

Shorebirds at Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge.

The Draft CCPs/EAs are Available for Public Comments

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plans and Environmental Assessments (Draft CCP/EAs) for Bandon Marsh, Nestucca Bay, and Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuges (Refuge) are available for public review and comments. Between now and October 22, 2012, interested citizens, agencies, and organizations can review and comment on the Draft CCP/EAs, which include an analysis of each Refuge's management alternatives.

After we receive public comments, we will analyze and address your

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's comments, finalize the CCPs, and Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plans and Environmental The Final CCPs will guide the Assessments (Draft CCP/EAs) Refuges' management for 15 years, and actions will be implemented as funding becomes available.

We evaluated three alternatives for each Refuge. In each Draft CCP/EA, Alternative C is identified as the preferred alternative. The Draft CCP/EAs also describe management actions that are common to all alternatives and actions that were considered but dismissed from further consideration.

The Draft CCP/EAs were developed to provide reasonable, scientifically

grounded guidance for improving the Refuges' wetlands, grasslands, riparian and upland forests, and other habitats for the long-term conservation of migratory birds, anadromous fish, and native plants and animals.

Actions for protecting and sustaining the Refuges' habitats, migratory bird populations, and rare species (federally or Statelisted), are identified in the Draft CCP/EAs. Priority public use programs—wildlife observation, wildlife photography, hunting, fishing, environmental education, and interpretation—are also evaluated in the Draft CCP/EAs.



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Western sandpipers

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Summary of Draft Alternatives

Alternative A: Current Management

Habitat Management

Under Alternative A, the Refuges would continue with current management, which focuses on protecting and maintaining habitats in their current condition and taking advantage of opportunities to restore or enhance some habitats. All habitats would continue to be monitored for invasive species and treated with Integrated Pest Management techniques as funding allows.

As part of the Bandon Marsh Ni-les'tun Unit tidal marsh restoration project, monitoring the unit's restored tidal marsh and riparian corridor would continue, as well as research of biological and cultural resources. At Nestucca Bay, 346 acres of lowland pastures would continue to be managed through cooperative farming agreements, the upland grasslands would occasionally be mowed for silage, and we would enhance small areas to provide native prairie and Oregon silverspot butterfly habitat, when possible.

At Siletz Bay, we would continue to cultivate partnerships for the restoration of tidal marsh on private and State-owned lands.

Public Uses

There would be no changes to the public uses currently allowed at the Bandon Marsh Unit (wildlife observation and photography, interpretation and environmental education, hunting, and fishing). The only public uses on the Ni-les'tun Unit would be wildlife observation, photography, and interpretation from the observation deck and associated gravel trail, with no public entry into the remainder of the Unit.

The current wildlife observation, photography, interpretation, and minimal environmental education programs offered at the Cannery Hill Unit of Nestucca Bay would continue, and a Discovery Trail and observation deck would be built in the lower parking lot.

Public use at Siletz Bay would remain limited to the interpreter-led, seasonal paddle trips through Millport Slough and the Siletz River.

Alternative B: Expanded Habitat Management and Restoration

Habitat Management

Under Alternative B, we would continue the activities in Alternative A; however, we would also expand the level of active habitat management and restoration. We would cultivate closer coordination with the Oregon Division of State Lands to actively monitor and treat aquatic invasive species at all three refuges.

The grasslands above the Bandon Marsh office would be replanted and managed to promote the development of old-growth forest, and some active forest management techniques would be employed on other tracts of forest.

At Nestucca Bay, some lowland pastures would be restored to tidal marsh habitat and the remainder would continue to be managed for wintering goose forage through cooperative farming agreements. Approximately 25 acres of former coastal prairie on Cannery Hill would be restored to coastal prairie habitat.

The Neskowin tsunami evacuation trail would remain open, we would upgrade the footbridge to enhance safety, and a hydrological study would be conducted to evaluate the effects of this former roadbed on the hydrology of Neskowin Marsh.

At Siletz Bay, the restoration potential of Siletz Keys, Alder Island (Schoen Tract), and any additional diked lands acquired would be studied, and if feasible, tidal flow would be restored.

