The Refuges’ Draft CCP/EIS is Available for Public Comments

Your comments are important

The Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (DCCP/EIS) for Julia Butler Hansen and Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuges (Refuges) is available for public review and comment. Between now and April 12, 2010, interested citizens, agencies, and organizations can review and comment on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (Service) DCCP/EIS, which includes an analysis of management alternatives for each Refuge.

For the Lewis and Clark Refuge we evaluated two draft alternatives and identified Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative.

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Your thoughts and comments on the alternatives are important to us, and we encourage you to share them with us. See options for sending us comments on page 6. The planning team will address your comments in the final CCP/EIS. When it is completed, the final CCP/EIS will guide Refuge management for 15 years, actions will be implemented as funding becomes available.

The DCCP/EIS was developed to provide reasonable, scientifically grounded guidance for improving the Refuges’ riparian, wetland, Sitka spruce swamp, and grassland habitats, for the long-term conservation of migratory birds, and native plants and animals.

Actions for protecting and sustaining the Refuges’ natural resources, including habitats, migratory bird populations, and threatened, endangered, or rare species, are identified in the DCCP/EIS.

Tentative Planning Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning Step</th>
<th>Target Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning Update 1 (issued)</td>
<td>September 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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Your comments help shape the future of the Refuges. Please send your comments and requests to us by any of the following methods.

Mail: Charlie Stenvall, Project Leader Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Complex 3888 SR 101 Ilwaco, WA 98624-9707

Phone: (360) 484-3482 Fax: (360) 484-3109

E-mail: FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov

Comments are due to us by April 12, 2010.

To learn more visit our Refuge Websites:
http://www.fws.gov/lc/ or http://www.fws.gov/jbh/

To learn more about refuge planning, visit our Website:
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Overview of the Draft CCP/EIS Alternatives

Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge

Alternative 1: Continue Current Management
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Alternative 2: Enhance Habitat and CWT Deer Management with Increased Wildlife-dependent Public Uses (Preferred Alternative)
Under the preferred alternative, current wildlife and habitat management would continue, plus key enhancements would include:
• Building on needed wildlife/habitat research by recruiting graduate students.
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• Working with partners to ensure dredge-spoil islands provide vegetative benefits for the unique species utilizing these areas.

Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge

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Public Involvement to Date
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Key Themes/Issues

Alternative 1: Current Management (No Change)  
Alternative 2 (preferred) Enhanced Habitat and CWT Deer Management with Increased Wildlife-dependent Public Uses  
Alternative 3 Maintain Current Habitat Mgmt., Increase CWT Deer Mgmt., Enhance Wildlife-Dependent Public Uses

Public Use Opportunities

Wildlife Observation and Photography
Maintain current viewing/interpretive areas at State Highway 4 and Refuge Headquarters.

Hunting
Maintain waterfowl hunting on Wallace and Hunting Islands.

Fishing Opportunities
Fishing on mainland at Steamboat Slough.

Environmental Education and Interpretation (EEI)
Provide brochures and maps, and work with other agencies to provide refuge information. Maintain viewing areas.

Wildlife
Wildlife future wilderness study.

Copies of the DCCP/EIS are available as follows:

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Charlie Stenvall, Project Leader,  
Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
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Your Refuge Leaner, Greener and Reaching Out
To promote the availability of the DCCP/EIS to a wider audience, and to reduce our use of the natural resources used to produce paper and CD-ROM copies of our documents, we will be posting the DCCP/EIS on four Websites and providing each of the listed libraries a printed and CD-ROM copy. Limited printed and CD-ROM copies are available, please contact us if you need to obtain a copy. Our contact information is on this page and page 6.
## Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge
### Draft CCP/EIS Alternatives Summary Table

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<th>Alternative 2 Enhance Resource Protection and Provide Wildlife-dependent Public Use (Preferred Alternative)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Habitat Management</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrub-Shrub Swamp</td>
<td>Protect 2,165 acres</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitka Spruce Swamp</td>
<td>Protect 285 acres</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood Willow Swamp</td>
<td>Protect 120 acres</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergent Tidal Marsh</td>
<td>Protect 3,720 acres</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mud Flats and Sandbars</td>
<td>Protect 4,825 acres</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upland Forest</td>
<td>Protect 89 acres</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riparian Forest</td>
<td>Protect 470 acres</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Water</td>
<td>Protect 1,360 acres</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resource Management</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon Dept. of State Lands Agreement (ODSL)</td>
<td>No change or agreement.</td>
<td>Meet with ODSL to discuss options for managing State lands within the refuge boundary and acquiring islands and tidelands as opportunities exist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dredge Spoil Islands</td>
<td>Limit focus to Service-owned habitats.</td>
<td>Work with the Corps and other partners to ensure islands provide vegetative benefits for the unique species utilizing these areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invasive Species Management</td>
<td>Maintain partnerships for monitoring and priority control of invasive species.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1, plus work with others to share resources, training, inventory, and control of invasive species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring, Inventory and Research</td>
<td>Maintain refuge biologist position and current monitoring and research activities.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1, maintain refuge biologist position, plus improve monitoring and research utilizing graduate students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Use</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterfowl Hunting</td>
<td>Maintain existing waterfowl hunting, and sanctuary areas closed to hunting—348 acres on Karlson Is. and 423 acres on Miller Sands Is.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Opportunities</td>
<td>Maintain current fishing program.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Education and Interpreation (EEI)</td>
<td>Maintain current EEI by providing talks on a case-by-case basis. Maintain limited refuge signs, displays, and brochures.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1 plus increase refuge visibility by developing 2-4 informational signs, posting additional boundary signs, and updating brochures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Observation and Photography</td>
<td>Refuge lands are open to wildlife observations but no facilities are provided.</td>
<td>Work to increase wildlife viewing opportunities, install floating interpretive signs, and identify off refuge campsites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wilderness</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness</td>
<td>Future wilderness study.</td>
<td>Future wilderness study.</td>
</tr>
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### Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge

