

Wildlife Program

Week of September 22-28, 2014

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY DIVISION

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

South Puget Sound Grassland Conservation: Biologists Hays and Johnson worked with Wildlife Area staff Belson and contractors from the Center for Natural Lands Management to conduct prescribed burns on 40 acres of the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area. Ecological objectives were met with the burns. Washington Department of Natural Resource (DNR) fire staff were also present. The project is part of conservation actions to recover a number of south Puget Sound prairie animal and plant species, including Taylor's checkerspot, mardon skipper, Oregon vesper sparrow, Mazama pocket gopher, and additional species of greatest conservation need. Prescribed fire is part of the site preparation process which includes the control of exotic species and seeding and planting of natives.

Oregon Spotted Frog reintroduction: Biologist Hallock and Region 6 staff visited a new site in Pierce County to determine if it was suitable as an Oregon Spotted Frog release site. The new site is within the same drainage as the previous release site but has more potential breeding habitat. The decision was made that the site was suitable but needed some reed canarygrass management before the release.

On September 25, over twenty staff from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Northwest Trek, Sustainability in Prisons Project, and other partners met at the wetland in Pierce County and released 153 frogs. Another 550 frogs will be released in late October.

Whale Trail: Section Manager Becker and Biologist Wiles met with Donna Sundstrom and Chuck Gibilisco of the non-profit Whale Trail to discuss WDFW's continued participation in the organization. One of the goals of the Whale Trail is to encourage onshore viewing of killer whales and other marine mammals, thereby reducing recreational vessel disturbance of these animals and building greater public engagement in their conservation. Gibilisco formerly served on the Whale Trail advisory group when he was a WDFW employee.

Island Marble recovery Meeting: Ann Potter, Conservation Biologist participated in a meeting organized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to strategize and plan actions for Island Marble recovery. The purpose of the meeting was to reach out to potential new partners, especially local (San Juan Island) landowners and managers, to present information on the butterfly's biology, current status, habitat, and ongoing conservation efforts, and to discuss proposed habitat restoration. Meeting participants, in addition to the service and WDFW, included the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), DNR, and local land banks.

GOAL 4: MAINTAIN A HIGHLY SKILLED AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE.

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies: Division Manager Eric Gardner attended the annual Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies conference in St Louis, Missouri. Eric is the vice-chair of the Amphibian and Reptile Subcommittee, which had a document, entitled *Applying the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation to Herpetofauna: Voluntary Guidance for Ensuring Sustainable Use*, approved by the parent Wildlife Resources Policy Committee and ultimately by the Directors at the culminating Business meeting. Eric also attended the Bird Conservation, Teaming with Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species, and other Committees. Perhaps the biggest information shared during the conference was the announcement of a National Blue Ribbon Panel that will look at funding options for nongame (Diversity) species management. An AFWA press release is inserted below.

National Blue Ribbon Panelists Named to Help Develop a 21st Century Model for Sustaining America's Fish and Wildlife Resources

Top executives from the outdoor recreation, energy, agricultural, automotive, financial, educational and conservation sectors accept challenge of finding funding solutions to prevent Endangered Species Listings

WASHINGTON, DC (September 22, 2014) —Johnny Morris, founder and CEO of [Bass Pro Shops®](#), and former Wyoming governor, Dave Freudenthal, today named 20 members of the national *Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources* to advance solutions for funding a 21st century model of conservation. The Blue Ribbon Panel co-chairs, Morris and Freudenthal, made their announcement during a keynote address at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Blue Ribbon Panelists represent the outdoor recreation retail and manufacturing sector, the energy and automotive industries, private landowners, educational institutions, conservation organizations, sportsmen's groups and state fish and wildlife agencies. The Panelists will work together over the course of a year to produce recommendations and policy options on the most sustainable and equitable model to fund conservation of the full array of fish and wildlife species.

The Blue Ribbon Panelists on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources:

Kevin Butt—General Manager and Chief Environmental Officer, Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing North America, Inc. and Board Member, Wildlife Habitat Council

John Doerr—President and CEO, Pure Fishing, Inc. and Board Member, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation

Jim Faulstich—Owner, Daybreak Ranch and Vice Chairman, Partners for Conservation

John Fitzpatrick—Director, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Co-inventor, eBird

Gregg Hill—President and CEO of Exploration and Production, Hess Corporation

Rebecca Humphries—Chief Conservation Officer, National Wild Turkey Federation

Dr. Stephen Kellert—Professor Emeritus of Social Ecology and Senior Research Scholar, Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and Board Member, Bio-Logical Capital; Founding Partner, Environmental Capital Partners

Jennifer Mull—Chief Executive Officer, Backwoods Equipment, Inc. and Board Chair of the Outdoor Industry Association

John W. Newman—CFO and Treasurer, LLOG Exploration Company, LLC and Board Chairman, Ducks Unlimited

Margaret O’Gorman—President, Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) and Board Member, Stewardship Action Council

Glenn Olson—Donal O’Brien Chair in Bird Conservation and Public Policy, National Audubon Society (NAS) and Member, North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Council and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Advisory Council

Collin O’Mara—President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation

Connie Parker—CEO and Founder, CSPARKERGROUP and Board Member, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and the Wildlife Foundation of Florida

Charlie Potter—CEO, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation and Founder and Chairman, Great Outdoors, LLC

Lynn Scarlett—Managing Director, Public Policy, The Nature Conservancy

John Tomke—President, Ducks Unlimited de Mexico and Chair, Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council

Dr. James Walker—Vice Chairman of the Board, EDF Renewable Energy and Board Member, American Wind Energy Association

Dr. Steve Williams—President, Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) and Board President, National Conservation Leadership Institute; Board Member, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Bob Ziehmer—Director, Missouri Department of Conservation

“Conservation means balancing the sustainability of fish and wildlife with the many needs of humans for clean air and water; land; food and fiber; dependable energy; economic development and recreation,” said Morris. “By assembling this Panel of highly regarded leaders and problem

solvers, we will find a way forward that safeguards not only vital natural resources, but also our nation's economic prosperity and outdoor heritage.”

“With fish and wildlife species and natural resource-based enterprise at stake, we can't afford an 'us vs. them' mentality,” said Freudenthal. “It is time to create certainty for both industry and the conservation community by building a 21st century funding model.”

