

STAFF SUMMARY

Current Draft Management Plans

Background

The Department has initiated a review and update of its 12 wildlife area long range management plans originally developed in 1993. As of October 2007 seven management plans (Ken Denman, Elkhorn, Phillip W. Schneider, Jewell Meadows, Wenaha, Summer Lake and White River) have been reviewed and adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Purpose of management plans

Wildlife area management plans will be designed to guide management activities for the next 10 years. The intent of all wildlife area management plans will be to:

- Provide clear direction and continuity for the management of each wildlife area over the next 10 years;
- Communicate the Department's management priorities for each wildlife area to neighbors, visitors, and public;
- Ensure that management programs are consistent with the original mandate and purpose of the area;
- Ensure that management of each wildlife area is consistent with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations; and
- Provide justification for each wildlife area's staffing, operations, maintenance, and capital improvements needs.

Wildlife area management plans will offer a comprehensive vision and action plan for the next 10 years. The plans will describe management issues unique to each wildlife area, as well as actions or strategies to address these issues. These actions will be implemented during the life of the plan; subject to funding and personnel availability. Each management plan will be reviewed in 2013 to gauge implementation progress and will be revised in their entirety beginning in 2018.

Process to date

The Department is continuing the process of reviewing and revising its 12 existing wildlife area management plans. The first seven plans on the schedule have been completed. The next two draft plans, Klamath and Ladd Marsh Wildlife Areas, will be presented to the Commission in January 2008. This will be followed by a formal public review process through March 2008. Public comments received through March 14 will be incorporated into final draft plans. These final drafts will be presented to the Commission for potential adoption on April 18, 2008. Comments received between March 15 and April 17 will be presented to the Commission as amendments to the final draft plans.

The Klamath and Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area Draft Management Plans are attached (Attachments 3 and 4).

Proposed Timeline

The following is the tentative timeline for review of the next two wildlife area management plans:

- January 11 – Presentation of draft plans in a briefing to the Commission
- January 11 – Public review process begins
- Mid/late January – Two public meetings per wildlife area conducted at local venues
- March 14 – Incorporate public comments into final drafts
- March 15 - April 17 – Incorporate public comments received during this time into final draft plan amendments
- April 18 – Potential adoption by Commission action