

Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Draft Management Plan Public Comments

Issue or Comment	Count	Department Response
Several public meeting attendees and correspondents wanted the Department to allow rabbit hunting on Sauvie Island Wildlife Area.	17	Per Objective 3.1, Strategy 3 of the Final Draft SIWA plan, the Department is proposing a new hunting opportunity, to allow rabbit hunting in the North Unit, from September 1 through January 31. An authorized season and bag limits will be established during the Department's annual development of Game Bird and Big Game regulations, if the Fish and Wildlife Commission approves.
Several meeting attendees and correspondents wanted the Department to allow raccoon hunting on Sauvie Island Wildlife Area.	17	For safety reasons, to reduce nighttime disturbance to island residents, wildlife and because of the difficulty of law enforcement to discern illegal shooting activities from legitimate hunting, the Department will continue its ban on nighttime hunting.
Several meeting attendees and correspondents wrote in support of the SIWA draft plan's habitat management activities, especially regarding oak woodland/savanna, grasslands, riparian, and Sturgeon lake shoreline etc. They also expressed interest in restoring habitats for all native birds, animals and plants.	15	Per the objectives and strategies listed under Goal 1 and 2 in the Final Draft SIWA plan, the Department is actively maintaining and/or enhancing wetland and upland habitats to benefit not only waterfowl but shorebirds, grassland obligates, raptors, reptiles and amphibians.
Several correspondents wanted the Department to allow all types of hunting on the wildlife area and wanted the restrictive language stated in Objective 3.1, Strategy 1, regarding maintaining the closure for hunting of furbearers, predators, unprotected and protected wildlife removed.	12	The Department will maintain this closure except as stated above, proposing to allow rabbit hunting per Strategy 3. Hunting opportunities are regulated to reduce conflict with the wildlife area's major waterfowl hunting activities.

<p>Correspondents supported finding ways for non-hunting users to pay for habitat restoration on SIWA.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>The Department is working with partners in the conservation community to explore ways for the non-hunting and non-angling public to fund projects specifically to benefit non-game species; for example, developing a conservation license plate, taxes on birdseed or guide books and some other means that will be dedicated to habitat restoration as suggested by the 2006 Oregon Conservation Strategy.</p>
<p>A few meeting attendees and correspondents were concerned that the Sauvie Island farming community was not involved in creating the plan, but were asked to comment; concerned about the goose management approach taken on SIWA.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>The development of the 1993 SIWA management plan was long and full of conflict among various stakeholders. The Department internalized the plan review process and developed a working draft to streamline the review and reduce conflict. The public review process has included four public meetings and a lengthy comment period, all of which was intended to provide plenty of opportunity to comment on the draft. This Final Draft is a result of that public review process. Secondly, the Department is obligated at several levels (federal, tribal and state) to manage habitat for ducks and geese, consistent with the Pacific Flyway management objectives.</p>
<p>Several correspondents were concerned about controlling invasive species.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>As part of the wetland and uplands habitat management objectives, the Department will partner with local entities, such as the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, to use integrated pest management, moist soil management techniques, mechanical means and USFWS approved herbicides to control insects and invasive plants.</p>
<p>Correspondents are concerned about sandhill cranes and wants more recognition in the plan how important SIWA is to cranes, also more explicit protection and enhancement of habitat.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Additional text has been added to the Final Draft plan to address concerns about sandhill cranes and enhancing habitat.</p>

Two correspondents suggested that 'pursuit only' or training of coonhounds instead of raccoon harvest might be something that could be agreed on.	2	In order to reduce disturbance to wintering and nesting wildlife and island residents, pursuit only activities would not be allowed at night. However coonhound training is currently allowed by permit, during SIWA operating hours of 4am to 10pm.
Several meeting attendees and correspondents were concerned about the ongoing siltation of Sturgeon Lake.	2	Per Goal 1, Objective 1.1 and the associated strategies in the Final Draft Plan, the Department is partnering with US Army Corps of Engineers, and numerous other entities, to address the siltation of Sturgeon Lake. Funding has been secured from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to find a contractor to evaluate the hydrologic and biological conditions of Sturgeon Lake, to develop restoration methods and to complete a restoration project.
Several correspondents wanted more access for birding during the seven months when large portions of the wildlife area is closed, especially October and April.	2	Per Goal 3, Objective 3.3 in the Final Draft plan, this opportunity has increased during the past decade and will continue to be expanded by the department as opportunities arise.
Correspondent wants the Department to continue to maintain waterfowl hunting in western Oregon and on Sauvie Island.	2	Per Goal 3 in the Final Draft plan, providing habitat for waterfowl and waterfowl hunting opportunities, which was the primary reason for which the wildlife area was purchased, will remain the top management priority.
Correspondents suggested using volunteers to help with habitat, monitoring and educational projects.	2	As stated under Goal 3, Objective 3.3, Strategy 7 in the Final Draft plan, SIWA staff will actively seek volunteers to assist with these types of activities.