Public Uses

Under this alternative, wildlife observation and photography would continue 7 days per week on the Bandon Marsh Unit, and would be allowed daily during the nonwaterfowl hunting season on the Ni-les'tun Unit.

Other than the under road connection between the office and Ni-les'tun observation deck, no new trails or observation points would be developed.

The waterfowl hunting program on the Bandon Marsh Unit would continue, and a hunting program of seven days per week would be established on the Ni-les'tun Unit.

Additional public use changes at Nestucca Bay would include developing the Powerline Trail as a seasonal public



Mallards

trail, allowing seasonal public access on a portion of the Little Nestucca Restoration area, and allowing public access on Brooten Marsh.

Waterfowl hunting would be allowed at Brooten Marsh, the mouth of the Little Nestucca River, and the Little Nestucca Restoration area. Bank fishing access on the Little Nestucca River would be pursued and clamming access at Brooten Marsh would be allowed.

At Siletz Bay, new public use opportunities would include opening Alder Island to the public and developing a loop trail, parking lot, viewing platform, and boat launch. Unrestricted walking would also be allowed south of Millport Slough. Access to clamming through Snag

Alley would remain closed; however, walk-in bank fishing would be allowed on Alder Island and on lands south of Millport Slough.

A waterfowl hunting program would be established, with hunting allowed daily, in season, on Refuge lands west of Highway 101, and 3 days per week on Refuge lands north and south of Millport Slough, east of Highway 101.

Alternative C: Preferred Alternative

Alternative C, our preferred alternative, is similar to Alternative B particularly in its proposed increase in public use opportunities and habitat monitoring and management activities.

Habitat Management

Nestucca Bay lowland pastures would continue to be managed for wintering goose habitat through cooperative farming agreements.

A hydrological study of the tsunami evacuation trail through Neskowin Marsh would guide improvements to the former roadbed's hydrology and accessibility. We would nominate the Neskowin Marsh Unit for designation as a Research Natural Area.

We would focus our restoration of coastal prairie on Cannery Hill on specific life-history parameters needed by the threatened Oregon silverspot butterfly.

At Siletz Bay, the restoration potential of Siletz Keys, Alder Island (Schoen Tract), and any additional diked lands acquired would be studied, and if feasible, tidal flow would be restored.

Public Uses

Expanded public use opportunities at Bandon Marsh would include: opening the Ni-les'tun Unit to public entry daily during months outside of the waterfowl hunting season, and developing a loop trail connecting the restored forest above the office with the parking lot and observation deck.

Waterfowl hunting would be allowed on a portion of the Ni-les'tun Unit 3 days per week. Fishing for cutthroat trout would be permitted in tidally influenced creeks south of North Bank Lane.

At Nestucca Bay we would focus on a smaller number of public use sites than in Alternative B. Development would be concentrated on Cannery Hill, and on the Little Nestucca Restoration area which would gain a year-round trail on the old spur road and graveled parking lots.

Brooten Marsh would be open for wildlife observation and photography year-round. Waterfowl hunting would be established, with duck hunting allowed on Brooten Marsh and the mouth of the Little Nestucca River, and clamming access would be allowed through Brooten Marsh.

At Siletz Bay, we would focus new public use opportunities on fewer sites than in Alternative B, with access for wildlife observation and photography concentrated on Alder Island (former Schoen Tract).

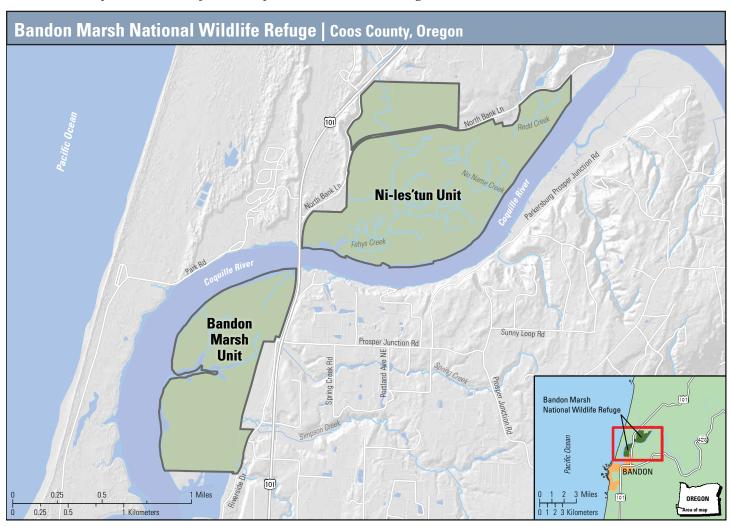
Interpreter-led seasonal paddle trips would continue, and potentially expand with the development of a nonmotorized boat launch near Alder Island. Lands south of Millport Slough would remain closed; however, lands west of Highway 101 would be open for wildlife observation.

