

# Volunteer Newsletter

## Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge



Photo courtesy Brendan Blowers

July 2015

Black-chinned Hummingbird banded by Carl Rudeen at BioBlitz

**Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities** Volunteers especially needed for: **Visitor Counting** (drive around Refuge and count visitors) and **Nampa Farmers Market Outreach** (help staff the monthly Refuge booth). See next page for more info.

### Cheers!

Our BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day events were a great success! A combined 300 visitors attended both events and the over 40 event volunteers helped make it happen. Thanks for your service! Thanks also to the Friends' of Deer Flat, exhibitors, and sponsors!

Thanks to Aimme, Garrisen, Cecilia, Joan, Maizie, Starlynn, and Tami for helping with Biodiversity Basics Day Camp!



Forest Service exhibitor teaching visitor at BioBlitz  
Photo courtesy Mark Winchester

### What's New?

Visitors have been flocking to the Refuge in these high temperatures. The Refuge Ambassador program is off to a great start with ambassador volunteers making contact with visitors at high-use access points. See next page for more information about how to get involved!

### Around the water cooler...

A big welcome to our new residential volunteers Dave, Mike, and Pat. They will be heading up our Refuge Ambassador program and much more. Thanks for traveling so far to volunteer at Deer Flat!

### Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge



The Friends of Deer Flat is a non-profit organization that supports Refuge activities. Many thanks to them for providing volunteer and exhibitor lunches at BioBlitz and Kids Fishing Day and for seeking sponsors for these events. Friends Memberships start at \$10 and are tax deductible. Email [friendsofdfr@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdfr@gmail.com) for more info about memberships or getting involved.



## Upcoming Events

*Unless otherwise stated, events take place at the Visitor Center*

### **Reading at the Refuge**

Monday July 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am and repeating at 2pm

Preschool children and their parents are invited to a free wildlife-focused story hour for preschoolers.



*Kids' Fishing Day Participants  
Photo USFWS/Annette deKnijf*

### **Hands-on Kids Activities**

Saturdays and Sundays, July 4-August 16 at 1:30, 2, & 2:30 at the Lower Dam Recreation

**Area** Kids 6 and older are invited to participate in hands-on wildlife monitoring activities and learn outdoor recreation skills with our Refuge Ambassadors.

## Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!

**Visitor Counting Surveyor**— 4 weekdays/month and 2 weekends/month. Morning shift: 2 hours between 8 am and noon and Afternoon shift: 2 hours between 8am and 12pm

Volunteer surveyors drive around the Refuge in a Refuge vehicle and count the total number of visitors at each Refuge access point. Data are used to estimate total Refuge visitation. This is a long-term, year-round opportunity.

**Nampa Farmers Market Outreach** — 4th Saturday each month through October, 8:30-1:30

Help spread the word about the Refuge and get people excited about wildlife. Volunteer to help staff the booth or take the lead. Let us know if you are interested in other community events as well!

## Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

**Refuge Ambassador** — Thursdays through Sundays now-August 15, 5-8 PM weekdays, noon-6 weekends

Assist current Refuge Ambassadors with roving, hands-on kids activities, or both. Many Lake Lowell users are unaware that they are at a National Wildlife Refuge. A Refuge Ambassador acts as an on-site connection between the Refuge and the community by engaging visitors in conversation and hands-on activities about outdoor recreation and wildlife monitoring.

**Desert Detectives Day Camp Helpers** — July 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 8:15am-1:00pm

Help Educator Kacey run our summer day camp for kids! Volunteers needed to help lead activities and chaperone students.

**Monarch Monitoring** — Ongoing

Become a Citizen Scientist and join the monarch conservation effort. Monarch numbers have greatly declined and a nationwide effort is needed to help researchers understand their population in order to conserve these creatures. Contact us if you are interested in monitoring a milkweed patch on the Refuge. Also, keep an eye out for monarchs and contact [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) with any monarch sightings. Pictures and tag readings preferred.

**Volunteer Photographer** — At your convenience

Donate your photography skills to promote the Refuge. We are always in a need of great photos that showcase the Refuge, wildlife, and activities. Your photos will then be used in outreach materials. Contact us to sign up and find out what kind of photos we are looking for.

**Collecting Owl Pellets** — At your convenience

Participants in our education programs have used nearly all of our owl pellet stash, so we need more! If you find owl pellets or know where we can find them, please bring them to the Visitor Center or let us know where to collect them.

To sign up or find out more contact Mackenzie Tietjen, Volunteer Coordinator at [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) (208)-467-9278