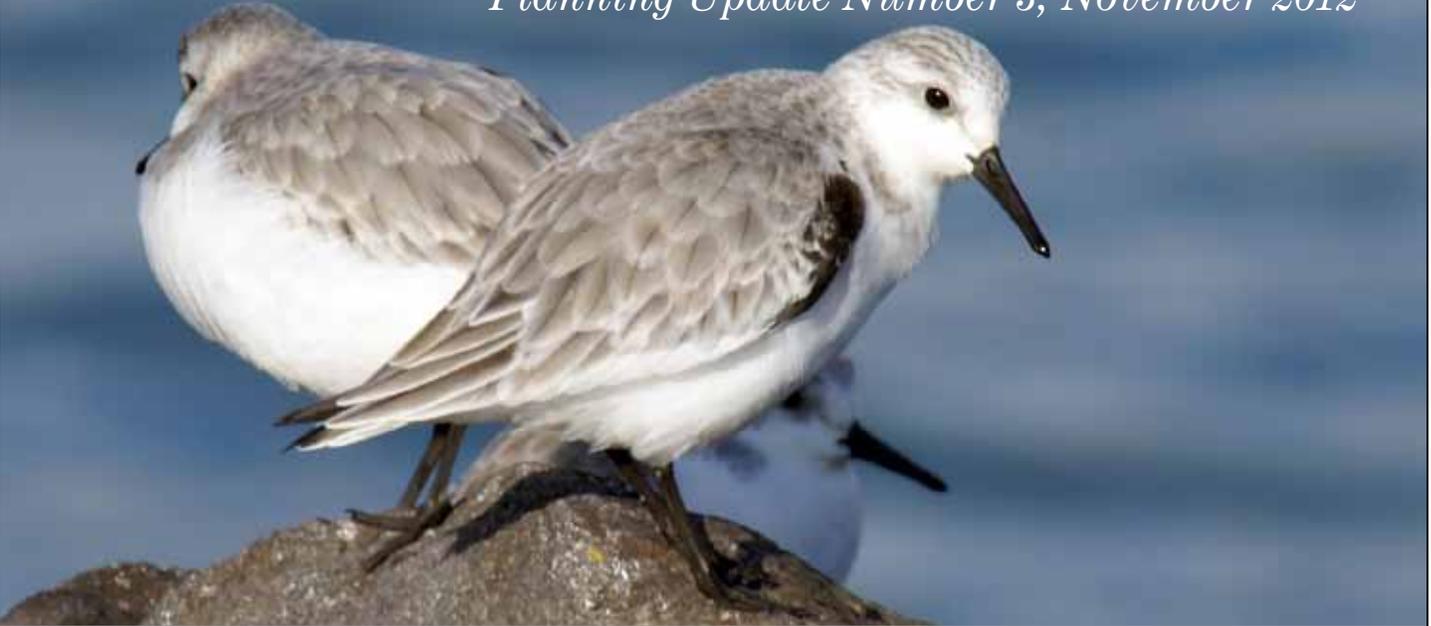


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge

*Planning Update Number 3, November 2012*



*Sanderlings roosting on a rock. ©Dow Lambert*

## The Draft CCP/EA is Available for Public Comments *Your comments are important!*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft CCP/EA) for Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge (NWR or Refuge) is available for public review and comment between now and December 27, 2012. We value your comments and encourage you to share them with us. Please use the enclosed comment form or see page 6 for other options for sending your comments to us.

In January and February 2012, we presented preliminary draft

versions of three alternatives intended to guide Refuge management direction over the next 15 years, and we requested your feedback. Since then, your comments have been considered and evaluated, with many incorporated into the various draft alternatives summarized on the following pages.

Alternative A is our "no-action" alternative, which describes current Refuge management. Alternative B is our Preferred Alternative. One other alternative, Alternative C, was developed and analyzed. Management actions common to all alternatives are also identified in the Draft CCP/EA.

