

Wildlife Program

Week of June 9-15, 2014

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY DIVISION

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Washington Diversity Advisory Committee (WDAC): The WDAC met for a full day meeting and a field trip to the South Puget Sound and Scatter Creek Wildlife Areas. Biologist Hallock presented a talk on Western Pond Turtle shell disease for the WDAC meeting held at South Puget Sound Wildlife Area on Sunday, June 8. The presentation highlighted the efforts the agency has undertaken for the last three years to figure out where the disease occurs, what is causing it, and the percentage of Western Pond Turtles that are infected including the extent and severity of infection. In addition, the talk also highlighted other on-going efforts essential to the recovery of Western Pond Turtles including habitat work at all sites and removal of non-native invasive bullfrogs at one of the Columbia Gorge sites. Wildlife Biologists Dave Hays and Ann Potter then provided a tour of the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area and presented information on prairie grasslands and prairie grassland wildlife species restoration and recovery efforts.

Western Pond Turtle Recovery Assistance: Wildlife Diversity Division staff joined staff from Region 6 and a variety of other Divisions, Programs, and agencies to assist with western pond turtle capture and examination at the conservation site near Belfair in Mason Co. Efforts this year were directed at examination for signs of ongoing shell disease as well as indications of healing in turtles treated during previous year handling.



Oregon Spotted Frog Research: Biologist Hallock, with assistance from Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge biologist Bailey and volunteer Joanne Schuett-Hames, continued telemetry work on the study of Oregon Spotted Frogs in the Black River watershed. Biologist Hallock and Biologist Salzer also spent a few hours searching for frogs to add to the study.

Western Gray Squirrel Webpage: Biologist Wiles worked with Public Affairs staff to update the WDFW webpage for western gray squirrels so that the public can report potential observations of squirrels through the “Report Wildlife Observations” webpage, through a mobile device, or by emailing Wildthing. Previously, the only option for submitting an observation was to phone it in to the Olympia headquarters.

Pygmy Rabbit Recovery: This week Biologist Wisniewski, Technician Duvuvuei, PhD student Demay, and Interns Jones, Jacobs, and Baker continued the third round of trapping with captures at one of the enclosures at Sagebrush Flats (SBF) and a second capture at Dormaier. An extra capture was added at Dormaier due to the large number of kits observed still running around after last week’s capture. On Wednesday at SBF, we captured 28 rabbits (24 new kits, 1 recap kit, and 3 adults). Twenty-three kits were released to the wild, 1 kit was retained in the nursery

to reach weight, AVID tags were placed in the adult rabbits, and the adults and recap kit were released back into the breeding enclosure. On Thursday we returned to Dormaier and captured twenty-nine additional rabbits were (27 new kits, 1 recap kit, and 2 adults). Twenty-six kits and 1 adult male were released to the wild, 1 kit was retained in a nursery, 1 adult rabbit and the recap kit were released back into the breeding enclosure. An AVID tag was inserted in the adult retained in the breeding enclosure. See photos embedded in the attached document.



The crew celebrates a successful capture & Intern Jones 21st birthday with delicious cupcakes baked by Biologist Wisniewski.

North Cascades Grizzly Bear Meeting: Division Manager Gardner attended a meeting with federal and state wildlife management agencies to discuss a potential timeline and process for implementation of an Environmental Impact Statement for grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades. Formal announcement of the pending effort will likely occur during the International Grizzly Bear Committee meeting being held in late June.

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

Applying Lean to Enhancing Scientific Collection Permit Application

Processing: Diversity Division Manager Eric Gardner and Conservation Assessment Section Manager Bruce Thompson met with WDFW Lean Coordinator, Fish Management Division Manager Craig Burley, Bill Frymire from AGs office, and Candace to further explore needs and options for process improvements and customer service related to scientific collection and display permits. Specific options were identified for improving handling of authorized display after wildlife is collected. Some possible guiding principles were discussed to further focus possible adjustments to time frames related to permit issuance and what may be considered within the scope of a single permit.

Implementing Streamlined Species Status Assessment: Section Managers Bruce Thompson and Penny Becker met with Diversity Division biologists to perform final discussion of the approach to begin streamlined status assessment of candidate species scheduled to be completed by end of June 2015. The preparation template and guide were discussed briefly and opened to all for final editing. Initial assignments were identified to set responsibilities for compiling assessments about 74 taxa. Assignments regarding fish species and a few aquatic invertebrates are pending further coordination with Fish Program staff. These assignments represent a key step in moving visioning of the Diversity Division forward regarding periodic status assessments that advise conservation planning, listing and recovery action scheduling, and preparation of materials to more effectively inform the Fish and Wildlife Commission and interested members of the public at large. This process is first being directed at candidate species that are currently identified under WDFW policy procedures. Future reviews can be broader to include selected review of listed species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan.

REGION 1

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management



Wolverine Camera Monitoring: Assistant District Wildlife Biologist (ADWB) Annemarie Prince deployed 2 run pole stations for wolverines in the Boulder Creek/Deer Creek area in the Kettle Range with assistance from U.S. Forest Service interns and 2 volunteers. The monitoring stations will be checked once a month and left out for at least a year.

Wolverine run pole setup with hair-snags on the end.

Wildlife Areas

Sherman Creek Wildlife Area (SCWA) Habitat Improvement Project: The WDFW Prescribed Burn Team spent the week at Sherman Creek WLA. Fifty acres of the 60 acre Canal Unit were treated with fire. Evergreen ceanothus currently occurs sporadically throughout the unit, so this fire dependent species is expected to expand in the burned area. The team will return to SCWA next week to complete the Canal Unit and move to the Rail Unit.



Private Lands / Wildlife Conflict

Wolf Sign near Washtucna, Washington: Conflict Specialist Bennett followed up on recent wolf track photos taken near the Whitman County border. Several locations were scouted and results will be passed along to Wolf Biologist Roussin.

Conservation planning training: Biologist Lewis attended a 4 day Certified Conservation Planner training course put on by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in Ephrata. The purpose of the course is to develop skills at producing effective and properly formatted conservation plans. WDFW has agreements in some areas of the state where Private Lands Biologists will help USDA offices complete conservation plans for habitat restoration projects. Lewis will be assisting the Whitman County USDA Service Center.



Conservation Planner training course in Ephrata

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

Wildlife Management

“Abandoned Fawn” Reports: Colville Biologist Annemarie Prince spoke to multiple people this week about deer fawns they found. All callers were advised to leave the fawn and the area and that the doe would return. This phenomenon with people and deer fawns occurs every year in June.