Under Alternative C, we would allow access to clamming through Snag Alley, and walk-in bank fishing would be allowed from Alder Island.

A waterfowl hunting program would be established, with hunting allowed daily in season on refuge lands west of Highway 101 and 3 days per week on refuge lands south of Millport Slough and east of Highway 101.



Mouth of the Coquille River. Can you identify the Bandon Marsh Refuge units?



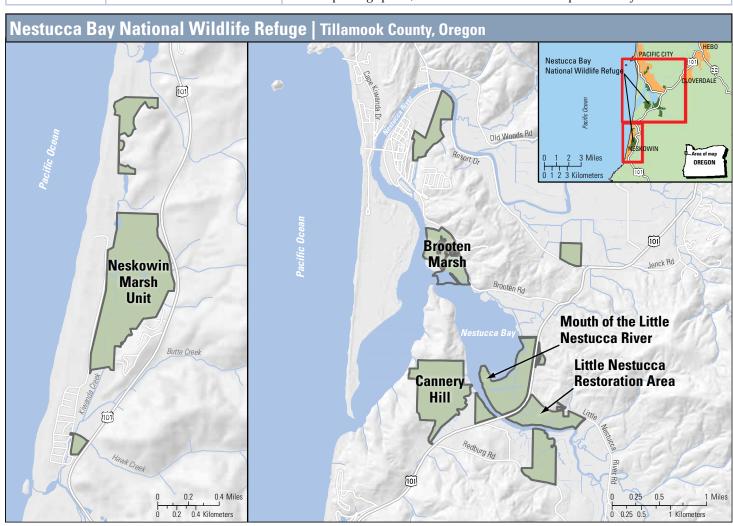
Bandon Marsh Refuge Alternatives Comparison Table

