

Work Plan

Cape Meares, Oregon Islands, and Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuges

Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment

Prepared By:

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Reviewed By:

Ben Harrison, Chief, Branch of Refuge Planning Date

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Charles Houghten, Chief, Division of Refuge Planning and Visitor Services Date

Background

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, 16 U.S.C. 688dd-688ee, as amended, requires the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for each refuge or related complex of refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System (System). The CCP provides a long-term vision and outlines goals, objectives, and strategies to guide refuge management activities in achieving refuge purposes and helping to fulfill the mission of the System. On approval, the CCP is intended to be used for approximately 15 years after which it will be revised as necessary. The CCP will be prepared in accordance with the provisions of National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Refuge Planning Policy, and other applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

The Oregon Coast Refuge Complex consists of six National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs): Cape Meares, Oregon Islands, Three Arch Rocks, Bandon Marsh, Nestucca Bay, and Siletz Bay. This Work Plan applies only to Cape Meares, Oregon Islands, and Three Arch Rocks NWRs. The CCPs for the other three refuges will be developed under a separate planning effort in the near future.

Purpose

The purpose of this preplanning document is to ensure that the Project Leader and Refuge Staff, and Regional Office Staff agree on the roles, expectations, schedule, responsibilities, commitments, refuge acquisition history, refuge purposes statement, preliminary conservation targets, preliminary refuge goals and objectives, draft vision statement and the communication plan developed by the Oregon Coast NWR Complex. It is the intent of this Work Plan that all parties agree on all work items contained in this Preplanning Report. If there are circumstances that change the scope of work, roles and responsibilities, and/or schedule then an amendment will be prepared.

Scope of Work

This Preplanning Report is for the development of the Cape Meares, Oregon Islands and Three Arch Rocks Comprehensive Conservation Plan and associated Environmental Assessment (EA). This CCP will go into considerable detail on goals, objectives and strategies for wildlife and habitat management as well as public use. Although the CCP will not eliminate the need for step-down plans, it should considerably streamline the development of the habitat management plan, inventory and monitoring plan, invasive species plan, and visitor services plan. The existing fire management, wildlife disease contingency and predator management plans will be incorporated into the Cape Meares, Oregon Islands and Three Arch Rocks CCP by reference, and the wilderness management plan will be updated during the course of CCP development. The CCP and EA will be prepared simultaneously and will be integrated as one document. A final stand-alone CCP will be produced after the Regional Director selects an alternative for implementation.

Goals for the Planning Process and the CCP

- Stay on schedule
- Avoid taking shortcuts that cause delays later on (for example, do a thorough job of scoping to identify all issues)
- Produce a concise document
- Conduct CCP planning as a top refuge priority
- Develop new partnerships and solidify existing ones
- Develop reasonable CCP alternatives

- Maximize use of standardized text and templates
- Develop products that are usable in future refuge management (e.g. current land status maps, accessible databases)
- Augment funding and staffing levels
- Create a usable document that is useful for refuge management
- Bring an ecosystem perspective to refuge management
- Improve effectiveness of OCNWRC in helping to fulfill the System Mission

Major issues

The following preliminary list of issues identified by the core planning team are intended to provide an indication of the level of work required to complete the CCP/EA. Issues are defined as matters of controversy, dispute, or general concern over resource management activities, the environment, or land uses. For more detail, see the “Preliminary Issue Identification” chapter in this report.

Cape Meares NWR:

Resource Protection challenges such as invasive species, wildfires, and unsurveyed boundary
Public Use Management
Partnerships with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, volunteers, Friends group

Oregon Islands & Three Arch Rocks NWRs:

Wildlife Disturbance/ Resource Protection on islands
Wildlife-dependent public use off-site
Public use in marine waters outside refuge jurisdiction
Wildlife Disturbance from Aircraft
Non-wildlife dependent public use – Terrestrial (mainland)
Crook Point Unit– management, protection and access
Coquille Point Unit– public use and management
General management (primarily related to protection from adjacent development)
Inventory, monitoring and research needs, including non-FWS research
Contingency and response plans for disease, oil spills, and other disasters
Three Arch Rocks buffer zone
Invasive Species inventory, management and control, including plants and animals

Public Involvement Strategy

It is anticipated that there will be a large interested public for this planning effort. The Oregon Coast is a popular destination that encompasses 360 miles and attracts millions of visitors each year from a geographically widespread area. Cape Meares, Oregon Islands and Three Arch Rocks NWRs have been established for many years and the refuges themselves, if not their status as National Wildlife Refuges, are well known. At a minimum, outreach efforts will include the communities of Brookings, Bandon, Newport, Oceanside, and Cannon Beach. There are also near-by federal lands, city and county park lands, and at least four state agencies (Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept., Oregon Dept. of Land Conservation and Development, and Oregon Dept. of State Lands). In addition, four Indian Tribes (Coquille Indian Tribe; Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians; Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians) will be included in our planning process. It is envisioned that a variety of techniques will be utilized including: meetings with the general public, agencies, Tribes, and other interested parties; mailings and distribution of planning updates, flyers, and other public involvement

materials; press releases; and information via the Internet. A Communications Plan, which includes key messages, has been developed to outline our strategy for involving the public and stakeholders.

