

News Release



Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge
13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa, ID 83686
<http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/> 208 467-9278

Date: May 27, 2011
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Comments Sought on Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Preliminary Draft Alternatives

The Refuge seeks to improve its conservation activities

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is seeking public comments on the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) preliminary draft alternatives. Comments on the preliminary draft alternatives will be considered as the Service develops the draft CCP/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The current preliminary draft alternatives were developed using public feedback received during the scoping process in summer 2010 and the best available science. The range of action alternatives is designed to meet Refuge purposes and the Refuge System mission, and to provide sufficient sanctuary for wildlife, while allowing most recreational uses to continue on the Refuge.

Planning Update 3, which summarizes the draft goals and the alternatives and associated maps, will be distributed to individuals on the CCP mailing list. Anyone not on the CCP mailing list can download a copy from the Refuge website (<http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/>) or pick up a copy at the Refuge Visitor Center. Anyone who would like to receive future updates on the Refuge CCP can call the Refuge office at (208) 467-9278 or email deerflat@fws.gov and request to be placed on the CCP mailing list.

There will be several opportunities for the public to comment on the preliminary draft alternatives. During June and July, Refuge staff will accept invitations to attend meetings of non-governmental organizations and provide a PowerPoint presentation on the preliminary draft alternatives and the CCP process. The Service will also host two extended open houses at the Refuge Visitor Center. The public is invited to meet Refuge staff, learn more about the preliminary draft alternatives, and provide written comments. The Refuge Visitor Center entrance road is located at the intersection of Indiana and Roosevelt. Directions are available at <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/visit/Driving.html>. GPS and online mapping sites do not give correct directions.

Open house times are as follows.

Friday, June 3:	12 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday, June 4:	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday, July 8:	12 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday, July 9:	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Public comments will be accepted through July 29, 2011. Comments may be submitted as follows:

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The Draft CCP/EIS is expected to be available for public review and comment in the spring of 2012. The final CCP, expected to be completed in fall/winter 2012, will guide the next 15 years of Refuge management.

When Congress amended the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (Act) in 1997, it incorporated an underlying philosophy that “wildlife comes first” on refuges. The Act provided the Service with guidance for managing refuges to ensure the long-term conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. It also established six priority public uses on National Wildlife Refuges: wildlife observation and photography, hunting, fishing, interpretation, and environmental education. The Act also requires all lands within the Refuge System to be managed in accordance with a CCP to ensure that the management of each refuge reflects the purposes of that refuge and the mission, policies, and goals of the Refuge System.

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1909 by President Theodore Roosevelt to provide a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. The refuge includes two units. The Lake Lowell Unit includes Lake Lowell and surrounding lands southwest of Nampa. The Snake River Islands Unit includes over 100 islands along 113 river miles between the Canyon-Ada County line and Farewell Bend in Oregon.

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The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, 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.