



SNOQUALMIE WILDLIFE AREA 2009 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Land Management Summary

This is an annual update to the 2006 Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Management Plan, which can be found online at the following link. http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/. The plan provides management direction for the Skagit\Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Complex, which includes the five Snoqualmie units, approximately 2,780 acres in King and Snohomish County and the numerous properties of the Skagit Wildlife Area which

total 16,708 acres in Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties. The plan identifies needs and guides activities on the area based on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Mission of “*Sound Stewardship of Fish and Wildlife*” and its underlying statewide goals and objectives as they apply to local conditions.

Plans are updated annually as habitat and species conditions change, as new regulations and scientific knowledge develop, as public issues and concerns evolve, and as administration of wildlife areas change. This management plan update also includes 2008 accomplishments, new issues, new land management strategies, performance measures for 2009, and ongoing projects.

Updates/Changes

Ebey Island (YMCA Acquisition) –

Acquisition efforts to purchase from the YMCA of Everett an 820-acre parcel on Ebey Island, south of State Highway 2 and east of Everett have been completed. This property expands the ownership of the WDFW on Ebey Island to approximately 1,240 acres and provides a legal access to the forested parcel previously owned by WDFW. This site provides a variety of restoration and

enhancement opportunities. It will also provide increased land base for fish and wildlife

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recreational opportunities. Coastal Wetland Grant funds combined with state capital funds were used for the acquisition. Additional funding has been requested to begin the feasibility, design and public planning process. The short-term plan is for basic property management activities such as identification of boundaries, fencing, signs and site access developments.

WDFW’s Watershed Steward, Doug Hennick, submitted applications to the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) to request funding for a restoration feasibility study. The grant request ranked 16th out of 37 proposed projects. Funding will be allocated based on the final legislative budget. Additional funding for the feasibility study will be requested during the next round of Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grants. Funding for feasibility was requested by Ducks Unlimited during the last State Duck Stamp Conservation funding cycle.

Ebey Island Short-term Management and Planning

Access Development

South Easement

- Boundary and topographic surveys have been completed.
- WDFW engineers have assessed the easement and will develop road and parking area designs to submit for county and state permitting.

North Access

- Currently coordinating with WSDOT to draft an easement allowing access to the parking area under Ebey Slough Bridge. The Ebey Slough dike trail can be accessed from this point, and is owned and managed by the Diking District. Non-motorized, public entry is allowed.

Western Parcel Access

- No access will be available until the City of Everett completes the water pipeline project that is utilizing available access points. WDFW is requesting that the construction vehicle storage/loading area be left for future public parking and access.

Boundaries for the area total approximately 12 miles

Four miles of high priority boundaries with potential public trespass issues have been surveyed. Remaining boundaries through forested blocks, bordering sloughs, roads, dikes and right-of-ways have been prioritized and will be completed as funds become available.



Ebey Island Unit looking east. SR 2 is on the left side of photo.
Photo by John Garrett

Along the southern boundary ½ mile section of fence is currently being constructed. In order to reduce public and livestock trespass, to provide cattle management, and to provide visual delineation between public and private lands.

Boundary signs will be posted upon completion of ½ mile section of boundary fence. Wildlife Area signs and use regulation signs will be posted after development of access and parking areas.

Ebey Island Vegetation

Ebey Island grassland habitats are dominated by reed canary grass, an exotic perennial, which requires regular biomass removal throughout the growing season to prevent formation of dense stands that choke out wildlife habitat, hamper hiking, and inhibit wildlife-viewing opportunities. Our most efficient options for controlling this invasive grass is grazing or mowing. The grass's root system can provide excellent erosion control and good forage/hay if managed properly. Grazing is a more efficient, economical, and sustainable means of control.

Mixed sitka spruce and western red cedar make up the areas forest. Sitka spruce is a native tree to the Pacific Northwest and the largest tree of the spruce family. It reaches heights well over 200 feet and has one of the highest strength to weight ratios on earth. This trait has encouraged logging to the point that very little old growth forests remain. Although the Ebey Island stands are not old growth, they are over 100 years old.

