

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 111
Lakeview OR, 97630

News Release



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Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge Kicks Off Comprehensive Conservation Planning With Four Public Open House Meetings

Your Comments Are Invited

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is developing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) to provide refuge managers with a 15-year plan to guide future refuge management. The planning process is a way for the Service and the public to identify and evaluate management goals and objectives for wildlife habitat conservation, and wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with the refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Throughout the CCP process, the Service provides participation opportunities for Tribal, state, and local governments; agencies and organizations; and the public. The Service encourages public input in the form of issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the future management of the refuge.

The refuge encompasses approximately 572,876 acres of high desert, sagebrush-steppe ecosystem, located in Nevada's Washoe and Humboldt counties, and Oregon's Lake County. It was established in 1931 to: Provide habitat for pronghorn antelope, the primary species, and populations of native secondary species (e.g., mule deer, sage-grouse, and song birds) in numbers necessary to maintain a balanced wildlife population and conserve listed endangered or threatened fish, wildlife, and plants; and for use as an inviolate migratory bird sanctuary.

The refuge currently represents one of the last reasonably intact examples of a sagebrush-steppe ecosystem in the Great Basin. In other areas, the extent of the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem has substantially declined across the landscape primarily as a result of habitat conversion, catastrophic wildfire, and introduced exotic species. The refuge provides a variety of critical habitats for a host of species endemic to sagebrush-steppe, including pronghorn antelope, mule deer, greater sage-grouse, pygmy rabbit, migratory birds, desert fishes, and a range of rare plants and invertebrates.

A planning update is available on the Service's website at <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/>. Written comments on the scope of issues to be analyzed in the CCP or questions should be sent to SheldonCCP@fws.gov or to Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 111, Lakeview, OR 97630. The Service requests scoping comments by June 30, 2008, for issues you would like to see

covered in the CCP. More opportunities to provide comments will occur during the planning process. The public is invited to attend informational public open house meetings. Each meeting will cover the same information. The meetings will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on four dates in four locations as follows:

Lakeview: Daly Middle School Gym, 220 South H Street, Lakeview, OR, May 14, 2008.

Winnemucca: West Hall, Convention and Visitors Authority, 50 West Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV, May 22, 2008

Alturas: Christian Life Assembly, 225 West B Street, Alturas, CA, June 4, 2008

Reno: Pantera/Tartuca Rooms, Siena Hotel and Casino, One South Lake Street, Reno, NV, June 11, 2008

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.