

# Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter • February 2013

## What's New?

Do you volunteer at the Refuge frequently and never want to worry about turning in time sheets again? Good news—we have a *new time sheet notebook*! Simply fill out a timesheet, label it with your name, place it behind the tab that your last name begins with, and enter your hours each time you come in. If you volunteer mostly away from the refuge, just keep sending in your hours as usual.

## Cheers

Hip, hip hurray for Park Ridge Elementary school! Each year the school raises funds for a local organization. This year they chose the Friends of Deer Flat. To kick start the campaign, refuge staff taught the students about the Refuge and Friends group at a school assembly in January. By the end of the month the “Pennies for Wildlife” project raised \$129 for the Friends’ Osprey Webcam. Way to go Park Ridge!



The new volunteer timesheet binder next to “Linda Litter” in the front office.

Much thanks goes out to Power Enterprises for sending us their extraordinary help these last few weeks! When their hard-working employee, Todd, was placed on light duty, the only light-duty position available was answering the phones. This didn't keep Todd nearly as busy as he liked, so they offered to have him volunteer with us while keeping him on their payroll until he recovered fully. Todd has been tremendously helpful. We've truly enjoyed having him here. Thank you, Power Enterprises, for spreading so much good!!

## Around the Water Cooler

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, Addison and a team of volunteers conducted a deer spotlight survey in tandem with a pilot whose aircraft was equipped with thermal imaging equipment. Approximately 77 deer were spotted in and around the Lake Lowell Unit. And drum roll, please...finally, we have a release date for the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan. It will be released on March 15 and be open for public comment through May 15. Contact [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) if you would like to be on the mailing list.

## Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

See Upcoming Events below for a fun Friends’ event. If you enjoy volunteering and want to support the Refuge in another way, think about becoming a Friends member. Memberships start at \$10 and are tax deductible. If you’re already a member, don’t forget to renew your memberships for 2013! **For more information about membership or Friends volunteering, contact [friendsofdf@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofdf@yahoo.com).**

## Upcoming Events

**Snake River History & Artifacts (Wild About Life Lecture): Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 7pm** Archeologist Brian Wallace offers a glimpse into the past through stories, features, and artifacts left behind by early Snake River Valley inhabitants.

**104<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Deer Flat NWR: Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Watch your email for an invitation and join the Friends of Deer Flat for a fun-filled day complete with a book signing by Terrell Moffatt who has created a lovely coffee-table style book filled with gorgeous seasonal photos of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge.



## **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Idaho Sportsman's Show**

**Dates and Times:** Feb 28<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>, various times

Help staff the Fish and Wildlife Service booth at this huge show at Expo Idaho.

The FWS booth is targeted at kids and is fun and interactive. Volunteers get free access to the show, as well as a free pass to the show for family or a friend. **Deadline to register: February 20<sup>th</sup>**

### **Wood Duck Box Survey (3-4 volunteers per day)**

**Dates and Times:** March 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am-3:00pm

Help longtime volunteer Jim Holcomb survey, clean, and repair roughly 70 Wood Duck boxes at Lake Lowell. *Register soon—this always fills up quickly!*

**Deadline to register: February 25<sup>th</sup>**

### **CCP Update Labeling and Postage Helpers (2-3 volunteers)**

**Dates and Times:** March 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, or 13<sup>th</sup>; times flexible

In preparation for release of the Draft CCP on March 15<sup>th</sup>, we need help

labeling and applying postage to postcards and Planning Updates. **Deadline to register: March 1<sup>st</sup>**

### **CCP Draft Delivery (1-2 volunteers)**

**Date:** March 14<sup>th</sup>

In preparation for the official release of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan on March 15<sup>th</sup>, we need copies of the draft distributed to libraries in Nampa, Caldwell, Homedale, Marsing, Payette, and Boise. Why not sign up to take a nice March drive! **Deadline to register: March 1<sup>st</sup>**

### **Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trip Leaders (2-3 volunteers each trip)**

**Dates and Times:** Tuesdays-Thursdays from April to May, 9:30am-2:30pm

Volunteers are needed to help guide 4th-6th graders through Discover Wildlife Journeys field trips near the Visitor Center and help connect students with nature. No experience necessary—just a love of kids, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn. **Deadline to register: mid-March.** Training will be held in late March or early April.

### **VC Landscaping (2-3 volunteers)**

**Dates:** Spring, Summer & Fall

Do you enjoy working outdoors? Pruning, trimming, and weeding help is needed to maintain the water-conservation and pollinator gardens at the Visitor Center. **Deadline to register: Ongoing**

### **Scout Day Leaders (3-4 volunteers per month)**

**Dates and Time: Usually 1st Saturday of every month from 1-3pm. Upcoming dates: Mar 9, Apr 6 & May 4**

Scout Day is a free environmental education opportunity for Scouts to earn wildlife-related badges. Volunteers lead programs that include crafts and a short hike. No experience necessary—only enthusiasm and a willingness to learn!

**Deadline to register: Ongoing**

### **BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day Volunteers (20-30 volunteers)**

**Dates and Time: June 7-8**

Mark the dates of the annual BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day. We need your help to make these biggest events of the year happen! More detailed info to follow, but feel free to sign up now! **Deadline to Register: May 27<sup>th</sup>**



2012 volunteers cleaning and surveying a wood duck nesting box (photo © Bob Christensen)

To find out more about or sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities, contact [Heidi\\_Fencik@fws.gov](mailto:Heidi_Fencik@fws.gov)  
Or (208) 467-9278.

**Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!**

Heidi Fencik, Volunteer Coordinator and PCEI AmeriCorps Member