Ebey Island is currently subject to a grazing lease that was in place at the time of purchase but expires November 1, 2010. WDFW may direct the location of the cows to reduce conflict with public access or riparian plantings. The continued use of limited grazing and/or farming to manage the areas aggressive, exotic vegetation will be evaluated. Grazing can be a useful tool to control vegetation and improve habitat conditions for wildlife and public recreation, and when rotated between pastures at the appropriate time and number, can be done with minimal impact to soils, wildlife, and the public.

Stillwater Wildlife Area – Several projects have been funded on the Stillwater Unit to improve habitat for fish and wildlife and include riparian planting, hydrologic modeling, and fish habitat enhancement projects.

Stillwater Hydrologic Modeling – Wild Fish Conservancy submitted a proposal to the SRFB to request feasibility funding for a hydrologic model to examine the potential restoration of natural process on a portion of the Snoqualmie River and Harris Creek drainages. This model will provide information about the existing river conditions (two actively eroding banks and bank hardened sites) and the potential results of modifications such as placement of large woody debris and removal of bank hardening materials. The model will provide information on the potential for meander migration and channel avulsion following the proposed removal of bank hardening. Other project designs to place large woody debris near the two bank erosion sites to decrease sediment transport down river have been proposed and will be evaluated when the final report is completed. Funding for the next phase of the project has been requested for permitting and constructions from the 2009 SRFB. Final data gathering and analysis will be completed during the late spring and summer. Information will be presented to WDFW staff from review and decision. If this proposal is approved WDFW will initiate a public review and comment process as the project moves forward.

Cherry Valley Restoration - Conceptual designs are being developed for the proposed fish passage and aquatic habitat restoration project. Currently this design is at the 30% design level. Details in process of development include: fish passage features, large wood placement, riparian plantings and demonstrating on how water elevations will be maintained in the wetlands when connected to the restored stream channel.

WDFW first evaluated fish passage and habitat conditions on the Cherry Valley unit in 1998, as a part of an ongoing statewide inventory of WDFW owned lands. WDFW is mandated to correct fish passage barriers and inadequately screened diversions on agency-owned land. WDFW also has an interest in restoring habitat conditions on agency-owned land to benefit fish and wildlife species. Hence, WDFW is actively planning and implementing restoration activities on WDFW-owned lands statewide. Locally, WDFW recently completed eight fish passage projects and partnered with a local enhancement group to restore riparian vegetation at the Stillwater unit. Next year we are planning to construct two funded fish passage projects on the Crescent Lake unit.

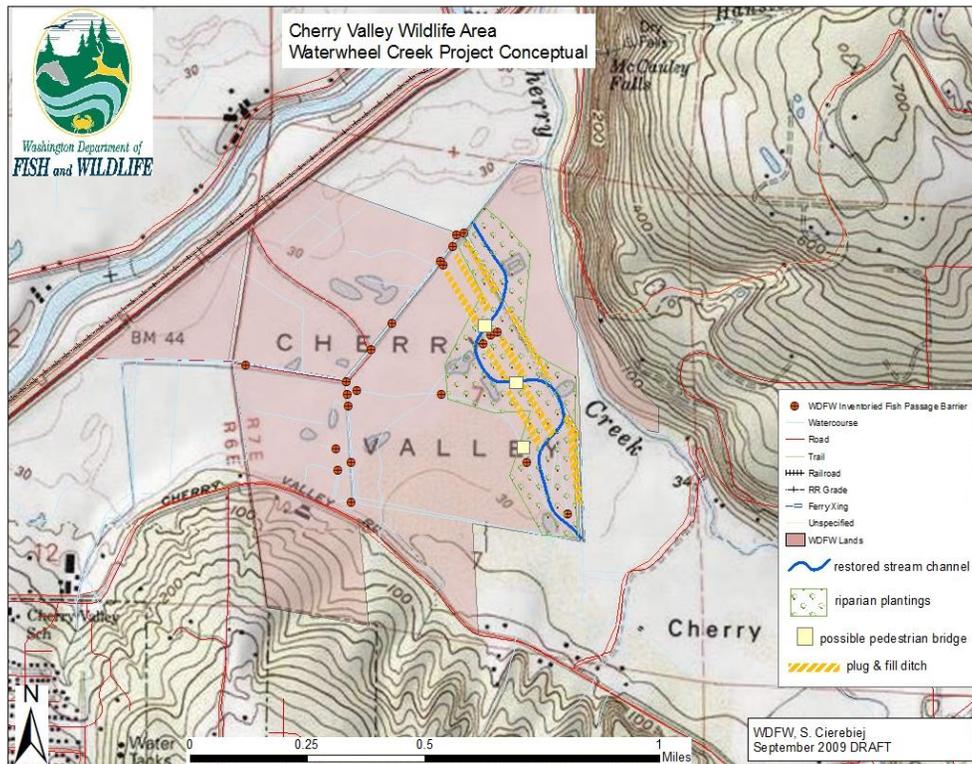
In 2004, WDFW began planning fish passage and habitat improvements for the Cherry Valley unit. During the past several years, WDFW has worked with habitat restoration specialists including Ducks Unlimited and Wild Fish Conservancy on the restoration planning. It is our hope that Dike District 7 will also participate in this planning and future restoration work at Cherry Valley.

