



Stillwater/Fallon/Anaho Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex Comprehensive Conservation Planning Update

April 2000
Number 6

The Draft EIS is Ready for Your Review!

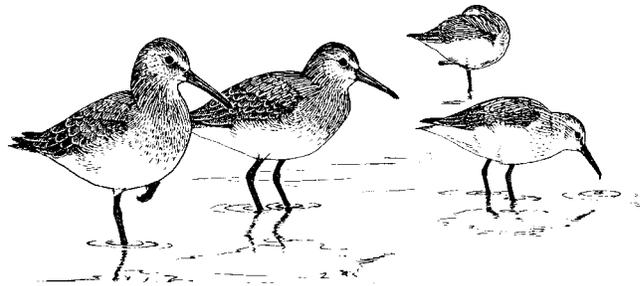
At long last, the Draft Environmental Impact (Draft EIS) Statement for the Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Boundary Revision for the Stillwater National Wildlife (Refuge) Complex is completed and ready for your review. Public input is important in the development of the comprehensive conservation plan and assessment of the boundary, and we encourage you to provide comments. You'll find an explanation of several ways to provide comments in this update. The deadline for comments is June 12, 2000.

If you have not received copies of the documents you wish to review, please contact us or view them at one of the following locations: Stillwater Refuge headquarters (1000 Auction Road, Fallon), Churchill County Library (553 South Main Street, Fallon), Department of the Interior Building (1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno), Downtown Reno Library (301 S. Center Street), Carson City Library (900 North Roop Street), California/Nevada Refuge Planning Office (2800 Cottage Avenue, Suite W-1916, Sacramento, California), or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office (911 11th Avenue, 3rd Floor, Portland, Oregon). The summary document can be viewed on our regional web site: www.r1.fws.gov/planning/plnhome.html.

This planning update provides information on the upcoming open houses, identifies locations where the Draft EIS can be reviewed (above), explains how to comment on the Draft EIS, and summarizes how major comments were addressed in Draft EIS.

Where We've Been

Over the course of the last year and a half, we have been busy completing a draft set of the alternatives, analyzing potential effects of the alternatives, and preparing the Draft EIS. The internal review process took longer than anticipated and we were slowed down somewhat by staff changes and staff in lead positions taking on additional responsibilities.



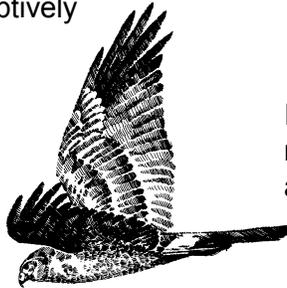
Components of the Planning Documents

The Draft EIS describes four alternatives and provides an examination of the effects of each alternative. These alternatives were derived in part from scoping comments. Each alternative has two main parts: (1) boundary revision for Stillwater Refuge, and (2) comprehensive conservation plan for the Stillwater Refuge Complex, which currently includes Stillwater Refuge, Stillwater Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Fallon Refuge, and Anaho Island Refuge.

When the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is completed and an alternative from the Final EIS is selected for implementation, a comprehensive conservation plan will be prepared for each

refuge in the refuge complex. These will be separate documents from the EIS. The main refuge programs to be covered in the plans will be wildlife and habitat management, public use management, and cultural resources management.

The fundamental purpose of a comprehensive conservation plan is to provide managers with guidance and direction for managing refuges. Therefore, the main contents of the comprehensive conservation plans will be refuge goals, objectives, and strategies (four alternative sets of goals, objectives and strategies are evaluated in the Draft EIS). Another important part of the plan will be a monitoring program to track our progress toward achieving refuge goals and to allow us to adaptively manage refuge habitats and other resources as we gain new information that facilitates a better understanding of the effects of management actions. The adopted comprehensive conservation plans will guide the development of annual work plans and will be used in future budget requests.



Northern Harrier
by Larry Eifert

You're Invited to An Open House

Two open houses will give you an opportunity to ask questions and to provide comments on the Draft EIS in an informal setting:

- April 26, 2000, from 3:00 to 7:30 p.m.,
Fallon Convention Center, 100 Campus
Way, Fallon, Nevada
- April 27, 2000, from 3:00 to 7:30 p.m.,
Department of the Interior Building,
1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno

Staff from the Refuge will be available from 3:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. to discuss the draft alternatives and their potential effects. Short presentations on the Draft EIS will be given at 3:15 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m. Comments,

preferably in writing, can be submitted that evening, or can be sent to the Refuge Manager anytime before June 12, 2000.

Submitting Comments

Please send your comments to:

Kim Hanson, Refuge Manager
Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 1236
Fallon, Nevada 89407
(775) 423-5128
(775) 423-0416 (fax)

Email comments should contain "Comments on Stillwater Refuge Complex Draft EIS" in the subject line, and should be sent to:

kim_hanson@r1.fws.gov

If your comments are attached to an email message, avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

Refuge staff can attend a meeting of your organization to discuss the Draft EIS. Please notify us at least two weeks in advance of your meeting if possible.

Please pass this planning update along to people that may be interested in the planning process at Stillwater Refuge Complex.

***Planning Update for the:
Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Complex***

***Announcing the Release of the:
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the
Comprehensive Conservation Plan & Boundary Revision***

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Planning Documents Available for Public Review:

- **Summary**
- **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Volume I)**
- **Technical Appendices (Volume II)**

U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge
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