Issue or Topic	Alternative A Current Management (No Change)	Alternative B Expanded Habitat Management/Restoration	Alternative C Preferred Alternative		
		/Janagement			
Restoration of Grasslands (former pastures) to Upland Forest	Allow natural succession to restore Sitka spruce/western hemlock forest.	cession to restore Restore 29 acres. Manage to accelerate restoration to old growth			
Management of Existing Forest	No forest management techniques used, other than invasive species control.	Actively manage 39 acres using plantings and thinning as appropriate.			
Forested Wetlands	No active management; protect in current condition.	Restore 11 acres using plantings, thinning, and placement of nurse logs as needed, and control invasive species.			
Coastal Stream-riparian Corridor and Instream Aquatic Habitat	Maintain through installation of woody debris in stream channels and control of invasive species.	Same as Alternative A, plus: Provide instream spawning gravel (cutthroat trout) habitat, and plant and maintain stream side vegetative cover to reduce water temperatures.			
Salt Marsh And Intertidal Mudflats	Maintain i	ntegrity of 750 acres of estuarine	habitats.		
	Monitoring	and Research			
Biological Monitoring	Collect limited data on birds, vegetation, water levels, and salt marsh attributes. Monitor and protect cultural resources in partnership with Tribes.	Expand data collection to include fish, amphibians, small mammals, migratory songbirds, plants, forest diseases and pests, water quality, and other parameters.			
Research and Scientific Assessments	Continue tidal marsh restoration and cultural resources research conducted under Special Use Permits.	Continue existing research; identify priority and long-term research needs; and cooperate with partners to accomplish. Complete water resource assessment for Refuge.			
	*		as assessment for iverage.		
Bandon Marsh Unit Wildlife Observation and Photography	Wildlife Observation and Photography Bandon Marsh Unit remains open to wildlife observation and photography 7 days per week.				
Ni-les'tun Unit Wildlife Observation and Photography	Observation deck and marsh trail open daily; the remainder of the unit is closed to wildlife observation and photography.	Deck and marsh trail open daily. Allow unrestricted walking in part of Unit daily, during nonhunting season (Feb-Sep). Closed to unrestricted walking during waterfowl hunt season (Oct-Jan).	Same as Alternative B, plus: Develop trail connecting restored forest above office with parking lot.		
	Waterfo	owl Hunting			
Bandon Marsh Unit Waterfowl Hunting	Allow waterfowl hunting on 256 acres,	outside of Bandon City limits 7 da	ys per week per State regulations.		
Ni-les'tun Unit Waterfowl Hunting	Closed to waterfowl hunting.	Allow waterfowl hunting on 300 acres, 7 days per week.	Allow waterfowl hunting on 300 acres, 3 days per week.		
Fishing					
Bandon Marsh Unit Fishing and Clamming	Bandon Marsh Unit Bank fishing and clamming are allowed.				
Ni-les'tun Unit Fishing and Clamming	Closed to fishing.	Same as Alternative A, plus: Explore options for providing clamming opportunities.	Tidally influenced portions of Fahys, Redd and No Name creeks open to cutthroat trout fishing only, per State regulations, using artificial lures only, and closing the season on Sep 30. Explore providing clamming.		
	Environmental Educ	ation and Interpretation			
Environmental Education (EE) Programs	Continue existing EE programs.	Continue existing EE programs and work with partners to develop curriculum.	Continue existing EE programs. Partners lead EE center development and curriculum.		
Interpretation	Maintain existing interpretive structures and panels on both units. Same as Alternative A, plus: Devel interpretive panels on new trails, a offer staff- or partner-led activities (walks, paddle trips, etc.).				
		cilities			
Facilities	Maintain current buildings, observation decks, and trail.	Emphasize partner facilities and distribution of information. Participate in a community visitor information center off the Refuge.	Build a small office and a visitor contact station at current office site. Maintain and develop trails and interpretive panels.		

