

# Anaho Island National Wildlife Refuge

## *Planning Update Fall 2013*



Figure 1. View of Anaho Island from the eastern shore of Pyramid Lake. USFWS

### **Greetings from Nancy Hoffman, Wildlife Refuge Manager**

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff have started the development of two important biological plans for Anaho Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR): a Natural Resource Management Plan and an Inventory and Monitoring Plan. These plans are scheduled for completion by April 2014 and will provide specific guidance for managing and monitoring natural resources on the refuge for the next 15 years, including guidance relative to the long-term threat of climate change. I invite you to read this update for details about the process.

Feel free to contact me or Giselle Block, Inventory and Monitoring Biologist, if you have any questions. Our

contact information is on page 4.

### **Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Complex**

Anaho Island National Wildlife Refuge is one of three refuges in the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Complex (NWRC). Anaho Island NWR is located ½ mile west of the eastern shore of Pyramid Lake, Washoe County, Nevada within the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation (Figure 2). Pyramid Lake is 30 miles northeast of Reno, Nevada, and 60 miles northwest of Stillwater NWRC headquarters in Fallon, Nevada. Anaho Island rises from the waters of Pyramid Lake, which is within the Truckee River watershed and Great Basin physiographic

region. The Truckee River flows from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake. The size of the island varies with the water level of Pyramid Lake and has ranged from 247 to 745 acres since 1913.

Anaho Island NWR is one of over 550 National Wildlife Refuges that make up the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System. The System is spread across all 50 states, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and several Pacific Islands and atolls.

### **Refuge Purposes**

On September 4, 1913, Anaho Island NWR was established by President Woodrow Wilson. The Executive Order recognized that Anaho Island is within the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation and set aside the