Last year WDFW requested funding for the Cherry Valley Wildlife Unit to correct up to 22 fish passage barriers, consolidate excavated ditches into restored stream channels, restore stream banks, connect and enhance wetlands and swales, and plant riparian vegetation. This ambitious project was passed in the Governor's budget and the Senate, but failed to pass the House, so unfortunately we did not receive funding.

WDFW partnered with Wild Fish Conservancy to correct up to six fish passage barriers and restore Waterwheel Creek. This project would primarily benefit coho and Chinook and resident trout by improving adult access, reducing stranding, and improving rearing habitat conditions for

juvenile fish. This project will benefit waterfowl populations by enhancing existing wetlands and increasing food availability and cover for nesting birds. This project is expected to benefit the drainage district by improving water conveyance and reducing maintenance needs.

Our proposed project is similar to a project Wild Fish Conservancy completed at Weiss Creek near Carnation (<http://www.wildfishconservancy.org/library/ecological-process-restoration/ongoing-projects/lower-weiss-creek-project/the-weiss-creek-project>). The proposed project is also very similar to a recently completed project in Kitsap County on Salmonberry Creek (<http://www.midsoundfisheries.org/salmonberry.html>). However, instead of excavating new ponds, we propose connecting the restored Waterwheel Creek channel (consolidation of laterals B, C, and D) to existing swales at Cherry Valley.



DRAFT Conceptual Design

Crescent Lake Riparian Buffer Planting - Snohomish County Surface Water Management sponsored a project funded by Washington Department of Ecology to develop a 100-foot wide riparian buffer along the Snoqualmie River boundary of the Crescent Lake Unit. This project is a part of a countywide effort to improve habitat and water quality on the Snohomish River and its tributaries. The county completed the planting work early in 2007. The second phase of the project was to place large woody debris on the site but this portion of the project is currently not funded. No additional funding is being pursued at this time.

Crescent Lake Fish Passage Barrier Removal - WDFW will resolve two fish passage barriers at the Crescent Lake Unit. The lower crossing road will be abandoned, the road fill and barrier culvert will be removed and the wetland habitat restored. The upper crossing site the culvert will be removed and replaced with a bridge or a larger, fish passable culvert. The design is being sent out for agency and public comments. Both projects are scheduled for construction during summer 2010.

Lead Shot - The illegal use of lead for trap and target shooting continues to be observed on many of the Snoqualmie Units. Concerned neighbors have removed trash and found some lead shot shell casings. Wildlife Area use regulations were reposted and Wildlife Enforcement Officers have increased patrol of the site. However, opportunities to improve community education and outreach about removing the use of lead from the wildlife area need to be modified to improve public notification of regulations. Placement of signs is being considered.

New Issues

New acquisitions like Ebey Island provide a variety of challenges and opportunities to expand restoration enhancement and agricultural program objectives. The Ebey Island acquisition initiates a process to evaluate the physical and political landscapes associated with issues related to salmon recovery, sea level rise, land use conversion (agriculture to any non-agriculture), managed wetland systems, recreational access and other public use issues.

Funding is been requested to initial the planning and feasibility work needed to examine the site potential given the current issues within the watershed. A variety of federal, state, and local agencies and organizations will need to be involved in the planning discussion to insure that appropriate objects are defined. This discussion will improve understanding of the role this site will play in the larger landscape.