Nestucca Bay Refuge Alternatives Comparison Table

Issue or Topic	Alternative A Current Management (No Change)	Alternative B Expanded Habitat Management/Restoration	Alternative C Preferred Alternative	
Habitat Management				
Pasture Management	Manage 346 acres as pastures through Cooperative Land Management Agreements.	Manage less than 346 acres as pasture; restore some pastures to tidal marsh habitat.		
Upland Coastal Prairie Restoration	Continue limited restoration of native coastal prairie plants, as funding allows.	Restore 25 acres of native coastal prairie, including: Control of nonnative plants; removal of encroaching woody plants; planting native prairie grasses/ forbs; and periodic disturbance to maintain restored habitat. Same as Alternative B, with emponents on supporting the future introduction of a "non-essential, experimental population of the Oregon silvers butterfly, a threatened species.		
Mixed Upland Grasslands	Continue to conduct limited mow funding allows.	ing and silage harvest on 14 acres, as	Same as Alternative A, until coastal prairie restoration is implemented.	
Upland Forest	No forest management other than invasive species control.		lantings and thinning as appropriate. rasive species.	
Forested Wetlands and Stream-riparian Habitat		Protect and maintain 6 acres.		
Salt Marsh and Intertidal Mudflats	Protect and maintain 227 acres.	Same as Alternative A, plus: Plant rare, native species (e.g., Henderson's checker mallow) to increase native vegetation presence; and work with Oregon Division of State Lands to cooperatively manage resources, and treat/monitor invasive species.		
Neskowin Marsh Unit Forested Lagg, Coastal Bog, and Freshwater Emergent Wetlands	Protect and maintain 164 acres.	Same as Alternative A, plus: Conduct additional monitoring of water quality; and conduct hydrological study to assess management options.		
Neskowin Marsh Unit Tsunami Evacuation Trail	Keep tsunami evacuation trail open with current roadbed and footbridge in place.	Keep tsunami evacuation trail open. Conduct a hydrological study. Modify foot bridge to enhance safety and disabled-access. Based on results of hydrological study, modify trail to enhance hydrologic connectivity.		
		Wildlife - Listed Species		
Oregon Silverspot Butterfly (OSB)	Continue current limited efforts to establish potential habitat for OSB.	Same as Alternative A, plus: Utilize OSB-required plants as part of prairie restoration activities.	Introduce "non-essential, experimental" population of OSB, following coastal prairie restoration and successful establishment of high quality OSB habitat.	
	N	Monitoring and Research		
Biological Monitoring	Continue to collect limited data on Canada goose use throughout the Nestucca Valley.	Expand data collection on Refuge to include fish, amphibians, small mammals, migratory songbirds, plants, forest diseases and pests, water quality, and other parameters.		
Research and Scientific Assessments	Limited research conducted under Special Use Permits. Do not nominate Neskowin Marsh for Research Natural Area (RNA) designation.	Identify and conduct priority research needs with partners; conduct hydrological assessment at Neskowin Marsh; and do not nominate Neskowin Marsh for RNA designation.	Same as Alternative B except: Nominate Neskowin Marsh as a RNA.	
Wildlife Observation and Photography				
Cannery Hill Unit	Cannery Hill trail and parking lots remain open. Develop a "Discovery Trail" and goose observation deck at the lower parking lot.	Same as Alternative A, plus: Develop Powerline Trail.	Same as Alternative B, plus: Develop a new loop trail to direct visitors from lower parking lot to Pacific View Trail.	
Little Nestucca Restoration Area	Wildlife observation and photography are not allowed.	Create gravel parking lot on west end of restoration site. Develop north end of old roadbed into spur trail to an observation point and allow seasonal (Feb Sept.) public access on this trail.	Same as Alternative B except: Develop north end of old roadbed into spur road trail to an observation point and allow year-round public access on this trail.	
Brooten Marsh	Wildlife observation and photography are not allowed.	Allow wildlife observation and photography throughout unit.		
Neskowin Marsh Unit Area remains closed to observation and photography. continued on next page				

Issue or Topic	Alternative A Current Management (No Change)	Alternative B Expanded Habitat Management/Restoration	Alternative C Preferred Alternative	
Waterfowl Hunting				
Waterfowl Hunting	Waterfowl hunting is not allowed.	Allow waterfowl hunting 7 days per week on Brooten Marsh (108 acres), mouth of Little Nestucca River (33 acres), and Little Nestucca Restoration Area (82 acres).	Allow waterfowl hunting 7 days per week on Brooten Marsh (108 acres) and mouth of Little Nestucca River (33 acres).	
Fishing				
Fishing	Fishing is not allowed.	Actively pursue opportunities to provide bank fishing on the Little Nestucca River. Create a gravel parking lot on the east end of the restoration site.		
Clamming	Clamming is not allowed.	Allow clamming adjacent to Brooten Marsh.		
Environmental Education and Interpretation				
Environmental Education (EE) Programs	Continue to offer limited EE programming.	Alternative A plus: Hire full time EE specialist and recruit, train, and utilize volunteers to deliver onsite EE programs.	Develop a year-round EE program with a full-time EE specialist. Utilize volunteers for onsite and partner-driven EE programs.	
Interpretation	Maintain existing facilities and limited interpretive programs on Cannery Hill.	Continue existing interpretive opportunities at Cannery Hill.	Develop interpretive materials for new trails at Cannery Hill and Little Nestucca Restoration Area.	
Facilities Facilities				
Facilities	Keep existing structures and facilities, and replace residence with bunkhouse.	Keep some existing structures and facilities. Replace residence with a bunkhouse and small administrative office. Add 10 parking spaces; remodel the maintenance shop's north bay into two offices.		

