We need to consider what is working well now and which areas need improvement.

During planning, we have a chance to review public use programs, such as wildlife observation and interpretation, and consider our management of habitats such as wetlands, oak savanna,

wet prairie, agricultural lands, and riparian zones. Your insights and observations are needed to provide us with a more complete and thoughtful process.

The purposes of the Refuges will remain the same as when they were established -- primarily to protect the dusky Canada goose, other geese, and migratory birds.

As a first step in this process, we invite you to learn more about the Refuges and the planning process at our website (<http://www.fws.gov/willamettevalley/ccp>). In addition, we hope to see you at one of our public open houses (see details on back page). If you wish to comment on Refuge programs, please send in the enclosed comment form and/or call me at (541)757-7236. Your thoughts are important to the success of this effort.

Doug Spencer, Project Leader

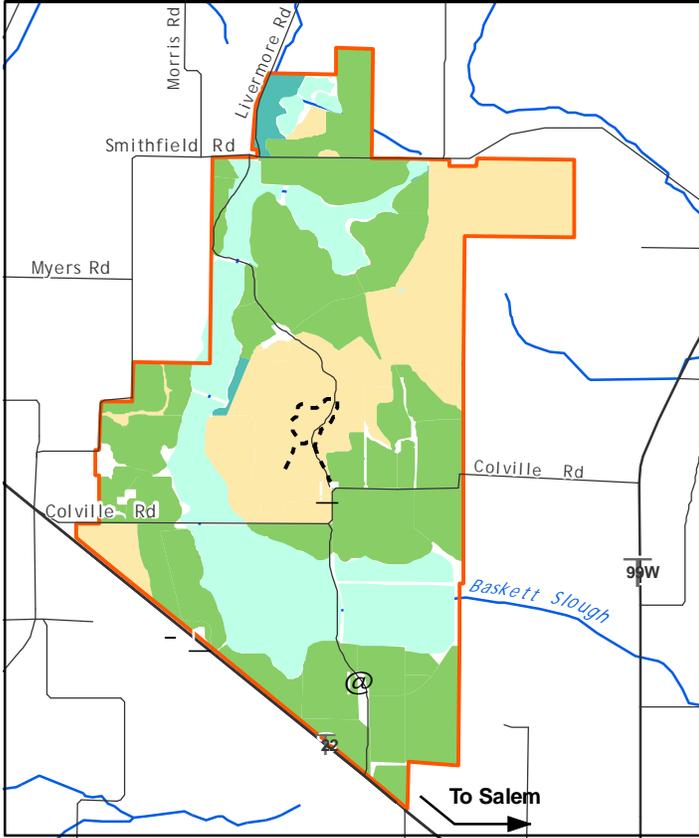


Flying dusky Canada geese - photo by Joe Staff

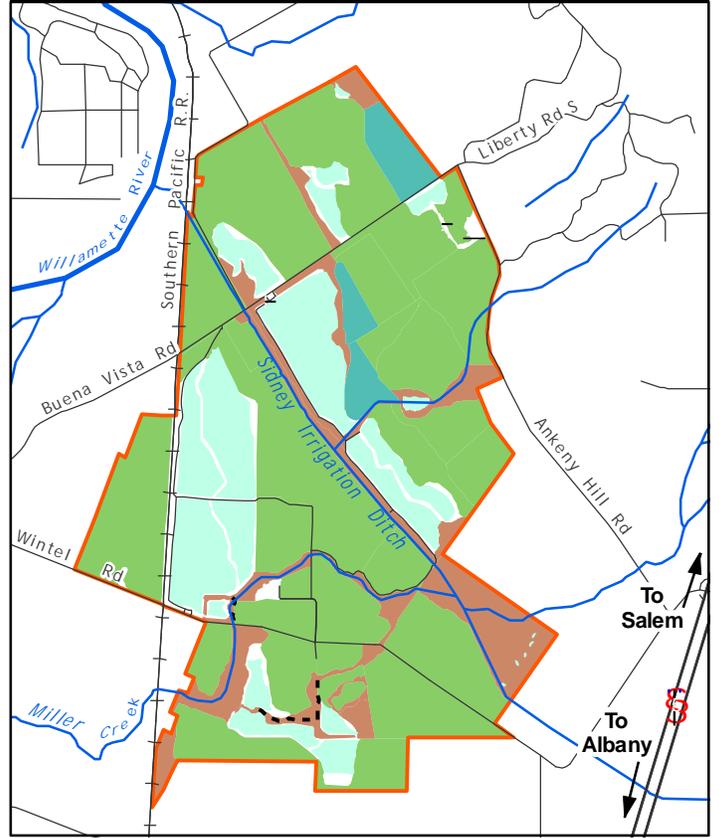


Kids using the scope at Cabell Marsh Overlook - USFWS

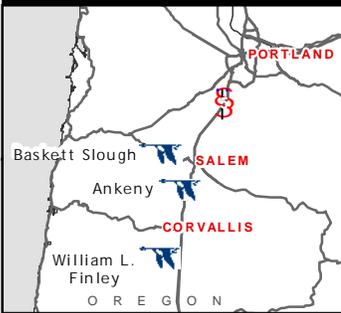
BASKETT SLOUGH



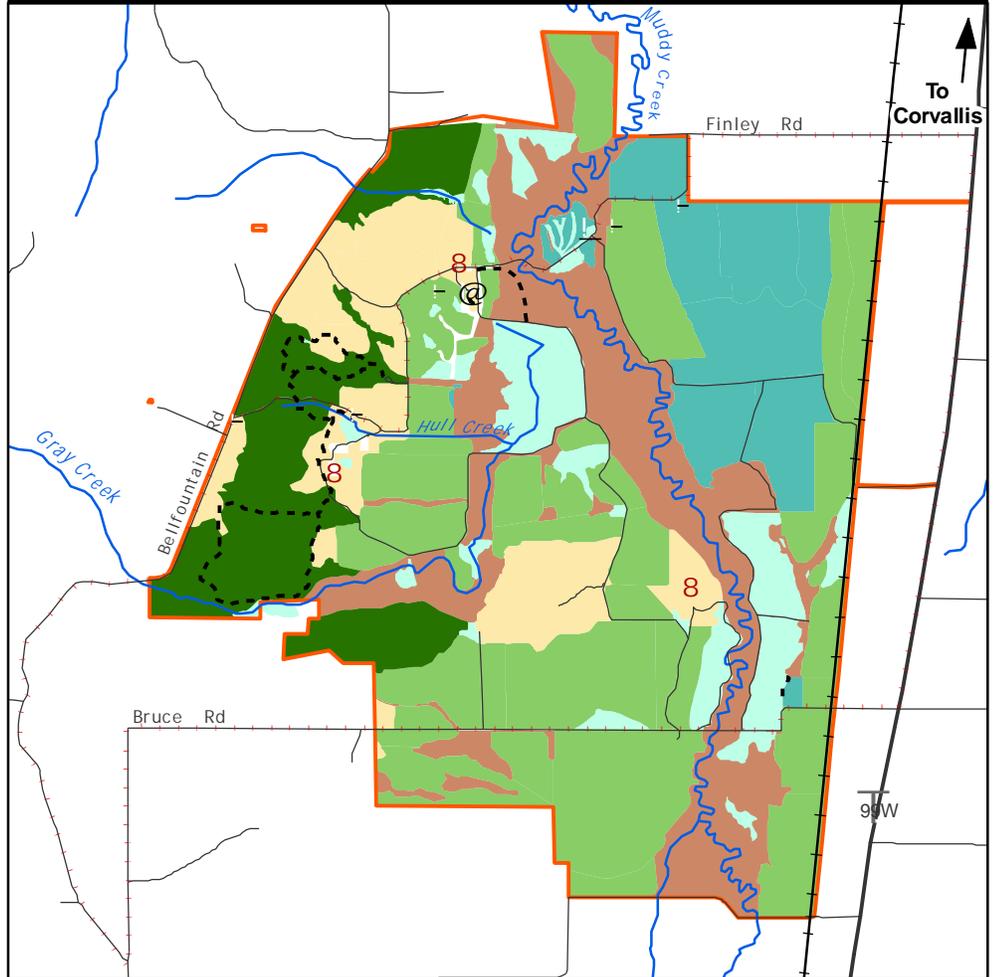
ANKENY



REGION MAP



WILLIAM L. FINLEY



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--|--------------|
| - | Information Panel | | Agriculture |
| @ | Refuge Office | | Mixed Forest |
| — | Restroom | | Oak Savannah |
| 8 | Barn | | Riparian |
| - - - | Year-round Trails | | Wet Prairie |
| - · - · - | Auto Tour Route | | Wetland |
| — | Roads | | Grassland |
| | Refuge Boundary | | Unclassified |



Conservation Targets for the Willamette Valley Refuges

Conservation targets are species, species groups, or communities of particular interest and focus for a Refuge. By designating conservation targets, we help frame planning actions and create the main direction for future biological protection, management and restoration actions.