Major Stewardship Accomplishments



Stillwater Riparian Planting - The Stilly-Snohomish Task Force and WDFW received a King Conservation District grant to improve riparian habitat along the Snoqualmie River and its tributaries on the Stillwater Unit. This multi-year planting project was designed to improve habitat conditions by replacing invasive plant species with woody native vegetation and developing riparian corridors along the streams within the Stillwater unit. In 2009, as a part of the community outreach portion of the project, the Taskforce organized two well attended volunteer planting events during February and March. In addition, Mr. Moen's 6th grade science class from Snoqualmie Middle School came out to plant for student planting day. In all 225 volunteers planted nearly 2,000 native shrubs and trees along the main stem of the Snoqualmie River. The next phase of the restoration plantings have been proposed along Harris Creek and unnamed tributaries. These plantings are not currently funded but opportunities to acquire funding will be explored.

Stillwater Wildlife Area Fish Passage - The WDFW construction crews recently completed the removal of eight fish passage barriers on independent tributaries to the Snoqualmie River, on the Stillwater Wildlife Area located 3 miles north of Carnation, Washington. Two dams were removed and roughened channels were constructed. Two culverts were replaced with pedestrian bridge crossings. Two culverts were replaced with larger, fish passable culverts. Two culverts were removed completely. These projects will provide salmonids better access to floodplain rearing habitat. (Summary provided by Susan Cierebiej, WDFW)



Status Report of 2008 Performance Measures

Key performance measures are identified each year to monitor progress and identify any issues that might interfere with planned priority activities. This information will be used to delete, add or alter priority strategies for 2009.

2008 Performance Measures	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/ 2009 Related Activity/ Comments
Implement 1-4 projects that will remove fish passage barriers and improve wetland functions on the Stillwater Unit	Permitting and design process has been completed and funding is available.	Culvert replacement and removal are completed final planting work is scheduled to begin Oct 2009.
Research opportunities to improve wetland functions with managed wetlands on the Cherry Valley, unit and discuss with Citizen Advisory Group and District Team. Develop and implement a wetland enhancement project to restore portions of Cherry Creek drainage (Cherry Valley Unit) with Ducks Unlimited and Wild Fish Conservancy	Continuing discussion regarding wetland enhancement and restoration projects on Cherry Valley. Duck Stamp project funding was requested for Cherry Valley water control structures. It was not funded.	Discussions regarding development of a wetland impoundment have stalled due to concerns from the county flood control and local drainage district related to impact on flood capacity from impounded water and dike infrastructure. There are also concerns about fish entrapment.
Post property line boundary on Spencer Island between WDFW land and the Snohomish County Parks property.	Following dike breach the hunt boundary between the WDFW and County Park property is less clear.	Survey work completed and the boundary and safety zone signs are being posted.

2008 Performance Measures	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/ 2009 Related Activity/ Comments
Work closely with the Citizen Advisory Group, District Team and other stakeholders on unresolved issues to suggest workable management options for public use issues (access, sanitation, information needs, conflicting recreational uses, and additional recreational lands), dog use issues and wildlife viewing enhancements	CAG reviewed issues related to non-hunting uses during the hunting season on Spencer Island, Headquarters and Samish Units.	After CAG review and with the new Wildlife Area Use code specifically Washington Administrative Code 232-13-150 it was determined that entry could be restricted to hunting only during the hunting season. An additional public meeting was held on August 25, 2009. The general response was that with proper signage and educational information the problem could be minimized. A report is being prepared from these meetings for further WDFW staff review.
Work with other department personnel to develop a detailed color map and brochure for the Wildlife Area	Information brochure has not been completed at this time due to current project workload.	
Complete proposal to improve trail surface and develop blinds that are ADA accessible on Spencer Island Unit.	Currently unfunded. A capital proposal has been submitted .	Capital proposal submitted but not funded.
Implement projects on Cherry Valley Unit that will remove fish passage barriers and entrapment areas with WDFW Technical Applications (TAPPS) Program, Wild Fish Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited.	Continue to discuss compliance issues with dike district regarding fish passages related to the tide gate and impeller pump operation. Efforts to acquire funding for project feasibility will begin.	SRFB money has been received to acquire additional floodplain property along the Snoqualmie River and Cherry Creek. This money has been returned to SRFB. The proposed acquisition was enrolled in a King County agriculture preservation easement. It was determined that this easement was not compatible with the objective of salmon recovery and restoration and therefore SRFB funds could not be used for the acquisition.

