



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Update 2, August 2001

GREETINGS!

This is the second publication from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intended to keep you informed about the planning process for the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). This second update has three purposes: to provide you with a progress update on the development of the Salinas River NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (CCP/EA), to summarize key issues and concerns identified through the public scoping process, and to encourage you to provide additional input once the draft CCP/EA is released.

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James & Stokes

Riparian restoration along Salinas River

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR

We've come a long way since the first planning update was sent in April 2000.

On June 1, 2000, the planning team held a public scoping workshop at the California State University, Monterey Bay campus. Public comments were also solicited in writing until the public comment period ended on June 22, 2000. The purpose of the public workshop and solicitation of written comments was to involve the public in the initial steps of the planning process. Input from all those who contributed their written comments and those who attended the public scoping meeting was a key factor in identifying important issues and concerns related to management of the Salinas River NWR.

Once management issues and concerns were identified, the planning team began to develop goals and objectives for Salinas River NWR.

Goals were developed at various levels; they include overall Refuge goals as well as goals for the management of individual species. The project team also developed a range of alternatives for Refuge management, and analyzed the likely environmental impacts (both beneficial and adverse) of each alternative. The draft CCP/EA will present the management goals and objectives, the management alternatives, and information on the environmental impacts of the alternatives. It is slated for release in late August 2001. We look forward to your comments on the draft CCP/EA!



Sheri Brown

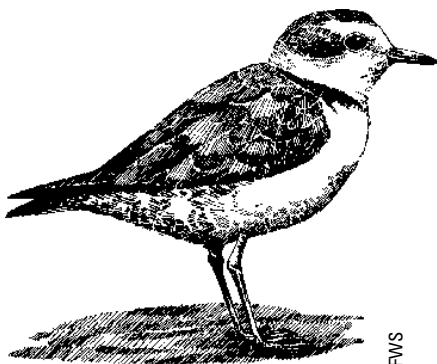
Wild Buckwheat

Mission Statement

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and water for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans (National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended in 1997).

Refuge Purposes

The primary purpose for which the Refuge was created in 1973 was its "particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program" (16 USC 677b). The purpose of the Refuge has since been expanded to include the conservation and recovery of endangered species such as the western snowy plover.



Snowy plover

USFWS

Wildlife Update

The 2001 Western snowy plover breeding season has been keeping the plover monitors from Point Reyes Bird Observatory busy. As of July 30th, 25 nesting attempts have been recorded at the Salinas River NWR, with a 76% hatch rate. Monitors have also confirmed 21 fledglings from early season nests and several young broods of chicks from nests that hatched in July. This season may become one of the most successful yet at the Refuge!

GIS Basemap of the Refuge Under Development

The Service has mapped the distribution of habitats on the Salinas River NWR and developed a GIS database for the Refuge. The Service has also initiated road mapping to develop a base map for the new

database. Additional information will be incorporated into the database over the next few years as funding permits. The database will be used to:

- Track changes in exotic plant populations
- Map populations of endangered and sensitive plants
- Track endangered species occurrences and nesting locations over time
- Monitor the success of restoration projects
- Plan future restoration projects
- Map the locations of signs and public facilities
- Create maps for public use
- Track maintenance activities
- Create maintenance schedules

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

We received many comments by the close of the public comment period (June 22, 2000) and are grateful to those who participated. Following are some of the key issues and concerns raised through the public scoping process:

- Public access to Salinas River NWR
- Impacts of consumptive recreational use (e.g., hunting and fishing)
- Habitat and wildlife management
- Control of invasive exotic plants
- Prescribed burning to restore grassland
- Predator management
- Bilingual interpretive and educational materials
- Prominently displayed signage prohibiting dogs
- Additional refuse receptacles and parking
- Exploration of additional funding sources

These public comments were carefully considered during the development of the draft CCP/EA, which will be released soon. We encourage you to continue your participation by submitting comments on this public document. Instructions for submitting your comments are found on page 4.

Please distribute this newsletter to anyone you think is interested in the future of the Salinas River NWR. We welcome everyone's participation to help create the best possible plan for the future of the Refuge!

Where We Are in the Planning Process

We are now entering Step 3 in the planning process. When the draft CCP/EA is released in August 2001, it will be distributed to government agencies, local jurisdictions, community groups, and private citizens on our mailing list, in order to solicit comments from all of these stakeholders. The public review and comment period will end 30 days after the release of the draft CCP/EA.

Step 1: Scoping and Analysis

Spring 2000

- Convene public meetings
- Revise objectives and strategies

Step 2: Plan Formulation

Summer 2000

- Develop alternatives
- Write draft plan (CCP and EA)

Step 3: Publication of Draft Plan (CCP and EA)

Summer 2001

- Distribute draft plan for public review
- Gather public input

Step 4: Publication of Final CCP

Fall 2001

- Analyze comments
- Revise plan
- Issue findings

Step 5: Plan Implementation

Winter 2001 and beyond

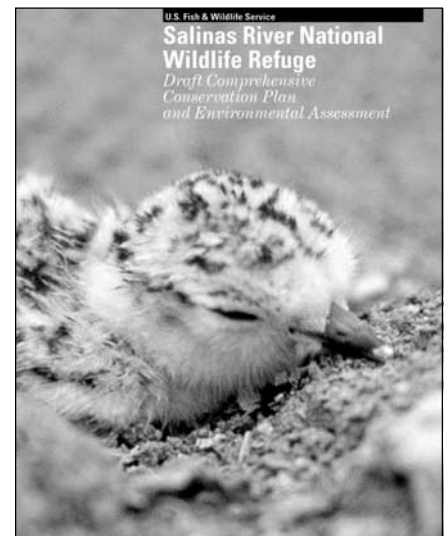
- Prepare step-down plans
- Acquire permits
- Implement management strategies

Planning Schedule

- ✓ Identify public and agency issues and concerns
- ✓ Gather data
- ✓ Develop goals and objectives
- ✓ Develop strategies
- ✓ Evaluate impacts
- ✓ Write draft
Circulate draft
Issue public notice of decision

What Happens Next?

In Step 4, the Service will compile and carefully analyze all comments on the draft CCP/EA received during the public comment period and will assess them carefully. The draft CCP/EA will then be revised and findings will be issued. The final CCP is scheduled for completion by Winter 2001.



How to Get Copies of the Draft CCP/EA

If you would like to receive copies of the Draft CCP/EA, please contact us or view them at one of the following locations:

Viewing address:

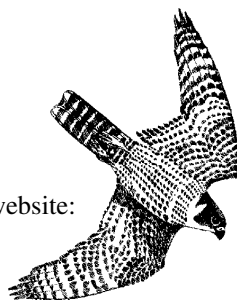
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1 Marshlands Road
Fremont, CA
510-792-0222

Mailing address:

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
P.O. Box 524
Newark, CA 94560-0524

— OR —

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
CA/NV Refuge Planning Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1916
Sacramento, CA 95825
916-414-6500



These documents can also be viewed on our regional website:

<http://pacific.fws.gov/planning>

How to Submit Comments on the Draft CCP/EA

The comment period will begin when the draft is released and will last 30 days. Please provide written comments to:

Mark Pelz, Team Leader
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Refuge Planning Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1916
Sacramento, CA 95825

You can also send your comments by e-mail to:

FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov

Please type "Salinas River NWR" in the subject line.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish & Wildlife Service

Refuge Planning Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1916
Sacramento, CA 95825

Address correction requested