Roles and Responsibilities

Completion of this plan in a timely manner requires considerable effort from all team members. The Refuge Supervisor will work with the Project Leader to ensure that development of the Cape Meares, Oregon Islands and Three Arch Rocks CCP/EA receives the priority needed to follow and achieve the milestones and tasks. The Refuge Supervisor will find ways to help refuge staff to lessen their regular workload to allow adequate time to be dedicated to developing the CCP/EA. The Regional Director is responsible for approving which EA Alternative will become the CCP for the Cape Meares, Oregon Islands and Three Arch Rocks NWRs.

The core planning team consists of persons responsible for the preparation and completion of the CCP and EA. They are the primary strategists, analysts, writers, etc. and will attend all team meetings. To avoid scheduling and logistical conflicts the core team has a limited number of participants. The extended team plays a supporting role to the core team. Extended team members' varied responsibilities include providing technical expertise and assisting with data collection, public involvement, alternative development, analysis, writing, and reviewing. It is envisioned that the extended team will primarily consist of FWS branch chiefs or program specialists, and other agency representatives. The list of participants for this CCP also includes Contact Specialists (infrequently contacted for specific planning needs); Reviewers (RO personnel including Refuge Supervisors, VSC, Planning, GIS, Realty, Division of Natural Resources); Consulting Governments; and Stakeholders / interested parties, identified in the Preliminary Issue Identification report. Not all of the extended team members and others who will support the CCP effort have been identified here. For example, there may be more regional office reviewers than are listed below. Due to the nature of planning, additional needs for special expertise will be identified as planning proceeds.

Core Planning Team (*those preparing the plan*)

Name and title	Responsibilities
Roy Lowe, Project Leader	Supervision; decision-making; public involvement; writer/reviewer; refuge vision; research/analysis; visitor services and compatibility determinations; compliance with NEPA, ESA, NHPA, etc.; Federal and State agency, and Tribal coordination. Expect 20%-40% time commitment.
Rebecca Chuck, Deputy Project Leader	Supervision; responsible for overall coordination and development of the CCP; public involvement; refuge vision; writer/reviewer; research/ analysis: socioeconomics, cultural resources, visitor services, compatibility determinations; maintaining planning record files; Fire Management Plan integration. Expect 40%-50% time commitment.
Dave Pitkin, Refuge Complex Biologist	Public involvement, writer/reviewer; refuge

	vision; research/analysis: habitats, wildlife; ESA biological assessment(s); rare plants and plant communities, invasive plants; compatibility determinations; assistance with production of working maps. Expect a minimum of 40% time commitment.
Dave Ledig, South Coast Refuge Manager	Public involvement; writer/reviewer; refuge vision; research/analysis: socioeconomics, cultural resources, visitor services, rare plants and plant communities; vegetation descriptions; invasive plants; Predator Management Plan integration; assistance with production of working maps; compatibility determinations. Expect a minimum of 40% time commitment.
Dawn Grafe, Supervisory Park Ranger	Public involvement including planning updates and outreach plan; writer/reviewer; refuge vision; research/analysis: socioeconomics, visitor services; compatibility determinations. Expect a minimum of 40% time commitment.
Ben Harrison, Regional Refuge Planner	Planning team leader responsible for Regional office coordination and process guidance for development of the CCP; public involvement; planning record; principal NEPA advisor; writer/reviewer; document format and layout; research/analysis; refuge purposes and vision statement development. Expect 10%-15% time commitment.