2008 Performance Measures	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/ 2009 Related Activity/ Comments
Identify potential riparian corridor and/or wetland projects on Stillwater Unit with WDFW Technical Applications staff (TAPPS), Ducks Unlimited, and King County's Surface Water Management Division.	Riparian planting projects along the main stem Snoqualmie River, Harris Creek, and unnamed tributaries. Funding was received from the King Conservation District for planting project. Wildlife Area staff submitted Duck Stamp proposals for agricultural enhancements for Stillwater.	The King Conservation District approved the riparian planting project. The second phase of planting along the Snoqualmie River was completed during February and March 2009. The Duck Stamp proposal for Stillwater was unfunded.
Evaluate proposed habitat restoration projects on all units with District Team and Citizen Advisory Group	Ongoing	No specific projects currently proposed.
Develop a prioritized list by unit in which to conduct an inventory of wildlife area to determine species, use and needs	Ongoing	Not currently funded
Work with Citizen Advisory Group and District Team to maintain and improve fishing opportunities on appropriate units	No suggestions currently proposed to improve access.	
Pursue funding to implement 1-3 projects on the Crescent Lake Unit to remove fish passage barriers	Capital budget funding requests have been submitted for 2009-2011.	Currently unfunded.
Pursue funding to implement 1-3 projects to remove fish passage barriers on the Corson Unit	Capital budget funding requests have been submitted for 2009-2011	Currently unfunded.
Develop and evaluate a pheasant release program at other upland sites and/or on private property (if owners are willing) with Citizen Advisory Group, District Team and other interested stakeholders	Currently there is no funding available to expand the program to private land in King or Snohomish County.	WDFW Region 4 has a new private lands biologist assigned to Skagit and Whatcom counties. The potential to include Snohomish and King counties will be investigated.
Develop and post boundaries of the on all Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Units.	Will prioritize sign posting and boundary work. Coordinate with survey crew on unknown boundary lines.	Project currently unfunded.
Evaluate, with District Team and Citizen Advisory Group, limiting access to Crescent Lake (Crescent Lake Unit) to better protect those priority or sensitive species (swans)	Proposal outlining concerns for District team and CAG review have not been developed.	No activity

2008 Performance Measures	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/ 2009 Related Activity/ Comments
Inspect and maintain 12 footbridges on Cherry Valley, Crescent Lake and Stillwater units	Work with volunteers to mark and maintain footbridges.	Develop a work crew to fix footbridges.
Mow and maintain meadow trails on Crescent Lake and Stillwater Units.	Investigate the use of County work release crews to maintain trail on Crescent Lake	
Develop a list of projects by unit that individual volunteers or groups could help complete	Work with District team and CAG to identify some potential projects.	
Mow fields on Cherry Valley and Stillwater units	Completed Discuss the potential to develop a haying lease on the site to improve habitat conditions.	Coordinate with volunteers to spot mow to improve site between current mowing schedule
Maintain trails on Corson Natural Area	Mowing completed	Completed by volunteers
Release 3,100 to 3,800 pheasants on Cherry Valley, Crescent Lake and Stillwater units	Completed	
Attend and participate in monthly to quarterly meetings of the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum and Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum.	Attend Snoqualmie Watershed Forum coordination meeting. Now on the list for meeting schedule and will attend meetings pertinent to Wildlife Area lands.	Need to get on the announcement list for Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum once Ebey Island acquisition completed.
The Crescent Lake footbridge is failing and portions of the structure are deteriorating.	The Crescent Lake footbridge will be decommissioned due to liability issues. The structure was never designed and approved by our engineering department and lacks the necessary safety features for a large over water crossing.	Entry sections of the footbridge were removed. Additional work to remove other fencing material from the water will be initiated.
Research and discuss options to provide recreational access to the nearby Honor Farm (coordinate with tribes, others	The Qualco cooperative, which is operating the Honor Farm property, is not allowing public hunting on the property. Further research of the documents of this agreement will be requested for our records.	Will continue to determine property access restrictions on the Honor Farm. Contact has been made but no documentation has been received.
The management of the open field component of the wildlife areas is not adequately addressed in the plan. Many of these fields are not currently being managed for agriculture and are starting to be encroached by blackberry and other woody plants.	Opportunities to acquire funding through the Duck Stamp process and/or farming with sharecrop or lease agreements will continue to be pursued.	Development of riparian buffers along streams and interior drainage structures will be implemented when feasible. Efforts to develop agricultural programs on Cherry Valley and Stillwater unit continue.

