

Shoreline

Newsletter of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

New Refuge Entrance Road

Winter is a great time to see wildlife at the refuge, but visitors should be aware that the Visitor Center access road across the

Why not come explore the new road and also look for winter wildlife, including bald eagles that often perch



View of the Upper Dam and Visitor Center from the new road.

Upper Dam will be permanently closed to vehicles on December 1st.

The new access road is at the intersection of Roosevelt Avenue and Indiana Avenue (see sidebar for directions).

The road across the dam is being closed to allow Bureau of Reclamation contractors to repair the dam. During these repairs, pedestrian traffic across the dam will also be restricted.

Repairs are expected to be completed by spring 2009, when the dam will re-open to pedestrians.

in the lakeshore trees near the Visitor Center, various songbirds at the Visitor Center feeders, and large waterfowl flocks that use the lake as a winter home or migratory resting spot. Although mallard ducks and Canada geese are most common, snow geese, mergansers, and goldeneyes are some of the many waterfowl that have been recently sighted.

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*To find the new Visitor Center access road:
Off of Karcher Avenue (Highway 55), turn south onto Indiana Avenue. At the stop sign at Indiana and Roosevelt, continue straight into the refuge. Follow that road into the Visitor Center parking lot.*



Look for bald eagles in the trees along the Visitor Center lakeshore.

The Friends of Deer Flat Have Been Busy!

Haven't visited the refuge recently? Then plan a visit soon to see the fruits of the labors of our Friends Group.

Be sure to bring some money. You might find the perfect holiday gift at the Friends' new bookstore. Plush singing birds would make a great stocking stuffer. A guide to Idaho Watchable Wildlife Sights is perfect for someone new to the area--or new to wildlife. Many other other sale items are also available. Be sure to bring

your binoculars and also take the short hike to the new wildlife viewing blind. The blind was completed with the help of Friends volunteers, a grant from Idaho Watchable Wildlife, and the donation of many hours of labor by local contractor and refuge neighbor Brian Cooper.

Once you return home, find out more about this productive, nearly two-year-old group on their new website at www.FriendsofDeerFlat.org.

The refuge staff very much appreciates the Friends' efforts. If you think they're doing good work too, then consider joining the group by downloading a form from their website.



A few of the items available at the new refuge bookstore.



The walls go up!



Project Coordinator Jim Iverson hard at work.



Contractor Brian Cooper inside the blind.



The finished product ready for your enjoyment!

Young Artists Invited to Draw Ducks and Geese!

The time has come for students to start preparing their entries for the 2008 Idaho Federal Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest.

The Junior Duck Stamp Contest is part of a larger conservation education program in which K-12 students learn about environmental science and habitat conservation by developing a design for the annual Junior Duck Stamp.

All Idaho students can enter their duck stamp artwork into the statewide contest. Each participant receives a certificate of participation, and over twenty-five ribbons are awarded to winning entries in

each age group: grades K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. The Best of Show artwork from Idaho is also submitted to a national Junior Duck Stamp contest. The winning artwork in that contest adorns the next Junior Duck Stamp!

Contact the refuge (467-9278) or visit <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck> for more information. You can also download the Junior Duck Stamp curriculum at that website.

Be sure to submit your 2008 entry by March 15th!



Katie Berberick's 2007 Idaho Best of Show.

**Care about wildlife?
Concerned about the refuge?
Then become a refuge volunteer!**



Remove weeds



Help visitors



Help survey geese



Pick up litter

Why not join in the fun!

Mark your calendar for the next
volunteer orientation (January 30th at 7 PM)
Please RSVP at 467-9278 or deerflat@fws.gov

Deer Flat Scrapbook

Summer activities at the refuge!



Copyright Mike Ship



Copyright Mike Shipman



Hibernate, Migrate, or Insulate: A Wildlife Winter Survival Guide Day Camp

Do squirrels have sleeping bags?
Do bears have space heaters?
Then how do they survive the challenges of winter?

