

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter • September 2011

What's new?

Can you believe it is September already? Every summer seems to go quicker than the year before, doesn't it? Whether you are welcoming the cooler mornings and later sunrises, or sighing that summer's end is near, we hope you've had a chance to enjoy the scenic and wildlife wonders at Deer Flat.

Also, we are pleased to welcome Kyle Luthman as the new Environmental Education Specialist Friends' intern. Kyle is a recent graduate from Northwest Nazarene University, and we are excited to have him on board!



If you haven't had a chance already, swing by the Visitor Center and take a look at our grown osprey family. The birds are preparing for their migration south later this month, so enjoy them while they are still here!

Cheers!

Thank you to our wonderful Visitor Center hosts who kept the Center open on Saturdays this past August: Noreen Trip, Connie Leavitt, Bob Faller, Don Dunn, Lynn Wilfing, Nettie Smoot, Jim Holcomb, and Al Pilch.

Additionally, I want to thank all you volunteers for sending in your volunteer hours for Fiscal Year 2011. Nearly 560 Deer Flat volunteers served over 11,000 hours this past Fiscal Year! Your service has helped improve wildlife habitat, educate visitors and students, document visitor numbers, keep the Refuge grounds running, and many other great things. Bravo and job well done everybody!

Around the water cooler...

The Refuge Staff is working around the clock on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan and are revising the preliminary draft alternatives and writing a draft. For the latest information and to read Planning Updates, click here:

<http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/refugeplanning.html>. The next planning update is expected to be out by the end of October. If you are interested in being on the CCP mailing list, please contact the Refuge at 467-9278 or email deerflat@fws.gov.

Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

The Friends of Deer Flat are helping with our new Discover Wildlife Journey field trip program. The Friends have received several grants so they can offer bus scholarships to schools to transport their classes to the Refuge! It's just one of the many ways our Friends group benefits the Refuge. If you enjoy volunteering, appreciate the Refuge, and want to help even more, think about becoming a Friends member! Your \$10 membership fee and participation goes a long way for the Refuge. The Friends are also currently recruiting for board and committee members. **For more information about membership or Friends volunteering, contact Genevieve Johannsen at gcj_83651@yahoo.com or 891-5103.**

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Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trip Leaders (5-10 volunteers)

Dates and Times: Tuesdays-Thursdays from September 20 to October 27, 9:15am-2:45pm

Volunteers are needed to help guide 4th-6th graders through educational stations near the Visitor Center and connect students with nature. No experience is necessary – just a love of kids, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn. Training required and is scheduled from 8am-Noon on Tuesday, September 13th. **Deadline to Register: September 9**

National Public Lands Day (as many volunteers as possible!)

Date and Time: Saturday, September 24th, 9:00am-12:00pm

Celebrate Deer Flat, one of the great Public Lands in SW Idaho, by participating in a morning volunteer project of removing litter around the shores of Lake Lowell. **Deadline to register: September 19th.**

Weed Warrior Volunteers (3-4 volunteers)

Dates and Time: Weekdays throughout September, 8:00am-4:00pm

If you have an open weekday or two within the next few weeks, and are itching to get outside, ultimate weed warrior and volunteer Steve Kehoe is looking for a few people to help him remove noxious shrub and weed hotspots around the Refuge. Help improve wildlife habitat at the Refuge by removing noxious—and obnoxious—plants. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**

Reading at the Refuge (1-2 volunteers per month)

Dates and Time: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays (10:00am) and Wednesdays (2:00pm) of the month

A free wildlife-focused story hour for pre-schoolers. Volunteers can select and acquire story books, prepare wildlife-oriented crafts, and lead the storytelling and craftmaking. **Deadline to register: Ongoing.**

Scout Day Leaders (3-4 volunteers per month)

Dates and Time: 1st Saturday of every month from 1-3pm. Upcoming date: October 1st. A free environmental education opportunity for Scouts to earn wildlife-related badges. Volunteers lead programs that include crafts and a short hike. No experience necessary—only enthusiasm and a willingness to learn! **Deadline to register: Sept 23**

Creepy Critter Encounters (20 volunteers for event)

Date and Time: Saturday, October 29th from 4-7pm. A fun Halloween event for kids and kids at heart. Come in costume to learn about wildlife on a spooky hike, make crafts, and listen to scary stories. Find out about creepy creatures like bats, skunks, spiders and owls. Stay until dusk and hoot for owls and coyotes. Volunteers are needed to staff the welcome table, craft room and act as guides at wildlife-related stations along the nature trail. **Deadline to register: Monday, October 10th**



Photo Courtesy of USFWS

To find out more about or sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities, contact cody_dix@fws.gov or (208)-467-9278.

Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!

Cody Dix, Volunteer Coordinator