

News Release



**Pacific Region
Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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Date: October 28, 2011
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Public Meetings Scheduled to Present Preliminary Draft Management Alternatives for Three Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuges

Public meetings are scheduled and public comments are requested by December 16, 2011

The Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex has scheduled a series of public meetings to present preliminary draft management alternatives developed as part of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Bandon Marsh, Nestucca Bay and Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuges (Refuges). During these public meetings, staff from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will present preliminary draft versions of three management alternatives they developed for each NWR to guide management during the next 15 years. The preliminary alternatives were designed to achieve the Refuges' purposes, the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to meet policy requirements while addressing issues and ideas raised during public scoping last fall.

Everyone is invited to attend the following public meetings:

Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge
Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2011
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Place: Bandon Community Center, 1200 11th Street SW, Bandon

Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge
Date: Thursday, November 10, 2011
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Place: Lincoln City Council Chambers, 801 SW Highway 101, Lincoln City

Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2011
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Place: Kiwanda Community Center, 34600 Cape Kiwanda Dr., Pacific City

The objective for each meeting will be to present information on the proposed alternatives and to discuss your ideas or concerns. We need your input to complete our analysis and proceed with the development of the Refuge Complex's 15-year comprehensive conservation plan. You can share your ideas by attending one of the public meetings and/or by submitting written comments. Comments on the alternatives should be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed by December 16, 2011, to Roy Lowe, Project Leader, Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 2127 SE Marine Science Drive, Newport, OR 97365; fax number (541)867-4551; or e-mail Oregoncoastccp@fws.gov. For more information please call the Refuge Complex office in Newport at 541-867-4550, or go to www.fws.gov/oregoncoast.

A Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) is a 15-year plan that guides a NWR's management decisions, and identifies long-range refuge goals, objectives, and strategies for achieving the purposes for which the refuge was established. During the CCP planning process, many elements will be considered, including wildlife and habitat protection and management, and public use opportunities. More information about the CCP process is available at www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/.

Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, is located in the lower Coquille River estuary on Oregon's south coast. This 889-acre Refuge was established in 1983 to conserve the last substantial tract of salt marsh in the Coquille River estuary for migratory birds and anadromous fish such as the threatened coho salmon. This Refuge's habitats are a diversity of salt marsh, mudflats and tidal sloughs; forested freshwater wetlands; freshwater marsh; riparian areas; and grasslands. The eastern Ni-les'tun Unit includes over 400 acres of historic saltmarsh that was restored to tidal action this summer. The western Bandon Marsh Unit consists primarily of salt marsh, mudflats, and riparian forest, and popular recreational activities on this Unit include waterfowl hunting, clamming, environmental education, and observing and photographing wildlife.

Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge is located on the north-central Oregon coast near the confluence of the Nestucca and Little Nestucca Rivers. This 1,010-acre Refuge was established in 1991 to protect diverse coastal wetland habitats and upland habitat buffers for a variety of migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, anadromous fish, and other wildlife, and to protect essential wintering habitat for Aleutian Cackling geese, which were federally listed as endangered in 1967 and delisted in 2001, and for dusky Canada geese (USFWS species of concern). This Refuge contains open water, mudflats, and tidal marshes; grasslands; and lowland pastures which are managed intensively to provide goose habitat, especially for dusky Canada geese which continues to experience a long-term population decline. In 2002, the Refuge was expanded to include the Neskowin Marsh Unit, which incorporates unique freshwater wetland and bog habitats not found within the original Refuge boundary. Habitats within the Neskowin Marsh Unit include marsh, bogs, forested wetlands, and upland shrub and meadows. Nestucca Bay NWR is also a place where people can enjoy nature. The Pacific View Trail and Overlook provide an accessible opportunity to observe wildlife and habitats from atop Cannery Hill at the Nestucca Bay Unit.

Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge, also on the north-central coast but just south of Lincoln City, was established in 1991 to protect the remaining coastal wetlands and uplands around Siletz Bay from rapidly encroaching development. Tidal marsh protection and restoration were priority goals for establishing this Refuge. Siletz Bay NWR's 568 acres of tidal marsh, diked former tidal marsh in varying stages of muted tidal action, forested wetlands, and upland forest provide essential habitat for shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl, anadromous fish, and other estuarine-dependent fish and wildlife species. The Refuge offers seasonal opportunities to observe wildlife via guided canoe/kayak excursions on Millport Slough and the Siletz River, which flow through the Refuge.

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

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