State hunting and fishing license dollars, federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing gear and motorboat fuel taxes have provided the backbone for funding states' fish and wildlife conservation programs over the past century. However, there has always been a significant gap in dedicated funding for conserving the 95 percent of all species that are neither hunted nor fished.

Only partially filling that gap is the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program, the sole federal source of funding to state agencies to prevent new endangered species listings. Since 2010, the program's funding has been cut by more than 35 percent while petitions for federal endangered species listing has skyrocketed by 1,000 percent.

“Dedicated funding allowing for the management of all fish and wildlife, whether game or non-game species, is essential for this nation,” said Bob Ziehmer, Missouri Department of Conservation director and representative for state fish and wildlife agencies on the Blue Ribbon Panel. “Many species are declining in abundance and will continue to do so if we don't work toward establishing a sustainable funding source for our nation now and into the future.”

The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies began its quest to secure sustained funding for fish and wildlife diversity conservation in the early 1990s. The launch of the [Teaming With Wildlife](#) coalition, which now includes nearly 6,400 organizations, was a critical step in demonstrating broad and diverse support for dedicated fish and wildlife funding.

The co-chairs expect to add approximately three more individuals and four Ex Officio participants to the Panel before it convenes its first meeting in early 2015.

To learn more about AFWA's Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Fish and Wildlife Resources, go to www.fishwildlife.org/blueribbonpanel.

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REGION 1

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge Elk Survey: Biologists Atamian and Lowe flew the annual survey this week. A total of 207 elk were observed (121 cows, 61 calves, and 25 bulls). Relative to the previous nine years of surveys the number of elk counted this year was well below the 322 observed on average. Although counts were down, the bull to cow and calf to cow ratios were about the same as last year (0.19 and 0.50 respectively). We counted 17 moose on this year's survey, well above the 9 seen on average and second only to the 18 moose seen during the 2009 survey.



***Bull and cow elk observed during 2014
Turnbull Elk Flight***



Bull moose bedded in Ponderosa pine grove

Wildlife Areas

Prairie grouse tracking: Volunteer Dr. Kim Thorburn ground-tracked sage and sharp-tailed grouse on Tuesday, and on Saturday with volunteer and graduate student Dawn McSwain. Volunteer Kirby Wallace also tracked Thursday. Tuesday, Thorburn flushed 5 sharp-tailed grouse without signals or apparent collars when she stopped on a road and exited her vehicle. The birds all appeared to be the same size. On Thursday, Wallace found three sage grouse hens located not together, but in the same general vicinity, in the SLWA interior. On Saturday, Thorburn and McSwain located, at one site, two sage grouse hens with signals, which were co-located with four that had no signals. She also located a hen that she hadn't heard in a while.

Volunteer Grouse Tracker Dawn McSwain



GOAL 2: PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FISHING, HUNTING AND OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCES

Wildlife Areas

Blue Mountains Wildlife Area Complex – Access Program: Robert Grijalva serviced access sites along the Snake and Grande Ronde Rivers this week. Campers are beginning to make a presence at Heller Bar as the steelhead season ramps up. Fly fishing activity in the Shumaker area is also picking up. Robert noted that the two dump truck loads of gravel he and tech Debby Flynn hauled to Heller Bar to improve approaches to the river are being used by rafters and boaters. Robert and Debby used the wildlife area 450C dozer to smooth the approaches. Robert also replaced the door to the Cougar Creek restroom with a door from a restroom on the Wooten that is being removed for the campground re-location project. Robert repainted the door and disposed of the old one.



Smooth river approach



Replaced door at Cougar Creek restroom. The door came from a restroom on the Wooten that was being demolished.



Campers at Heller Bar

Private Lands

Pheasants Forever Youth Pheasant Hunt: Biologist Lewis assisted the Inland Empire Pheasants Forever (PF) chapter with a youth pheasant hunt. There were 8 youth hunters who attended the hunt along with members of the Spokane Bird Dog Association and PF chapter

members. The youth hunters were part of a local shooting club and did very well getting birds in their bag.



GOAL 3: PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECONOMY, PROTECT COMMUNITY CHARACTER, MAINTAIN AN OVERALL HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Wildlife Management

Wildlife Conflict: Natural Resource Worker Wade responded to a report of a cougar hit in the road just west of Clarkston. Wade was able to locate the female kitten and picked it up. There are several houses in the area and the owners are very concerned about where “momma and the rest of the kittens are.”

Road killed female cougar kitten west of Clarkston



Wildlife Areas

SCWA Compost Facility: Installation of fencing around the animal compost facility at Sherman Creek WLA began this week. Natural Resource Technician Jerry “Chris” Christensen dug a two foot deep trench where the fence will be installed to allow for burial of the chain-link fencing below the surface to deter any animals from digging under. This compost facility is designated for local livestock producers to discard carcasses in order to keep them from becoming an attractant to wolves.

REGION 2

Okanogan Wolves: Specialist Heilhecker met with three representatives from Conservation Northwest, a rancher, a range rider, and a WSU graduate student. Conservation Northwest wanted perspectives as to how the range rider activities went this summer. They also asked how Conservation Northwest could improve messages about range riding and ranching to the public.

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Areas

Carlton Complex Fire - Post-fire Restoration and FEMA: Ops Manager Swedberg spent a full day with Anthony Sanich, Methow Manager Furnari, Maintenance Mechanic Wottlin, 2 EMD representatives, and 1 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representative inspecting and reviewing infrastructure losses on the Methow Wildlife Area and several access sites.

Emergency Pasture: Major details, e.g., cultural resources, pasture evaluations, temporary permit development, etc., have been completed, but a few details, e.g., fence construction and repair, need to be completed to provide emergency pastures to DFW permittees who lost DFW pasture to the Carlton Complex fires.

Private Lands/Access

Hunting Access: Private Lands Biologist Braaten obtained signatures from private landowners to renew Hunting Access contracts, posted signs, and signed up 6,000 additional acres in Hunter Access in north Grant County.

GOAL 2: PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FISHING, HUNTING AND OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCES

Access

Rocky Ford Fish Hatchery #1: Access staff cut and removed asphalt and concrete that had settled over the years in front and alongside the restroom creating a tripping hazard at Rocky Ford Fish Hatchery #1. The parking lot was restriped, a new concrete walkway will be poured, and crushed basalt will be added around the toilet. Assistant McAlavy reset over 3,000 nails in the wooden ADA accessible fishing pier.



