

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The Department has initiated a review and update of its twelve 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 eleven wildlife area management plans (Ken Denman, Elkhorn, Phillip W. Schneider, Jewell Meadows, Wenaha, Summer Lake, White River, Klamath, Ladd Marsh, Columbia Basin and E.E. Wilson) have been adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

One revised management plan for Fern Ridge and three new management plans for the Bridge Creek, Lower Deschutes and Riverside Wildlife Areas 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 9, 2009 Commission hearing in Salem.

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 2014 to gauge implementation progress and will be revised in their entirety beginning in 2019.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Communication and coordination with affected Tribes, government agencies and key interest groups have been ongoing. The Bridge Creek Wildlife Area staff has informed federal agencies (BLM, BOR and USFWS), the CTUIR, adjacent landowners, local hunting groups and birding groups to encourage their involvement in the plan development process. The Fern Ridge Wildlife Area manager has also informed local hunting and birding groups, neighboring landowners and other interested parties to involve them in the plan review process. Lower Deschutes staff has informed the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, BLM, Oregon State Parks and Recreation and livestock interests. Riverside staff has contacted the Burns-Paiute Tribe, BLM Vale and Burns districts, grazing permittees and hunting groups. In order to solicit public comments on draft plans, staff at the four wildlife areas will hold 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 9, 2009 hearing. The formal public comment period will continue through April 17, 2009. Revised drafts will incorporate public comments received April 1 of the public review period. Public testimony will also be encouraged at the April 17, 2009 hearing when the Department will be seeking plan adoption.

ISSUE

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

ANALYSIS

The Department is updating management plans for 12 wildlife areas and developing four new plans. To date, the goals and objectives of eleven plans have been adopted by the Commission. The next four plans to be developed are for Bridge Creek, Fern Ridge, Lower Deschutes and Riverside Wildlife

Areas. These draft plans will be presented by the area managers to the Commission at the January 9, 2009 hearing. This will be followed by a formal public review process continuing through April 2009. Final draft plans will be presented for potential adoption to the Commission on April 17, 2009.

STAFF

RECOMMENDATION

Informational only. No action requested at this time.

DRAFT MOTION

No action requested at this time.

EFFECTIVE DATE

N/A