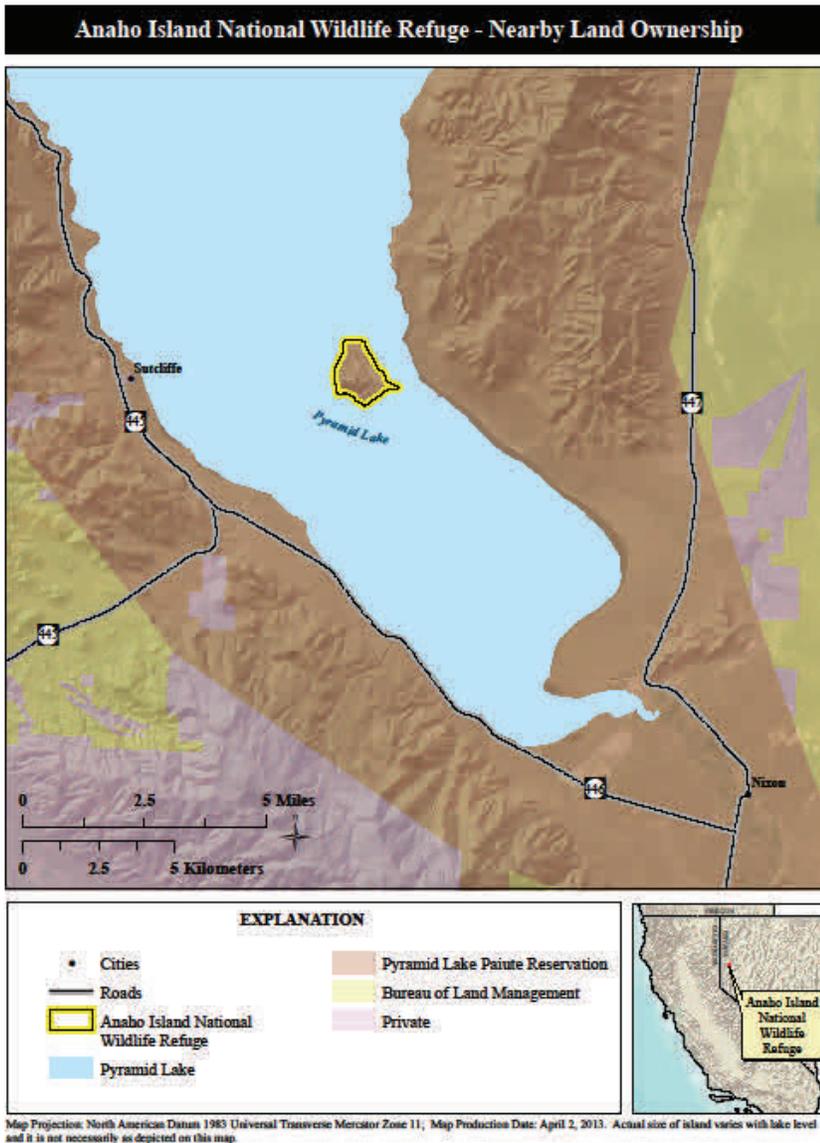


Figure 2. Location of Anaho Island NWR in Pyramid Lake in northwestern Nevada. USFWS

island as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds. In 1990, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and Public Law 101-618 affirmed that Anaho Island is a part of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation, and that it is to be managed and administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a part of the National Wildlife Refuge System for the benefit and protection of colonial nesting and other migratory birds. Refuge staff manage the island and consult

with the Tribe about management actions.

### What is a Natural Resource Management Plan?

A Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) clearly articulates the optimal set of management actions that should be implemented over the next 15 years to maximize conservation of priority resources using an adaptive framework. A priority resource can be a plant or

animal species, a group of species, a community, or an ecosystem. Examples of possible priority resources for Anaho Island NWR include the American white pelican or the colonial nesting waterbird community.

The NRMP is a step-down management plan from the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) that provides specific goals, objectives, and strategies to achieve the refuge's natural resource conservation vision and purposes. The Stillwater NWRC CCP was completed in 2002 and provides the fundamental direction for the development of the NRMP for Anaho Island NWR. The CCP broadly describes the desired future conditions of the refuge and provides long-range guidance and management direction to achieve refuge purposes.

### What is an Inventory and Monitoring Plan?

An Inventory and Monitoring Plan (IMP) guides current and future inventory and monitoring activities that support adaptive management of refuge resources.

An IMP describes the surveys that will be used to determine if priority resources have benefitted from management actions described in the NRMP. If resources have not benefitted from management actions, the NRMP will be revised based upon this knowledge. In this way,

the integrated NRMP-IMP process will allow Anaho NWR staff to continually modify management strategies and actions to improve their effectiveness and to respond to changing conditions such as those driven by climate change.

### What process are we using to create the NRMP and IMP?

We are using an internationally recognized process to create the NRMP and to lay the foundation for the IMP. This process is called “Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation” (Conservation Measures Partnership 2013; Figure 3). The Open Standards provide an effective framework for conservation planning, implementation, and assessment.

By following the steps of the Open Standards process, we will



Figure 3. The cyclical nature of the steps of the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation process that we are using to create and improve effectiveness of a Natural Resource Management Plan and an Inventory and Monitoring Plan for Anaho Island National Wildlife Refuge.

identify conservation targets (priority resources), identify threats to priority resources, identify optimal strategies to abate the greatest threats, state how management efforts

will lead to desired results, and track progress towards desired results. By tracking progress, we can adapt strategies based on what we have learned.

The NRMP will specify the goals, objectives, and strategies that will help us improve the status of the priority resources. We will then create a complementary IMP that will help us track progress towards the goals and objectives described in the NRMP.

### Literature Cited

Conservation Measures Partnership. 2013. Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, v. 3. Conservation Measures Partnership.

[www.conservationmeasures.org](http://www.conservationmeasures.org)



Figure 4. University of Nevada Reno faculty and students assist refuge staff with documenting native and invasive non-native plant species on Anaho Island.

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Figure 5. American white pelicans nesting on Anaho Island.

**Please feel free to contact us**

We are available to provide additional information about the planning process and to answer any questions. Feel free to call, write, email, or come to see us.

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

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Figure 6. Desert spiny lizard on Anaho Island.  
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**November 2013**



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