Striping before and after and assistant McAlavy working on setting over 3,000 nails.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECONOMY, PROTECT COMMUNITY CHARACTER, MAINTAIN AN OVERALL HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Wildlife Areas

Sinlahekin 75th Anniversary Summer Series Finale – Mule Deer Dash/National Public Lands Day/National Hunting and Fishing Day: Local citizens Justin and Cari Haug as well as Eastern Washington Public Information Office Madonna Luers and Okanogan Lands Operations Manager Swedberg hosted the final summer event this past weekend. The day began with the Sinlahekin Mule Deer Dash – a 1-mile, 5K/15K fun run/walk down the Dave Brittell Memorial Trail to raise money for its continued maintenance. The Okanogan County Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen will receive the proceeds of the race. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) employees swept the Female 15K prizes: 1st Place went to Delcie Peters from the Rx Burn Crew, 2nd Place was Region 2 Customer Service Specialist Wendy Bilodeau, and the 3rd place finisher was Pygmy Rabbit Project Supervisor Jo Wisniewski. Tiffany Mitchell of the Rx Burn Crew finished 1st in the female 5K as well. Festivities also included various land management groups and conservation organizations: U.S. Forest Service (USFS), WDFW (Regional Manager Jim Brown represented the agency and fielded numerous questions), Inland Northwest Wildlife Council, Conservation Northwest, and Trout Unlimited. The events drew approximately 125 people. Numerous WDFW staff and local citizens volunteered to make this



event successful and the department thanks them for bringing more attention to the opportunities the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area can offer.

Racers approaching the starting point of the Mule Deer Dash near Sinlahekin Wildlife Area headquarters – Photo by Justin Haug

Winchester Ponds Regulated Access Area: Biologist Finger spent much of the week at the Winchester Pond Regulated Access Area working with Bureau of

Reclamation equipment operator Weirsma to clean out the project area ditch. Finger also worked with Assistant Manager Eidson on mowing priorities for wetland cells. Weirsma operated a Case 130 excavator to clean the ditch and around the outlets of culverts. As a result, wetlands fill much more efficiently, allowing us to increase wetland acreage and provide hunters with additional opportunities. Because Winchester Wasteway water levels drop dramatically after irrigation season, our ability to fill the ponds drops dramatically after about mid-November. Thus it is important to fill wetland basins as quickly and fully as possible. Thanks to excellent work by Weirsma, we can now use the full capacity of the inlet structure.



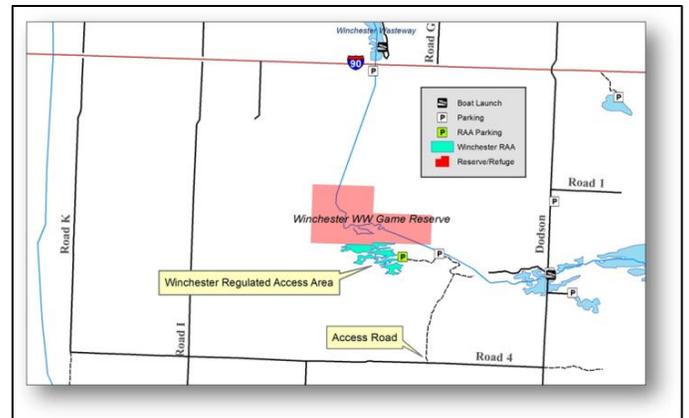
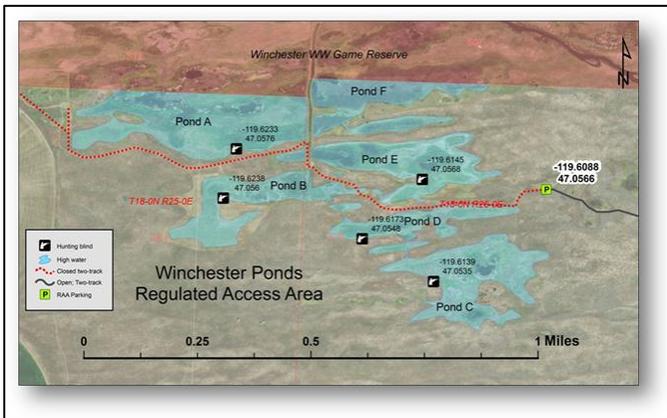
Delivery ditch before cleanout – Photo by R. Finger



Delivery ditch after cleanout

Recreational Opportunities (Weekender): The Winchester Ponds Regulated Access Area reservation system is up and running and can be located at http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/hunting_access/private_land/type/56/. Apparently, the word about the system change reached many hunters as all reservations for the first day were taken within seconds of the hunt becoming available, however, the youth slot remained open. Wetland basins are expected to be full for the opening weekend and overall water levels should be higher than in recent years throughout the season. As a reminder, the access route to this area has changed. Hunters should use the following directions to locate the site: *From the Junction of I-90 and Dodson Road, travel south on Dodson Road to Road 4 SW, turn right (West) on Road 4 SW and go 2 miles to the power station and turn right (north) onto the gravel road. Continue north approximately 3.5 miles until reaching a 'Y' in the road, and proceed left. Continue along this road until you reach the designated parking area.*

Note: This access route is a two-track road through sand dunes and may require 4wd vehicles.



Location of blinds within project area



A black tailed jackrabbit moving between a neighborhood and adjacent undeveloped land

Diversity: Biologist Gregory continued working on an interim State Wildlife Grant report for survey/management activities for burrowing owls and white pelicans.

District 4 Private Lands Biologist Ryan Stutzman: Access Technician Kaelber finished posting a HBWP property in Benton County with new contact information and replaced a number of old signs on Feel Free to Hunt properties in both Yakima and Benton counties. Kaelber also spotted a sage grouse on the property and was able to snap a few photos. This was the first confirmed sage grouse sighting in quite some time south of the Yakima River outside of the Yakama Reservation and served as a nice mid-week motivator.

Access Technician Kaelber spotted a sage grouse in south-west Benton County.

