

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter • August 2011

What's new?

Summer is definitely in full swing! I hope you've been enjoying the sunshine and staying cool in the heat as well. We hope you have had the time to visit the Refuge lately to enjoy hiking on our trails, watching for wildlife, fishing, or learning about the Refuge at the Visitor Center.

In wildlife news, the osprey chicks are growing bigger each day and have started flying away from the nest. It has been such a treat to watch them grow so quickly this summer outside the Visitor Center. They are still hanging out by the nest, so watch them from anywhere by clicking <http://www2.fiberpipe.net/deerflat/ospreycam.asp>.



Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Cheers!

Thank you to Kelli Soll for helping connect kids with nature this past month with our week long Desert Detectives Day Camp. Thank you to 40 members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for removing weeds around the visitor center and nature trail, and thank you Steve Kehoe and Don Dunn for leading the group! And lastly, thank you Jill & Joe Iuculano for helping out with outreach festivals this year and being wonderful RV volunteers. Thanks all!

Additionally, Claire Deters has finished her term of service at Deer Flat as the Environmental Education Specialist. Thank you for all your fantastic work teaching kiddos about wildlife Claire, and best wishes for your future endeavours. We look forward to welcoming a new environmental education intern in September!



Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Around the water cooler...

The Preliminary Draft Alternative comment period, the second opportunity for public comment in this process, ended July 29. Public comments will still be accepted as the Refuge staff begins to revise the Preliminary Draft Alternatives and draft the Conservation Comprehensive Plan. Planning Update Three and the Preliminary Draft Alternatives can be read here: <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/refugeplanning.html>. If you are interested in being on the CCP mailing list, please contact the Refuge at 467-9278 or email deerflat@fws.gov.

Master Naturalist Program

Do you enjoy learning about wildlife, plants, geology, ecology, and other local conservation topics? Then think about becoming an Idaho Master Naturalist! The Lizard Butte chapter is just starting up with its first classes to start at the Refuge Visitor Center in September. Learn about Idaho's natural environment through guest lectures and field trips, and apply that knowledge through conservation-based service projects. For more information or to register, please contact Kathleen Cookman at kasey50@clearwire.net.



Volunteer Orientation

Have you never been to a volunteer orientation? Do you want a refresher? Or do you know someone who is interested in signing up to volunteer at the Refuge? Then mark your calendar for August 18 at 7 PM and join Cody and Susan for a volunteer orientation at the Visitor Center. **No registration necessary**



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

CCC Scanning Project (1-2 volunteers)

Dates and times: At your convenience

We need help scanning and digitalizing old Deer Flat Civilian Conservation Corps camp newsletters to our electronic server. Help preserve history and learn some neat things about the Refuge. **Deadline to register: Ongoing.**

Visitor Center Host (1-2 volunteers)

Dates and Times: September 3 and September 24, 10:00am-4:00pm

On Saturdays, the Visitor Center is open thanks to visitor center host volunteers. If you enjoy interacting with people and sharing wildlife stories with visitors, then this might be the opportunity for you! Training is provided. **Deadline to Register: Ongoing**

Weed Warrior Volunteers (3-4 volunteers)

Dates and Time: Weekdays throughout August, 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 the 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 telling 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.**

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

Date and Time: 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 noxious weeds or litter around the shores of Lake Lowell. **Deadline to register: September 19th.**

Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trip Leaders

Dates and Times: Tuesdays-Thursdays from September 20 to October 27, 9:30am-2:30pm

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 planned during the week of September 12. **Deadline to Register: September 9**

Duck Banding Volunteers (10-14 volunteers)

TENATIVE Date and Times: September 8, 5:30am-9am

Help the Refuge staff band and count ducks! Volunteers will help secure nets and will gather ducks from the nets to place in the holding boxes or pass to staff to band. Basic duck species identification skills are recommended. **Deadline to Register: September 1st**

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