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## **Appendix K. Public Involvement**

Public involvement was sought throughout the development of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge comprehensive conservation plan (CCP), starting in November 2010. Public involvement strategies included communication with federally elected officials (or their aides), Tribal governments, key agencies, local refuge users, and the general public.

Three planning updates were mailed to a mailing list that included over 800 recipients representing Federal, local, and state agencies; congressional representatives; state and local elected officials; Tribal representatives; nongovernment organizations; businesses; learning institutions; media; private landowners; and individual citizens. The refuge also maintained a website where CCP information could be found and where the public could provide comments during the scoping phase.

Two public meetings and one agency meeting were held inviting discussion and soliciting feedback. Below is a brief summary of the events, meetings, and outreach tools that were used in our public involvement efforts.

### **Federal Register Notice**

- November 3, 2010. Federal Register published the Notice of Intent to Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment; and the Request for Comments.

### **Coordination with Congressional Representatives and/or Their Aides**

- November 1, 2010. Letter sent to Oregon's two U.S. Senators and five U.S. Representatives. Letter described the start of the CCP process; invited coordination during initial public scoping; and provided public meeting dates and times.
- November 30, 2010. John Valley, aide to U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley, attended public open house.

### **Coordination with Tribes**

- November 1, 2010. Letter to Tribal Chairwoman, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Letter described the start of the CCP process, invited coordination during initial public scoping through attendance at public meetings, and/or supplemental meetings directly with the Tribe.
- March 16, 2011. Letter to Tribal Chairwoman, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Letter invited Tribe to a face-to-face meeting with refuge staff to discuss tribal input to the CCP.
- April 13, 2011. Letter to Tribal Chairwoman, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Letter invited Tribe to a face-to-face meeting with refuge staff to discuss tribal input to the CCP.

## **Coordination with State, Regional, and Local Agencies**

- November 1, 2010. Letter to state, regional, and local agency stakeholders, including Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife representatives. Letter described the start of the CCP process; invited coordination during initial public scoping; invited participation in an agency scoping meeting; and provided public meeting dates and times.
- November 16, 2010. Meeting with agency representatives. Refuge hosted a round-table discussion to solicit input and feedback on identified issues, opportunities, and concerns.

## **Planning Updates**

- November 2010. *Planning Update Number 1* described planning process, preliminary issues to be considered, and announcement of public meetings.
- April 2011. *Planning Update Number 2* summarized public scoping results, presented draft refuge vision statement, and presented draft refuge goals.
- October 2011. *Planning Update Number 3* summarized preliminary alternatives.

## **Public Open Houses/Scoping Sessions**

- November 30, 2010 (evening). Public open house for CCP scoping. Sherwood, Oregon.
- December 2, 2010 (evening). Public open house for CCP scoping. Forest Grove, Oregon.

## **Meetings with Local Community Organizations on CCP Issues**

- March 21, 2011. Presentation about the CCP process to the Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.

## **Outreach and Media**

- October 8, 2010. Press release sent to media. Announcement of upcoming public meetings published in several regional and community newspapers and newsletters, including *The Oregonian*.
- October 2010 to present. Website (<http://www.fws.gov/tualatinriver/refugeplanning.htm>) featuring CCP information, public involvement opportunities, reports, and progress.