For Ankeny, Baskett Slough, and William L. Finley Refuges, the following nine targets have been designated. Under each target, we have also listed focal species. The focal species (or species group) serve to help us define the specific habitat and environmental attributes that we will be striving to maintain or achieve for each target. Many other species will benefit as well.

Dusky and other Canada geese

Focal species include: dusky Canada geese, cackling and other Canada geese, streaked horned lark, and killdeer.



photo by Ray Foster

Wetlands and associated species

Focal species include northern red-legged frog, dabbling ducks, Oregon chub, and great blue heron.

Oak savannah and associated species

Focal species include western bluebird, Oregon white oak/Roemer's fescue community, slender-billed (white-breasted) nuthatch, and Fender's blue butterfly.



Riparian forest and associated species

Focal species include yellow warbler, wood duck, and Nelson's checkermallow.



photo by Ed Alverson

Wet prairie and associated species

Focal species include western meadowlark, Northern harrier, and Bradshaw's desert parsley.

Oak woodland and associated species

Focal species include acorn woodpecker and western wood peewee.

Riverine and associated species

Focal species include coastal cutthroat trout, steelhead, and western pond turtle.



Mixed deciduous forest and associated species

Focal species include Swainson's thrush, Western gray squirrel, and pileated woodpecker

Rare species

The Refuges support many rare species, important to recognize as conservation targets. In the CCP, rare species management will generally be folded into habitat conservation targets listed above.



photo by Thomas N. Kaye, Institute for Applied Ecology

Public Use Planning for the Willamette Valley Refuges

The CCP will guide management actions in public use programs for the next fifteen years. For a plan of this scope we need to consider the amount and types of recreational use the public desires; where and how much recreation can be supported while maintaining wildlife and habitats; and the requirements of laws and policies governing the National Wildlife Refuge System.



Current law and policy states that National Wildlife Refuges should facilitate "compatible" family-oriented recreation with priority consideration for wildlife observation, photography, interpretation, environmental education, hunting, and fishing. All of these uses are

currently supported at the Willamette Valley Refuges, though some are minor programs. "Compatible" means that the use does not interfere with achieving Refuge purposes.

We are proud of our interpretation and viewing programs, but feel we can do more in these areas especially at Baskett Slough and Ankeny Refuges. We would also like to grow our environmental education program to better serve local schools and provide children greater opportunities to experience nature and learn about Willamette Valley plants and animals.

We will be considering whether there is a place for additional hunting on the Refuges. We'll also examine opportunities to improve fishing access, especially at the Snagboat Bend unit of W.L. Finley Refuge.

We need to hear your thoughts about the Refuges and what you'd like to see for the long term. Let us know your thoughts by sending in the comment form or by visiting our website.

The Willamette Valley Refuges - Preliminary Issues to Consider in the CCP

As we plan for the future, we need to consider the issues listed below. More information is available about these preliminary issues on the web at <http://www.fws.gov/willamettevalley/ccp>.

We're interested in your thoughts on these issues or others that you think the CCP should address. Please use the enclosed comment form to let us know your thoughts - or you can go directly to our website and comment there.

■ The role of the Willamette Valley Refuges for wintering Canada geese

- Restoration and maintenance of native habitats of the Willamette Valley
- Maintenance and recovery of listed and rare species
- Management of Roosevelt elk on William L. Finley Refuge
- Water and wetland management
- Providing wildlife-dependent recreational use sustainable over time
- Maintaining historical structures at the Refuges
- Managing invasive species
- Managing Refuge programs and commitments in an era of tight budgets



Questions? Concerns? Contact us!

Doug Spencer, Project Leader
(541) 757-7236
doug_spencer@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/willamettevalley/ccp>

Upcoming Public Open Houses :

We'd love to see you at one of our upcoming open houses. It's our chance to hear your thoughts about management of the Refuges over the next fifteen years.

Thursday February 7, 2008
Salem First United Methodist Church
Carrier Room
600 State St.
Salem, OR
3-5 pm (presentation at 3:30 p.m.)
7-9 pm (presentation at 7:30 p.m.)

Wednesday February 13, 2008
Corvallis Fire Station #5
Walnut Community Room
4950 NW Fair Oaks Dr.
Corvallis, OR
3-5 pm (presentation at 3:30 p.m.)
7-9 pm (presentation at 7:30 p.m.)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex
26028 Finley Refuge Road
Corvallis, Oregon 97333
Phone: (541) 757-7236

Please visit our website at <http://www.fws.gov/willamettevalley/ccp>

*Have you moved? If so, please send us
updated address information. Thanks!*

**Refuge Open Houses:
February 7 in Salem
February 13 in Corvallis**