2008 Performance Measures	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/ 2009 Related Activity/ Comments
Identify noxious and invasive weeds, species and distribution	Ongoing	
Determine the risk level of weed species to develop control priorities	Ongoing	
Coordinate weed control efforts with other agencies	Ongoing	
Apply for grants to control weeds, plant native vegetation, and utilize the WDFW Weed Crew	Ongoing	
Apply for grants and other funding opportunities consistent with planned priorities to supplement existing funding (SRFB, North American Wetland Conservation Act, Duck Stamp, etc.).	Ongoing	Grant funds currently not available.
Partner with tribal agencies to monitor the restoration projects on Spencer Island and other units as they are funded and implemented	Ongoing with positive relationship with Stillaguamish and Tulalip Tribes.	
Research and discuss additional habitat projects and salmon restoration efforts with tribes, the agricultural community, private landowners and county governments	Work with the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum and other regional planning efforts to identify projects.	
Spencer Island –Sign development and dedication of the Willy O’Neil memorial is in the planning stages.	As funding becomes available, the next step is to improve the trail surface to make it ADA accessible, to develop boardwalks and elevated hunting and viewing platforms similar to the ones on the Snohomish County Parks property.	Capital budget requests have been submitted for 2009-2011 and grant funding opportunities will be submitted when available.

2009 Performance Measures

- Work with the Citizen Advisory Group, District Team and other stakeholders on management options regarding public use issues (access, sanitation, information needs, conflicting recreational uses, and additional recreational lands), dog use issues and wildlife viewing enhancements.
- Work with department personnel to develop a detailed map and brochure for the Wildlife Area
- Complete the proposal to improve trail surface and develop blinds that are ADA accessible on Spencer Island Unit.
- Spencer Island – The dedication of the Willy O’Neil memorial is in the planning stages. Signs need to be developed.

- Implement projects on Cherry Valley Unit that will remove fish passage barriers and entrapment areas with WDFW Technical Applications (TAPPS) Program, Wild Fish Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited.
- Expand the riparian corridor and/or wetland buffer on Stillwater Unit with WDFW Technical Applications staff (TAPPS), Ducks Unlimited, Stilly- Snohomish Taskforce and King County's Surface Water Management Division.
- Implement fish passage barrier removal project on the Crescent Lake Unit.
- Implement fish passage barriers removal projects on the Corson Unit
- Mow and maintain meadow trails on Crescent Lake and Stillwater Units.
- Mow fields on Cherry Valley and Stillwater Units
- Maintain trails on Corson Natural Area
- Release 3,100 to 3,800 pheasants on Cherry Valley, Crescent Lake and Stillwater Units
- Identify noxious and invasive weeds, species and distribution
- Coordinate weed control efforts with other agencies and WDFW staff.
- Research and discuss additional habitat projects and salmon restoration efforts with tribes, the agricultural community, private landowners, county government, and conservation organizations.

New Strategies

The wildlife area plan identifies many strategies or activities to address the agencies strategic plan goals and objectives, why the area was purchased, habitat conditions, species presence, and public issues and concerns. The following updated strategies have been added to respond to previously unaddressed or new issues or changes on the wildlife area. New strategies may also be in response to adaptive management as staff evaluate the impacts of past management activities.

Issues identified in italics were provided by the Citizens Advisory Group. These public comments are captured at the end of this document. Although underlined strategies have no current funding source, identifying these needs is the first step to securing additional funds.

No new strategies were identified.

