

**Summary of Draft Wildlife Area Management Plan Revisions**

Most of the changes to the January 2008 draft management plans were general housekeeping in nature, such as re-formatting to improve readability or correcting grammatical errors. Some important changes however were requested by the Commission and the public, through the public review process. Below is a list of key revisions made to each plan, with the relevant page number of the original draft plan. Insertions are **bold** and underscored, deletions are [bracketed] and ~~strikethrough~~.

**Klamath Wildlife Area Draft Management Plan**

- Housekeeping / Corrected Errors:

Cover: changed date to **April** 2008

Changed the term “~~non-consumptive~~” to “**wildlife viewing related**” throughout the Final Draft.

Added additional text to those strategies describing monitoring activities, under several Objectives (Objectives 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1 and 3.2):

**Strategy . Utilize integrated pest management to control invasive plant species, focusing on noxious weeds. Activities will entail monitoring, searching for and treating infestations utilizing best management practices and techniques. Invasive plant species, abundance, and distribution will be monitored as well as successfully treated acreage. Acreages will be determined by either visual estimation or GIS mapping.**

**Strategy . Annual monitoring of agricultural uplands will include comparing the acreage targets in Objective 1.1 with the acreages attained in the above strategies. Monitoring will be by Habitat Management Unit or other geographic or administrative boundary. Acreages will also be determined by either visual estimation or GIS mapping.**

- Changes resulting from Commission / Public Comments

Additional text was added to the Final Draft Plan to address Commissioner Smith’s comments about: private and public partnerships, relationships with California and federal refuges, water issues and a discussion of the future of land adjustments (especially keeping compatible uses on neighboring lands).

**Pg. 35:** added text to address Commissioner Smith’s comment about water issues:  
**4. The Klamath Wildlife Area is presently working through the Klamath Basin Water Rights Adjudication process. At this time, the original claim for 26 cubic feet per second (cfs) to irrigate approximately 1051.6 acres has gone through numerous iterations and the proposed order by the administrative law judge has granted a priority date of 1900 with a rate of 21.71 cfs and a duty of 2605.5 acre feet of water per year on 868 acres.**

**Pg. 36:** At present, land uses on adjacent private land are compatible with most KWA management activities. One 80 acre inholding exists within the present day exterior boundaries. No major acquisitions have occurred since 1968 and none are anticipated in the foreseeable future.

**Pg. 57:** added text describing public and private partnerships and federal refuges, per Commissioner Smith's comments:

**Cooperative projects will be undertaken with other agencies and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) as opportunities exist for the mutual benefit of wildlife or their habitats.**

**Historic cooperative projects and cooperators include:**

**- Noxious weed control – Klamath County Weed Control District and Klamath County Soil and Water Conservation District.**

**-Goose capture and banding – USFWS Klamath Basin Refuges**

**-Avian Influenza Sampling – USFWS Klamath Basin Refuges**

**- Boat ramp parking and access improvements – Oregon Marine Board, Sport Fish Restoration and the Department's Access and Habitat Board**

**- Wetland habitat enhancement – Ducks Unlimited, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.**

**- Dike maintenance – City of Klamath Falls**

**At this time there is the potential for cooperative short-term equipment transfers from the Klamath Basin Refuge Complex to help with habitat management goals. We have been involved with the Klamath Refuge Complex Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) process. Flyway management of waterfowl is coordinated with California Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and others through the Pacific Flyway Council.**

**Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area Draft Management Plan**

- Housekeeping / Corrected Errors:

Cover: changed date to **April** 2008

Changed the term “non-consumptive” to “**wildlife viewing related**” throughout the Final Draft.

Corrected the acreage amount in one objective, as it was written in the Objectives and Strategies section:

**Pg. 6:** Corrected the disparity between the acreage amounts shown on page 53.

**Objective 2.5:** Enhance and manage approximately 38 [40] acres of deciduous tree habitat to benefit a wide variety of native wildlife and desired game species.

**Pg 26:** Added a section describing important plant species found on LMWA:

**Plants**

**Due to the variety of topography (elevation, slope, aspect), hydrology and soils, the LMWA supports diverse communities of plant species. These communities are generally described as habitat types in the discussion beginning on page 9. Within these habitats exist hundreds of species of plants ranging from wetland obligate annuals such as showy downingia (*Downingia elegans*) and American slough grass (*Beckmannia syzigachne*) to long-lived upland species such as ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). Appendix B contains the current list of plant species occurring on LMWA; this list is incomplete and is added to as species are observed and documented with the assistance of Dr. Karen Antell, a botanist and Professor at Eastern Oregon University.**

**Douglas' clover (*Trifolium douglasii*), a federal Species of Concern and Oregon Sensitive species, was first observed on LMWA in 2004. This species is known from only 5 locations in Oregon and may have been extirpated in Washington. Douglas' clover grows in damp or wet meadows; surveys by LMWA staff and volunteers have documented the species in 3 separate meadows on LMWA. Management of these meadows will be aimed at conservation of Douglas' clover and its community associates.**

**Pg. 46:** Revised Strategy 1, Objective 1.3 as follows:

**Strategy 1.** Develop annual work plans that outline specific management actions taking place in each unit during the year. **Work will** [This should] include flood up and drawdown schedules and **identifying specific treatment** actions like burning, disking or spraying.

