



Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Update 4, August 2001



The Draft CCP Will be Ready Soon for Your Review!

The Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge will soon be completed and ready for your review. Public input is important in the development of the plan. We encourage you to provide comments.

In this planning update, you will find an explanation of several ways to provide comments.

Planning Process

- Identify issues and concerns
- Gather data
- Develop goals and objectives
- Develop strategies
- Evaluate impacts
- Write draft
- Circulate draft
- Public notice of decision

Greetings

This is the fourth in a series of planning updates from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to keep you informed about planning efforts for the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). We have been sending these planning updates to landowners near the study area, government agencies, private organizations, and others who have expressed an interest. This planning update provides information on locations where the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) can be reviewed and how to comment on the Draft CCP/EA.

Where we started

In 1997, Congress passed the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. In addition to identifying a mission for the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Act requires all wildlife refuges to have a CCP by the year 2013. The plans will provide a 15-year guide, using the best available scientific knowledge, to help managers achieve the purposes for which each refuge was established, and to work toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Act lays out directives for managing refuges to ensure the long-term conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.

What we've been doing

Since the last planning update, sent out in March 2000, the planning team has been working to develop the plan for the Refuge. The team has met monthly to discuss various issues about the CCP/EA.

In addition, the Refuge had two volunteer planting parties this year, on February 3 and February 28. On February 3 we planted 20 Antioch Dunes evening primrose (*Oenothera deloides* ssp. *howellii*), 40 naked stemmed buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum* var. *auriculatum*), 11 bush groundsel (*Senecio flaccidus*), 48 deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), and 46 California

Management Alternatives

The Draft CCP/EA for the Refuge contains four alternatives.

Under Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, the Refuge would continue to be managed under its current program without a management plan.

Under Alternative B, the Refuge would be restored and managed to preindustrial natural conditions, to the extent possible, within 10 years.

Under Alternative C, the Refuge would be managed as a mosaic of dune habitat at varying successional stages. The Refuge would be open to public use.

Under Alternative D, which is very similar to Alternative C, public use would be more limited than under Alternative C. All public use would be Refuge led.



matchweed (*Gutierrezia californica*) on the South Plauteau of the Sardis Unit. These native plants supplemented the 600 primrose we planted in the unit last year. This unit underwent prescribed burning from 1996 to 1999. On February 28, volunteers planted 180 Antioch Dunes evening primrose on the South of Path area of the Stamm Unit.



Internal and external views of the new greenhouse
Photo by Ivette Loredo, USFWS

The Refuge has also completed construction of the new greenhouse at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex. This greenhouse will be used to propagate Antioch Dunes evening primrose and Contra Costa wallflower for outplanting onto the Refuge. Previously the Refuge had to contract propagation of these species due to limited space in the old greenhouse.

In April, volunteers from the California Native Plant Society initiated a complete plant survey of the Refuge. Refuge staff will map locations of sensitive plants for future reference and monitoring.

On April 11 and 12, Refuge staff and volunteers conducted the annual Contra Costa wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum ssp. angustatum*) survey. A total of 4,984 wallflower were in bloom. This represents an increase from last year's count, but is still relatively low compared to the 1990-2000 average of 7,743.

Meetings

Because there has been little interest in having the Service hold a public workshop to discuss refuge management activities, we have not scheduled one. However, if you would like to meet with the Service, or have Service staff hold a workshop, please let us know by contacting Mark Pelz, whose address, phone number, and e-mail address are below.

For More Information

We are available to provide information and answer questions regarding the refuge and this planning process. Also, Fish and Wildlife Service staff can attend a meeting of your organization to discuss the development of the Antioch Dunes Refuge Draft CCP/EA. Please notify us at least 3 weeks in advance to avoid scheduling conflicts.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Draft CCP/EA, please let us know. If you have questions, comments, concerns, or would like information about the Refuge; or if you would like to be placed on our mailing list, report a change in your mailing address, or you would like to be removed from the Refuge mailing list, please call, e-mail, or write:

Mark Pelz
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2800 Cottage Way, W-1916
Sacramento, CA 95825
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FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov

Please pass this planning update along to anyone you think might be interested in the planning process.

How to Get Copies of the Draft CCP/EA

If you would like to receive copies of the Draft CCP/EA, please contact us or view them at one of the following locations:

San Francisco Bay NWR Complex
1 Marshlands Road
Fremont, CA
510-792-0222

- or -

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Refuge Planning Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1916
Sacramento, CA
916-414-6500

These documents can also be viewed on our regional web site:

<http://pacific.fws.gov/planning>

How to Submit Comments on the Draft CCP/EA

The comment period will begin when the draft is released, around mid-August, will last 30 days. Please provide written comments to:

Mark Pelz, Team Leader
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, W-1916
Sacramento, CA 95825

Or you can send your comments by e-mail to:

FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov.

(Please type "Antioch Dunes NWR" in the subject line.)

Planning Update for:
Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge

Announcing the Upcoming Release of the:
Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment

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