Private lands Biologist Stutzman spent most of the week writing conservation plans for the FSA. Three continuous CRP wildlife (1 SAFE, 2 Field buffer) applications came in last week and the plans had to be written by Friday. Stutzman worked with NRCS to produce the plans in their system. After discussing the seeding and field prep specifics of the plans with Restoration Specialist Merg and then with the landowners, Stutzman got them signed by the landowners and NRCS staff before handing them over to Benton and Franklin FSA.



Access Technician Kaelber worked with volunteer Larry Martin to replace a guzzler that was destroyed in a fire near Prosser this year. Kaelber saw a covey of ~20 chukar and found an old pheasant nest nearby. Kaelber's sightings and work on the guzzler dovetail nicely with the Field Border Habitat plans that Stutzman wrote last week. The planned habitat is only about 0.25 miles from where Kaelber and Martin had been working.

Umtanum/Selah Butte Bighorn Sheep Project: Biologist Moore finished the census of collared ewes in the Umtanum and Selah Butte herds and completed the last pinning of harvested rams for these units.

Colockum Bull Elk Study: Biologist Moore coordinated with Biologist Gallie to investigate an elk mortality that was just outside Wenatchee. Gallie located only the collar just off a main road.

The collar appeared to have failed or been cut in the magnetic expander section. More investigation will be needed to determine how the event will be classified.

Teanaway Wolves: Biologist Moore worked with Conflict Specialist Wetzel and the Teanaway Range Rider to become familiar with this year's changes for fall grazing of the Martinez Sheep Operation. These changes along with altered landscape use of the pack have put the sheep and the Teanaway Pack in closer proximity than in typical years. Moore and Wetzel determined continued monitoring of the situation will be necessary.

Wolf Activities

Biologist Moore, Specialist Wetzel, and Range Rider McBride spent several days last week trying to establish wolf and sheep locations and determine how close the Teanaway pups, which are still separate from the collared breeders, were to the Swauk band of approximately 1100 sheep. Late last week the sheep band split unexpectedly and about 400 sheep were missing on Cle Elum Ridge. Due to the proximity of the 5 known pups, considerable time and effort was expended to find the sheep and find the wolf use area. Additionally, late Friday night the breeder adults re-joined the pups, making an 8 member wolf pack that had the potential of mixing with the missing and known sheep. Range Rider McBride and the livestock owners worked Saturday to find the sheep; no known incidents occurred and the sheep are back in one group and properly concentrated at night. The RAG box is operational day and night at this location.

Range Rider McBride checking the RAG box at the Cle Elum Ridge night location.



Shepherd Heracleo at the night location.

Range Rider Johnson patrolled areas of the Teanaway Cattle lease. Johnson reported that vandals had torn out the Dickey Creek gate, again. Cattle had walked through the down gate and east onto USFS. DNR was notified.

Specialist Wetzel spent time this week arranging for the upcoming statewide Wolf Advisory Group meeting in the Teanaway on October 16.



GOAL 2: PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FISHING, HUNTING AND OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCES

Wildlife Areas

Colockum Wildlife Area Manager Pete Lopushinsky: Colockum staff continued to install new green dot reader boards, replacing the old yellow plywood signs. These are substantial reader boards, and required renting a backhoe to install them in the rocky soils of the Colockum. Colockum staff also replaced signs around the Arthur Coffin Game Reserve in preparation for fall modern firearm seasons.

Zach Johnson and volunteer Hsueh-Ming Tsai installing new green dot readerboards on Colockum

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Manager Huffman met with a climber who is interested in doing a trail maintenance project with volunteers on the Royal Columns climbing trail. The climber was also interested in setting up permanent monuments on a leaning rock column to monitor any movement. A volunteer project is set for October 25th.



Assistant Manager Berry completed green dot marker maintenance on the Bethel Ridge and Sanford Pasture/Mud Lake Area.



Wildlife Management

District 4 Wildlife Conflict Specialist Don Hand: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand continued to assist LHP cooperators with coordinating and scheduling elk hunts near Hanford. One very happy youth state hunter harvested a nice 6x6 bull elk.

A youth hunter with an elk he harvested near the ALE reserve in Benton County.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECONOMY, PROTECT COMMUNITY CHARACTER, MAINTAIN AN OVERALL HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Wildlife Areas

LT Murray Wildlife Area: Manager Winegeart filled out Master Hunter forms for volunteers that participated in the Manastash cabin cleanup project. Winegeart also worked with WDFW Volunteer Coordinator Christine Redmond to solicit Master Hunter volunteers for next week's bitterbrush planting project.

Manager Winegeart and Mule Deer Foundation chair Ken Collins met with CWU Community Engagement staff to discuss future opportunities to involve students in WDFW and MDF projects.

Wildlife Management

District 4 Wildlife Conflict Specialist Don Hand: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand conducted two landowner meetings in the Kahlotus area with landowners who experience deer damage in their winter wheat crops. The new damage tag requirements and permit levels were discussed. While in the Kahlotus area, several 2014 hunting and fishing regulations were delivered to a small store in the area, at their request.

Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand received and responded to a deer damage complaint at Blackrock Ranches near Moxee. A group of 12+ mule deer continue to damage a new planting of apple trees by browsing and raking, even after several non-lethal strategies have been employed. One DPP permit and one Kill permit were prepared and issued to address the problem.

District 8 Wildlife Conflict Specialist Steve Wetzel: A landowner near Ellensburg called to report problem turkeys in her yard. Conflict Specialist Wetzel discussed several options with the landowner to address their problem, and an ongoing effort to haze the turkeys will be undertaken.

Specialist Wetzel and Officer Scherzinger investigated a sheep mortality in the Manastash Creek area. A ewe sheep was killed and a male cougar was trapped the next night and euthanized.



GOAL 4: BUILD AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION BY SUPPORTING OUR WORKFORCE, IMPROVING BUSINESS PROCESSES, AND INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY

Wildlife Areas

Sunnyside Wildlife Area: Manager Bjornstrom administered a demonstration of the Marsh Master in the 7-acre pond with help from Les Holcomb of the Invasive Species Management Team. The Marsh Master is an amphibious tracked vehicle used by the Invasive Species Management Team to manage undesirable vegetation in areas where access is limited, including but not limited to: wetland, marsh, and open-water environments. Staff present at the demonstration included all Sunnyside/Snake River Wildlife Area staff, District Habitat Biologist Mike Ritter, and the Habitat Biologist for the Yakama Nation. Les worked with the Marsh Master for approximately one day and cleared about 4 acres of vegetation before mechanical difficulties forced him to conclude his efforts. The wildlife area currently has no machinery with the capability of the Marsh Master.

