

News Release

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Washington Maritime
National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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For Immediate Release

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the release of the final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge.

Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established in 1915 as a refuge, preserve, and breeding ground for native birds. From one of the world's longest natural sandspits, to the quiet bay it protects, to the forested uplands – this 636 acre refuge provides a safe place for over 250 bird and 41 mammal species, shellfish, and four species of salmon. Dungeness NWR is an internationally important area for birds because birds that stop here breed as far north as Alaska and migrate as far south as South America. In recognition of its importance to birds, Dungeness NWR has been designated an important bird area by the National Audubon Society.

The Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for Dungeness NWR will guide refuge management decisions for the next 15 years and beyond. Development of the CCP incorporated public input through open houses and meetings with partners and elected officials as well as public review of the draft CCP and Environmental Assessment. CCP objectives aim to increase the benefits to wildlife and habitat, and improve the public use, outreach, education and volunteer programs. The Service received numerous comments during the process, particularly in response to the draft proposal to discontinue jogging and horseback riding in the refuge. Those comments are addressed in the finalized CCP which concludes that both jogging and horseback riding are appropriate and compatible in the refuge with certain stipulations. Jogging will continue in the refuge on the Bluff Trail adjacent to the parking area and on the West Beach which is west of Dungeness Spit with additional restrictions on group size. Horseback riding will be allowed only on the West Beach if a safe and legal alternate access route can be obtained.

The CCP is available online at www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/main/docs/wa/docsdungeness.htm

Printed copies are also available for review at the Sequim and Port Angeles Branches of the North Olympic Public Library, the Port Townsend Public Library, the Jefferson County Central Library, and the Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex Headquarters.

To request a paper or digital copy, contact: **Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 715 Holgerson Road, Sequim, WA 98382, (360) 457-8451, 360-457-9778 fax.**

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of fish,

wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations.

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.

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