

The Grebe

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 14

SPRING 2015

Support Friends of
Deer Flat Refuge
through
"Idaho Gives"
(May 7th)
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Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

Our mission is to promote,
protect and provide resources to
preserve and enhance
**Deer Flat National
Wildlife Refuge**
for the enjoyment of present
and future generations.



Friends of Deer Flat Board of Directors

Bob Christensen, President
Bob Ruesink, Vice-President
Tricia Matthews, Treasurer
Kathleen McCarter, Secretary
Bob Faller, Member
Mike Shipman, Member
Lynn Wilfling, Member

Contact Information

13751 Upper Embankment Rd
Nampa ID 83686
Email: friendsofdfwr@gmail.com
[www.facebook.com/
FriendsofDeerFlat](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofDeerFlat)

Bob Faller, Newsletter Editor

President's Message

If you were looking for an aggressive, outspoken, and impulsive personality for your president—I am not that guy. I have more of a quiet, contemplating personality. But, I do believe in speaking out and going to work for what really matters when supporting a common worthy cause.

In that regard, I pledge to do my best to promote the mission of the **Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge**. The Friends have accomplished many worthwhile projects since the group's inception in late 2005/early 2006. We are fast approaching ten years as a conservation organization, with the goal of supporting and defending the wildlife resources found on the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, and providing opportunities for public participation.

I invite all **Friends of Deer Flat** to become actively involved in this admirable cause by leading an activity, volunteering to help with refuge and Friends projects, and giving us your ideas on what you feel will make a strong and viable organization.

I would like to thank our 2014 officers and board members for their dedicated work in sponsoring and carrying out Friends' actions and activities during the past year. **A heartfelt "Thank You" goes to:**

- Noreen Tripp, Past President
- Lyndell Jackson, Vice-President
- Genevieve Johannsen, Treasurer
- Kathleen McCarter, Secretary (who will remain as secretary for 2015)
- Bob Ruesink, Member at Large (who hung in there for the last two years and is vice-president this year).

Your New Board: Gratitude is extended to Tricia Mathews, Treasurer, and to Bob Faller, Mike Shipman, and Lynnette Wilfling, Members at Large, who have pledged to serve on our 2015 board along with Kathleen, Bob R and myself. (See Page 2 for a picture of the 2015 Friends Board).

I look forward to working with our new officers and board members, as we formulate and carry out the ideas and activities that will lead the Friends group to a productive 2015.

Sincerely,
Bob Christensen, President
rcloydchris@juno.com
208-454-2518





2015 Friends of Deer Flat Board of Directors

Left to right: Bob Faller, Tricia Matthews, Bob Christensen, Lynnette Wilfling, Kathleen McCarter, Bob Ruesink, Mike Shipman

Osprey Webcam Status

by Bob Christensen, Webcam Coordinator

As some of you may have noticed, the webcam has been down for the last several months, ever since the ospreys left for their wintering habitats in Central America. Because of a change in our internet provider (result of a merger), we have lost our IP (internet protocol) address. Our partner, Fiberpipe, is actively trying to get this problem resolved with the new provider. So, stay tuned.

Meanwhile, as reported in our last newsletter, the electrical line to the osprey nest pole has already been installed. The work was completed the third week of September. Now we are about ready to install the bullet camera on top of the nest pole, so we can look in (close-up) on the osprey family as they prepare their nest, lay eggs, hatch their young, and raise them to fledging age. Our plan is to have this all in place by about mid-March, before the parent birds return from points south and begin their breeding activities.



What the Bullet Camera Installation might look like

Donations to help maintain the osprey webcam can be sent to:
Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge,
 13751 Upper Embankment Rd, Nampa, ID 83686

Refuge Staff Highlight: Annette de Knijf, Refuge Manager

In 1997, Annette decided to switch careers and went back to school to get a Wildlife degree at Humboldt State University. She worked for a few years as a student trainee in the summers, including

- 1998 at Julia Butler Hansen NWR for the Columbian White-tailed Deer (Cathlamet, WA);
- 1999 at Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Willows, CA); and
- 2000 at Tern Island NWR (Hawaiian archipelago).

Annette then got a full time position after graduating in 2001 at the Regional Office in Portland in the Land Protection Planning Branch. She later worked at Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex based in Port Angeles, WA, for 5 years where she focused on marine mammals and seabirds.

Immediately prior to coming to Deer Flat last August, she spent 7 years at Bear Lake NWR where her energies were directed on waterfowl and wetlands. Annette says she is now happy to face the challenge of balancing public use with wildlife/habitat conservation as the new manager at Deer Flat.



Annette de Knijf, Refuge Manager
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DID YOU KNOW?

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge provides an important breeding area for birds and mammals, as well as other wildlife. The refuge is also a significant resting and wintering area for birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway, including spectacular concentrations of mallards and Canada geese. Because of its value to birds, **Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge** has been declared a *Globally Important Bird Area* by the American Bird Conservancy. The refuge is one of the oldest refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System. It was created in 1909 by an Executive Order signed by President Teddy Roosevelt. In that order, Deer Flat (Lake Lowell) and 16 other Western reservoirs were designated as "National Bird Reservations."