Assistant Manager Buser worked on repairing a water delivery ditch that overflowed due to unexpected water sent through the system by the irrigation district. Assistant Manager Buser also continued clearing other water delivery ditches to maintain proper water flow through the system. Assistant Manager Sak moved the excavator to the Johnson Wetland and began cleaning out the supply ditch that feeds water to the wetland.

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Manager Huffman coordinated with state surplus on some surplus army trucks to replace the old tour trucks we are currently using on the wildlife area.

Manager Huffman spent a little time reviewing applications for the Oak Creek forester positions. Huffman also coordinated with Richard Tveten on scheduling interviews.

Assistant Manager Berry priced out and started to order fencing materials. Berry also lined out the new fence for the Cleman's elk fence project and coordinated with some volunteers who were going to work over the weekend. Berry also ordered and placed a portable toilet at the fence site for volunteers and upcoming WCC crew to use this fall.



LT Murray Wildlife Area: Assistant Manager Hunt met with Yakima Training Center (YTC) Range Control staff at YTC to look at surplus concrete structures and other available surplus items. We are also looking at picking up some more cattle guards from YTC, but they've not yet been pulled.

Concrete structures available for surplus from YTC

Assistant Manager Hunt met with Vic Monahan, property owner adjacent to our Easton/Cabin Creek satellite ownership. They toured Monahan timber harvest areas, boundaries, and roads, as well as discussing problem issues with road and resource management. Vic showed gated areas and other steps taken by the Monahan's to restrict motorized trespass and off road abuse on their properties. Hunt plans to spend some more time on the nearby DFW ownership there, including some to the north across I-90 from the Monahan side, to get a good handle on any emerging resource issues and RMAP related problems.

Wenas Wildlife Area: Assistant Manager Taylor continued working with the fencing contractor on rebuilding the elk fence burned in the Cottonwood #2 fire. They are continuing with the installation of the metal posts and have started installing the wire. They were planning to work through the weekend to complete the project by the September 30 deadline. Manager Confer Morris worked with Contracts to award the bid for just over 10,000 pounds of native seed for restoration work on the fire.



Scout Lake Construction installing field wire along burned section of elk fence

Manager Confer Morris and Lands Agent Hendrix met with BOR staff to discuss their need to access their power line in the Buffalo area. Multiple poles burned in the Cottonwood #2 fire and need replacement. They are hoping to complete the work October 21-22 when they have an already scheduled outage planned. Hendrix will get them a right of entry permit.

NRT Kass maintained the Cleman's Mountain green dot road management area. While checking the Cleman's Ridge Road, he drove down the closed portion of the Ridge Road and checked the elk fence at Austin Spur. We had received a report that the fence had been cut. Someone had actually undone the wire at the rockjack to make a crawl-through hole. This has happened on several occasions at this site; NRT Kass rewired the spot.



Unwired elk fence at Austin Spur



After it was re-wired

Access Program

Access Manager Garcia and NRW Barbosa serviced following access area's Hyde, Whitstran, Snively, Duportail, Ringold, Vernita, Woodhouse, Mattoon, Fio Rito, Thrall, MP8-10, Rowe, Tim's Pond, Oak Cr, Mellis Rd, Fitzsimmons, pond 4 & 5, Buena, Zillah Bridge.

Access Manager Garcia has started to receive, and address, complaints from the campers and day users at Vernita Bridge regarding the condition of the portable toilets. In the past, 10 portable toilets have been sufficient, but this year, due to the large ingress of salmon fishers, we will be lucky if the additional 10 (total of 20) will be enough. We will have to watch this in the upcoming week, and we will decide if we need to increase servicing from once a week to twice a week, which would result in an additional charge of \$30 a toilet (\$600 per week). We have 250-300 vehicles just in the day use area, plus the camping area is packed.

We are having the same issues at Ringold, where we have 3 CXT toilets and 2 portable toilets. We have had support from the hatchery staff on restocking the toilet paper, which is running out in a day or two, but they don't have the equipment to wash the CXT's out, so Access staff still have to go to the site at least twice a week. Approximately 175 vehicles were in the day use area at Ringold. Both sites are bursting at their seams and numbers are expected to increase again in the coming week.



Day Use area at Ringold Springs



View of a portion of the Vernita Day Use and Camping Area

REGION 4

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Biologist Milner worked on the Species of Greatest Need Fact Sheet for the Shaw Island vole.

Sharp-tailed Snake citizen Science

Presentation: Biologist Milner worked on a power point presentation to present to members of the public on San Juan Island in October, inviting them to place and check cover boards on their property looking specifically for the sharp-tailed snake, but recording any observations they may find.



Wildlife Management

Consultation/Permitting Requests; Municipal, Private Utilities, other: Biologist Anderson continued work and review for requests of assistance regarding species or habitat management consultation for urban wildlife given construction or land-use alteration work. Local municipal code requires work with WDFW. Most involve eagle nest location/activity status, osprey nest removal, heron management, biodiversity areas and corridors, and big game use areas adjacent to the rural/exurban fringe of King Co. More on WDFW Priority Habitat and Species Recommendations and how WDFW provides assistance at the local and broader planning levels can be found here: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/>



Biologist Milner attended two days of meetings on San Juan Island to discuss conservation actions to preserve the Island Marble Butterfly. The meetings were sponsored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and included participation from representatives of various agencies and NGOs.

End of Season Woodland Park Zoo-WDFW Citizen Amphibian Monitoring Event: Biologist Anderson, WPZ

Herpetological Curator Dr. Jennifer Pramuk, and Community Outreach and Education Coordinator Jenny Mears led an interactive evening closing the 2014 amphibian monitoring volunteer efforts. Anderson, Pramuk, and Mears all provided purpose, effort, and season summaries to the group outlining their volunteerism, importance, findings, and need for such on a landscape level. The group also took a “behind the scenes look” at conservation efforts

regarding amphibians and reptiles at Woodland Park Zoo. The annual “close-out” gathering summarized a great season with a total of 74 volunteers this year; 50 of these newly trained this season; 8 returning as “team leaders” from previous seasons to provide knowledge and leadership; with a total of 16 teams and 18 sites across King and south Snohomish counties. Volunteers included the general public of all ages, ZooCorp teens, WPZ staff, and graduate students with WPZ’s Advanced Inquiry Program.