Wildlife Areas

WT Wooten Wildlife Area – Problem Black Bear: A yearling black bear was dispatched by enforcement this week in the USFS Tucannon Campground. A culvert bear trap was moved back to Camp Wooten and set to try to capture the larger problem bear that has been getting into food in the campgrounds. It was recently brought to light that the group cooks at Camp Wooten have been dumping their cooking grease into the ground in a designated area near the mess hall for at least the past decade. That practice was immediately put to a stop and the saturated soil was dug up, disposed of, and replaced with clean fill. Camp Wooten has ordered 3 bear-proof garbage cans to put around the camp in place of the plastic garbage cans, and they have plans to construct a chain-link fence around the dumpster to deter the bears from getting in.

Society for Range Management tour at Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area (SLWA): This year’s Society for Range Management (SRM) annual (northwest region) meeting was held in Electric



SRM tour members in the shop for PPT presentations, questions and comments.

City. As part of the conference, a field trip to SLWA/BLM’s Twin Lakes/Telford Recreation Areas was held this Thursday. Approximately 70 tour members showed up at SLWA headquarters at 9 a.m. and viewed PowerPoint presentations given by Mike Finch, WDFW District 2 Wildlife Biologist Mike Atamian, and BLM Wildlife Biologist Jason Lowe. The group then headed to the field, to get a close-up look at restored grasslands and wetlands. There were many good questions and comments addressed to SLWA staff, concerning habitat needs for sage grouse, and methods used for successful grass/forb seeding.

SRM tour members in a restored grass field. WDFW’s Jeff Burnham and Mike Finch are seen at center right, in blue shirt and green WDFW shirt respectively.



Private Lands/Wildlife Conflict

Happy Landowner: Conflict Specialist Rasley received a phone call from a large strawberry farm on the first day they started to harvest. Not knowing what they were going to say when Rasley got on site, the two owners said “they just wanted to say thanks for all our hard work with



assisting them with their deer damage this past year”. They also said “their yields were way up and they felt that was due to all our hazing efforts and Damage Prevention permits I issued them”. It’s rewarding to hear good news from landowners.

One of the many strawberry fields we dealt with hazing deer out of.

REGION 2

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Okanogan County Golden Eagle Flights: District 7 Biologist Gallie and District 5 Biologist Duvuvuei teamed up to conduct aerial golden eagle surveys throughout Douglas, Grant, and



Chelan counties. Gallie and Duvuvuei surveyed 22 known eagle territories and searched 5 suspected territories for productivity and occupancy respectively. The biologists found 6 active territories (1 active in District 5 and 5 active in District 7). Each of the active territories had chicks ranging from approximately 2 weeks to 8 weeks of age. Additionally, 2 of the 5 search areas were occupied leading to two new golden eagle territories.

Adult golden eagle and 2 week old (approx.) chick above Lake Lenore. Photograph by Orrin Duvuvuei

Chelan, Douglas, and Grant counties Golden Eagles: Biologists Gallie and Duvuvuei conducted a helicopter-based survey with Central Valley Helicopters to determine productivity in prioritized golden eagle territories in Chelan, Douglas, and Grant Counties (they also verified one nest for District 8, in N Kittitas Co.). They visited a total of 21 known active territories and found 6 to have produced chicks (8 chicks total in all nests). There was a wide range in chick

age, from 3 weeks to 8 weeks old. They were also able to conduct nest searches in 6 areas along the flight path where pairs of golden eagles have been observed but no known territory existed. New nests were located in 3 of 4 search areas on Banks Lake but none in the 2 Chelan county search areas.



Two 9 week old golden eagle chicks in the Grimes Lake nest, Douglas County. (O. Duvuvuei-photo).



Adult GE and 4-week old chick in the Duffy Creek territory-Douglas County. (O. Duvuvuei-photo)

Common Loon Management: Biologist Heinlen checked lakes for nesting Common Loons this period. To date District 6 has three nesting Loon pairs: Lost Lake hatched two chicks while Beaver and Crawfish Lake have loons incubating on nests. No nest has been documented at Bonaparte Lake which consistently has loons nest there each year. We will continue to monitor Bonaparte Lake in the event the nest is well concealed and is being missed.



*Common Loon with chicks; Lost Lake
Photo: T. Pieper*

Wildlife Areas

Barker Canyon Fire Assessment: Wildlife Area Complex Manager Fitzgerald met with Range Management Biologist Jeff Burnham at Barker Canyon to assess the recovery of Pasture 2 and 3 of the grazing allotment in year 2 growing season following the Barker Canyon fire. Burnham conducted vegetation transects from points established in spring 2013. At first blush, vegetation response was outstanding, Great Basin Wildrye, Needle and Thread grass and native shrubs coming back strong.



Pasture 2, June 12, 2013 - Fitzgerald



Pasture 2, June 12, 2013 - Fitzgerald

Pasture 2, June 11, 2014, Golden waves of knee-high (+) Needle and Thread, with abundant forb understory – Fitzgerald



Sherman Creek Prescribed Burns - Monday, the prescribed fire team traveled to the Sherman Creek Wildlife and began preparing to burn the Canal (60 acres) and Rail (170 acres) Units. The team had early starts and late nights Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and nearly completed the Canal Unit. They also began setting up a hose lay that will extend approximately 12,000 feet around critical holding areas of the Rail Unit. Thursday brought thunderstorms just as the team completed one sub-unit and rain continued overnight and into the next day. The team worked Friday to ensure the unit perimeters will remain secure over the weekend and made an

assessment of snags and fell those that presented hazards. This week the team was helped by Sherman Creek Manager Daro Palmer, Technician Chris Christensen, Colockum Wildlife Area Manager Pete Lopushinsky and Assistant Manager John Hagan. Ecologist Richard Tveten worked with the team last week, and was able to join us for two days this week as well.



Heavy logging slash being consumed in the Canal Unit – Sherman Creek Wildlife Area – Tiffany Mitchell

Burn Team Member Delcie Peters and Burn Boss Tom Leuschen using a fire hose to cool down a burning tree near a control line on the Canal Unit – Sherman Creek Wildlife Area - Ray Guse



West Foster Creek Headcut Project: Manager Dan Peterson and Assistant Manager Noel Wingart met with Habitat Bio Eric Pentico, Environmental Engineer Gina McCoy and Cascadia Conservation District Engineer Ryan Roberts on site to discuss what can be done to stabilize the project's grade control structures. Foster Creek Conservation District funded the design and construction of this project which was completed in June of 2013. Heavy spring runoff resulted



Plunge pools created below grade control structures

in severe scouring below each grade control structure. At this point most of the grade control structures are likely to fail. The consensus strategy devised by Gina and Ryan is to place rocks of equivalent size to those of the 'header' rocks in the scour holes. Ryan estimated the cost at somewhere around \$10,000. How we're to fund this repair is another question altogether.



Rock scoured from below structures and deposited at lower end of project.

