

Summary of Draft Wildlife Area Management Plan Revisions

Substantial changes were made to the June 2009 Draft SIWA Management Plan which necessitated an additional informational briefing to the Commission and another public review period. Revisions were then made to the June 2010 Revised Draft to address comments and suggestions received from the public, key stakeholders and Wildlife Division and regional staff input.

Numerous corrections were made throughout the Revised Draft document, based on comments from both the public and internal reviewers. For example, in response to Portland Audubon Society's comments, stewardship opportunities were added to the Final Draft plan. Corrections were also made to the discussion about raptors, in the biological section.

Final Draft Goals and Objectives

A single objective, Objective 2.1 was revised. All other goals and objectives are the same as presented in the June Revised Draft plan. The Final Draft goals and objectives are described below.

(Inserted text is **bold** and underscored, deletions are [bracketed] and ~~strikethrough~~.)

Goal 1: To protect, enhance and manage wetland habitats to benefit fish and wildlife species.

Sturgeon Lake

Objective 1.1: Conduct research on methods and then implement these methods to improve the biological and hydrological function of the 3,000 acre Sturgeon Lake system.

Inside the levees

Objective 1.2: Protect, enhance and manage approximately 286 acres of palustrine seasonally flooded wetlands and convert approximately 200 acres of existing poorly drained agricultural land into a total of 486 acres of this wetland type to benefit a wide variety of fish and wildlife species.

Outside the levees

Objective 1.3: Protect and enhance approximately 2,922 acres of lacustrine seasonally flooded wetlands to benefit a wide variety of fish and wildlife species.

Objective 1.4: Protect and manage 285 acres of lacustrine permanently flooded wetlands to benefit a wide variety of fish and wildlife species.

Objective 1.5: Protect, enhance and manage approximately 795 acres of palustrine permanently flooded wetlands to benefit a wide variety of fish and wildlife species.

Objective 1.6: Enhance and manage 62 acres of palustrine semi-permanently flooded and 52 acres of palustrine seasonally flooded wetland habitats to benefit a wide variety of fish and wildlife species.

Objective 1.7: Protect and enhance approximately 161 acres of riverine wetlands to benefit a wide variety of fish and wildlife species.

Objective 1.8: Maintain and improve critical physical and functional infrastructure affecting wetland and water management activities within and outside the levees.

Goal 2: To protect, enhance and manage upland habitats to benefit a wide variety of wildlife species.

Objective 2.1: Enhance habitat carrying capacity for wintering Canada geese by reviewing current habitat management practices on 2,230 acres of upland pastures/grasslands and 1,316 acres of agricultural cropland.

Objective 2.2: Maintain and improve the quality of 193 acres of existing Willamette Valley oak woodlands.

Objective 2.3: Maintain 2,857 acres of riparian/bottomland hardwood forest and improve the quality of these habitats.

Objective 2.4: Protect, enhance and manage approximately 2,230 acres of pasture/grassland habitats to benefit wildlife species, with emphasis on ground nesting songbirds.

Objective 2.5: Maintain and enhance SIWA facilities, structures, and equipment used to conduct habitat management, public use projects and other administrative functions.

Goal 3: To maintain waterfowl hunting programs and to provide a variety of other fish and wildlife oriented recreational and educational opportunities to the public that are compatible with Goals 1 and 2.

Objective 3.1: Provide approximately 165,000 hunting, trapping, and angling use days annually.

Objective 3.2: Provide opportunities for individual dog training and dog field trials which will not conflict with wildlife habitat management objectives or Objective 3.1.

Objective 3.3: Provide 100,000 wildlife viewing, wildlife-oriented education and interpretation use days annually, compatible with Objective 3.1 and habitat management objectives.

Goal 4: To control other public uses to minimize impacts on fish and wildlife, their habitats, and fish and wildlife related recreation and to maintain the security of the wildlife area and reduce disturbance to neighboring private lands.

Objective 4.1: Manage non-wildlife oriented public use to minimize disturbance to wildlife species on SIWA.

Objective 4.2: Review the SIWA Parking Permit program to determine its effectiveness in providing appropriate levels of funding for maintenance, law enforcement and administration.

Objective 4.3: Continue implementation of the 1993 SIWA Beach Use Plan.

Text was added to the paragraph describing Goal 2, to clarify Objectives 2.1 and 2.4 as follows:

Goal 2: To protect, enhance and manage upland habitats to benefit a wide variety of wildlife species.

The upland habitat management priority is to provide habitat, specifically pastures, to hold wintering geese to minimize depredation on private lands. In addition, SIWA upland habitats contain grasslands, oak woodland/savannah and riparian/bottomland hardwood forests and agriculture. Oak habitats, wetland and wet prairie and riparian forest habitats are Key Habitats as defined by the OCS. Objectives 2.1 and 2.4 address two management objectives for the same 2,230 acres: managing these uplands to enhance goose carrying capacity in the winter and managing to benefit grassland nesting birds in spring and summer.

The three dog limit proposed in the rationale of Objective 3.2 has been removed, as has the associated Strategy 4. The Department will instead develop a separate statewide permit process to address requests for commercial activities (such as professional dog training, guide services and other for-profit activities) for all wildlife areas that will be consistent with USFWS Federal Aid grant requirements.