

News Release

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

13751 Upper Embankment Road, Nampa, ID 83686
208/467 9278 Fax: 208/467 1019 <http://deerflat.fws.gov>

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Contact: Eric_Anderson@fws.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake Lowell Draft Mule Deer Hunt Plan available for public review and comments

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is seeking public comments on a Draft Mule Deer Hunt Plan, Environmental Assessment (EA), and compatibility determination (CD) for Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge's Lake Lowell Unit located in southwestern Idaho. The Service examined the impacts of opening both a controlled mule deer hunt season and a depredation hunt season on portions of the Lake Lowell Unit. Short range weapons would be used for both seasons.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and other stakeholders identified important mule deer issues, including managing the refuge's mule deer population, providing mule deer hunting opportunities, and controlling agricultural depredation by mule deer, during initial planning for the refuge's comprehensive conservation plan. In response, the Service examined these issues under a separate planning process to expedite development of the Draft Hunt Plan, EA, and CD.

The Draft Hunt Plan and associated documents are available for public review and comments on the refuge's Web site: <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat>. Printed copies of the documents may be viewed or obtained at the refuge's visitor center located at 13751 Upper Embankment Road, Nampa, ID. Public comments on the Draft Hunt Plan and associated documents are due: January 5, 2012. Send your comments by either of the following methods.

Email: Eric_anderson@fws.gov

Mail: US Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
Attn: Eric Anderson, PVST
911 NE 11th Ave
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

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