

# News Release



## *Pacific Region*

## *Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge*

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12-003

[www.fws.gov/washingtonmaritime/Dungeness/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/washingtonmaritime/Dungeness/index.html)

November 28, 2012

Contact : Kevin Ryan, Project Leader, 360-457-8451

### **Public Comment Sought on Draft Plan for Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge**

*Comments accepted until December 27, 2012*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is asking the public to comment on the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (draft plan) concerning the future management of the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge.

The draft plan includes an analysis of three management alternatives for the refuge. The Service's preferred alternative includes more active habitat management projects, such as invasive species removal; projects in forests to manage for old growth characteristics, remove unneeded roads, and increase species diversity; enhancement of freshwater impoundment on the Dawley Unit; and research studies that answer refuge management questions.

Public use changes include new limits on boat landing hours. The existing uses of jogging and horseback riding were evaluated in accordance with the Appropriateness Policy and the draft analysis has found that jogging is not appropriate due to wildlife disturbance and therefore would no longer be allowed. The Service has also preliminarily determined that horseback riding should no longer be allowed due to safety concerns and user conflicts. There would be more emphasis on enhancing the public's understanding and appreciation of the refuge's natural and cultural resources through both on- and off-refuge interpretation and education programs. There would also be more emphasis on working with existing partners and developing new partnerships to accomplish objectives.

The full draft plan and the latest planning may be accessed online at <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning>.

Printed copies are available for review at the following libraries: North Olympic Library System (Port Angeles Public Library and Sequim Public Library), Port Townsend Public Library, Jefferson County Central Library, University of Washington Library, Washington State University Library, Western Washington University Library, Peninsula College Library, and Washington State Library. Printed or CD-ROM copies can be requested from the Refuge Office at (360) 457-8451.

Comments on the draft plan should be mailed, faxed or e-mailed by December 27, 2012, to: Kevin Ryan, Project Leader, Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 715 Holgerson Road, Sequim, WA 98382;

fax number (360) 457-9778; or e-mail [FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov](mailto:FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov). Please include Dungeness in the e-mail subject line. Public comments will be addressed in the final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment, scheduled to be completed in winter 2013. The final plan will guide the Refuge's management for 15 years, and actions will be implemented as funding becomes available.

The National Wildlife Refuge System, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is the world's premier system of public lands and waters set aside to conserve America's fish, wildlife and plants. Since President Theodore Roosevelt designated Florida's Pelican Island as the first wildlife refuge in 1903, the System has grown to more than 96 million acres, 548 refuges and 37 wetland management districts nationwide.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov). Connect with our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/usfws](http://www.facebook.com/usfws), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfwshq](http://www.twitter.com/usfwshq), watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

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