We developed the Draft CCP/EA to provide reasonable, scientifically grounded guidance for protecting, maintaining, and improving the Refuge's nearshore, forested, and wetland habitats for the long-term conservation of migratory birds and native plants and animals. The plan also provides future direction for the Refuge's public use programs.

At the end of the comment period, the planning team will evaluate your comments and address them in the Final CCP. The Final CCP will then be published and distributed. Actions will be implemented as funding becomes available.

### **In this update:**

- Alternative Considered but Dismissed*
- Features Common to All Draft Alternatives*
- Summary of Draft Alternatives*
- Planning Schedule*
- How to Get a Copy of the DCCP/EA*
- Alternatives Comparison Map*

The Draft CCP/EA contains an analysis of each alternative and its effects on key environmental, community, and socio-economic resources.



*Beach grasses and driftwood. USFWS*

## Alternative Considered but Dismissed

### *Active Shoreline Erosion Control and Bank Protection*

Dungeness NWR's shoreline includes two sand spits, the 5.5-mile long Dungeness Spit and the 1.4-mile long Graveyard Spit, and approximately 0.5 miles of bluff-backed beach. These shoreline features are dynamic and affected by the natural processes of sediment erosion, littoral transport, and deposition. Intermittent breaching events have occurred on Dungeness Spit during and after large storms. Additionally, due to significant wind and wave exposure, the bluffs at the Refuge are experiencing erosion and recession.

Traditionally, erosion control and bank protection of the shoreline have been achieved through the use of engineered structures such as seawalls, bulkheads, revetments, and upland retaining walls. However, these structures disrupt natural geomorphic processes, reflect wave energy back onto the beach, and cut off sources of sediment needed to maintain nearby beaches. Alternative measures such as beach nourishment, where sediment is artificially added to the beach, and bank stabilization actions (e.g., vegetation planting and/or large woody debris placement specifically to

address erosion and slope stability) have also been used to restore or enhance beach functions. None of these strategies are included within the range of alternatives currently presented due to their lack of practicability and the Refuge's management emphasis upon allowing natural processes to take place.

## Features Common to All Draft Alternatives

Features common to all alternatives include the consideration of climate change effects in all management actions; the reduction of the Refuge's carbon footprint; monitoring and control of invasive species; fire management; maintenance of existing structures; coordination with State, Tribal, and other partners to accomplish goals; cultural resources protection; volunteer opportunities; and the continuation of land protection within the approved Refuge boundary. All proposed actions are subject to funding availability.

In addition, appropriateness and compatibility determinations must be completed for existing recreational uses. All uses included in these alternatives would be allowed only if found appropriate and compatible.

The New Dungeness Light Station, within the approved Refuge boundary, is due to be exceeded by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG).

**USFWS Appropriate Refuge Uses Policy:**  
<http://www.fws.gov/policy/603fw1.html>

**USFWS Compatibility Policy:**  
<http://www.fws.gov/policy/603fw2.html>

Under all alternatives, the Service will work with the USCG to bring the light station property into the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) either through interagency cooperative management agreement or property transfer. Subsequently, the Service proposes to enter into an agreement with the New Dungeness Light Station Association to continue their management and maintenance of the light station facilities.



*Slough sedge is common on Refuge wetlands.* USFWS

## Appropriate and Compatible Refuge Uses

### *Appropriate*

In order for general public use (e.g., horseback riding, boating) to be permitted on a refuge, the use must first be found to be appropriate in accordance with the Service's Appropriate Refuge Uses Policy. Generally, a use is considered appropriate if it contributes to the public's understanding and appreciation of a refuge's natural or cultural resources or is beneficial to those resources. Hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation are the Refuge System's priority public uses as identified under the Refuge System Administration Act. These uses are automatically deemed appropriate on refuges.