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

Wildlife Management

Chelan County Bighorn Sheep: Biologist Gallie and a volunteer conducted a survey on the Swakane herd, focusing on bands of ewes and lamb production. This year was of particular interest considering the group of 4 ewes that wandered into the Entiat Valley in close proximity to domestic grazing, possibly originated from or dispersed into this herd. If contact had been made, signs of pneumonia outbreak would like be seen in lambs first. They observed a total of 94 bighorn sheep, with 62 ewes, 27 lambs and 5 young rams. Excluding the 40+ other rams they did not search for, this puts the heard minimum estimate at 135. This was the most productive year ever recorded for lamb production, however, if lambs are affected, we may see mortality above normal as summer progresses. For now, there is no indication of disease in the Swakane herd.

Okanogan County Bighorn Sheep: Biologist Heinlen monitored and displayed the data for the radio collars deployed in the Sinlahekin Bighorn sheep herd. One ram estimated at 1.5 years old during the February 2014 capture has traveled north into Canada. Even though it has been suspected, this is the first confirmation that the Sinlahekin herd crosses the border into Canada. We have been in contact with the British Columbia Fish and Wildlife staff and are keeping them informed of the sheep's locations. This sheep was documented as having

Psoroptes mites (mange) when captured in February 2014. Now that he is traveling outside of the Sinlahekin herds territory there is potential he may pose a risk to uninfected herds. We are keeping the BC staff informed of this sheep's movements so they can continually assess the situation.

Private Lands/Access

Hunter Access: Biologist Comstock contacted landowners who have expired hunter access contracts. One landowner expressed dissatisfaction with the Hunt by Written Permission program, citing the spread of Dalmatian toadflax and the inconvenience caused by hunters seeking permission to hunt his property as primary complaints. Biologist Comstock encouraged him to consider using WDFW's Hunt by Reservation Program instead, to alleviate some of these issues; the landowner agreed to this. Another landowner near Hartline agreed to renew his HBWP contract for 798 acres.

Biologist Comstock reviewed state laws published in the WAC and RCW pertinent to private lands hunting access.

REGION 3

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Areas

Colockum Wildlife Area: Manager Lopushinsky walked areas seeded last fall after the Colockum-Tarps Fire, assessing restoration success. Areas seeded by our Truax native grass seed drill showed better success than areas broadcast seeded by helicopter.

Big sagebrush, bitterbrush and bluebunch wheatgrass seedlings emerging after drill seeding in the Colockum-Tarps Fire area.



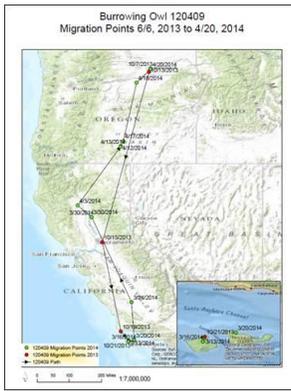
Wildlife Management

Burrowing Owls: Biologist Gregory assisted Photographer Ross with removing the camera from inside the webcam nest box. She will be reviewing the thousands of photos captured since May and selecting those for submission to National Geographic. During that visit, Biologist Gregory also captured and banded six of the owlets hatched at the webcam site this year.

Together with Volunteers Ross and Martin, Biologist Gregory spent an evening trapping owls just north of Pasco. Three adults and 10 owlets were banded.

Biologist Gregory and Volunteer Ross return a young burrowing owl to its nest. Photo: L. Martin





The Global Owl Project has prepared a map depicting the movements of the burrowing owl captured in Pasco that has been wearing a GPS transmitter for the last year.

The migration of a burrowing owl from Pasco to the Channel Islands, CA and back to Pasco.

Mourning Doves: Biologist Gregory delivered traps and bait to the Ringold hatchery to prepare for the upcoming banding season.

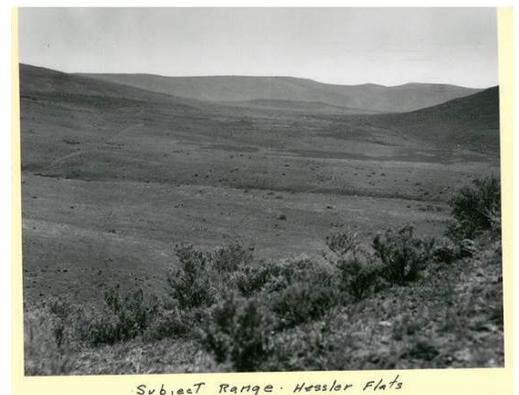
Waterfowl: Biologist Gregory met with Biologists Kraege and Evenson and the top candidate for the eastside waterfowl specialist position. Biologist Gregory also coordinated with prospective volunteers for the upcoming goose capture in the Tri-Cities on June 20th.

Bighorn Sheep Surveys: Biologist Bernatowicz corresponded with agency and Grant County PUD staff trying to set up boat survey for Quilomene sheep. Since the Colockum-Tarps fire, relatively few bighorn sheep have been seen on aerial surveys. We were able to set July 9th for the survey, using a GCPUD boat.

Golden Eagles: Biologist Bernatowicz corresponded with Biologist Blatz regarding observations points, etc. for golden eagle surveys. Biologist Blatz is going to be in the area conducting surveys.

Mt Goats: Biologist Bernatowicz searched for historic Mt. Goat records and send some information to biologist Moore. Biologist Moore started to collect data to better inform a ground survey effort that will be taking place in Northern Kittitas County. This effort included reviewing historic survey and harvest records as well as interviewing Cle Elum Ranger District Backcountry Rangers.

Target Shooting/Fires: Biologist Bernatowicz talked with Wildlife Area Manager Confer-Morris about target shooting, fire frequency, and future plans. While searching files for Mt. Goat data, an appraisal for a portion of the now Wenas WA was found that included some interesting photos that show why fires might not have been common 40-50 years ago in the Wenas.



Wenas WA 1968

Colockum Elk: Biologist Moore began the initial preparations for an upcoming bull elk capture. The capture will take place towards the end of July.

Sage Grouse: Biologist Moore worked with YTC staff to get a visual on a translocated radio collared hen that was suspected to be nesting on the Wenas Wildlife Area. Evidence was found that supports nesting occurred on Manastash Ridge above the confluence of Umtanum Creek and



the Yakima River. A visual was obtained on the hen on Manastash Ridge near the Durr Road and she had two chicks with her.

YTC Technicians using radio-telemetry to search for the collared hen near the suspected nesting location.

Bighorn Sheep Tracking: Moore updated the bighorn sheep tracking file with the CWU Interns observations. Moore also worked with the interns to help them focus on specific animals that still need visuals.

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

Wildlife Areas

Colockum Wildlife Area: Assistant Manager Hagan spent some time in the North Fork Tarpiscan looking for possible routes to relocate the stream-adjacent portion of the North Fork Road. Information was passed on to Engineering in Olympia.

Wenas Wildlife Area: Manager Confer Morris worked on RCO FARR application for improving target shooting areas on the wildlife area. RCO won't allow two site locations under one application, so she will need to determine which site would be better to apply for funds on. She also spoke with Melinda Posner, who recently attended a target shooting conference, to discuss ways to improve the user-built shooting areas without going to the point of needing the sites to be staffed. Melinda set up a conference call with DNR to discuss the shooting range in the Capital Forest and set a date to field review the site.

