

News Release



Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
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<http://www.fws.gov/tualatinriver>

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Initiates Comprehensive Conservation Planning for Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

Public invited to comment until January 10, 2011

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is initiating comprehensive conservation planning for Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Upon completion, the plan will guide refuge management for the next 15 years. The plan will address both the Sherwood Units of the refuge, located near Sherwood, and the Wapato Lake Unit, located near Gaston and Forest Grove. Two public meetings are planned to seek the public's involvement in identifying issues, concerns, and opportunities regarding the future of the refuge.

The two open houses will provide opportunities for the public to learn more about the comprehensive conservation planning process and how they can be involved throughout the process. These initial meetings will solicit input from local citizens, communities, and organizations regarding the topics and issues that should be addressed in the management plan. The open houses are scheduled as follows:

Sherwood

Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Place: Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
19255 SW Pacific Highway, Sherwood

Forest Grove

Date: Thursday, December 2, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Place: Forest Grove Senior and Community Center
2037 Douglas Street, Forest Grove

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System and is among a handful of urban refuges in the country. Situated within the floodplain of the Tualatin River, the refuge provides habitat for some of the most diverse and abundant wildlife in the river valley. When land acquisition is complete, the refuge will consist of 7,370 acres. Currently, the refuge manages 2,154 acres.

Since its establishment in 1992, refuge managers have been acquiring and restoring lands and waters for the benefit of native fish and wildlife. Native habitats include rivers and streams, seasonal and permanent wetlands, riparian areas, grasslands and savanna areas, and forested uplands. The refuge is now home to nearly 200 species of birds, over 50 species of mammals, 25 species of reptiles and amphibians, and a wide variety of insects, fish and plants.

The refuge also provides a variety of recreational and educational activities focused on fish and wildlife and their habitats. Visitor facilities include the Wildlife Center, environmental education shelter, trails, overlooks, observation deck, photography blind, environmental education study sites and exhibit panels. Current visitation is approximately 90,000 people per year.

For more information, including the first planning update for this project, see the Service's website at: <http://www.fws.gov/tualatinriver>.

To receive a paper copy of the planning update, to be added to the mailing list, or to provide comments, please contact the refuge in one of the following ways:

Email: TualatinCCP@fws.gov – Please include “Tualatin River CCP/EA” in the subject line.
Fax: Attn: Refuge Manager, 503-625-5947
US Mail: Attn: Refuge Manager, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge,
19255 SW Pacific Hwy, Sherwood, OR 97140

To have your comments considered during the public scoping phase of the plan’s development, submit your comments by January 10, 2011. Additional opportunities to provide comments will be available throughout the planning process.

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.