As Funding/Assistance Becomes Available

- Plant up to 115 acres with cereal grains on Crescent Lake Unit
- Plant up to 100 acres with cereal grains on Stillwater Unit
- Work with the WDFW Weed Crew to monitor and control various known problem weeds on the Stillwater Unit
- Develop projects and apply for grant funds to control exotic/invasive weed species by restoring sites with native vegetation.
- Assess the effects of all existing uses, including such actions as the unregulated harvesting of

vegetation and invertebrates, as well as the effects of proposed management programs and projects on species composition and diversity

- Develop inventory surveys, priorities and facilitate on-the-ground surveying for plant communities, small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates
- Develop a hunting guide for the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area
- Develop and provide educational materials for waterfowl hunters in the intertidal and estuarine zone on Spencer Island Unit
- Work with Ducks Unlimited and Snohomish County Parks to complete Willie O'Neil Memorial (ADA) project on Spencer Island Unit
- Provide up-to-date hunter educational materials
- Develop Watchable Wildlife sites on the Corson, Crescent Lake, Ebey Island and Spencer Island units
- Provide web-based information specifically tailored to the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area
- Build an equipment storage building on Cherry Valley Unit or rent one nearby
- Inspect and maintain Spencer Island Unit dike trail once restoration is completed
- Secure long-term funding source(s) for Spencer Island Unit ADA trail development and maintenance
- Prior to acquisitions, perform a cultural/historic resource assessment, prior to acquisition, with assistance from the State Historic Preservation Department

Citizens Advisory Group Input

The Skagit-Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Citizen Advisory Group Meeting was held on February 24, 2009. Those in attendance include:

Rone Brewer Washington Waterfowl Association
Sharon Swan Snohomish County Parks
Gary Gibbs Waterfowl hunter
David Randolph Dog Trainer
Martha Jordan Trumpeter Swan Society
Virginia Clark Pilchuck Audubon
Curt Kramer Retired Fish and Wildlife Employee
Art Kendall Washington Waterfowl Association
Pam Pritzl Skagit Audubon
John Edison Interested public
Donald DiPaola Interested public

Issue: Public use management. There are concerns about the general public access on three sites on the Skagit Snoqualmie during the hunting season. These sites have or will undergo increased pressure following intertidal restorations being implemented on WA units.

Response: Don DiPaola gave his account of a hunter/bird watcher incident during the hunting season on the Spencer Island unit and WDFW response. He suggested to the group the site be restricted to only hunting during the hunting season and be carefully posted to inform the public of this change in management. The group was supportive of this proposal and understood the

concerns. John presented proposed wording options of the signs for the group to provide input. The group agreed on the wording proposal.

Issue: There was discussion also regarding the closure time frame and which seasons to include. The youth hunt, dove and grouse, early goose season and rabbit season following the general waterfowl.

Response: It was recommended by the group to have the dates at Headquarters and Spencer Island restricted access from Sept 1 thru Jan 31 (not including rabbit season which will need to be restricted on these sites) and Samish would be from Sept 1 through March 15 (to include rabbit).

Issue: The current share crop lease arrangement and the potential to lease a portion of the site to the antique tractor club on Crescent Lake.

Response: Garrett talks about the share crop lease situation on the Crescent Lake site and seeks support to increase cereal grain production on the site and to leave more available for waterfowl hunters.

Kendall - I will support it if it doesn't drain funding resources.

Swan - Why put fertilizer and herbicide if you are doing this for betterment of wildlife

Kramer - Is millet going to colonize if you go to straight barley?

Issue: Tractor Club

Response: CAG agrees - no parking or tractor show

Issue: Jordan presented concerns regarding land ownerships issues for Johnson/Debay's Slough Reserve and requested if the group could support an effort to acquire the in holdings and adjacent property. She also discussed the desire to provide a public use trail along north edge of Reserve field, platform in parking lot, kiosk in outer parking lot. Martha also suggested that if WDFW purchased the north area along river it would be used to extend the area for public hunting, Game Reserve boundary

Kramer supports Halverson purchase.

Issue: Limited hunting on Swan Reserve

Response: CAG supports the concept of purchasing the land based on reestablishing originally intended boundary, purchasing Halverson in holdings, establishing trails, and a potential for land swap with Halverson. Jordan wants to shelve issue of hunting/other management till winter of 09/10.

Issue: Wylie Use Enhancements

Response: A handout was provided to try to summarize the Wylie Slough enhancements and to clarify what items are currently funded and which items were not. There was very little time for discussion but the group was asked to review the document and contact us with questions or comments.

There were questions regarding the Wiley Slough enhancement money and connection of the moorage funding and the Wiley Slough restoration. The decision was made to table the discussion until a later CAG or subcommittee meeting. Kendall suggested have the public comment/input on the second phase of construction of the project.

Want to see the full plan?

Go to -

http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/index.htm

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