Wildlife Areas

Lake Terrell Eurasian Milfoil: Manager Kessler coordinated with Dave Heimer, our Statewide Weed Coordinator, and DOE and Whatcom County managers on the Eurasian milfoil infestation at Lake Terrell. Possible grant fund sources were discussed as well as the need for a Lake Terrell Vegetation Control Plan.



Eurasian milfoil

Leque Island Alternatives Analysis and Design Project: Projects Coordinator Brokaw reviewed a groundwater monitoring plan for the

Leque Island vicinity. WDFW and Ducks Unlimited plan to monitor groundwater quality in the Leque vicinity before, during, and after a project is implemented on Leque Island. Although the preferred alternative design is not yet selected, having a complete set of baseline data will be useful regardless of which design alternative is selected. Project Coordinator Brokaw distributed the monitoring plan to the adjacent drinking water district.

Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP): Projects Coordinator Brokaw drafted letters to send to County and City Commissions and Councils that have projects on the PSNERP tentatively selected within their jurisdictions. The letters provide an overview of PSNERP and outline the next steps in the project, including review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and advancing to the next design phase.

Fir Island Farm Monitoring and Adaptive Management Funding: Projects Coordinator Brokaw worked on a grant application to the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) to fund post project monitoring and adaptive management at the Fir Island Farm Restoration site. WDFW is seeking funding to monitor surface and groundwater quality and drainage, invasive plants, native marsh vegetation, sediment accretion and erosion, channel establishment, and dike settlement and erosion.

Crescent Lake Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm met with Werkhoven Dairy to discuss the harvest plan for this season. Harvest is scheduled to be completed by the end of this week.

Ebey Island Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm met with Sno-Valley Farms to discuss harvest plans for the east lobe of the Unit. Due to wet weather and a shortage of haul-trucks, the corn harvest was delayed until after the season pheasant opener. Manager Boehm installed signage to direct hunters on the east portion of the Unit to hunt beyond the corn fields. Manager Boehm and five volunteers released pheasant on Friday and Saturday.

Volunteer releasing pheasants on the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area.

Cherry Valley Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm reports that Frohning Dairy completed the corn harvest this past week. Hunters were able to hunt the entire unit for the season pheasant opener.



Stillwater Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm met with Frohning Dairy to discuss harvest plans for the Unit. Corn was planned to be harvested between the 22nd and 24th, but due to a shortage of trucks it was delayed until this coming week.

GOAL 2: PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FISHING, HUNTING AND OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCES

Wildlife Management

GMU 418 Special permit Elk Hunt: Biologist DeBruyn talked with permit holders for this elk hunt and answered questions about the herd. He also took teeth from some harvested bulls for age analysis.



Program Manager Russ Link, falconer Steve Layman, and volunteer Tami White meet prior to a falconry demonstration in Clinton

Private Lands Hunter Access

Waterfowl Unit Construction: Staff constructed many blinds and set-up waterfowl units within Skagit and Whatcom counties. Staff monitored crop harvests on units throughout the week. Many units are in full swing of harvesting and should be available in the next few weeks. Staff shuttled unit layout blinds via the flatbed truck to various locations in preparations of season opener.

Private Lands Access staff completed mowing canary grass on multiple units in Skagit County

Wildlife Areas

Beginning of Pheasant Season: The regular Pheasant Hunting season started with a good turnout on all of the three release sites: Lake Terrell, Intalco, and BP. Manager Kessler and volunteers released a total of 400 pheasants throughout the week.



Lake Terrell Bass Fishing Tournament: The Borderline Bass Contenders held a Bass Fishing Tournament at Lake Terrell. This was the last tournament of the year and had a good turnout for it.

Nooksack Loop Trail: Manager Kessler attended the monthly meeting of the Nooksack Loop Trail Committee.



Manager Kessler attended the second annual “Run With The Chums” fun run that was put on by the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association. The event was held on British Petroleum land near the BP refinery. Kessler manned a display of wildlife skins and skulls that was very well received.

Reader Board Maps and Signs:

Manager Kessler updated the unit maps for the Lake Terrell and British Petroleum units and installed them on the reader boards. He also installed more No Unauthorized Vehicle signs at Lake Terrell.

Disabled Hunter Hunting Access: Manager Kessler coordinated with Enforcement division on a disabled hunter who refuses to follow the access rules of the Lake Terrell, Intalco, and Nooksack units. The hunter refuses to apply for an ADA Access permit so he can legally use an ATV in certain areas of the wildlife area. Our Enforcement Agent has contacted the hunter and warned him of the consequences of continued violations of the posted rules.

Samish Unit Enhancement Project Permitting Status: Projects Coordinator Brokaw received a letter from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers indicating that they have completed review of

the permit application and concluded that the project does not require a Corps permit. The public comment period in the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) closed on September 26th. The next step for permitting this project is to submit applications to Skagit County for local permits.

Island Unit: Staff crushed cattail in the Seattle Pond field with assistance from former weed crew supervisor Derek Hacker. Approximately 10 acres were crushed between Seattle pond and Lorenzen fields on the Island Unit. This is the first time this treatment has been attempted on the Island. Crushed areas will be monitored for waterfowl and shorebird use throughout the winter, but no formal surveys are planned.

Samish Unit: Staff mowed cattails, reed canary grass, and other vegetation in ponds at the Samish Unit in preparation for the upcoming waterfowl season. Cosgrove observed that multiple year mowing treatments are starting to yield decreased cattail density and more plants beneficial to waterfowl such as marsh dock, native sedges and rushes, millet, smartweed, and beggarticks.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECONOMY, PROTECT COMMUNITY CHARACTER, MAINTAIN AN OVERALL HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Wildlife Management

Wildlife Conflict: Biologist Smith responded to calls regarding deer and elk damage from residents of King and Skagit counties. Non-lethal measures to deter elk from entering properties were discussed, including fencing options. Smith removed a temporary elk exclusion fence used to deter elk from entering a corn field in King County. This fence was successful in protecting the crop from elk damage through to harvest. Smith also monitored temporary fences protecting Christmas tree and pumpkin crops from elk damage in other areas of King County. In addition, Smith used trail cameras to monitor elk use of agricultural areas in King and Skagit Counties. Biologist DeBruyn talked with a landowner who was experiencing a large number of elk in her yard eating fruit trees and ornamentals. DeBruyn was able to get a tribal hunter to harvest one of the elk on a 418 permit. Further discussion of non-lethal deterrence is underway. Tech Cogdal installed a gate on flattery fence in Day creek, worked on Carsten's fence, worked on a contract for the Josephine Mt. Vineyard fence, and put the order together for a temporary fence for two additional potato fields in the Day creek area

2014 Hunts: Staff responded to multiple members of the hunting community inquiring about prospective hunting areas, regulations, GoHunt interactive mapping, and prospects for the upcoming hunting seasons.