Comprehensive Development Plan Overview

by Annette de Knijf, Refuge Manager

The 30-day public review period for the Deer Flat Refuge Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan-Environmental Impact Statement (CCP-EIS) concluded in late March. A Record of Decision will be signed and implemented following conclusion of the public review period and after suggested changes to the plan are considered. The CCP-EIS will guide usage of the Refuge for the next 15 years.

Some aspects of the CCP-EIS include:

- Big 6 wildlife-dependent recreational uses remain a priority at Deer Flat. Those uses are hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education and interpretation.
- A major change from status quo is the no-wake zone in the Narrows and along the southern shoreline. The no-wake zone, which extended from Parking Lot #1 northeast across the lake to the northern shore, will now be from Parking Lot #1 to Gotts Point.
- Sailing regattas and bass tournaments are still allowed by Special Use Permit, with stipulations.
- Refuge closing times will now coincide with ½ hour after sunset, rather than in set half-hour time increments.
- Walking, jogging, bicycling, horseback riding, swimming, picnicking, and dogs on leash are still allowed. Competitive land-based events like marathons and bicycle races are not allowed.
- Parties, weddings and receptions are allowed only at Lower Dam Recreation Area, with specific group-size stipulations. Reservations are not taken for these events, and posted event advertising is not allowed on the refuge.



Bird Viewing Blind
Photo by Robert Allen

BioBlitz – June 13, 2015 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Refuge Visitors' Center)

BioBlitz is a rapid 24-hour survey of the biological diversity at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. To celebrate this biodiversity, we host a public festival. Although BioBlitzes are held across the country, this is Idaho's only one! Local scientists, naturalists, and volunteers will comb the Refuge to identify as many species of plants and animals as possible. Amateur naturalists and volunteers are invited to help with surveys. The public is invited to attend this free event and volunteers are needed to lend a hand in running the festival as we all celebrate biodiversity.

Free Kids' Fishing Day – June 13, 2015 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Gotts Point)

Kids' Fishing Day provides kids the opportunity to learn about fish biology, fishing ethics, and water safety. Visitors will practice casting and rigging, then test their newly-learned skills by fishing in Lake Lowell. Fishing poles will be available to borrow if needed. Volunteers are also needed to help with these activities.

Volunteers Needed for Both Events (June 13 – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Over 400 people attend this festival and volunteers make the event run smoothly. Volunteers help with staffing the Bug Tent, Fish Printing Station and Kid Craft Room; setting up and clean up; helping teach kids the art of casting and rigging; and most importantly helping everyone to have fun!

To volunteer contact Mackenzie Tietjen Volunteer Coordinator at deerflat@fws.gov or 208-467-9278.

Time at Lake Lowell brings back fond memories . . .

Some of my fondest memories of growing up in Wisconsin during nice weather were our nightly trips. After dinner, my parents would load my brother and me into the car and head to the local Dairy Queen (way back then it was only open in warm weather and only served ice cream). My parents would get their cones and my brother and I would get a nickel cone.

We would then drive down to the end of Nicolet Boulevard, which dead ended at Winnebago Lake. My parents would sit in the car and enjoy the view while my brother and I got to play along the shoreline. We would collect shells, driftwood and pretty rocks. My Dad even taught us how to skip rock across the water.

**Do you realize you have the opportunity to give your children the same kind of memories?
Of course you're not going to get a nickel cone at DQ anymore.**

There are several areas around Lake Lowell where you could take the family and enjoy some family time together. It would give the kids time to enjoy some wildlife while you enjoy a little peace and quiet to relax after a long hard day at work.

You don't even have to have kids to enjoy Lake Lowell. What a joy it would be to either drive out to the lake to watch the sunrise or sunset, to hold hands with your loved one, and to just unwind.

By Lynnette Wilfling, Friends Board Member



Seasonal Happenings at the Refuge

*by Stan Culling,
Assistant Refuge
Manager*

Deer Flat NWR provides resting, breeding and year round habitat for significant number and diversity of animals. As spring presents itself with longer days and warmer temperatures exciting phenomenon are occurring very quickly this time of year, and every day brings something new.

Native plants are emerging, new leaves are taking in the sun's rays and soon flowers will be blossoming. Some native plants to look for early in the season are globemallow, Fernbush, Silvery Buffaloberry, and Curl-Leaf Mountain Mahogany. As the season progresses, many other plants present their succulent nectar to entice insects. The insects, in turn, attract resident/migrant birds tired of their winter diet of seeds and provide fuel for spring migratory songbirds.

Some other birds to look for while visiting Deer Flat NWR are many different species of waterfowl, Bald Eagle, Osprey, American Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Swallows, and blackbirds. If you're near the water's edge look for herons and egrets as they fish for their meals. Also keep an eye out on the water as western and Clark's grebes perform their best dance moves to captivate a mate.