**Pg. 48:** Revised Strategy 1, Objective 1.6 as follows:

**Strategy 1. Plant woody vegetation along** [Restore the remaining] 6.2 miles of Ladd Creek. Work will include [~~channel excavation and~~] planting native trees and shrubs **and installing fencing, to protect new plantings from herbivory, where necessary.**

**Pg. 53:** Revised Rationale and Strategies for Objective 2.3: to maintain focus on agricultural upland management rather than conversion to grassland habitat:

**Pg. 55-56:** Revised Strategy 2 and 8, Objective 3.1 as follows:

**Strategy 2.** Continue angling program at Peach Road Pond. Work **will be conducted in coordination with La Grande Fish District personnel and** includes stocking redband trout and monitoring angler use.

**Strategy 8.** Develop a program for tracking hunter use and success on the wildlife area. Information will be use to evaluate and modify hunt programs and regulations. Work may include constituent questionnaires to assess hunt program or development of a self-service permit system.

- Changes resulting from Commission / Public Comments

**Pg. 58:** To address Commissioner Smith's request about partnerships, revised entire Partnerships section, describing in more detail ongoing activities and identifying partners.

Partnerships with federal, state and local agencies, universities, tribes, non-profits, individual volunteers and private landowners are an important part of Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area operation and management. Partnerships occur through project funding assistance, research assistance, private land access or other types of collaboration.

Dramatic changes have occurred at Ladd Marsh since 1998. More than four million dollars in land acquisition and habitat development have improved the area for wildlife and provided additional public recreation. Major funding was provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Wetland Reserve Program), North American Wetland Conservation Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, the Rocky Mountain Elk Federation, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Department of Transportation and the City of La Grande. A number of other state, federal, and local agencies and interest groups provided additional funding and or in-kind services.

A unique partnership between ODFW and the City of La Grande has provided additional water for wetland management. This project provides approximately 30 million gallons of reclaimed water for habitat development and management. The project has been so successful that several other municipalities are considering similar projects. This project is discussed in more detail in Water Resources, page 38.

Examples of additional partnerships at work on LMWA include:

- An adjacent landowner who, with the assistance of the department's Access and Habitat Program, has allowed access for hunters to 1,000 acres of land contiguous with LMWA.
- Several professors from Eastern Oregon University conduct research on LMWA which increases our understanding of the wildlife and habitats of the area.
- Eastern Oregon University professors mentor and advise students conducting research or community service projects on LMWA.
- Two local farmers conduct sharecropping on LMWA whereby one-third of the crop is left standing for wildlife.

- Numerous local teachers utilize LMWA as an outdoor class room via entry permits and tours or programs presented by LMWA staff.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) utilize LMWA to collect traditional plants such as camas and bulrush for education and ceremonial use. The CTUIR also assist with harvesting of native seeds on LMWA through the loan of equipment designed for that purpose.
- A corps of local birders conduct bird surveys year-round, adding to our understanding of the seasonal use of LMWA habitats by resident and migrating birds.

These partners play an important role in helping the department achieve its mission and attain LMWA goals. The department will continue to rely on these and other partners in the future to help implement this plan and provide input for future updates. This plan identifies projects that provide new opportunities for existing or new partners. There is great potential for more public participation and assistance in management of LMWA, given its proximity to La Grande. The department welcomes and encourages more public participation in the administration of the wildlife area.

**Pg. 57:** Revised Strategy 1, Objective 3.2 to address suggestions from a correspondent regarding additional facilities for wildlife viewing and restrooms:

**Strategy 1.** Maintain existing public facilities and investigate potential for new facilities to provide opportunities for non-consumptive users. Work includes maintenance of West Marsh overlook, Tule Lake Public Access Area, kiosks and parking areas and posting signs as well as investigation into feasibility of new facilities including trails, interpretive kiosks and restrooms.

**Pg. 89:** per ODOT letter, added text to describing the cooperative effort between the department and ODOT in developing a wetland mitigation site in the West Marsh management unit.

Included in the West Marsh HMU is a 26-acre wetland cell that was established in 2006 as a cooperative effort between LMWA and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). This cell is being managed as a compensatory wetland mitigation site that includes a mixture of palustrine scrub shrub wetlands and palustrine emergent wetlands. ODOT will pursue recognition of the area as a Wetland Bank with the regulatory agencies. As such, the cell will be managed in perpetuity as a wetland.

This HMU also has wetlands created in 1993 as a pilot program for using treated effluent. **These** four wetland cells, located on the east side of Interstate 84, are maintained entirely by treated effluent. This unit provides foraging and nesting areas for waterfowl. ~~[The southern wetland cell in this HMU is an Oregon Department of Transportation mitigation project. The project was completed in 2006.]~~