Unit Monitor: Staff monitored Bow Hill pheasant parking site and Sam Bell waterfowl site. The Sam Bell road unit did not receive any sign vandalism from fisherman this week.

The Bow Hill pheasant release parking site was used considerably during the youth and senior hunts and seemed to be in great condition after heavy rain events throughout the week.



Wildlife Areas

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area: Manager Brian Boehm worked with over a dozen Master Hunter and citizen volunteers to complete sign board construction, sign installation, parking lot improvements, trail improvements, and pheasant pen maintenance this past week. All of the Unit parking lots now have new signboards and targeted signage to inform and advise users. Additional volunteers continued to make access trails along the Spencer Island dike trail to enable waterfowl hunters to hunt more of the area. Blackberry thickets block many of the paths, but this dedicated team of volunteers continues to whack away the brush for the benefit of fellow hunters.

Johnson DeBay's Slough Reserve: Staff assisted with logistics for a Duck Stamp project at DeBay's Unit to become completed by Washington Waterfowl Association on the weekend. The project is to remove blackberry and wood debris on one of the former Ducks Unlimited ponds on the site.

Island Unit: Tech Cosgrove represented WDFW on a tour of the Island Unit with local residents Dallas Wylie and John Klunder. Mr. Wylie and Mr. Klunder are very familiar with the site, having worked with the WDFW on the Island Unit for many years. The purpose for the tour was to allow two brothers who lived on the site in the late 1940s and early 50s, prior to WDFW ownership, to visit their childhood home site. The brothers were visiting the area from Chicago and had a great time reminiscing about their childhood on the Island.

Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordination

Hunter Education Class in Mill Creek: Hunter Education Coordinator Steven Dazey assisted volunteer instructor Casey Green to conduct a hunter education class at the Mill Creek Region 4 office. Volunteer instructor Green is newly certified this year and has conducted a number of classes at the Region office. Following the class Tuesday night Volunteer instructor Green conducted another class on Wednesday. Hunter Education Coordinator Dazey attended the Wednesday class to evaluate the teaching team. Casey has put together a good team of volunteers and is conducting a quality class. Between the two evenings volunteer instructor Casey Green and his team were able to certify 45 new hunters as having passed their hunter safety requirement to obtain a hunting license.



GOAL 4: SUPPORTING OUR WORKFORCE, IMPROVING BUSINESS PROCESSES, AND INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY

Wildlife Management

Wildlife Program Deputy Assistant Director Meeting: Biologist Milner met with Biologist Anderson, Manager Link, and Deputy Assistant Director Schirato to follow up on earlier conversations regarding bald eagle nest surveys and improving efficiency in the current system for responding to requests to remove osprey nests from man-made structures.

Snoqualmie Wildlife Areas: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm continues to coordinate with WDFW Master Hunters and citizen volunteers to provide a pheasant release team. Each of the Units received two releases in preparation for the season opener. Manager Boehm states that coordinating efforts with Steve Dazey, the Region 4 Hunter Education and Volunteer Coordinator has been a huge success.

Master Hunters and Master Hunter applicants Benefit Wildlife: Volunteer Coordinator Steven Dazey assisted active Master Hunters and Master Hunter applicants in Regions 2, 3, and 4 to find service projects that benefit wildlife. A request for help on habit restoration in the area of the Taylor Bridge fire was received from the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area Manager Shana Winegeart. Volunteer Coordinator Dazey was able to alert the master hunters in that area of the project and has already received positive feedback from master hunters who will be able to assist in this project.

REGION 5

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management:

Western Pond Turtle Release: Biologists Holman and Bergh retrieved the 12 turtles that have been held at the Oregon Zoo since May and released them into the appropriate ponds at the Sondino Wildlife Area. These turtles were brought to the zoo to have veterinary biopsies to their shells as part of the investigation into shell disease. The biopsy samples should provide information about plastron bone structure and insight into the onset of shell disease. Their biopsy sites were healed and the turtles were slowly acclimated to outdoor temperatures before being released.



Western Pond Turtle Release – Columbia River Gorge

Black-tailed Deer Research Project: Please see below for the most current information on the Washougal (GMU 568) and Coweeman (GMU 550) study clusters.

Washougal: All four does in the Washougal cluster gave birth this year. Seven fawns (out of 8 biologically possible) were captured from the four Washougal does. Fawns and does are currently being monitored for survival. As of this week, two does and three fawns remain alive.

Coweeman: Six does (out of 7) in the Coweeman cluster gave birth this year. Nine fawns (out of 12 biologically possible) were captured from the six Coweeman does. The does and fawns are currently being monitored for survival. As of this week, seven does and three fawns remain alive, along with one yearling deer from the 2013 fawn captures.

Wildlife Areas:

Shillapoo Wildlife Area: Invasive Weed Activities: Over the past couple of weeks Wildlife Area Manager Hauswald and Technician Sample have been busy wrapping up weed control activities on the Shillapoo Wildlife Area before the weather turns with the changing of the season. Over 50 acres of reed canary grass has been treated or disked to help establish and

promote beneficial and native wetland plants in 5 wetland basins. Staff also treated over 45 acres of Canada thistle and Himalayan blackberry in several pastures that will be replanted next spring to establish better forage for wintering waterfowl.