Extended Team (*those who will attend periodic planning meetings and compile information, including Mig Birds, State F&W, and Regional Biologist*)

Name and Title	Responsibilities
Pam Johnson, Administrative Officer	Public involvement; building and maintaining CCP mailing list and assist with planning record files; refuge vision
Khem So, Geographer	GIS advice; GIS data layer development and assistance with production of working maps for CCP/EA, planning updates, agency/public involvement; refuge vision
Jim Johnson, Facilities Operations Specialist	Field trip transportation; public involvement; refuge vision; reality check for planned projects
Fred Paveglio, Branch Chief, Refuge Biology	CCP Advisor, Conservation targets, HMP, habitat goals and objectives, CD review
Kevin Killbride, Wildlife Biologist/ Regional	IPM advice, data, and review; assist with

IPM Coordinator	development of objectives and strategies for invasive species control
Robin Brown, Marine Mammal Biologist	ODFW contact for CCP coordination and official comment
Herman Biederbeck, Wildlife Biologist North Coast Watershed (CM, TAR, OI)	ODFW contact for CCP coordination and official comment
Doug Cottam, Wildlife Biologist North Coast Watershed (Lincoln County / OI)	ODFW contact for CCP coordination and official comment
Stuart Love, Wildlife Biologist Umpqua Watershed (Coos County / OI)	ODFW contact for CCP coordination and official comment
Clayton Barber, Wildlife Biologist Rogue Watershed (Curry County / OI)	ODFW contact for CCP coordination and official comment
Joe Asher, Manager Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area	BLM contact for CCP coordination and official comment
Calum Stevenson, South Coast Coordinator for Natural Resources (OPRD)	OPRD contact for CCP coordination and official comment
Pete Marvin –Cape Lookout State Park & Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint (OPRD)	OPRD/ Cape Meares contact for CCP coordination and official comment

Contact Specialists *(for specific planning needs)*

Name and title	Responsibilities
Scott Aikin, Tribal Liaison	Identification of and coordination with Indian Tribes
Anan Raymond, Archeologist	Cultural resources advice, data, and review; SHPO consultation, if needed
Maura Naughton, Seabird Biologist	Advice on seabirds, applicable goals from regional bird plans
Dave Drescher, Branch Chief, Refuge Information	GIS coordination and oversight, mapping and cartography; review
Georgia Shirilla, Branch Chief, Refuge Acquisition	Realty issues; review
Betsy Rosenbaum, Zone Law Enforcement Officer	Identification of potential LE issues and coordination of LE assistance and agreements
Mike Marxen, Chief, Visitor Services	CCP Advisor, layout graphics design, public use goals and objectives; public involvement assistance, CD review

Reviewers *(RO personnel including Refuge Supervisors and Division Chiefs)*

Name and title	Responsibilities
Ren Lohofener, Regional Director	Decision-maker, CCP/EA approval
Carolyn Bohan, Regional Chief of Refuges	Major decisions on CCP direction
Forrest Cameron, Refuge Supervisor Linda Watters, Assistant Refuge Supervisor	Refuge workload assistance; reviewer; decision-maker
Chuck Houghten, Division Chief of Refuge Planning	CCP Advisor for planning policy and guidance; reviewer; coordination with other divisions and WO.
Dave Lescalleet, Division Chief, Refuge Law Enforcement	Reviewer

Steve Moore, Division Chief, Natural and Cultural Resources	CCP Advisor, purposes, wilderness review, policy, CD review
Cathy Sheppard, Division Chief, Realty and Refuge Information	CCP Review
Kay Kier-Haggenjos, writer/editor	Editing of CCP/EA and related documents.
External Affairs	Assist in the development of public involvement/communication plan; potential public involvement assistance

Consulting Governments

Name and title	Role
Coquille Indian Tribe	Contact for CCP consultation and coordination
Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians	Contact for CCP consultation and coordination
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	Contact for CCP consultation and coordination
Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians	Contact for CCP consultation and coordination
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners	Contact for CCP coordination and official comment
Tillamook County Board of Commissioners	Contact for CCP coordination and official comment
Lincoln County Board of Commissioners	Contact for CCP coordination and official comment
Lane County Board of Commissioners	Contact for CCP coordination and official comment
Coos County Board of Commissioners	Contact for CCP coordination and official comment
Curry County Board of Commissioners	Contact for CCP coordination and official comment
City of Bandon	Contact for CCP coordination and official comment - esp. Coquille Point issues
City of Cannon Beach	Contact for CCP coordination and official comment, esp. Haystack Rock at Cannon Beach

CCP Development Milestones

Initial Preplanning Report development	August 2006
Federal Register Notice of Intent	October 2006
Scoping Briefing Statement	January 2007
Draft Goals and Objectives	June 2007
Alternatives Briefing Statement	November 2007
Internal Review Draft	March 2008
Federal Register NOA – Draft CCP	June 2008
Draft CCP & Public Review	August 2008
Final CCP Briefing Statement	October 2008
Federal Register Final CCP	December 2008