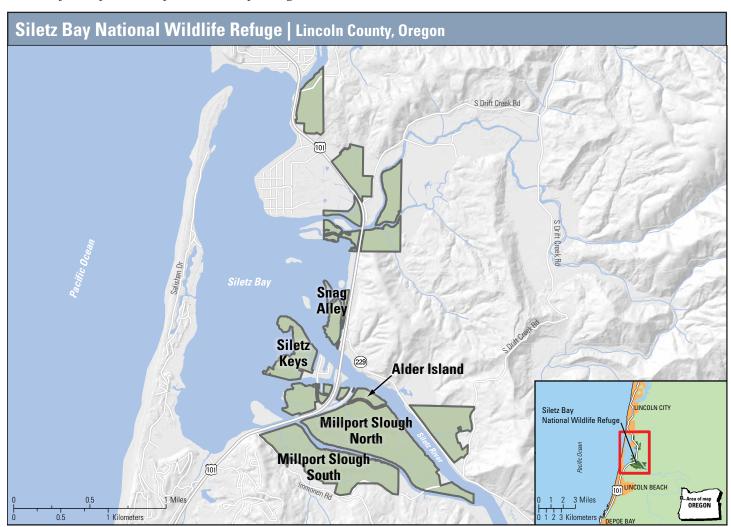


Siletz Bay Refuge Alternatives Comparison Table

Issue or Topic	Alternative A Current Management (No Change)	Alternative B Expanded Habitat Management/Restoration	Alternative C Preferred Alternative	
		Habitat Management		
Upland Forest	No forest management techniques used, other than invasive species control.	Inventory and actively manage 122 acres for late successional forest.		
Salt marsh and Intertidal Mudflats	Protect and maintain 317 acres. Work with private landowners and partners to acquire lands within the refuge boundary to facilitate full tidal restoration; and work with ODOT/ODFW to repair culverts and achieve normal tidal function.	Same as Alternative A and also: • If feasible, restore tidal flow to Siletz Keys and Alder Island (Schoen Tract) and any additional diked lands acquired. • Plant rare, native species (e.g., Henderson's checker mallow) to increase native vegetation presence • Work with the Oregon Division of State Lands to cooperatively manage resources and treat/monitor invasive species.		
Forested Wetlands and Stream- riparian Habitat		Protect and maintain 18 acres.		
		Monitoring and Research		
Biological Monitoring	Collect limited data on birds, vegetation, water levels, and salt marsh attributes.	Expand existing data collection to include fish, amphibians, small mammals, and other biological parameters.		
Research	Continue tidal marsh restoration and other wetlands research under Special Use Permits.	Continue current research, plus identify priority and long term research needs and cooperate with partners to accomplish goals.		
	Wildlife Obs	ervation, Photography, and Interpretation		
Wildlife Observation and Photography	Closed to wildlife observation and photography.	Allow observation and photography on Alder Island by developing an accessible loop trail. Allow unrestricted walking on lands south of Millport Slough. Develop viewing platform off Highway 101.	Allow observation and photography on Alder Island through development of an accessible loop trail. Allow unrestricted walking on lands west of Highway 101.	
Interpretation	Continue with interpreter-led, seasonal paddle trips.	Open Alder Island (Schoen Tract) and develop an interpretive trail, parking lot, and boat launch, and continue interpreter-led seasonal paddle trips.		
		Hunting		
Waterfowl Hunting	Closed to waterfowl hunting.	Allow waterfowl hunting on lands west of Highway 101 (80 acres) 7 days per week and on lands north and south of Millport Slough (225 acres) 3 days per week. Establish a 100 yard safety zone to prohibit waterfowl hunting on refuge property that extends westward from the refuge property line on the west side of the housing development of Siletz Keys. Develop gravel parking lot and kiosk.	Allow waterfowl hunting on lands west of Highway 101 (80 acres) 7 days per week. Allow waterfowl hunting 3 days per week on lands south of Millport Slough (97 acres). Establish a 100 yard safety zone to prohibit waterfowl hunting on refuge property that extends westward from the refuge property line on the west side of the housing development of Siletz Keys. Develop gravel parking lot and kiosk.	
Fishing				
Fishing	Fishing is not allowed.	Allow walk-in bank fishing from Alder Island and lands south of Millport Slough.	Allow walk-in bank fishing from Alder Island.	
Access for Clamming	No public access allowed. Access to clamming through Snag Alley.			
		Facilities		
Facilities	Maintain existing facilities. Do not develop a visitor center.	Participate in the development of a community-based visitor center.	Same as Alternative A	



Siletz Bay. Can you identify the Siletz Bay Refuge lands and waters?