### *Compatible*

All existing and proposed public uses must also be evaluated to determine if the use is compatible with refuge purposes and the Refuge System mission in accordance with the Service's Compatibility Policy. Generally, a use would be considered compatible if it will not materially interfere with, or detract from, fulfillment of the Refuge System's mission or a refuge's purpose. This determination includes identification and description of reasonably anticipated impacts of the use. A use may include stipulations (terms or conditions) necessary to ensure its compatibility.

For non-priority public uses, we are required to complete both an appropriateness finding process and a compatibility determination process.

# Summary of Draft Alternatives

To view a comprehensive comparison table of the alternatives, go to:  
<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/main/docs/wa/docsdungeness.htm>.

## *Alternative A*

### No-Action Alternative (Current Management)

Under Alternative A, the Refuge would continue with current management, which focuses on protecting and maintaining habitats in their current conditions. Fire suppression techniques would continue to be used to prevent catastrophic wildfire. Wetland and forested habitats would continue to be monitored for invasive species and treated with Integrated Pest Management techniques as funding allows. The water delivery system on the Dawley Unit would be maintained to deliver water to the impoundment. Access on

roads within the Dawley Unit would be maintained. Partnerships would continue to be cultivated for oil spill response and to address water quality issues within Dungeness Bay and Harbor. Limited data would be collected on birds, vegetation, invasive species, and marine debris with no specific effectiveness monitoring conducted for habitats or wildlife. Research would continue under Special Use Permits.

Areas that are open for public use year-round, areas that are open only

seasonally depending on the needs of Refuge wildlife, and areas that are closed to visitors year-round for the benefit of wildlife would remain the same. Public-use activities currently occurring on the Refuge include fishing (saltwater), shell-fishing (clams and crabs), wildlife observation, wildlife photography, hiking, boating (no wake allowed), horseback riding, jogging, beach use (wading, beachcombing, other recreational beach uses), environmental education, and environmental interpretation.

## *Alternative B*

### Preferred Alternative

The Service's Preferred Alternative would continue many of the activities in Alternative A, but would also expand the level of active habitat management and enhancement that the Service would conduct. A forest assessment would be conducted within the Dawley Unit and a step-down forest management plan would be completed by 2018. Active forest management techniques would be employed within a core 40-acre area to promote development of mature old-growth forest characteristics. A road inventory and condition assessment for the Dawley Unit would be completed by 2016. The slope along the main road would be stabilized, but the overall amount of road maintained

would decrease and unneeded logging spur roads outside of the core area would be rehabilitated. A wetland inventory and hydrological assessment would be conducted by 2015. The impoundment at the Dawley Unit would be managed for optimum water levels and benthic layer characteristics for amphibians. In addition to existing status monitoring and research, data would be collected on a greater variety of flora and fauna. Environmental factors that are stressors, climate change-related or otherwise, would be monitored. Effectiveness monitoring of the CCP and other step-down plan objectives would occur.

Public-use changes would include new limits on boat landing hours. The existing uses of jogging and horseback riding were evaluated in accordance with the appropriateness policy and our draft analysis has found that jogging is not appropriate due to wildlife disturbance and therefore would no longer be allowed. We have also preliminarily determined that horseback riding should no longer be allowed due to safety concerns and user conflicts. Additional wildlife viewing, interpretive, and environmental education programs would be offered. Staff and volunteer time devoted to making visitor contacts would be increased. New orientation, guidance, and regulatory signage and materials would be developed.

## *Alternative C*

All additional habitat monitoring and management activities included in Alternative B are also included in this alternative, as are previously listed effectiveness monitoring and research strategies and pursuit of partnerships to accomplish these activities. Forest management within the Dawley Unit would be further expanded to include minimal management activities (e.g., planting berry-producing shrubs)

within an additional 30-40 acres outside of the core area. Unneeded logging spur roads within this area would also be rehabilitated.

