

Volunteer Newsletter

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge



USFWS/Susan Kain

June 2015

Discover Wildlife Journeys

Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities Volunteers are especially needed for the following projects: **BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day** We still need several people at each event to help staff activities **Special bonus:** The Friends of Deer Flat and the Refuge will be providing lunch for event volunteers. Please call to find out more or to register. Also **Refuge Ambassadors** needed (summer outreach). See next page for more information.

Cheers!

Thank you to our 14 Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trip Leaders that taught 1,013 students on field trips! We had a great field trip season. Your time and energy is much appreciated by the Refuge and the kids!



2014 YCC Crew
USFWS

What's New?

An exciting new Refuge Ambassador program will be conducted this summer at high-use public access points at Lake Lowell. Often daily visitors do not realize that they are at a National Wildlife Refuge, or what that means. Refuge Ambassadors will do roving/interpretation and guide visitors in wildlife monitoring/outdoor recreation skills.

Around the water cooler...

We want to welcome to our new YCC crew leader Kara as well as the 4-person teen crew. Also welcome to Elena who will be helping us with our Urban Wildlife Refuge Initiative.

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge



The Friends of Deer Flat is a non-profit organization. They will have a booth at BioBlitz stop by to check it out. Memberships start at \$10 and are tax deductible. Email friendsofdfwr@gmail.com for more

info about memberships or getting involved.



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

BioBlitz Festival

Saturday June 13th, 10am–3pm at Visitor Center. Join us for our free family festival celebrating biodiversity. Activities include live fish, reptiles and birds of prey viewing as well as observation adventures, crafts, and wildlife-related exhibits.



*BioBlitz boat trip to net fish
Photo courtesy Janice Engle*

Kids' Fishing Day

Saturday June 13th, 10am–3pm at Gotts Point (end of Greenhurst). Celebrate free fishing day by learning about fish biology, fishing ethics, casting, rigging and water safety. They can also use their newly-learned skills by fishing in Lake Lowell. Fishing poles and tackle will be available for children to borrow or they can bring their own gear.

Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!

BioBlitz & Kids' Fishing Day— June 12th & 13th

We still need volunteers to be an observation adventure guide, staff various activities like the bug tent and crafts, shuttle visitors, help youngsters with fishing, and more. Come volunteer and enjoy the fun event as well! **Special bonus:** The Friends of Deer Flat and the Refuge will be providing **free lunch** for event volunteers. So please sign up ASAP!

Refuge Ambassador — weekday evenings and weekends June-August Many Lake Lowell users are unaware that they are at Deer Flat NWR. A Refuge Ambassador would act 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. Sign up to attend the **Training June 26th from 12-4.**

Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Summer Day Camp Helpers — Desert Detectives July 20th-24th 9am-12:30pm Help Kacey run our summer day camp for kids! Volunteers needed to help lead activities and chaperone students.

Channel 7 Volunteers — June 10th 5am-9am

Larry Gebert will be filming his morning weather forecasts from the Visitor Center. Come join us for your "fifteen minutes of fame" in the background of the shot prepping for BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day.

Volunteer Photographer—At your convenience

Come 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.

Visitor Counting Surveyor— A couple hours between 12pm and 4pm. 4 weekdays/month and 2 weekends/month.

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

Community Outreach Leader —Various times and dates mostly evenings and weekends

The Refuge is invited to exhibit and provide activities at many community events. Unfortunately, we miss some of these opportunities because we don't have enough staff, time, or energy to attend. Help us build partnerships with the community while checking out these fun events for yourself! We are seeking responsible, dedicated volunteers willing to be trained on outreach and take the lead on gathering materials, working with other volunteers to facilitate activities, and setting up and taking down Refuge booths.

Training June 26th from 12pm-4pm.

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