Public Involvement to Date

Public involvement in the development of these CCP/EAs began in November 2010 with the publication of a notice in the Federal Register announcing our intent to prepare CCP/EAs and inviting public comments. Concurrently, we distributed Planning Update 1 to a wide range of individuals, organizations, and government agencies.

Planning Update 1 provided background information on the Refuges, including refuge purposes, goals, and maps; identified preliminary issues to be addressed in the CCP; and invited public review and participation in the process.

Three open house meetings were held in November 2010 to allow the public to meet with the Service and identify issues for evaluation. We reviewed the potential issues, management concerns, and opportunities that we, our partners, and the public identified. We then drafted preliminary alternatives to address the issues and meet the goals and objectives of each Refuge.

In November 2011, Planning Update 2 was distributed, which included a summary of the public and agency comments we received, a planning schedule, and a summary of our preliminary alternatives. We held

three more open house meetings to talk about our alternatives and listen to public comments. We considered and evaluated public comments on our preliminary alternatives, and incorporated them into the Draft CCP/EAs' alternatives.

Now we are requesting your comments on the Draft CCP/EAs. We will consider your comments during the development of the Final CCP. The Draft CCP/EAs are posted on our Web site, and you can obtain a paper or CD-ROM copy of the documents and/or provide comments, see pages 11 and 12 for details.



Nestucca Bay. Can you identify the Nestucca Bay Refuge lands and waters that are in this photo?

Roy W. Lowe, USFWS

How Do I Obtain Copies of the Draft CCP/EAs?

Copies of the Draft CCP/EAs are available as follows:

Review or download the Draft CCP/ EAs from our Web site: www.fws.gov/ oregoncoast/ccp_nes_slz_bdm.htm

Printed or CD-ROM copies may be obtained by contacting:
Roy W. Lowe, Project Leader
Oregon Coast National Wildlife
Refuge Complex
2127 SE Marine Science Drive
Newport, Oregon 97365

Phone: (541) 867-4550

Printed copies of the Draft CCP/EAs are available at the following libraries:

- Bandon Public Library 1204 11th St. SW Bandon, OR 97411
- Coquille Public Library 105 N. Birch St. Coquille, OR 97423
- Newport Public Library 35 NW Nye Street Newport, OR 97365



Refuge visitors viewing wildlife at Nestucca Bay

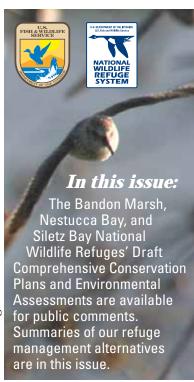
- Driftwood Public Library 801 SW Highway 101 #201 Lincoln City, OR 97367
- Pacific City Public Library 6200 Camp Street Pacific City, OR 97135
- Tillamook Public Library 1716 3rd Street Tillamook, OR 97141

Your Refuge is Leaner, Greener and Reaching Out

To promote the availability of our Draft CCP/EAs to a wider audience, and reduce our use of paper, we are emphasizing electronic distribution of the Draft CCP/EAs. You can view and download them on the internet at: www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/ccp_nes_slz_bdm.htm

Planning Schedule

Planning Step	Target Date	Status
Planning Update 1 issued	November 2010	Completed
Public MeetingsNovember	/December 2010	Completed
Planning Update 2 issued/Preliminary Alternatives for Review	.November 2011	Completed
Public Open Houses to discuss Preliminary Alternatives	November 2011	Completed
Public Comments on Preliminary Alternatives Due	December 2011	Completed
Public Review/Comment on Draft CCP/EAs/Planning Update 3	Fall 2012	Current Step
Final CCPs and Decision Documents	Fall 2012	Final Step



Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex 2127 SE Marine Science Drive Newport, OR 97365

