

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The department has initiated a review and update of its 12 wildlife area long range management plans, which were adopted in 1993. Two or three existing management plans will be reviewed and revised by the department every six months. New management plans will also be written for four major wildlife areas currently without plans.

To date, the goals and objectives of seven wildlife area management plans (Ken Denman, Elkhorn, Phillip W. Schneider, Jewell Meadows, Wenaha, Summer Lake and White River Wildlife Areas) have been adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

The Klamath and Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area draft management plans are next on the schedule. These drafts have been completed by the department. The goals and objectives and key management issues of each wildlife area will be presented to the Commission by the area managers at the January 11, 2008 Commission hearing.

The purpose of the wildlife area management plans is to offer a comprehensive vision and action plan for the next 10 years. These two management plans will be reviewed in 2013 to gauge implementation progress and will be revised in their entirety beginning in 2018.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Communication and coordination with affected government agencies and key interest groups have been ongoing. The Klamath Wildlife Area manager has contacted or given informal presentations to local hunting groups (Oregon Hunters Association, Unlimited Pheasants, Ducks Unlimited), birding groups (Klamath Basin Audubon, Klamath Wingwatchers), USFWS (Klamath Federal Refuge System and local office), Klamath/Lake County Farm Bureaus, adjacent landowners and permittees to encourage their involvement in the plan review process. The Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area manager has also given informal presentations to local hunting groups (Ducks Unlimited), neighboring landowners and others (City of La Grande, NRCS) to inform them of the plan review process. In order to solicit public comments on draft plans, staff at the two wildlife areas will hold several formal public meetings, at local venues, to present the plans. These meetings will be scheduled after the draft plans have been presented to the Commission at the January 11, 2008 hearing. The formal public comment period will continue through March 2008. Revised drafts will incorporate public comments received during the public review period. Public testimony will also be encouraged at the April 18, 2008 Commission hearing when the department will be seeking plan adoption.

ISSUE

Presentation of two draft wildlife area management plans. Informational only.

ANALYSIS

The department is updating management plans for 12 wildlife areas in Oregon. To date, the goals and objectives of seven plans have been adopted by the Commission. The next two plans to be developed are for Klamath and Ladd Marsh Wildlife Areas. These draft plans will be presented by the area managers to the Commission at the January 11, 2008 hearing. This will be followed by a formal public review process continuing through March 2008.

Final draft plans will be presented for potential adoption to the Commission on April 18, 2008.

STAFF

RECOMMENDATION

Informational only. No action requested at this time.

DRAFT MOTION

No action requested at this time.

EFFECTIVE DATE

N/A