

Corps develops master plan for wildlife habitat area near Boise

Story by Cindy Boen, Planning Branch and
Debbie Willis, Programs and Project Management
Photos by Blaise Grden, Planning Branch

As the seasons change along the Boise River, so do wildlife habitats and the activities of its inhabitants. The Barber Pool Conservation Area, abundant in wildlife activity, is six miles from downtown Boise.

Barber Pool is host to more than 200 species of birds and mammals, including bald eagles, mule deer and elk.

This conservation area has become significant to conservationists, scientists and the general public because of its native riparian habitat along the metropolitan reach of the Boise River.

With the rapid urban growth and development around the area, a concerned group of local folks came together to establish the Friends of the Barber Pool Conservation Area.

This group – made up of representatives of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands, Ada County, Boise City, The Nature Conservancy, The Land Trust of Treasure Valley, Golden Eagle Audubon Society and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game – has been working hard to preserve and protect this area.

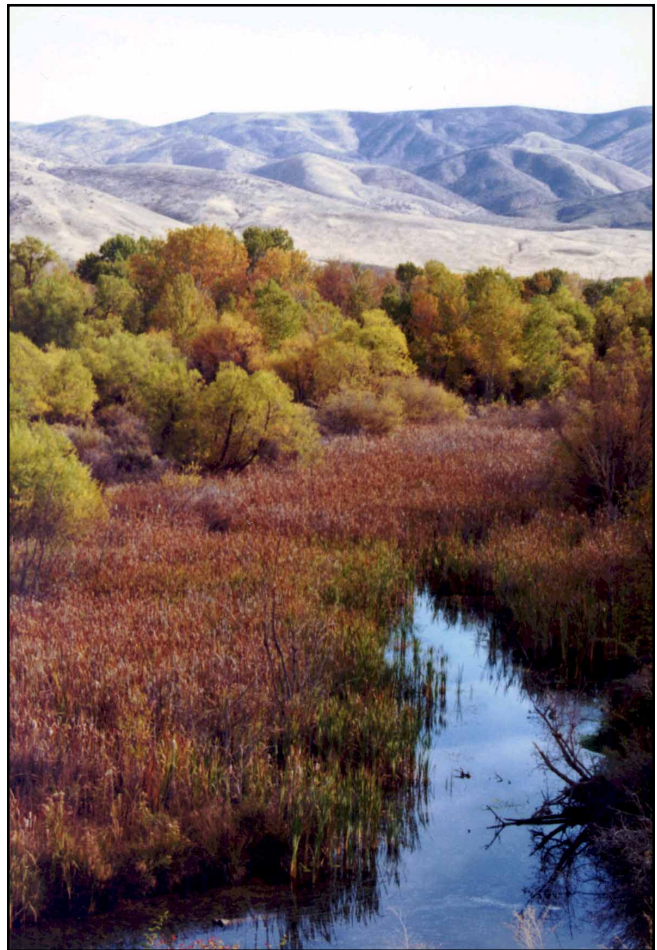
The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation invited the Walla Walla District to work with this group to help develop a master plan during the past year.

Under Section 22 – Planning Assistance to States authority, District professionals worked with the Friends of the BPCA to produce a master plan which included an inventory of the natural resources of the BPCA, current ecological, human, and aesthetic uses of the land, ecosystem components, and conditions necessary to sustain desired wildlife and plant habitat.

Through this combined master planning effort, the Friends of BPCA now has a plan of action to support their goals to protect the resource and provide educational and recreational opportunities, as well as any future management needs.



Red-winged blackbirds, like this one, are among the more than 200 bird and mammal species at Barber Pool.



The Corps developed a master plan with the “Friends of the Barber Pool Conservation Area” for the wildlife habitat area, approximately six miles from downtown Boise.