In addition to our extensive list of birds, Deer Flat NWR supports a variety of mammals including deer, coyotes, badger, beaver and raccoon to name a few. Some of the smaller mammals rarely seen provide a food source for many birds and larger mammals. Keep your eyes out for Kestrels and badgers as they hunt these small creatures near the visitor center.

Thanks to Friends of Deer Flat Refuge for our new trail.

On Friday, January 30, concrete was poured for the new ADA-accessible trail, connecting the Centennial Trail to the bird viewing blind.

Volunteers and staff members successfully stamped wildlife tracks onto the wet concrete, adding a life-like dimension to the trail. Along the new trail you can find deer, robin and killdeer tracks, osprey tracks along with its meal, and prints from a coyote chasing a rabbit.

By Mackenzie Tietjen, Volunteer Coordinator



“Notes from the Coop” 2013-14 Winter Season

I thought it might be interesting to share notes penned in the visitors’ book at the wildlife viewing blind known as, “The Coop.” As you may know, for the enjoyment of refuge visitors, the Friends volunteers place and fill bird feeders at the blind, attracting various species of wintering birds. The feeding season usually extends from November through March.
(by Bob Christensen)

We saw 9 swallow-birds.

I saw an osprey, it was flying high.

Birds are cool and “osome” because they are “prity.” (Jayden)

Birds are very pretty—I love birds. (Lilly)

This really was a cool experience. Hope we can come again and enjoy watching cool birds!

This place needs power, a vending machine, and free Wi-Fi—enjoyed the view though. (Garrett)

Noticed the screech owl’s home has fallen over.

This was a great place to sit and study my homework, possibly saw an osprey and some crows. Thanks. (Kellin)

It’s nice to open all the windows and feel the breeze and [hear] all the chirping birds. (Adriana)

We saw a Sasquatch! 😊

Enjoyed the birds, the view and the clean building. Thanks for what you do! (Ricky)

Watched the osprey eat a small fish near the camera on the pole before returning to the nest.

Thank you for the opportunity to enjoy wildlife here. What a great experience. Caleb, April, Joseph, Kylee, & Kay

Smash-up job on the wicked bird watching place. (JE)

The noise was beautiful (birds singing). (Angell, Grandma & Lalo)

I wish I could fly like a bird (Noah). Cool place. I saw a nest in a tree (Paige)

We saw “Pterodactls” also....I “cant” spell. 😊 (CWI)

We decided to come here and enjoy the sun, but there was no sun, just clouds and rain. Thanks, Weather! (Alison)

I will go to Zamzows and see about donating some bird seed. (Witco)

I came to look at birds, but we saw NOTHING!! Pretty cool place— though a bit strange.

I saw an alligator. 😊

Our family came out for a walk and brought Karpo for the first time. He thought it was awesome to see the birds.

We have seen killdeer, a bald eagle, red-winged blackbird, mourning dove, osprey, a swallow, fox squirrel, and a

California quail. We had fun! Thanks, Deer Flat! (Megan, Hanna & Jerry)

I love the “deers” and the birds. (Anna)

Support Friends of Deer Flat Refuge (FDF) through Idaho Gives 2015

Mark your calendars for **Idaho Gives Day** on Thursday, May 7!

Idaho Gives is a designated 24-hour period of giving sponsored by the Idaho Nonprofit Center. Donors can go to idahogives.org anytime from 12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on May 7 to support the nonprofit(s) of their choice. One important consideration about supporting **Idaho Gives** is that all donations made to FDF that day are non-designated, which means the funds can be used to benefit many important projects at the Refuge.

Almost \$500 was donated to FDF during Idaho Gives Day in 2014.

Let's try to top that figures in 2015! Thank you!

Yes!

I want to be a member.

Just copy this page, cut on dotted line above, complete the requested information below, then mail it along with your annual dues to:

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa ID 83686

 Name(s)

 Address

 City/State /Zip

Phone _____

Email _____

Annual Membership Levels (Please mark one)

_____ Owl (senior or student)	\$ 10.00
_____ Deer (individual)	\$ 15.00
_____ Fox (family)	\$ 25.00
_____ Osprey	\$ 50.00
_____ Eagle	\$ 100.00
_____ Goldeneye	\$ 500.00



Join
 the
 Friends
 of
 Deer
 Flat
 Refuge

Yes!

I want to be involved.

Please mark all areas of interest and ways you'd like to participate.

- Habitat Enhancement
- Staffing the Bookstore
- Organizing events
- Litter lifts
- Weed eradication
- Project Management
- Photographic Documentation of Events and Activities
- Historian
- Newsletter
- Publicity / Public Relations
- Grant Writing
- Fundraising
- Lobbying and Advocacy
- Board of Directors
- Advisory on specific policies, protocols and processes.
- Other (please specify)

