

News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



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For immediate release:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Hold Refuge Planning Meetings Along Oregon Coast in November

The Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex has initiated a planning process called "Comprehensive Conservation Planning" to review the wildlife, habitat and public use activities on Cape Meares, Oregon Islands, and Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs). Five public Open House meetings will be held in communities along the Oregon coast in November 2006 to explain this process and to seek input from the public, interested government agencies, elected officials, Tribes, and conservation organizations regarding their interests, concerns, and viewpoints about important management issues on these refuges.

A Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) is a 15-year plan that guides a NWR's management decisions, and identifies long-range refuge goals, objectives, and strategies for achieving the purposes for which the refuge was established. During the CCP planning process, many elements will be considered, including wildlife and habitat protection and management, and public use opportunities. More information about the CCP process is available at www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/#plan.

Please share your ideas by attending one of the upcoming public open house meetings or by submitting written comments to the refuge. The public open house meetings will be held Wednesday, November 1 at the Newport High School Boone Center Room; Thursday, November 2 at the Oceanside Community center; Wednesday, November 8 at Cannon Beach Elementary School; Tuesday, November 14 at the Brookings High School cafeteria; and Wednesday, November 15 at Bandon High School. All Open House meetings will be between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. For more information please call the refuge's Newport office at 541-867-4550, or go to www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges,

thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.