



Willow Creek WA Land Management Plan

Focus Group and Public Engagement Meetings Summary Report



Introduction

- Focus Group (i.e., stakeholder) meetings were held online in June 2026, participation was by invitation only
- An in-person public meeting, which was open to everyone, was held in Janesville on July 20, 2026
- The following notes are organized by topic and summarizes feedback received during these meetings, it does not necessarily reflect the opinions of CDFW or the actions that CDFW will take.
- Tribes whose ancestral homelands included what is now Willow Creek Wildlife Area were contacted in early 2026, inviting them to engage as part of our request for input and/or consultation. Engagements with tribes are confidential and therefore that feedback is not included here.



Habitat and Species Management

- Top priorities for noxious weed control are Canada thistle, whitetop, scotch thistle and knapweed
- Increase young vegetation on WA to reduce burden of foraging wildlife on nearby/adjacent private landowners
- Vegetation management regime to support short stature vegetation in springtime for waterfowl
- Reoccurring management cycle to maintain habitat
- Continue sensitive species management, particularly ongoing sage grouse data collection/surveys
- Explore managing uplands to encourage sage grouse lek establishment
- Consider native grasses or non-invasive, non-natives that provide habitat value
- Mule deer habitat restoration and general upland improvements
- Increase nesting island availability for waterfowl
- Maintain some tule habitat for redhead (*Aythya americana*) nesting, they are critically dependent on tule, an obligate tule over water nester
- Keep prescribed fire as a tool for managing decadent vegetation
- Encourage riparian restoration
- Protect springs from feral horses, burros, and cattle while maintaining wildlife access
- Interest in integrated pest management (herbicide, grazing, etc.)

Grazing and Agriculture

- Interest in prescribed grazing contracts and farming and haying opportunities
- Should be conducted with clear and measurable benefits to wildlife
- Look into working collaboratively with BLM to address grazing management and fencing
- Explore vegetation management with grazers other than cattle (e.g. sheep, goats for targeted applications)



Regional Collaboration/Outreach

- Explore opportunities to collaborate with BLM for management. For example:
 - BLM conducts aerial herbicide treatments for noxious weeds, opportunity for collaboration across boundary?
 - Consider sharing information about WCWA at BLM campgrounds and BLM recreation info at WCWA for regional collaboration
- Look for partnerships to assist with cross jurisdiction implementation such as noxious weed control, restoration projects, and to ensure all fencing is wildlife friendly
- Explore opportunities for collaboration on perimeter fencing, both internally for financing and externally with neighboring property owners
- Consider partnership with CalFire to support management (e.g. Prescribed fire)
- Look for opportunities to share recreational information about WCWA in other locations, such as non-profits, local government, etc.
- Apply for grant funding to complete projects including upland and wetlands/waterfowl habitat improvements

Infrastructure/Public Use

- Might be beneficial to get southwest corner boundary established and fenced
- Fencing boundaries would reduce livestock conflict
- Fencing is an overall concern as Lassen County is a fence-out county
- Look into upgrading infrastructure, especially related to wetlands management and water efficiency
- Ducks Unlimited Habitat Improvement Plan for WCWA (2009) should be reviewed and incorporated into the Land Management Plan as appropriate
- Continue disallowing e-bikes on property



Water Management

- Interest in removing beavers and/or beaver dams when appropriate in a timely manner to allow downstream neighbors to get their water
- Work with water master and downstream users to improve water delivery
- Year-round wetlands are important to support all annual life cycle events for waterfowl (including molting, fall migration, nesting cover, and spring migration)
- Maintain consistent flow of water to prevent botulism and mosquitos
- Expansion or modifications of wetland units to improve water efficiency
- Old flashboard dam in the South end of the property needs to be rehabbed to hold water and increase time for brood water (through August)
- Work collaboratively within valley to address the major water diversion upstream that is in disrepair.

