



2023 Annual Report

Here are just some of the highlights from the Friends of Deer Flat Refuge for 2022-2023.

Because of generous support from members, as well as funders that include the Deer Flat Urban Conservation Program, the Friends of Deer Flat have been able to:

- Provide bird seed for over-wintering birds.
- Enriching the experience of visiting students through purchasing Deer Flat branded backpacks for visiting 4th grade SEEDS students.
- Celebrating Earth Day with the community in partnership with the Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho.
- Award Funding to the Nampa Family Community Resource Center (FCRC) to enable community access to the outdoors.
- Provide refreshments to volunteers during activities and appreciation events.
- Curate a nature store for visitors with a wide range of budgets and interests.

No National Wildlife Refuge “gets by” without a little help from its Friends. Through these and many other activities, the Friends help the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge engage with the community as one of the country's flagship urban refuges.

Our Mission

The Friends of Deer Flat Refuge assists the Deer Flat National Wildlife in its mission to *“To promote, protect and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations.”*

2023 Board of Directors

President: Rebecca Flock (Feb - Dec '23)

Vice President: Spencer Hawkins (Sep - Dec '23) Michael Ciscell (Feb - Sep '23)

Treasurer: McKenna Hawkins (Aug- Dec '23) Becky Hanson (Feb - Aug '23)

Secretary: Tricia Matthews (Feb - Apr '23)

Board Members at Large: Bob Christenson, Rex Hanson, Becky Hanson



About Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Established in 1909, Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge is one of the oldest refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System. It is a significant resting and wintering area for migrating birds and protects a wide range of wildlife habitats. DFNWR is located in the greater Boise, ID area known as the Treasure Valley, Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge sits along an urban-rural interface in one of the fastest growing areas in the United States. It is uniquely situated to navigate the challenges and opportunities that come with urbanization.

In 2023, DFNWR applied and was selected to become a Flagship Urban Refuge. They prioritize equitable opportunities to engage with nature through community engagement and welcoming access to public lands. We share their vision to work with their neighbors as co-designers, empowering community members and fostering collaborative conservation solutions that cultivate ecological and economic benefits for fish, wildlife, and people.

The Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). These public lands and waters are set aside to conserve America's wild animals, insects and plants. With a nearly 9,000-acre lake and more than 10 miles of trails, refuge visitors can easily find an adventure for their experience level. Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge serves as an urban oasis for residents across the Treasure Valley, Idaho, and beyond.

About Friends of Deer Flat NWR

The Friends of Deer Flat NWR is an independent volunteer membership-based nonprofit organization that supports the Refuge by managing the Nature Store at the Visitor Center; soliciting donations and resources to support environmental education, and advocating for local environmental issues. The friends also supports, promotes, and enhances Refuge Programs; such as wildlife and habitat conservation, community engagement, and other opportunities for the public to engage with nature.

The Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization by a small group of residents in 2006. The National Wildlife Refuge system has been chronically understaffed and underfunded. As a result, the Friend's group has worn many hats over the years: event planning, advocating for the protection of refuge lands from threats, fundraising for wildlife conservation projects, supporting environmental education, habitat restoration, and much more. The Friends support the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge through conservation both on the Refuge and in the community. Our activities complement the work of the federal Fish and Wildlife program by focusing on the work that federal employees and volunteers Refuge *can't* do; Fund-raising, Friend-raising, and Advocacy.

13751 Upper Embankment Rd, Nampa, ID, 83686 · friendsofDFWR@gmail.com



2022-2023 Fiscal Year Revenues and Expenditures

Government funding does not cover all that is necessary to manage Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. According to the National Wildlife Refuge Association, the National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses more than 850 million acres of lands and waters across 568 National Wildlife Refuges and Marine National Monuments. The Fish and Wildlife Service receives 59 cents per acre to maintain lands and waters and meet the needs of its more than 59 million annual visitors (pre-pandemic figures). In comparison, the National Park Service receives \$31 per acre for land management. As a result, wildlife refuges depend on "Friends" groups such as Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (FoDFNWR) to fill in the gaps, providing financial and volunteer support.

In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, total income to FoDFNWR was **\$9,280.60**, with **34.5%** of the amount coming directly from Nature Store sales, **65%** coming from philanthropic support within the local community, and **0.5%** from grants.

Total expenses for this year amounted to **\$35,480.82**, leaving a net loss of **\$26,379.10**. This deficit is primarily due to finalizing projects that had funds earmarked from the previous year; **\$6,020.00** went toward Historic Preservation and **\$5,940.41** was spent on the Pollinator Garden. **\$9,600.00** of these expenses was reimbursed from a Cooperative Agreement with DFNWR urban funding after the fiscal year ended.

80.7% of expenses went directly to helping the Refuge in the areas of environmental education, conservation, wildlife protection, and research. Refuge support includes items such as displays, exhibits, student busing, equipment, interpretive signage, and intern stipends.

14.5% of our expenses were administrative. Administrative expenses included updating our software, office supplies, print and outreach materials, and fundraising platforms.

The remaining **4.8%** of our expenses were related to managing the Nature Store.



Programs

- Maintaining the Kids Area of the Visitors Center
- Maintaining the Grebe Nature Store inventory and sales
- Supporting Environmental Education through soliciting funds and resources
- Supporting the Intern Program through intermediate funding
- Funding community resources through the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program
- Supporting wildlife conservation through purchasing bird seed, lifting litter, and promoting habitat restoration projects.

Member Perks & Events

- Subscription to the monthly newsletter
- 10% discount on select items at the Nature Store
- Personal invitations to Refuge events, education and training opportunities
- Assurance that contributions are maximizing Refuge success
- Philanthropic Dollars at Work