

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter • March 2012



What's New?

Two pairs of Bald Eagles have returned to nest at the Refuge yet again this year. To help the eagles successfully raise their family, part of the patrol road will be closed west of the VC. While the area near the nest is closed, there are still great viewing opportunities. You can still walk (or permits are available at the visitor center to drive) to the viewing platform west of the Visitor Center. Although the nest can be seen with the naked eye from a considerable distance, bring binoculars or a spotting scope for the best views. The area will remain closed until the chicks leave the nest, probably in early July. The closed area is clearly marked with signs and flagging.

News Flash! We are starting what we hope will be a long tradition of hosting volunteer socials. Join us and be able to say you were at the first one. See "Upcoming Events" below.

Cheers!

It's a dirty job, but someone's got to do it. Well...it's actually a sandy job! Open fence posts pose a threat to many nesting birds. Birds see them as a wonderful place to make a nest only to learn that they cannot spread their wings to fly out once it is time to leave. Steve and Nick have worked many hours to fill empty posts around the Refuge with sand. Soon the posts will be topped with cement to permanently eliminate the allure of these "Hotel California" nesting spots. Thanks!

Around the water cooler...

The draft CCP will be released on the 15th of this month. Hard copies will be delivered to all local libraries and it can be viewed online at www.fws.gov/deerflat. You are invited to attend the CCP open houses listed below under "Upcoming Events."

Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

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.

Upcoming Events

104th Anniversary of Deer Flat NWR: Saturday, March 2nd. Join the Friends of Deer Flat for a slide presentation of beautiful Lake Lowell photos by Terrell Moffatt as well as coffee and treats donated by Flying M Coffee Garage and time to socialize and share ideas.



Friends of Deer Flat Strategic Planning Meeting - Saturday March 16th, 9-4. All volunteers interested in the long-term direction of the Friends are welcome to be a part of this landmark event.

Volunteer Social - Thu Mar 28, 2013, 2pm – 3:30pm. Please join us for coffee, snacks and a casual gathering to get to know your fellow volunteers and talk about recent successes and upcoming projects. Considering volunteering? Then visit with those who've "been there and done that" to find the project that's right for you.

CCP Open Houses- Friday, March 29, from Noon-3pm and 6-9pm and Saturday, March 30 from 10am-3pm. Learn more about the draft plan, ask questions, and share your thoughts.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Donating Old CD's

Please drop by old CD's for use in educational crafts this spring/summer. Help prevent bird window strikes!

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. **Training will be held 1-5 PM on April 2nd. Deadline to register: April 1.**

Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest Helpers (3-5 volunteers)

Dates and Times: At your convenience or as noted.

Data entry: Help enter information about contest participants into a database. **Help needed through March 20.**

Returning artwork: Sort judged artwork and return artwork and certificates/prizes/ribbons to all participants. Help needed from **March 26-April 13.** Specific times will be set up for teams to work together.

Goose Nest Survey (many volunteers)

Dates and Times: April 2-4, pending weather

Help with goose nesting surveys on the Snake River Islands Unit of the Refuge. These will be full days—probably from 7:30 AM until about 4. The surveys are planned to repeat April 30-May 2. **Deadline to register: March 29.**

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!

Earth Day Work Day (many volunteers)

Dates and Time: Saturday, April 20, 9-noon

Celebrate Earth Day at Deer Flat by participating in Earth Day Work Day! Crew leaders needed, as well as people to join crews to improve habitat for wildlife by removing noxious weeds and litter at Lake Lowell. **Deadline to register: Crew leaders: March 22; Crew members: April 15.**

BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day—need 20-30 volunteers. Save the Date! June 7-8

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

Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!

Heidi Fencik, Volunteer Coordinator and PCEI AmeriCorps Member