Sign up your second, third, or fourth graders
to discover the secrets of winter survival through
interactive, hands-on activities at this FREE refuge day camp.

December 27th and 28th from 1-4 PM

Register your child by 12/14 at 467-9278 or deerflat.fws.gov

Upcoming Refuge Activities

December

Tuesday, Dec. 4

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wild about Life Lecture

Bear Neighbors

7 PM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, Dec. 5

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, Dec. 18

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, Dec. 19

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Thurs.-Fri., Dec. 27-28

Winter Day Camp

1-4 PM, Visitor Center

Registration is required!

January

Wednesday, Jan. 2

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, Jan. 5

Scout Day

1-3 PM, Visitor Center

Registration is required!

Tuesday, Jan. 8

Friends Group Meeting

7 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wild about Life Lecture

Craters of the Moon

7 PM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, Jan. 16

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, Jan. 30

Volunteer Orientation

7 PM, Visitor Center

February

Fri.-Sat, Feb. 1-2

PLT credit workshop

Visitor Center

Teachers must register!

Tuesday, Feb. 5

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Friends Group Meeting

7 PM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, Feb. 6

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

Saturday, Feb. 9

Scout Day

1-3 PM, Visitor Center

Registration is required!

Tuesday, Feb. 12

Wild about Life Lecture

Backyard Wildlife Habitat

7 PM, Visitor Center

Tuesday, Feb. 19

Reading at the Refuge

10 AM, Visitor Center

Wednesday, Feb. 20

Reading at the Refuge

2 PM, Visitor Center

WILD ABOUT LIFE LECTURE SERIES

A monthly lecture series that offers something for everyone. Topics range from identifying Idaho birds to wildlife-friendly landscaping and from identifying & removing weeds to fish identification.

Held 7 to 8 PM at the refuge Visitor Center alternately on the first or second Tuesday of each month. **Mark your calendar and tell your friends!**

Dec. 3

Bear Neighbors

Find out about common bear myths and the latest in bear research!

Jan. 15

Craters of the Moon

Explore the geology and biology of Idaho's only National Monument.

Feb. 12

Your Backyard can be a Wildlife Habitat!

Learn how to create a certified wildlife-friendly yard.

**WILD ABOUT LIFE
CO-SPONSORS:**





Environmental Education

Classroom Programs

Bring the refuge to your classroom! Refuge staff will visit your school to present a standards-based, interactive environmental education program. Available programs include:

- Alien Invaders
- Animal Camouflage
- Ecosystems Alive
- Lessons from the Lorax
- Touch Trunk
- What Did the Owl Eat?

Traveling Trunks

Borrow free traveling trunks that contain everything you need to teach about a variety of topics, including:

- Bird Beaks
- FISH!
- Jaws and Levers
- Scat and Tracks

For a complete list of programs and trunks, visit the refuge website.

Field Trips

Visit Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge at Lake Lowell for a standards-based environmental education activity or hands-on exploration of sagebrush upland, riparian, and lake habitats!

One Class?

Schedule a hike on the Nature Trail and/or an environmental education activity. All visits include time in the Visitor Center and a brief orientation to the refuge.

More than one class?

Large groups will be split into smaller groups and rotated through 3 or 4 stations. Stations include the Visitor Center, Nature Trail, and one or more outdoor environmental education activities. Each station lasts 20-25 minutes. The Visitor Center station includes an 11-minute refuge orientation video.

Pass it on!

Do you know someone who might be interested in a FREE, fun environmental education program? Then please pass on a copy of Shoreline or help them contact us at the refuge. Thanks for helping us spread the word about our programs!

For more information about other environmental education opportunities, including Scout programs, service learning, and community programs, please contact us at (208) 467-9278 or deerflat fws.gov

All programs, trunks, and field trips are FREE!

Want to know more?

Visit the refuge web site at <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/education.htm> for more information, including details about classroom programs and field trip FAQs.

Schedule a classroom program or field trip!

Phone: (208) 467-9278 e-mail: deerflat@fws.gov