Manager Confer Morris spoke with Mike Johnston, Ellensburg Daily Record, regarding fire season target shooting restrictions on the Wenas WLA, as well as proposed changes to target shooting on the wildlife area and the public process the agency will be going through for that. Mike wrote an informative article that was picked up by the Yakima Herald Republic.

LT Murray Wildlife Area: Assistant Manager Hunt met with representatives from the LDS Church that are organizing the Youth Hand Cart Trek scheduled for this month on the Murray. Our permitting is done, and it sounds as though what they need from DNR is close as well. Wayne checked out a key to them to allow for access through on Robinson View Road, which is currently closed to protect our Golden Eagle nest.

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Manager Huffman met with the US Forest Service (FS) recreation staff on the NOVA motorized trails grant Huffman is working on for the Rock Creek Unit. The FS is interested in partnering on the project to improve the trail on their property which will help as match for the grant. A site visit was scheduled for the following week. Huffman also contacted ORV clubs about volunteering for work on the project and to get letters of support. The clubs were very interested in the project and provided support letters by the end of the week.

Manager Huffman spent significant time on the final outline of the map and signs for the Rock Creek Unit kiosks. Sign language was reviewed by Capt Mann and Forest Service Staff and was sent to DOT to make the signs. The final version of the map was also sent to DOT.

On Saturday evening Manager Huffman received a phone call from Assistant Manager Berry who is a volunteer firefighter that a call had just come in and emergency crews were responding to a fall from rocks along Hwy 12 at MP 182. Huffman responded to the area and arrived at the Quonset hut parking lot which accesses The Bend climbing area to discover that a climber had fallen and suffered a head injury. The RP was on scene with the paramedics and were preparing to head across the river and up the hill to the injured person. Naches fire crews and a Yakima Sherriff's Deputy arrived shortly thereafter and they headed up the hill with the necessary equipment. Rescue crews from the Training Center and Yakima were called in to assist in lowering the injured person down the hill. Huffman relayed information on the injuries to the Incident Commander who decided they warranted calling in Life Flight, given there was an area at the Quonset hut that was large enough for an LZ. When the rescue team arrived, they headed up the hill as well. It took about 2 hours from the time of people arriving on scene to the point of



getting the injured person down off the hill and into the helicopter. The original report from the RP said the person fell 20 feet, but rescue personnel estimated it at 45 feet and a news story on Sunday said 60 feet. The injured person suffered a head injury but was wearing a climbing helmet and is expected to make a full recovery. Pictures of the incident are below.

Rescue crews carrying and injured rock climber down the hill on the Oak Creek Wildlife Area.



Rescue crews carrying the injured climber across the Tieton River Bridge.

Life Flight helicopter preparing to take off from the Quonset hut to transport the injured climber to the hospital in Yakima.



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

Wildlife Areas

Sunnyside Wildlife Area: Manager Bjornstrom met with RPM McCorquodale, Assistant Manager Sak, and Treatment Systems Superintendent for the City of Grandview Dave Lorenz to discuss options for future water availability for Byron Ponds, health and human safety issues, and other future management topics.

LT Murray Wildlife Area: On Thursday Assistant Manager Hunt met with Professor Mat Novak and a small group of his Advanced GIS students to answer questions, discuss internships, and line up two students to assist us with evaluating the Gnat Flats area acquisition. Our two will begin work on June 23rd, and continue for a 10 week period (16 hours a week on average). We'll meet with them next week to refine goals and expectations and strategize.

Wildlife Management

District 4 Deer and Elk Conflicts: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand monitored elk distribution and movements in Elk Areas 3721 & 3722. Heavy hunting pressure, night time hazing and extreme winds have reduced elk activity from ALE to private lands on the southern flanks of Rattlesnake Mountain. Observations and reports from both hunters and landowners reflect this year to be a very good calf crop.

Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand monitored harvest of DPP permits in Elk Area 3721. Two spike bull elk were reported harvested this week. Total harvest for the summer bull season is 20 bull elk. Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand coordinated with landowners and hunt managers on elk locations to pressure them away from valuable crops.

Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand toured Gilbert Orchards near McNary Dam with their farm manager to identify deer damage problem areas and develop a plan for non-lethal control. The farm has recently planted another 80 acres of a high value apple variety and will continue with hazing, gas cannons and chemical sprays to deter deer activity in the orchard.

District 8 Wildlife Conflict Specialist: Specialist Wetzel worked with the two sheep range riders for the Martinez operations this week in preparation for this summer's work. Several Novatus contracts were worked on this week. One of the Martinez range riders quit and a new rider was hired. The new range rider was contacted and was briefed regarding expectations and duties.

WildComm called to report an injured turkey vulture at the Easton School yard. It had been interacting negatively with schoolchildren in the area. Biologist Moore and Specialist Wetzel retrieved the vulture and brought it to a local vet and rehabilitation facility.

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

Wildlife Areas

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Manager Huffman completed grazing utilization transects on the Emerick Grazing lease on the Worrell Ranch. So far utilization is well below the allotted amount at 10%. Cow use is low for the second year in a row due to a lack of water. The permittee has opened the gates to their private property to the west where there is more water so some of the cows are no longer on the Worrell Ranch and some are moving back and forth. By the end of the month cows should be leaving the area and heading to higher country for the summer.

Assistant Manager Berry met with volunteers from the Oak Creek Wildlife Education Corp (WEC) Thursday morning and assigned routes to drive and pick up trash. Later in the morning AD Pamplin and Lands Division Manager Sprague arrived to assist with the clean-up and were given a route. By 1:00 all the volunteers and staff were back and the bed of the 5-ton truck was mostly full of trash picked up across the wildlife area. Lots of wood and scrap metal was also hauled out. After finishing with the clean-up the WEC gathered for a barbeque at Huffman's residence where Pamplin and Sprague met with the volunteers to thank them for their work and to discuss current issues. The WEC appreciated meeting with Pamplin and got a lot of questions answered. Oak Creek Staff greatly appreciate the annual assistance from the WEC for the clean-up of the wildlife area. It seems that the work is really paying off as the overall trash amount seems to be lower each year.



Colockum Wildlife Area: Colockum Wildlife Area staff assisted with a prescribed fire on Sherman Creek Wildlife Area this week, burning a 100-acre unit to reduce forest fuels and stimulate browse growth. This is good fire experience and meets the requirements to maintain certification for our Incident Qualifications Cards (Red Card).

Assistant Manager Hagan using a drip torch to light fuels during a Sherman Creek prescribed burn.

Hazard Tree Assessment: Assistant Manager Hagan met with Forester Doug Kuehn to discuss hazard tree assessment along green dot roads. John also flagged locations for Engineering to store logs cut down during last fall's road improvement work. These trees are laying along the Colockum Pass Road and need to be removed and stored for future use.