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<th>Alternative 3 Maintain Habitat Mgt., Increase CWT Deer Mgt., Enhance Wildlife-Dependent Public Uses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Habitat Management</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short grass fields</td>
<td>Maintain 680-790 acres on the Mainland and Tenasillahe Island (Is.) Units.</td>
<td>Alt. 1 plus establish additional 110 acres on Mainland and Tenasillahe Is. Units.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early-successional Riparian Forest</td>
<td>Establish 210 acres on Mainland and Tenasillahe Is. Units and maintain 120 acres on Crims Is. Unit.</td>
<td>Alt. 1 plus establish additional 100 acres on Mainland and Tenasillahe Is. Units.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-successional Riparian Forest</td>
<td>Maintain 70 acres on the Mainland Unit and 22 acres on the Tenasillahe Is. Unit.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late-successional Riparian Forest</td>
<td>Maintain 445 acres on the Mainland Unit and 430 acres on the Tenasillahe Is. Unit.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-tidal Wetlands</td>
<td>Maintain existing 125 acres.</td>
<td>Alt. 1 plus additional 40 acres</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sloughs</td>
<td>Maintain 143 acres.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tidal Scrub-Shrub Swamp</td>
<td>Maintain 847 acres.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tidal Sitka Spruce Swamp</td>
<td>Maintain 353 acres.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tidal Cottonwood/Willow Swamp</td>
<td>Maintain 611 acres.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergent Tidal Marsh</td>
<td>Maintain 300 acres.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Water</td>
<td>Maintain 105 acres.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquatic Habitat</td>
<td>Assess, monitor, and restore aquatic habitat as appropriate and as funding becomes available. Modify existing tidegates.</td>
<td>Alt. 1 plus modify existing tidegates, work with partners to restore aquatic habitat, and protect sloughs.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Columbian White-tailed Deer Mgt. (ES Recovery)</strong></td>
<td>Follow Recovery Plan guidelines</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1 plus expand population by establishing experimental population up river.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CWT Deer Protection</td>
<td>Integrated coyote control from January to mid-April</td>
<td>Lethal coyote control year-round as needed to achieve fawn to doe ratios and population objectives. Remove and relocate mountain lions and bears when present on the Refuge.</td>
<td>Lethal coyote control January through August to achieve fawn to doe ratios and population objectives. Remove and relocate mountain lions and bears when present on the Refuge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conduct Research and Monitoring</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1, plus monitor growth and various species composition using research assistance from colleges.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Monitor Habitats</td>
<td>Maintain a full time biologist position and monitor CWT deer only.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1, plus monitor growth and various species composition using research assistance from colleges.</td>
<td>Same as Alt. 1</td>
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Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge

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- Expanding opportunities for public use, particularly wildlife observation and photography.
- Conducting a wilderness study of refuge islands.
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Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge

Alternative 1: Continue Current Management
No change to current Refuge management programs would occur under Alternative 1. The Refuge would continue to maintain and protect habitats; establish early successional riparian forest; and maintain the predator management program from January through April.

Existing public uses including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, would continue with no changes. Future wilderness studies would be conducted.

Alternative 2: Enhance Habitat and Columbian White-tailed CWT Deer Management with Increased Wildlife-dependent Public Uses (Preferred Alternative)
Under the preferred alternative, current wildlife and habitat management would include:

- Conducting a wilderness study of Refuge islands.
- Closing a small section of Steamboat Slough to waterfowl hunting for safety purposes.
- Opening Crims and Price Islands to waterfowl hunting.
- Developing two new trails.
- Improving print/interpretive media.

Alternative 3: Maintain Current Habitat Management and Increase CWT Deer Management with Enhanced Wildlife-dependent Public Uses
Under Alternative 3, changes to current management would include:

- Managing predators January through August to protect CWT deer.
- Studying Refuge islands that meet basic wilderness criteria.
- Developing a cycle/hiking trail.
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Provide brochures and maps, and work with other agencies to provide refuge information. Maintain viewing areas.

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Maintain current viewing/interpretive areas at State Highway 4 and Refuge Headquarters.

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