



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Protection Island and San Juan Islands National Wildlife Refuges

Planning Update Number 4, April 2011



Grassland on Protection Island NWR / ©Peter Hodum

The Refuges' Final CCP/WSP/EA is Complete!

The Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan/Wilderness Stewardship Plan (CCP/WSP) for Protection Island and San Juan Islands National Wildlife Refuges (Refuges) is completed and available.

After thorough analysis of the alternatives, we are pleased to announce that Alternative B was selected as the management plan for the refuges. The CCP/WSP was developed to provide reasonable, scientifically grounded guidance for managing public uses and the various habitats on these islands for the long-term conservation of migratory birds, native plants, and animals. The plan will also guide us in many issues facing the refuges, such as climate change, human-caused wildlife disturbance, the threat of oil spills and other pollutants, and invasive plant and animal species.

You can obtain a copy of the CCP on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/> or by contacting the Refuge Complex at 360-457-8451.

We Appreciate Your Comments

We sincerely appreciate the interested expressed in our planning process and those who contributed valuable comments during the 30-day comment period from August 17, 2010 to September 17, 2010 for the Draft CCP and Environmental Assessment. We distributed planning updates to over 700 agencies, organizations, and individuals on our mailing list. A press release was provided to local media and was also posted on the Service's Regional website. Since the last planning update announcing the public comment



Rhinoceros auklet chick
©Duncan Wright

period for the Draft CCP/WSP/EA, the planning team has carefully considered and responded to public comments and completed revisions to the CCP/WSP. Details regarding public comments and Service responses can be found in Appendix L in the CCP/WSP. Comments that resulted in changes to the CCP are summarized on page 3.

Highlights of the CCP/WSP

As staffing and funding allows, the Service and partners will:

- Protect, maintain, and where feasible, restore habitats including shoreline, sandy bluffs, grasslands and balds, forests and woodlands, and wetlands for priority species including seabirds, shorebirds, bald eagles, marine mammals, and endemic plants.
- Minimize human-caused wildlife disturbance on and near closed refuge islands, rocks, and shorelines.
- Manage invasive species and State- and county-listed noxious weeds.
- Survey and protect paleontological and cultural resources.
- Increase inventory and monitoring efforts.
- Encourage and facilitate research that answers refuge management questions.
- Design and implement a site plan for refuge administration and research facilities on Protection Island in order to reduce the human “footprint,” improve refuge management capability, improve research coordination, and reduce liquid fuel consumption by expanding solar power capabilities.
- Reduce the number of campsites on Turn Island and limit camping on both Turn and Matia Islands to visitors arriving by human-powered boats.
- Enhance and increase both on- and off-refuge environmental education and interpretation as well as wildlife observation and photography opportunities.
- Increase outreach to boaters, schoolchildren, local residents, and tourists.
- Use signs and other management techniques efficiently and effectively on wilderness rocks and islands to assist in maintaining their wildlife and intrinsic values while minimizing impacts to wilderness character.



Tufted puffin
©Karen Robinson

The CCP is available in the following ways



Compact Disk

Contact:
Washington Maritime NWRC
715 Hologerson Road
Sequim, WA 98382
Phone 360/457-8451



Internet

Visit:
www.fws.gov/pacific/planning



Local Library

A printed copy of the CCP/WSP is available at numerous public libraries in the Olympic Peninsula and Seattle area. Complete listing to the right.

Summary of Comments, Responses, and Changes to the CCP

Subject	Comments	Responses and Changes to CCP
Deer Removal	There were comments both in support of and opposed to deer removal on Protection Island for the purpose of enhancing seabird habitat. One commenter was in support of deer removal but wanted to be sure that the Service will coordinate with Treaty Tribes in planning any deer removal actions.	The Service will conduct a thorough step-down planning process to consider the most effective ways of removing deer from Protection Island. Text in several strategies in Chapter 2 was modified to explicitly include coordination with Treaty Tribes regarding step-down planning for deer removal on Protection Island.
Camping	A number of commenters were opposed to proposed changes to the camping program including reducing the number of campsites on Turn Island, only allowing visitors arriving by human-powered boats to camp, and initiating a reservation system.	The Service has decided to move forward with the proposed changes except that we “may” rather than “will” initiate a new camping reservation system pending additional monitoring of compliance with refuge regulations. The other changes to the camping program are intended to continue to allow this popular activity while making it more appropriate and consistent with the public use priorities of wildlife refuges.
Integrated Pest Management	Commenters made suggestions and supported an integrated pest management approach to controlling invasive plant and animal species.	The Service updated Appendix E -Integrated Pest Management Program with information from a new Service policy (569 FW 1) and a section on control of Scotch broom was added.
Partners	Some commenters suggested additional potential refuge partners.	Partnerships are extremely important for accomplishing the goals, objectives, and strategies identified in the CCP. We added the partners suggested and a few others as well to Appendix G -Implementation.

- Anacortes Public Library, 1220 10th Street, Anacortes, WA 98221
- Bellingham Public Library, 210 Central Avenue CS-9710, Bellingham, WA 98227
- Clinton Public Library, 4781 Deer Lake Road, Clinton, WA 98236
- Coupeville Public Library 788 NW Alexander, Coupeville, WA 98239
- Evergreen State College Library, 2700 Evergreen Parkway NW, Olympia, WA 98505
- Island Public Library, 2144 S Nugent Rd, Lummi Island, WA 98262
- Jefferson County Central Library, 620 Cedar Ave, Port Hadlock, WA 98339
- Lopez Island Public Library, 2225 Fisherman Bay Rd, Lopez Island, WA 98261
- North Olympic Public Library, 630 N Sequim Ave, Sequim, WA 98382
- Oak Harbor Public Library, 1000 SE Regatta Dr, Oak Harbor, WA 98377
- Orcas Island Public Library, 500 Rose St, Eastsound, WA 98245
- Peninsula College Library, 502 E Lauridsen Blvd, Port Angeles, WA 98362
- San Juan Islands Library, 1010 Guard St, Friday Harbor, WA 98250
- Shaw Island Library, Blind Bay Rd, Shaw Island, WA 98286
- University of Puget Sound Library, 1500 N Warner St, Tacoma, WA 98416
- University of Washington Library, Suzzallo Library, Seattle, WA 98195
- Waldron Island Library, Waldron Island, WA, 98297
- Washington State Library, 6880 Capitol Blvd, Tumwater, WA 98504
- Washington State University Library, Owen Science Library, Pullman, WA 99164
- Western Washington University, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA 98225



Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex
715 Holgerson Road
Sequim, WA 98382

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How can you help?

Implementing the Protection Island and San Juan Islands Comprehensive Conservation Plan requires continued citizen and community support. We will need partners and volunteers to help with new and expanded environmental education, interpretation, outreach, habitat restoration, and wildlife and habitat monitoring. You can help by becoming a volunteer, assisting the Refuge with projects and programs, and helping us promote the Refuge in the community.

You can contact the Refuge by calling 360/457-8451, faxing us at 360/457-9778, or by emailing the Project Leader, Kevin Ryan, at kevin_ryan@fws.gov

Black oystercatcher
Lorenz Sollmann, USFWS