Klickitat Wildlife Area:

Fire Fuels Reduction Project: Wildlife Area Manager Van Leuven began drafting a statement of work for Phase I of this project, which is to occur along the Glenwood Highway and along private property lines. Preliminary work included marking of project boundaries in the field, surveying for western gray squirrel nests, and evaluating thinning treatments. A total of 13 squirrel nests were marked within the project boundary, and those locations were loaded into the mapping program TOPO!. We met with DNR forester Dan Lennon the following day to discuss details including the best type of equipment to use, specifics regarding tree retention, areas to exclude from treatment, and how the contracting process works.

Student Volunteer Project: Student volunteers from Lewis and Clark College, Portland, came to the KWA to help remove old barbed wire fencing that is no longer needed or maintained. Approximately 1/2 mile of old, rusty fence wire was rolled up and loaded into a pickup truck for disposal. Slack wires are a safety hazard to wildlife as well as humans, and removal of old fencing is an ongoing activity on the Klickitat Wildlife Area. Students from Lewis and Clark College have generously contributed their time in accomplishing a great deal of progress over the last two years.



Forestry Consultation with DNR



Student Volunteers – Lewis and Clark College

GOAL 2: PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FISHING, HUNTING AND OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES.

Shillapoo Watchable Wildlife: The fall migration has started with thousands of northern Canada geese, White-fronted geese, and Sandhill Cranes moving through the Vancouver Lowlands. Goose and crane numbers are increasing everyday as birds stop to feed in the harvested corn fields on their southerly journey. One special note is the number of white pelicans currently in the area flying over the lowlands and resting on Vancouver Lake and in the Shillapoo Lakebed. Wildlife Area Manager Hauswald has seen several hundred on a daily basis this past week as they migrate through the county. Other species seen this past week include blue heron, egret, northern harrier, sharp-shinned hawk, greater yellowlegs, green winged teal, mallard, gadwall, and wood duck.



Shillapoo Wildlife Area – Clark County

GOAL 3: USE SOUND BUSINESS PRACTICES, DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE.

Wildlife Conflict:

Conflict Specialist McDonald visited with a Simcoe Mountains landowner who lost four house cats in the last month. The landowner was not sure what was happening to the cats. McDonald placed two game cameras and located coyote tracks in a horse pasture. During the site visit, one of the missing cats showed back up and the landowner's pit-bull chased it three times in a half an hour.

Conflict Specialist Conklin met with two Randle land owners experiencing damage. A bird banger and two Critter Gitters were issued to one of the land owners. The second land owner is interested in donating his permits to disabled youth. Conklin is currently working with WDFW Dolores Noyes on contacting the disabled youth. In addition Conklin will begin reaching out to local master hunters to volunteer their time to take out disabled hunters.

Conflict Specialist Conklin was contacted about a cougar exhibiting aggressive behavior. The reporting party stated he went out at 3:00 a.m. to start his log truck when he saw the cougar. The

cougar began walking toward him. He turned and went back to his house to get a gun. Conklin gave advice to this person including not running away or turning his back on the cat. Conklin responded to this same area a month ago after the cougar was hanging around the neighborhood. She will continue to monitor the situation.

Conflict Specialist Conklin met with a Christmas tree farm in Vader experiencing damage to the trees from Elk. Conklin counted at least 18 trees that she could easily observe that had been damaged. A kill permit was issued. This farm will utilize master hunters to deter damage after the general modern firearm elk season is over and the holiday season is over.

GOAL 4: MAINTAIN A HIGHLY SKILLED AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE.

Government to Government Training: Biologist Bergh attended a 1-day training course sponsored by the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs. The training was very informative and topics covered included tribal history, sovereignty, traditions, culture, government, and legal issues. The instructor also provided examples and stories from his Skokomish Tribe.

REGION 6

Fisher Project: Hex 513 set up: Biologist McMillan, Biologist Ament, Biologist Cullinan (Pt No Pt Tribal Wildlife Biologist), and volunteer Intern Gina Johnson set up the three camera & snare trapping stations starting the sampling of Hex 513 on September 17th. District Biologist McMillan, Point No Point Biologist Tim Cullinan, and WDFW new intern Gina Johnson worked as a team to install Stations 1 and 2. Landowner David Miller assisted with the setting up of Station 3 near his property by the Dungeness Fish Hatchery. The first visit to check all stations will be October 1st.



District 16 Fisher Team: Biologist Ament, WDFW Intern Gina Johnson, District Biologist McMillan, Pt No Pt Biologist Cullinan

Biologist McMillan adjusting camera before locking with cablelock





Back side of tree with “Do Not Disturb” sign



Adjacent Landowner David Miller & Biologist Ament setting up a chicken leg lure inside the plastic triangle cubby



Biologist McMillan exiting the station after set up is complete



Adjacent Landowner David Miller & Biologist Cullinan finishing the cubby preparation. Hair snares are burned with a lighter to remove any accidentally collected material. The hair snare cubby allows a hair sample to be snagged off of any scavenger that tries to reach the chicken leg left hanging in the middle.

Taylor’s checkerspot captive propagation: A total of 6,480 Taylor’s checkerspot larvae are in diapause between the two captive propagation facilities at the Oregon Zoo and Mission Creek Corrections Center. Biologist Linders reviewed annual reports from both facilities, provided significant comments, and incorporated all pertinent data into the annual ACUB report.

Mardon skipper monitoring: The number of Mardon skippers observed during Taylor’s checkerspot surveys at SCS (5), R76 (9), and R50 (27) in 2014 was slightly higher than in 2013, but still far too low at all sites to meet the minimum of 40 observations needed to construct a density estimate. This species is in critical condition in south Puget Sound and has been since 2008, with little to no indication of positive change.

Oregon spotted frog: WDFW biologists were among the staff and volunteers from several agencies/organizations who released 153 state endangered Oregon spotted frogs this week at a recovery site in Pierce County. The frogs were reared in captivity from eggs collected in late winter as part of an ongoing effort to re-establish and recover populations throughout their historic range in Washington.



Oregon spotted frog

Mazama Pocket Gophers: Scientific Technician 2 Chris Capelli assisted USFWS and Thurston County with Mazama Pocket Gopher surveys. Fifteen sites were surveyed according to gopher soils. On Monday, Technician Capelli, participated in a debriefing meeting with the USFWS to discuss survey results for six sites

visited the previous week. One site was positive for pocket gopher presence. Technician Capelli participated in 152 site visits with USFWS and Thurston County.



Typical “kidney bean-shaped” pocket gopher mound



Typical “volcano-shaped” mole mound