Wenas Wildlife Area: Manager Confer Morris and Assistant Manager Taylor met with Casey Davidson, Engineering, to tag along on his field inspection of the Mellotte bridge. Main concerns on this railcar bridge are the decking and the failing wooden abutments. There is funding to get the bridge re-decked, but not for replacement. It is on the radar screen for replacement. In the meantime, it is considered safe for the winter feed truck, however it is the only crossing structure

to get equipment across to complete the elk fence rebuild this fall/winter, which may become a problem.

LT Murray Wildlife Area: Monday, Manager Winegeart and Assistant Manager Hunt attended a tour for contractors interested in bidding on the Whiskey Dick/Skookumchuck fence project. Bids were opened Wednesday, and only a single contractor – Paladin Enterprises – bid on the project. CAMP staff will need a week or two to get bond/contract information straightened out.

Assistant Manager Hunt spoke with Joe Blazek (DNR Forest Practices District Manager for Southeast Region) regarding RMAP work completed last month. Joe will inspect the culvert removals soon so he can move forward with the associated formal abandonment of some more of our forest roads. Again, these are road systems that have been closed for years, but not formally abandoned.

Sunnyside Wildlife Area: Manager Bjornstrom worked on BPA contracts, requested a limit increase on P-Cards for himself and Assistant Manager Sak for needed purchases related to losses incurred by spring wildfires, reviewed mosquito control reports for Benton County, worked on cleanup efforts at the Sunnyside Headquarters facilities, and researched and purchased equipment and supplies for the wildlife area.

Manager Bjornstrom coordinated a short tour of the wildlife area for staff from Olympia. Wildlife Program Senior Staff held their quarterly meeting in the Tri-Cities and on their return to Olympia took time to meet with wildlife area staff for a short tour and discussion.

Assistant Manager Buser mowed all of the crop field borders and access roads on Windmill Ranch continued to manage irrigation water in wetlands, and confirmed engineering plans from Ducks Unlimited for the Mesa Lake Duck Stamp project.

Assistant Manager Sak and NRT 2 Medina took a trailer load of garbage to the landfill then traveled to Oak Creek Wildlife Area to pick up an ATV and UTV for spraying at the Sunnyside HQ Unit. Assistant Manager Sak took the spray crew for a tour of the focal areas. Manager Bjornstrom met with Tom Wampler, crew lead for the weed control efforts within the fire perimeter. Tom and his crew of three began herbicide application this week and plan to return next week to finish up the initial prescription.



Dave Heimer's spray crew at the Sunnyside HQ Unit

Wildlife Management

NRCS Conservation Planning: Biologist Stutzman attended the 4 day NRCS conservation planning course in Ephrata along with Private Lands Biologists from Regions 1 and 2. Although the majority of the attendees were NRCS or conservation district employees, some attention was given to wildlife habitat concerns. Upon completion of a “training” plan with a mentor, Stutzman and the other attendees will be certified to write conservation plans for NRCS. Stutzman will be assisting NRCS with plans that have wildlife goals in Benton, Franklin and Yakima counties.

REGION 4

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

AirCrow[®] Deployment: Biologist Smith deployed an AirCrow[®] inflatable scarecrow in an attempt to deter elk frequenting a local pumpkin patch. The erratic movements and fan noise associated with the device has been successful in reducing crop visits by other species (birds, deer). The scarecrow and field will be monitored to determine if the device is feasible for this application. Smith also monitored elk/deer activity on other area agricultural fields with the help of deployed trail cameras.



Above: Deployment of an AirCrow[®] device to attempt to deter elk from frequenting a pumpkin patch in King County.



Curious elk investigating trail camera and interrupting important work.

Peregrine Falcon Early Fledge: Biologist Anderson spent an evening with a volunteer monitoring a too early fledged peregrine. The bird was in a largely industrial area with regular railroad, hauling truck, commercial and citizen commuting traffic. The bird had been monitored all day (minus one ½ hour break!) by the volunteer. It had not been fed all day. The female adult had kept watch over the youngster, with the male essentially ignoring the whole situation. Youngster couldn't get more than about 2 feet off the ground and was not working its wings at much to gain strength. Given the lack of attention, traffic, and ongoing harassment/bludgeoning by a pair of Canada Geese with goslings – Anderson took the bird to

rehab. The bird has checked-out fine with a small laceration on its elbow and will likely go into falconry given its good health but bad nest area ground situation and lukewarm attention by adults.

This peregrine falcon went to a rehab facility with a laceration on its elbow and will likely go into falconry given its good health.



Common Loons – Monitoring: Biologists Anderson and Smith spent time investigating potential routes into Lakes Philippa and Isabella for an upcoming check of the lakes for loons. While exploring potential routes, the pair also documented use of the area by Mountain Goats. In addition, Smith checked on a local nesting loon pair and documented the leg banded female incubating on the platform nest while the un-banded male patrolled nearby.



A loon incubating an egg(s) on a platform nest in King County.

Biologist Anderson and Smith scouted for loons at lakes adjacent to known territories. While out they stopped by a known lake that has a pair nesting and confirmed incubation still in progress.



Western Pond Turtle Habitat Survey: Biologists received a report of a western pond turtle in Granite Falls. Although the turtle that was seen is unlikely to be a western pond turtle, biologist Milner conducted a survey at the lake from which it was reported. No turtles were seen and the habitat is marginal.

Double Crested Cormorant Survey: Biologists Danilson and DeBruyn made a trial run through at the colony at Drayton Harbor. Trying several techniques for censusing the birds and nests yielded fairly consistent results. Counting was done from a nearby cannery roof as well as from a boat. Photos taken from a pier were also used to count. No young were visible so it was decided not enter the actual colony which is on a rock jetty. The birds were either incubating or brooding small young. One visual id band was read (below photo) and the information was



relayed to the banding lab. The actual survey will be conducted late this week at what should be the peak of the breeding season.

Double-crested cormorants nesting on the jetty near Blaine were part of a survey completed by Biologists Danilson and DeBruyn



Wildlife Areas

Leque Island Alternatives Analysis and Design Project: Ducks Unlimited and WDFW continue to coordinate with the company contracted to complete the hydrodynamic modeling work for the project and the Stillaguamish Tribe on their adjacent project. Existing conditions have been entered into the model, each of the design alternatives that were discussed with the project Stakeholder Advisory Committee will be run through the model to predict future conditions.

Ebey Island Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm reported that the new ag lease has produced 88 acres of corn field that is sprouting nicely. Additionally, Manager Boehm coordinated access road repairs with the City of Everett. Staff from the City provided a number of truckloads of gravel, big equipment and an operator to repair the road which was damaged by high water during winter. They will also provide some ecology blocks to keep people from driving through the muddy soil that borders the road. When Manager Boehm asked for some assistance, staff from the City stated “we just want to be good neighbors”.



