

# Preliminary Draft Refuge Vision Statement

The vision statement is a descriptive picture of how the Refuge will look and be in the future. Vision statements are future-oriented, concise, clear, and compelling. We welcome your input on this draft vision statement. The final vision statement will help guide implementation of the Refuge CCP.

*Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge is appreciated, protected, and treasured as a place where wildlife comes first. The public actively supports and advocates for the Refuge purpose and programs. Residents of the Treasure Valley realize that a shimmering oasis of wildlife habitat exists in their backyard, both at Lake Lowell and the Snake River Islands. The clean, clear waters and lush riparian landscapes of Lake Lowell and the Snake River Islands provide nesting, resting, and feeding habitat for spectacular concentrations of migratory birds and other wildlife. Areas of protected shoreline vegetation and open waters provide opportunities for grebes to successfully nest and raise their young. The shrub steppe habitat provides an exemplary model of what historically existed in the Treasure Valley and is utilized as a living classroom by children and adults. The islands of the Snake River provide habitats where songbirds, nesting geese, and colonial waterbirds thrive. The Refuge is a place for people to enjoy and connect with nature and realize the value of wildlife and habitats. Public use opportunities maintain the integrity of the wildlife resources, instill in visitors the importance of wild places, and provide quality memorable outdoor experiences for present and future generations of Americans.*

#### Comment [jbs1]:

- Importance.
- Understanding of irrigation purpose

Comment [jbs2]: Statement jumps back

Comment [jbs3]: Too specific

Comment [jbs4]: Very specific compared to other portions of vision statement

Comment [jbs5]: Fishing and hunting

Comment [jbs6]: Wild?

Comment [jbs7]: Consumptive and non-consumptive – include specifically big six

Comment [jbs8]: Education

## Comments

- Inclusion of irrigation/water supply as important and why not specifically addressed by CCP?
- Expansion of Refuge lands?
- Actions common to all alternatives: Aquatic Invasive Species (specifically zebra and quagga mussels, early detection, outreach (signage), prevention (inspection), substrate samples (attachments), veliger samples (via plankton nets).
- Public Education Interpretive
- Fails to recognize/acknowledge original purpose of reservoir
- Consumptive uses
- Artificial place that is not “wild place”
- Mention fishing
- Maintain agricultural reservoir
- Shorter statement that is more direct and not as vague
- Active management balances the needs of people and wildlife
- Not just observers or engaged within and enjoy
- First sentence needs to include benefit to humans
- Too much focus on treasure valley, this is national
- Why grebes only?

- First sentence needs to include enjoyed to imply a consumptive benefit
- Help educate the public as to why traditional uses may be curtailed
- What was the original vision and what has the progress been toward that?
- Unique recreational refuge – balance evolved (traditional) use and wildlife goal
- Active vegetation management – decadent
- Safe access
- Interaction with the public
- Management balances needs of public with wildlife
- How “wild” is it?
- History of refuge – irrigation not mentioned
- Mixed in habitat and public use, a lot of repetition.
- Put Snake River concepts together.
- Vision is more about birds than recreation or other uses.
- Recreation is important (maybe not 1<sup>st</sup>) but should be supported
- Changes to vision—from our group
  - Too much emphasis on just shorebirds, more emphasis terr wl and fish
  - More emphasis on consumptive use opportunities, like fishing
- Add more on public emotional health; relaxation; restorative; escaping hustle and bustle
- Harmonious uses—conflicts minimized
- Memorable may not be specific enough or might not relay positive
- 1<sup>st</sup> sentence is troublesome. Say something about humans in the first sentence; maybe adding the word “enjoyed” something more active
- Why only species mentioned specifically is grebes—bcs state imperiled list
- Public advocates—is this too strong?
- For locals, realization more than just that it exists in their backyard, see the value

**Before handing out the Draft Vision, Refuge staff asked participants to write their own vision in groups. Below are these vision statements:**

Statement 1

A NWR that provides a safe, clean, fun place for people to visit. The Refuge would be managed to support wildlife, wildlife habitat, a wide diversity of both wildlife related and non-wildlife-related activities, and a variety of economic opportunities. Management decisions would be derived from a history of solid scientific data.

Statement 2

A wildlife oasis in a sea of development while adapting to surrounding land use. Free from invasive species. Opportunity for people to enjoy wildlife-based recreation. Irrigation remains priority water use. A balanced approach sensitive to wildlife but allowing continued recreation use.

Statement 3

A National Wildlife Refuge that protects wildlife, wildlife habitat, and wildlife related recreational activities while still allowing other recreational uses not directly related to wildlife.

