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# Oregon Coast Refuge Review



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## A Marsh is Restored

After more than 10 years of land acquisition, planning, design and preparation the Niles'tun Tidal Marsh Restoration Project at Bandon Marsh Refuge started construction this past summer. The project is the largest reclamation and re-creation of a tidal marsh ever attempted in Oregon and will be completed in the summer of 2011.

The 418-acre expanse on the north side of the Coquille River was once a thriving wetland, home to shorebirds and salmon smolts alike. But as they have at countless other



Photo by: USFWS

tidal marshes on the coast, farmers built dikes along the river decades ago, to keep the land mostly dry and suitable for grazing. The restoration will allow the unimpeded return of the daily tides on this area for the first time in more than a century and plants and animals will start adjusting to the newly restored conditions.

The refuge has completed a series of five interpretive panels that cover the history, ecology, geology and biology of the marsh and they will be installed on the viewing deck by April. The refuge is also maintaining a blog on our website if you want to follow the details of the restoration. [www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/bandonmarsh/restoration/](http://www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/bandonmarsh/restoration/)

Consider attending a restoration celebration when the project is completed in the fall of 2011.

## What Do You Want Out of Your Refuges?

The Refuge Complex has begun the Comprehensive Conservation Planning process for Bandon Marsh, Nestucca Bay, and Siletz Bay Refuges. During this process we will review and plan for the long term management of wildlife, habitat, and wildlife orientated public use on these refuges.

As part of the process we have the opportunity to look at our

wildlife and habitat management and public use programs from fresh perspectives. We need to consider what is working well now and where we can make improvements.

The process also involves you! Learn more about planning process and how you can get involved at our website [www.fws.gov/oregoncoast](http://www.fws.gov/oregoncoast). Please tell us what you want

out of your refuges because your ideas, insights and observations are essential to our providing a complete and thoughtful plan.



Photo by: Roy Lowe

OREGON  
COAST  
NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE  
REFUGE  
COMPLEX

## Opportunity of a Lifetime

Starting this month three new talented people will join our team through our partnership with SEA, two as environmental education interns and one as a biology intern.

Lindsay Raber, Wildlife Education Coordinator, will be based out of Newport. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Parks and Recreation Management from Northern Arizona University. Recently Lindsay was working with the Columbia River Gorge State Parks as an Interpretive Intern and in Eugene assisting the Willamalane Park and Recreation District with after school programs. Lindsay will bring her passion, knowledge and experience in leading the Shorebird Sister Schools Program this year and the popular Siletz Bay Canoe/Kayak tours.

Bethany Ricks, Wildlife Education Specialist, will be the Bandon intern. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and Environmental Studies from the Bethel University. She has experience with interpreting marine environments and working with animals. With her environmental education and animal handling experience Bethany is a perfect fit to be working with the Free Flight Wildlife Rehabilitation Center outreach and education program and helping with the Shorebird Sister School Program.

Ben Wishnek, Wildlife Specialist Intern, will be based in Bandon. He comes to us just finishing a series of two AmeriCorps stints that both involved working on habitat restoration projects. Before that he completed his B.S. in Wildlife at Humboldt State in May 2009. Ben will use his skills and knowledge in field research, habitat improvement projects, and public outreach., while performing regular bird surveys and getting new herp and small mammal inventories going.

Please welcome all three of our interns to the Oregon coast!

## Meet Our Friends

Did you know the Oregon Coast NWR Complex has three friends groups who help support our missions and goals? Here's a little about each group.

The **Friends of Haystack Rock** is based in Cannon Beach and was established in 2004 to support the work of the Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP). HRAP is a 25-year old interpretation and education program that was created in response to increased negative human impact to the rocky intertidal invertebrates and nesting seabirds of Haystack Rock. The Friends of Haystack Rock's mission is to protect, through education, the intertidal and bird life of the Marine Garden and Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge at Haystack Rock. The group is guided by a volunteer board of directors and advisors, who are committed to fostering stewardship by open-

ing minds to the magic of Haystack Rock through adventure, exploration and discovery. [www.friendsofhaystackrock.org](http://www.friendsofhaystackrock.org)

The **Friends of Cape Meares Lighthouse & Wildlife Refuge, Inc.** is group of dedicated people who care about the natural beauty of Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint, the historic Cape Meares Lighthouse, and Cape Meares Refuge. They formed to provide and support the educational and interpretive services of the park and refuge and rely heavily on volunteer support in all areas of operation. The Friends of Cape Meares Lighthouse and Wildlife Refuge operate an interpretive gift shop in the previous work room of the lighthouse. Donations and proceeds from the Interpretive Shop are used to enhance the refuge and the state scenic viewpoint. [www.capemeareslighthouse.org](http://www.capemeareslighthouse.org)

**Shoreline Education for Awareness Inc., or SEA**, was founded in Bandon in 1990. The all-volunteer organization has grown in influence and support, reaching 10,000 visitors annually. Their mission is to improve stewardship of our coastal areas by providing educational opportunities to the public to increase their awareness and knowledge of the shoreline habitats and wildlife along the southern Oregon coast. SEA has an office on Bandon Marsh Refuge and work in partnership with refuge staff to recruit and place interpretive docents to interact with visitors from April through September at both Simpson Reef Overlook and Coquille Point. [www.sea-edu.org](http://www.sea-edu.org)

Look to future newsletters to find out about what each group has been doing this year.