<p>Oregon Duck Hunters Association supports the SIWA draft management plan's objectives of protecting and improving waterfowl habitat and providing a public (waterfowl) hunting area. The opinion of ODHA Board of Directors is that rabbit hunting would not be a compatible activity with waterfowl hunting for it would create a serious conflict of use and possible safety hazards for persons and animals; ODHA Boards counts upon ODFW to make the proper decisions regarding the priority of waterfowl hunting on SIWA.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The Department will continue its primary management objectives of managing wetland habitat for waterfowl and waterfowl hunting but will explore developing additional hunting, viewing and other wildlife-related activities where these activities do not conflict with the primary objectives of SIWA.</p>
<p>A Sauvie Island resident corresponded and noted an escalation in nighttime poaching using firearms on the SIWA near his residence and is strongly opposed to nighttime raccoon hunting because of the disturbance effect on the household from baying hounds and gunshots in the middle of the night; there is no way to distinguish coon hunters' shooting from poachers so the resident will continue to phone 911/OSP whenever there is nighttime shooting. The correspondent suggested hunting raccoons during the normal hours the wildlife area is open.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>For safety reasons and to reduce disturbance to island residents and wildlife, the Department will continue its ban on nighttime hunting.</p>
<p>Correspondent is concerned about Goal 4, especially reducing disturbance to neighboring private lands. Concerned about safety and the proximity of waterfowl hunters at Johnson #1 to the private property line; suggests moving the marker 100 yards away and restricting hunters from using this blind during high water events.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The Department has cooperated with adjacent property owners and have adjusted the placement of hunters in the Johnson Unit to minimize conflicts without eliminating hunter opportunities in this location.</p>

<p>Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde Community of Oregon provided detailed edits to the Draft plan especially in the Cultural Resources section and also asked for information on lead content of Wapato, a traditional tribal food source.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The edits have been incorporated into the Final Draft plan. SIWA staff are very aware of the culturally significant resources present on the island and conduct operations and maintenance in ways to minimize any disturbance. The SIWA manager is working on getting the Wapato lead content information to the Tribe as requested.</p>
<p>Respondent does not agree with the plan's stated number of trap shooter and bird watcher use hours and would like to see dog training occur on the east side because there is water in the summer; wants to cut back the size of the trap shooting area because it is seldom used and use it for dog training.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Trap shooting was identified as an important use for the wildlife area and will be maintained. Dog training on the Eastside is restricted to field trials to minimize daily use impacts to fish and wildlife and their habitat.</p>
<p>Audubon Society of Portland's key concerns were regarding the public process, more public access for birders and other wildlife watchers, management of Canada and Cackling Goose habitat; supports funding mechanism to allow birders and other wildlife watchers to support SIWA; wants more explicit recognition of the importance of nearby habitat areas in protecting the integrity of SIWA; wants SIWA to become involved in the new Intertwine Alliance to integrate SIWA management objectives with funding, biodiversity, recreational and environmental education strategies at the regional level; more species specific prioritization and strategies to help meet Oregon Conservation Strategy objectives; and other issues regarding West Nile Virus and managing public use compatible with biological needs.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The Department has incorporated most of these suggestions throughout the Final Draft SIWA management plan, augmenting the Biological Resources section and adding more strategies to meet OCS recommendations.</p>

<p>Correspondent is concerned about the hunting conditions of Holman Point Unit on the Westside and hunters crippling ducks by shooting at high flying ducks; proposes that the Department rehabilitate the Holman Point Unit by shifting the existing Refuge boundary out into the water some distance, so hunters could use the existing tree line for concealment and place decoys at more reasonable shooting distances and using volunteers to clean out some of the brush and tree limbs. The correspondent proposes changing the Aaron Unit boundary to make up for the loss of refuge area in the Holman Unit.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Increased hunting opportunities have been added and the Department continues to explore additional opportunities without relocating Legislative Refuge boundaries.</p>
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