Public use opportunities and programs under Alternative C are similar to Alternative B but smaller and more restricted in some cases. Limits on boat landing hours under Alternative C are the same as under Alternative B.

Also similar to Alternative B, jogging is found to not be appropriate and would no longer be allowed. Horseback riding would not be allowed due to safety concerns and user conflicts. Wildlife viewing and interpretive and environmental education programs would be slightly more frequent under Alternative C compared to Alternative A, but slightly less frequent compared to Alternative B.

## Tentative Planning Schedule

<b>Planning Step</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
Planning Update 1 (issued).....	October 2011
Planning Update 2 (issued).....	January 2012
Public Meetings (completed) .....	January-February 2012
Planning Update 3 (issued).....	November 2012
Draft CCP/EA Comment Period .....	November 28-December 27, 2012
Final CCP/EA .....	Winter 2013

*Schedule dates are tentative and subject to change as the planning process progresses.*

### Copies of the Draft CCP/EA are available as follows:

Contact the Project Leader, Kevin Ryan, at  
 Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
 715 Holgerson Road  
 Sequim, WA 98382  
 360-457-8451

**View or download the Draft CCP/EA or see the draft alternative comparison tables and additional maps at**  
[www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/main/docs/wa/docsdungeness.htm](http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/main/docs/wa/docsdungeness.htm)

### A printed copy is available at each of the following libraries:

- North Olympic Public Library - Sequim Branch, 630 N. Sequim Ave., Sequim, WA 98382
- North Olympic Public Library - Port Angeles Branch, 2210 S. Peabody St., Port Angeles, WA 98362
- Port Townsend Public Library, 1220 Lawrence St., Port Townsend, WA 98368
- Jefferson County Central Library, 620 Cedar Ave., Port Hadlock, WA 98339

## Your Refuge

### Leaner, Greener and Reaching Out

To promote the availability of the Draft CCP/EA to a wider audience, and to reduce our use of natural resources to produce paper and CD-ROM copies, we will post the Draft CCP/EA on our website and provide each of the listed libraries a printed and CD copy.



