

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. Four new management plans have also been developed. To date, the goals and objectives of fourteen management plans (Ken Denman, Elkhorn, Phillip W. Schneider, Jewell Meadows, Wenaha, Summer Lake, White River, Klamath, Ladd Marsh, Columbia Basin, E.E. Wilson, Bridge Creek, Lower Deschutes and Riverside) have been adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The final draft of the Fern Ridge plan will be presented to the Commission for proposed adoption at the May 15 hearing. The last revised management plan on the department's schedule is for Sauvie Island Wildlife Area. This draft plan has now been completed.

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

Process to date

The department is nearing completion of its sixteen major wildlife area management plans. As of April 2009, fourteen plans on the schedule have been completed and their goals and objectives adopted by Commission action.

The Fern Ridge management plan will be presented to the Commission at the May 15, 2009 hearing, for potential adoption. An informational briefing for the draft Sauvie Island Wildlife Island management plan will be presented by the area manager to the Commission at the June 5, 2009 hearing.

Due to the complexities which arose during the development of the 1993 Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Management Plan, the department has decided to expand the typical plan review timeline from six months to over a year. This will provide ample opportunity for key stakeholder review and extensive public input. A minimum of four public meetings, guided by a professional facilitator, will be scheduled at local venues, one per month, in June, July, August and September 2009.

The Sauvie Island Wildlife Area manager will present the draft goals and objectives and key management issues to the Commission at the June 5, 2009 hearing in Salem. This will be followed by a formal public review process continuing through December, 2009. After public comments have been incorporated into a final draft plan, the plan will be presented to the Commission for potential adoption on December 11, 2009.

Proposed Timeline

The following is the timeline for review of the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Management Plan:

October 2008 / December 2009 Timeline:

- Fall 2008-Winter 2009 – Develop draft plan, informal key stakeholder meetings
- ***October 10, 2008 – Commission hearing (Salem HQ): Manager’s presentation of Sauvie Island management plan process/issues: First informational briefing***
- March 25 – Draft plan due to NWWD staff for internal review
- April 30 – Draft plan due to Division Admin. for review
- May 14 – Draft plan due to Director’s Office for review
- Late-May 2009 – Work with USFWS refuges to incorporate goose habitat management actions into SIWA draft plan
- ***June 5, 2009 Commission hearing: Manager’s presentation of Draft Sauvie Island Management Plan: Informational briefing (Salem HQ)***
- June-July-August-September 2009 – Official Public Review Period with several facilitated meetings at different venues
- Sept.-October 2009 – Final Draft Plan development, incorporating public comments
- November 5 – Final Draft Plan due to Wildlife Admin. for review
- November 6-December 10 – Prepare Commission addendum if more public comments received during this period
- November 19 – Final Draft Plan due to Director’s Office for review
- ***December 11, 2009 Commission hearing – Final Draft plan presented to Commission (Salem HQ) to consider adoption***