Road work being completed on the Ebey Wildlife Area by the City of Everett that told Manger Boehm “they just want to be good neighbors”.

Stillwater Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager met with Frohning Dairy to discuss field layout for planting next week. Approximately 55 acres has been plowed. Planting is scheduled for this week should the weather hold. A mix of barley, corn, and grass is planned to be planted on the Unit this spring. This marks the first time since 2010 that the Stillwater fields are under crop production. Additionally, Manager Boehm reports that project partner Sound Salmon Solutions has begun invasive weed removal along Harris Creek. Approximately four acres of blackberry were removed in preparation for future herbicide control.

Approximately 55 acres has been plowed on the Stillwater Unit of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area.



Cherry Valley Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm met with staff from Sound Salmon Solutions (SSS) to discuss continued planting and weed control efforts at the Waterwheel Creek restoration project. SSS received new funding to continue the effort over the next three years. Approximately one acre has been prepped for planting later in June. Manager Boehm also met with Frohning Dairy to discuss field layout. Plowing was started on approximately 50 acres. Seasonal mowing was also started at Cherry Valley on the front section of the Unit closest to the parking area.

Lake Terrell Barley Fields: Natural Resource Tech Deyo finished seeding the final 3 acres of barley planted at Lake Terrell. These three acres were too wet for Wilbur Ellis to spread seed on last week. Deyo used a borrowed seed spreader to apply the seed, then disked it into the ground. The original 62 acres of barley have now sprouted, with a nice green carpet of barley growing.



Tech Deyo finished seeding the final 3 acres of barley planted at Lake Terrell

Port of Bellingham Wetland Enhancement Project: Manager Kessler finished mowing the last 5 acres of reed canary grass on the Phase 2 section of the wetland enhancement project area. A total of 30 acres were mowed to keep it from going to seed.

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

Wildlife Management

Elk Habitat Management: Biologist Smith and Anderson provided comments to USFS regarding an initial proposal of timber harvest and management of resulting area for elk forage. There will be more to come as the proposal develops through the public process and further review by state agencies (WDFW, WSDOT).

Spring Special Bear Hunt: Technician Otto and Biologist DeBruyn performed access gate surveys. Technician Otto also collected all access gate locks for the closure of the North Skagit and Monroe Spring Bear hunting season.

Volunteer Coordinator Steven Dazey picked up from volunteer master hunter Mark Harper 100 harvest record collection boxes that Mark had manufactured as part of his required 40 hours of service to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for his Master Hunter Permit renewal.



Coordinator Dazey then delivered the harvest record collection boxes to Land Access Cole Caldwell in La Connor for use this coming bird hunting season. Volunteer Coordinator Dazey and Biologist Caldwell will continue to work together to coordinate volunteer service hours to install the boxes in the appropriate places.



Biologist Caldwell and Volunteer Coordinator Dazey met to exchange the newly finished survey boxes for hunters utilizing Waterfowl Quality Hunt Sites in Region 4.

Waterfowl Quality Hunt Program: Biologist Caldwell finalized efforts to utilize Migratory Bird Enhancement funding in Skagit County. As of 6/13/2014, Biologist Caldwell has confirmed that a total of 165 acres will be planted across Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish Counties.

Biologist Caldwell and Technician Otto met to survey lands in Skagit County for barley planting. At two sites, field structures are not currently optimal for planting barley. These two fields will be continually assessed in the following weeks. Technician Otto assessed field preparation progress at the Harksell Units 1 & 2 (see picture).



Sample site of Biologist Caldwell's efforts to utilize Migratory Bird Enhancement funding in Skagit County.

Pheasant Release Program: Technician Otto measured and collected cost estimates for the Bow Hill Pheasant Release Site. These cost estimates were given to upper management for evaluation.

Spring Bear Hunt Season Closure: Biologist Caldwell spoke with hunters about the upcoming spring bear hunt season closure and confirmed harvest via internet and telephone communications. As of 4/13/2014, four bears have been confirmed as being harvested from the North Skagit area and three bears from the Monroe area.

ADA Access for Wildlife Viewing and Hunting: Biologist Caldwell discussed ADA access options with a willing private landowner in Skagit County. It was determined that this project could be accomplished over a long timeframe. For now, the landowners are going to allow hunting and wildlife viewing on their property and take a stepwise approach to implementing and meeting the standards of ADA access.

Lake Terrell Assistance: Technician Otto assisted Lake Terrell staff with manipulating a water control system on Tennant Lake.

Wildlife Areas

Skagit Wildlife Area Fir Island Farm Pre-Project Monitoring: Projects Coordinator Brokaw and the project consultant uploaded water quality data from each of the water quality loggers on the site. They also completed annual conductivity calibration and maintenance exercises on each logger.

Skagit Wildlife Area Fir Island Farm Construction Funding: Projects Coordinator Brokaw and Habitat Biologist Brian Williams entered information on the 60% design and project studies into a project database called PRISM for review by funding agencies prior to awarding construction funds for the project.

Skagit Wildlife Area Island Unit: Staff coordinated with volunteers for field preparations and plantings, organize and schedule ferry operations, repair and maintain jet sled and other equipment necessary for farming and ferry operation.

Skagit Wildlife Area Leque Island Unit: Sharecrop farmer completed 50 acres of barley planting on the site. Additional acreage will be planted in the next few weeks.

Skagit Wildlife Area DeBay's Slough Reserve and Hunt Unit: Enhancement planting has been completed and the first cutting on the alfalfa is being completed.

Whatcom Wildlife Area Tennant Lake Boardwalk Tour: The non-profit group, The Friends of Tennant Lake & Hovander Park led a field trip tour for 75 kindergarten students at the Tennant Lake Boardwalk. Natural Resource Tech Deyo removed beaver dams on the south end of the lake to make sure the lake water level was low, and the boardwalk was dry for the tour.

Intalco Unit Archery Range Father's Day Tournament: The Custer Sportsmen's Club held their annual Dad's Day Out archery tournament on the Intalco Unit archery range. Manager Kessler helped with the preparations by mowing the archery course and overflow parking area.

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

Wildlife Management

Bald Eagle Management: Biologist Anderson met with USFWS Enforcement staff at the Region 4 office to transfer dead bald eagles and parts to them.

Wildlife Conflicts: Biologist Danilson met with a large commercial berry grower and a much smaller commercial orchardist in Whatcom County. A revised damage prevention cooperative agreement (DPCA) was issued to the berry grower to better address their current concerns about deer damage and human health issues associated with deer in strawberries. A DPCA was also issued to the smaller fruit and nut orchardist, which outlines steps the landowner and the department are taking to address deer issues. A WDFW sponsored volunteer work crew helped the landowner make improvements to his fencing over the weekend.

Danilson followed up on issues associated with DPCA that had been entered in the new Novatus contracting software, communicating with Wildlife Conflicts Section Manager Simek, Fiscal Department personnel, and a landowner with a DPCA that required revision.

