

## Agenda Item Summary

### BACKGROUND

The department has initiated a review and update of its 12 wildlife area long range management plans, which were originally developed in 1993. To date, 10 of these plans and four new plans have been reviewed and adopted. The final draft of the Fern Ridge management plan has been completed. The 2009 Fern Ridge plan differs from the 1993 plan by providing an expanded discussion of the biological resources unique to this wildlife area and includes color geographic information system (GIS) maps depicting landscape features such as habitat types, land ownership and land uses. It also includes changes resulting from the October 2008 re-license agreement between U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) and the department.

The purpose of the wildlife area management plans is to offer a comprehensive vision and action plan for the next 10 years. These plans describe management issues unique to each wildlife area and the actions or strategies used to address these issues. These actions will be implemented during the life of the plan, but are 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.

The Fern Ridge management plan was presented to the Commission on January 9, 2009. Since that time, a public review process has been underway and the draft plan has been revised.

Revisions to this draft plan include:

- Housekeeping and error corrections
- Addressing Commission and public comments specific to each draft plan

A summary of the key draft plan revisions is attached (Attachment 4).

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

During January 2009, staff held one public review meeting in Eugene, in order to solicit comments on the draft management plan. In addition, hard copies of the draft plan were made available at local ODFW offices and local meetings were held with interest groups such as Oregon Hunter Association, conservation groups, neighbors and others. The draft plan was also discussed in detail during meetings with the USACOE and USFWS Willamette Valley Refuge Complex. The plan was also posted on the department website.

A summary of verbal and written comments received during the public review process, through May 8, is attached (Attachment 7). Copies of all written public correspondence received to this date are also attached (Attachment 8).

The final draft plan (Attachment 5) incorporates or addresses the public comments received by May 8, 2009. Comments received after this date will be presented to the Commission during the June 5, 2009 hearing. An opportunity for public testimony will also be provided at this hearing.

**ISSUE** Adopt the Goals and Objectives of the 2009 Fern Ridge Wildlife Area Management Plan. The staff proposal would replace the existing 1993 Fern Ridge long range management plan.

**ANALYSIS** Staff proposes that the Commission adopt the Goals and Objectives as described in the June 2009 Final Draft Fern Ridge Wildlife Area Management Plan. The remainder of the plan contains historical and biological informational material.

**OPTIONS**

1. Approve staff recommendation.
2. Modify staff recommendation.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION** Option 1.

**DRAFT MOTION** I move to adopt the Goals and Objectives of the 2009 Fern Ridge Wildlife Area Management Plan and amend OAR Chapter 635, Division 008, as proposed by staff.

**EFFECTIVE DATE** Upon Filing