



Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Update #4 / July 2009

Greetings from the Project Leader

This is the fourth planning update on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (CCP/EA) process for the Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

I have two important announcements for you. First, I wanted to let you know that Carol Damberg, the manager of Klamath Marsh Refuge has taken a new position with the Fish and Wildlife Service in our Pacific Southwest Regional Office in Sacramento, CA. We'll miss Carol and wish her the best in her new position.

Second, I am pleased to announce the availability of the Draft CCP/EA. The Draft CCP outlines the management direction and strategies for the Klamath Marsh NWR for the next 15 years.

The EA presents three different management alternatives and evaluates their environmental impacts. These alternatives were developed with the help of comments, concerns, and suggestions we received from you during the public scoping period.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our refuge planner, Mark Pelz, or myself. I hope you can join us at the public meetings on August 18 or 19th, 2009. Thank you very much for your continued interest in this process!

Ron Cole

Ron Cole
Project Leader

Draft Conservation Plan Available!

The Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (CCP/EA) is available for review and comment.

The Draft CCP/EA is available for viewing and downloading at: <http://www.fws.gov/klamathbasinrefuges/KlamathMarshCCP/kmarshccp.html>. Printed documents may be viewed Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 4009 Hill Road, Tulelake, CA. Printed documents are also available for review at the following libraries: Klamath County Library, 126 South Third Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97601; Chiloquin Branch Library, 140 South 1st St., Chiloquin, OR 97624; Chemult Branch Library, Hwy 97 North, Chemult, OR 97731; Medford Library Branch, 205 South Central Avenue, Medford, OR, 97501; and Multnomah County Library, Central Library, 801 S.W. 10th Avenue, Portland, OR, 97205.

A compact disc (CD) or hard copy of the Draft CCP/EA may be obtained by

- Pre-planning**
- Public Scoping & Identify Issues**
- Develop Vision Statement & Goals**
- Develop Alternatives**
- Prepare Draft CCP/EA**
- Public Review of Draft CCP/EA
- Prepare Final CCP
- Public Notice of Decision

writing to: Mark Pelz, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 8 Refuge Planning, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825. Other contact methods include: (916) 414-6504 (telephone), (916) 414-6497 (fax), or fw8plancomments@fws.gov (e-mail).

We look forward to seeing your comments on the Draft CCP/EA. Please submit comments by the close of the comment period on Friday, September 18, 2009.

For information about the date and location of the upcoming public meeting, please see the other side of this Planning Update.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Refuge Conservation Planning
2800 Cottage Way, W-1832
Sacramento, CA 95825

We Would Like to Hear From You!

The Draft CCP/EA for the Klamath Marsh NWR is available for public review and comment until September 18, 2009.

Comments may be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to:

Mark Pelz, Chief, Refuge Planning
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
E-mail: fw8plancomments@fws.gov
Phone: (916) 414-6504
FAX: (916) 414-6497

Please indicate "Klamath Marsh CCP" in the subject line.



Want to Learn More?

Please join us on August 18th or 19th!

To learn more about the Draft CCP/EA, please join us at one or both of the following public meetings:

August 18th - 6:30 -8:30 pm
Klamath Falls Shilo Inn (ballroom)
2500 Almond St
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

August 19th - 6:30 -8:30 pm
Chiloquin Community Center
216 1st. Ave.
Chiloquin, OR 97624

If you did not receive this newsletter through the mail and would like to be on our mailing list, please contact us. If you would like to be removed from the mailing list or are receiving multiple copies of these notices, please let us know.

Management Alternatives in the Draft CCP/EA

The Draft EA analyzes three alternatives for managing Klamath Marsh NWR for the next 15 years. Management alternatives focus on accomplishing the purposes for which the Refuge was established, fulfilling the mission of the Refuge System, as well as providing compatible wildlife-dependent educational and recreational opportunities for the public.

Under Alternative A, the no action alternative, we would continue to manage the Refuge as we have in the recent past. No major changes in habitat management would occur. The existing wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation programs would remain unchanged.

Under Alternative B, (preferred alternative), the Service would restore the portion of the Williamson River and Big Spring Creek on the Refuge; substantially improve management of emergent marsh, meadows, ponderosa pine forest and aspen to increase habitat value for migratory birds and other wildlife; improve and expand visitor services by developing new trails, interpretive exhibits, an environmental education program, and a visitor contact station; maintain existing hunting and fishing programs with minor modifications; increase cultural resources protection; and recommend no units for wilderness designation. The Service would also revise and update the MOU with the Klamath Tribes regarding subsistence hunting and gathering.

Under Alternative C, the Service would restore the portions of the Williamson River and Big Springs Creek on the Refuge; improve management of emergent marsh, meadows, ponderosa pine forest and aspen using a more limited tool set (fire only for non-forested areas); minimally expand opportunities for non-consumptive public uses; eliminate public hunting; increase cultural resource protection; and recommend 11,165 acres for wilderness designation. The Service would also revise and update the MOU with the Tribes regarding subsistence hunting and gathering.

The Service proposes to implement Alternative B, as described in the EA. Alternative B best achieves the Refuge's purposes, vision, and goals; contributes to the Refuge System mission; addresses the significant issues and relevant mandates; and is consistent with principles of sound fish and wildlife management.

The Service has also prepared draft compatibility determinations for several existing refuges uses. These are included in the appendices of the Draft CCP/EA.



An Update on the Refuge's CCP Process

Since we distributed *Planning Update #3*, the CCP planning team has analyzed and evaluated the environmental consequences of the draft alternatives in the Draft CCP/EA. The next step in the CCP process is the public review of the Draft CCP/EA.