Danilson conducted a site review for a bear depredation permit on private industrial timberlands in Skagit County. Because the permit is for lethal bear removal in an area that has already had hound hunting activity, Danilson made contact with local law enforcement, the forester, and the hound hunter associated with the permit request to gain information about previous bear harvest at the site, permit compliance, and the need/justification for additional bear removals.

Hunter Education: Hunter Education Coordinator Steven Dazey traveled to Darrington to evaluate the teaching team there. Observing the first of five sessions there it was determined that the class was well run and follows the guidelines of the Department Of Fish and Wildlife Hunter Education program.



Chief Instructor Ray Franke along with instructor Dan Rankin conducting a hunter education class at Darrington.

Hunter Education Coordinator Steven Dazey conducted the final session of a Pre-Service training in the Lynden area and certified three new volunteer hunter education instructors. For the final session the three new instructors conducted an actual class along with Chief instructor Dave Vanderhoeck and his team. The addition of these three new instructors brings our volunteer team in Whatcom County up to 22 volunteers. One of the new



instructors is from the Lynden Shotgun Club and is planning on starting to conduct classes at that venue again increasing our ability to serve the Whatcom county area with Hunter Education classes.



Volunteer Coordinator Dazey continued to field requests from Master Hunters who are in need of service hours to recertify for the Master Hunter Permit Program. Master Hunters need 40 hours of service to the Department of

Fish and Wildlife to recertify every 5 years. As their deadline approaches, the Master Hunters recertifying this year have increased last minute requests. So far the department has been able to benefit programs from Elk Fencing repair to conflict issues, manufacturing of harvest record boxes, and also to conduct phone surveys as well as other projects. Use of these volunteers has greatly helped DFW staff to maximize their time and efforts.

Migratory Bird Enhancement Projects: Technician Otto delivered barley to enrolled landowners in Whatcom County. He also organized and established timelines with other enrollees and WDFW staff to deliver and implement habitat enhancement measures (e.g. tractor scheduling, weed spraying, etc.)

Wildlife Areas

Samish River Unit: Manager Rotton and Restoration Projects Coordinator Loren Brokaw attended the Skagit County Hearing Examiners meeting for the Samish River Unit Wetland Enhancement Proposal. Representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wetland Biologist Kathy Smith and Project Engineer Erica Fiffer were also in attendance. Skagit County permitting staff recommendation was to approve the request. Neighbors and representatives from agricultural community came out to voice their concerns about the project and potential management of the site. The members of the public that spoke at the meeting did not support the project. The Hearing Examiner will make a determination of the land use change request in the next few weeks; the proponents will have an opportunity to appeal the permit decision.

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

Wildlife Management

Volunteer Management: Biologist Anderson has been in coordination and contact with Woodland Park Zoo Citizen Breeding Amphibian Monitoring Project volunteers as well as Bats Northwest volunteers and a couple interns for ongoing amphibian volunteer management, data documentation assistance, and preparation for upcoming acoustic bat surveys on area WDFW Wildlife Units.

Evaluations: Biologist Milner met with Manager Link to go over last year's expectations and accomplishments in preparation for this year's employee evaluation. Biologist Caldwell and Biologist Milner organized and established performance evaluation materials for Private Lands Access Program Staff. Performance evaluations will be conducted in the upcoming weeks.

First Aid Training: Biologist Danilson participated in a half-day training in First Aid, CPR, and AED at Region 4 headquarters in Mill Creek.

GIS Training: Biologist DeBruyn received GIS coaching from IT Specialist Christopher related to a band-tailed pigeon paper DeBruyn is working on.

Estuary Restoration Symposium: Projects Coordinator Brokaw attended and presented at an Estuary Restoration Symposium in British Columbia. He gave an overview of estuary restoration efforts on WDFW lands in Region 4, and presented a case study on the Leque Island Alternatives Analysis and Design project. Other presenters described estuary restoration efforts in British Columbia.

Snoqualmie Wildlife Areas: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm continues to coordinate with WDFW Master Hunters to provide volunteer opportunities for them. With support from Steve Dazey, the WDFW Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator, two Master Hunters and one additional volunteer continue to remove fallen trees, conduct maintenance on the pheasant pens, and tend to nursery needs over the past week. Plans are being made to improve trail bridges at Cherry Valley and the Stillwater Wildlife Units.

REGION 5

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Sandhill Crane Survey: Biologist Stephens worked with the USFWS Conboy Refuge Staff to conduct surveys of nesting Sandhill Cranes. The survey was conducted from a helicopter and all locations of nests or adult cranes with young were marked for mapping. The USFWS will eventually attempt to band the young cranes (called colts) so that they can be identified individually. Thank you to Hillsboro Aviation pilot Soeren Sauer for the safe and skillful flying.



Conboy NWR Crane Survey Area

Biologist Anderson conducted a site visit to a sandhill crane nest site on private land with the Columbia Land Trust to discuss the potential for a cooperative conservation agreement for protection of the unique wetland habitat. This site is in the upper Rattlesnake Creek watershed, also an important headwater for salmon associated with the White Salmon River. As Biologist Anderson found out, Rattlesnake Creek gets its name for a reason as the photo below exemplifies. The snake sounded off in a defensive posture just as he got in his truck.



Western Rattlesnake in Klickitat County

Black-tailed Deer Research Project: Does and fawns associated with the Black-tail Research Project continue to be monitored through a combination of remote (satellite) and traditional (VHF) equipment. The peak birthing period of late May /early June has resulted in the capture of numerous fawns.

Washougal Study Cluster: All four does in the Washougal cluster have given birth. Seven fawns (out of 8 biologically possible) have been captured from the four Washougal does. Fawns are being monitored for survival three times a week through July.

Coweeman Study Cluster: Four does (out of 7) in the Coweeman cluster have given birth. Six fawns (out of 8 biologically possible) have been captured from the four Coweeman does. Monitoring of the 3 other pregnant does continues in Coweeman study cluster and fawns are being monitored for survival three times a week through July.



Male Fawn 465 in Coweeman Study Area

Wildlife Areas

Range Survey Transects: Technician Davis and Wildlife Area Manager Van Leuven collected data on four range transects located on or near the Klickitat Wildlife Area. This is a long-term big game range quality monitoring project that is designed to show trends in type of vegetation and amount of cover as it responds to various management practices and other influences. Each transect is 500 feet long, with data on type of cover noted on one-foot intervals, as well as the nearest perennial plant at each of those points. Transects are set up in varying habitats.

Hawkweed Management: For the past month, wildlife area staff have encountered patches of mouse-ear and yellow hawkweed (both considered noxious weed species) at various locations on Mt St. Helens Wildlife Area. Both of these species are aggressive competitors for pastureland grasses and desirable forage, and will quickly establish if not controlled. Extensive effort has taken place over the past weeks to manage both species of hawkweed across the entire wildlife area. Areas that were treated last year have not re-established, however surveys continue to find newly dispersed plants.

