

The following is my written testimony:

My knowledge of Camas National Wildlife Refuge began in 1996 on International Migratory Bird Day. My husband and I have been frequent visitors of the refuge ever since. In 2009 I became a board member of the Friends of Camas. My interest expanded in 2010 as another board member and I began a succession of tours of Camas. Our focus was on children between the ages of six and eleven. We developed several curricula, and between 2010 and 2014, we attracted about 800 youth. During these years, about 200 adults from retirement homes, etc. joined us for tours. All together we presented tours of Camas to about 1,000 visitors. By May of this year, Camas will have a covered pavilion to house our presentations. In order to expand, Camas National Wildlife Refuge needs to request funding for additional facilities and personnel. Needed are: a visitor's center, fully functioning restrooms, and education director, etc.

My deepest concern centers on our youth and their lack of knowledge of the outdoors. It's critical that our society finds ways to engage parents and their children in this endeavor. Camas could play a significant part in this with increased facilities and personnel.

Camas National Wildlife Refuge is located 40 miles north of Idaho Falls, which has a population of about 55,000. It lies about two miles west of Interstate 15. Idaho Falls is the nearest city with a significant population. This affords the refuge a rural setting.

Submitted by:

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