*Red-breasted merganser.* ©Dow Lambert



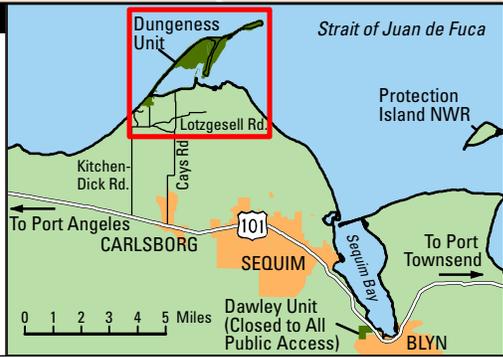
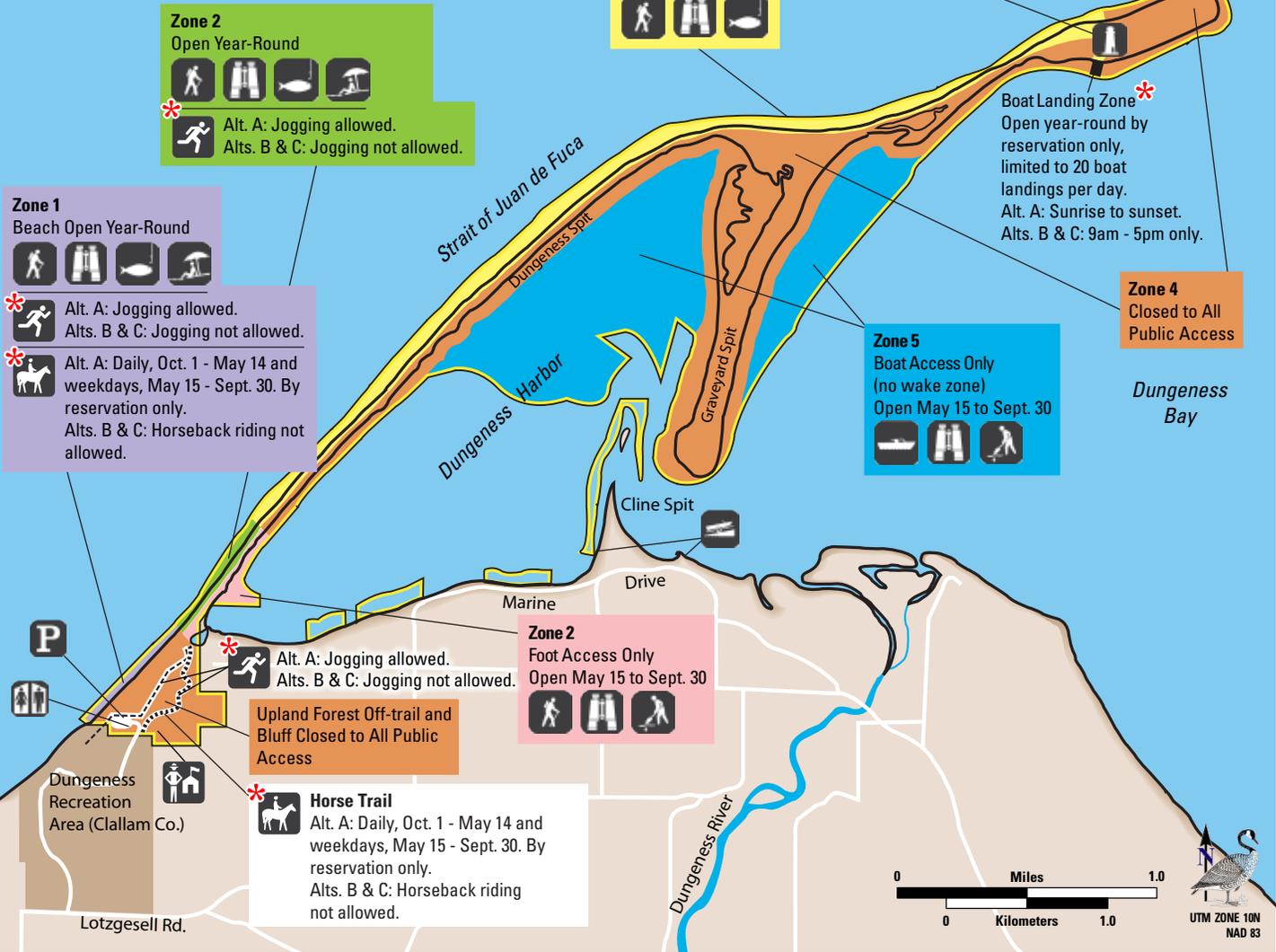
*Dunlin.* ©Dow Lambert

# Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge

## Public Use Draft Alternatives Comparison Map

- Zone 1:** Beach in front of bluffs
- Zone 2:** Base of Dungeness Spit out to ½ mile
- Zone 3:** Strait of Juan de Fuca side of Dungeness Spit from ½ mile to Lighthouse
- Zone 4:** Dungeness Spit from Lighthouse to end of spit and the Harbor and Bay sides of Dungeness Spit and all of Graveyard Spit, including the 100 yard buffer zone below Mean High tide line
- Zone 5:** Refuge waters and tidelands on the Harbor and Bay sides of Dungeness Spit outside of the 100 yard buffer zone

\* Denotes differences between Alternatives





Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge  
715 Holgerson Road  
Sequim, WA 98382

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### **We want to hear from you!**

Your comments help shape the future of the Refuge. Please send your comments and requests to us by any of the following methods:

#### **U.S. mail:**

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

**Email:** [FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov](mailto:FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov).

Please include “Dungeness NWR CCP” in the subject line of the message.

**Phone:** 360-457-8451

**Fax:** 360-457-9778

Comments are due to us by December 27, 2012