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

Wildlife Conflict

Bear Damage: Wildlife Conflict Specialist McDonald verified bear damage to conifers on private industrial timberlands in Skamania County. Fresh and historical damage was observed within the stand of trees. (photos).



Bear Damage to Conifers – Historical and Fresh

Conflict Specialist Conklin met with a forester in the Toutle area to verify bear damage to conifers. The stand of timber has sustained damage for the past five years. They have used hound hunters for the past two years to control damage. Conflict Specialist Conklin checked the trail cameras on the Curtis property. She has not captured a bear on camera since installing noise

devices in the area he was most seen in. Conklin advised the land owner last week to install a camera in the old growth area of his forest to determine if perhaps the bear had moved into to a more peaceful area where no alarm systems were installed.

Deer Damage: Conflict Specialists McDonald continued to work with a Klickitat County vineyard owner who had a deer inside his fenced property. The deer and her fawns are now out of the vineyard. Trail cameras are being used to verify that all deer are out of the vineyard. The deer likely jumped over a 6-foot-tall gate (while pregnant) or found a hole under the 8-foot-tall fencing. The landowner has repaired his fences and extended the gates. The deer damaged over 50% of his grape vines and a garden. Conflict Specialists McDonald and Conklin applied Plantskydd to the grape leaves and installed Critter Gitters to deter additional damage on the chance that another deer gets into the vineyard.

Wildlife Deterrent: Conflict Specialist McDonald signed a Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreement with a Goldendale area farmer. The farmer spends a great deal of time hazing deer off of his 15 acre barley-alfalfa field. McDonald supplied him with additional bird bangers and arranged for a Master Hunter to help with hazing efforts.

Wildlife Access

Vancouver Lake: Someone decided to dispose of some paint by throwing it out of a moving vehicle on the entrance road to Vancouver Lake. The paint can hit the pavement, spilled over and rolled before ending up in the ditch in two different locations. Also, someone shot the Discover pass sign and the 4X4 post it was on in the paved parking area. The sign was replaced. In addition, the Lacey crew worked on finishing up the overflow parking area being constructed at Shillapoo Lake.



Lacy Crew at Shillapoo Lake

REGION 6

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Western Pond Turtle Monitoring: District 11 staff and volunteers continue to radio track nesting females. So far, twenty-three nests were located and protected with predator exclosures. Monitoring will continue for four more weeks.

Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Habitat Work: Biologist Ament spent June 11, 2014 with Biologist Hays at the two known TCB sites west of Port Angeles. They spent time at each site

reviewing the habitat restoration work that had been completed by the WCC crew last fall and early this year. They identified tasks that still need to be completed at areas worked and identified sites for new work. Scotch broom has continued to be a problem at both TCB sites. Efforts have been made in the past to control this invasive shrub. Controlling the scotch broom at each site will be a priority for WDFW staff and the WCC crew provided by DNR this fall. It is essential to minimize impacts to established TCB habitat at each site when making the effort to control the scotch broom. Biologist Ament and staff from Biologist Hay's crew will be focused on working in the highly sensitive areas. The priority for the WCC crew will be to work on the scotch broom in less sensitive areas. To meet the requirements from the USFWS, Biologist Hays has requested that Biologist Ament conduct surveys for oviposition sites in all areas with TCB habitat where the scotch broom treatment shall occur. Biologist Ament will be initiating some cutting of small scotch broom plants soon but the major control efforts will be started later this summer.

Scotch broom at known TCB site with Olympic Mountains in the background.



Fisher Study: District 15 biologists set up their first three camera and hair traps in a Fisher unit south of Matlock in Mason County.

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

Wildlife Management

Black Tailed Deer Study, Vail Cluster: Biologist Tirhi spent one day at the Vail study area on fawn captures. Tirhi attempted unsuccessfully to locate one doe that had decreased movements suggestive of fawning to determine if she was still pregnant. Although Tirhi was able to get a current GPS location for the doe and make it thru the thick brush to the doe's location, the doe was gone from the location by the time Tirhi got there. Tirhi was not able to look for pregnancy. Tirhi conducted a thorough search for fawns but found none. Last week marked the last fawn search District 11 will conduct unless computer modelling shows a decrease in movements indicative of fawning for the two remaining does that have yet to fawn.

Black Tailed Deer Study, Pysht Deer Cluster: Six does, three sets of twin fawns (2014), one 2013 fawn and one yearling from 2012 continue to be monitored in the Pysht cluster. No mortalities this past week.

Black Tailed Deer Study, Mason and Satsop Cluster: The Mason cluster has eight does and one yearling on air, while the Satsop cluster has three does and two yearlings still transmitting. Thirteen fawns from seven doe's have been collared this season.

Biologist Murphie reports three mortalities this week; two from apparent coyote predation and one from apparent bear predation based on evidence found on scene. He also reports seeing two

coyote pups and two adults at the site of the first two fawn mortalities (a set of twins). Two does remain as possible candidates for additional fawns for this season. One of these does has shown no fawning behavior, while the other has possibly fawned but no fawns have been found so far.

Mount Rainier Elk Technical Committee: Biologist Tirhi represented WDFW Region 6 at this meeting, whose partners include WDFW Region 5, Mt Rainier NP, Olympic NP, USGS, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, and Puyallup Tribe of Indians. Agenda items included the 2013 surveys, planning for 2014 surveys, and discussion of survey needs in remainder of North Rainier Elk Herd distribution, review of survey protocol/procedures, and overview and discussion of the 2008-11 synthesis report. The group collectively agreed that we would continue the survey in 2014 and 2015. Thereafter, we would survey every other year; WDFW Region 6 and MIT would spend funds on the off year on surveys elsewhere in the North Rainier Elk Herd distribution, most likely hunt area 6013 and GMU 653. On-survey years would involve replicate surveys for both north and south Rainier survey units (considering the synthesis report confirms that replicates are needed to strengthen the results).

Access Areas

Smith Creek: During bridge construction, access staff noticed substantial ramp damage caused by heavy equipment use on the ramp. The contractor admitted to causing the damage and volunteered to help in the repair and pay half of the repair cost as the ramp was in poor shape to begin with.

The contractor (as suspected) did not show up with labor or equipment. Mitchell, Brandon Troyer and Melissa Voss were prepared for this and repaired the ramp during low the tide. Project from start to finish took 4 hours. The contractor will now be contacted with the expectation of paying full cost of the repair.



Left: Before



Right: After

**Below:
Entrance
and Exit**



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

Wildlife Management

Streaked Horned Lark and Olympic Airshow: Biologist Tirhi and CNLM conducted limited nest search for lark nests in the spectator area and safety landing pads required for the Olympic Airshow to proceed last weekend. Neither lark nests nor larks were found in the immediate footprint of either area. Grasslands at Olympia Airport used for nesting by grassland birds.

