

Wildlife Program

Week of July 6 – July 12, 2015

WOLF ACTIVITIES

Region 1 Wolf Activities

Dirty Shirt Depredation: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff and the Stevens County Sheriff's Department investigated two dead cows northeast of Chewelah July 10th. After necropsies and investigation, it was determined both cows were killed by wolves from the Dirty Shirt pack.

Staffing: WDFW staff and range riders worked throughout the weekend alongside a producer and a hired hand.

Livestock Producer Meeting: Wildlife Conflict Specialist (WCS) Bennett and WCS Shepherd met with a landowner near Springdale with questions and concerns regarding wolves. Data sharing agreements, non-lethal deterrents, and wolf working groups were discussed, and Fox Lights were provided.

Large Canid Caught on a Trail Camera in Stevens County: WCS Bennett received a photo of a large canid from a Wildlife Control Operator (WCO) near Ford. Information was shared with other WDFW staff and a meeting with the WCO is scheduled to look for additional sign.



A trail camera photo submitted by a Wildlife Control Operator in Stevens County

Monthly Wolf Conference Call: McCanna, Bennett, Rasley, and Bendixen participated in the monthly wolf conference call where the budget, Wolf Advisory Group, and regional updates were discussed.

Region 2 Wolf Activities

Okanogan Wolves: Specialist Heilhecker attempted to make contact with a rancher regarding wolf location and the status of range riders, but was unsuccessful. Specialist Heilhecker moved a trail camera she had set up for the Lookout pack. She heard at least 3-4 pups howling in the distance. Specialist Heilhecker coordinated with Biologist Heinlen and Sergeant Christensen regarding a report of wolves howling near Green Lake.

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY DIVISION

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

American Badger: Biologists Jeff Lewis and Orrin Duvuvuei finalized and distributed a “Wanted” flyer for information on badgers in eastern Washington. The flyer was sent to east-side regions to facilitate reporting of photo detections and sightings of this species. Tissue sample envelopes will be delivered to east-side regions for regional staff who may opportunistically encounter a dead badger in their travels. Goals of the project are to obtain photo documentation of badgers (live or dead) to clarify their current distribution, and to obtain DNA samples to assess the genetic structure of the Washington population and to determine if Washington badgers immigrate to and support the endangered badger population(s) in the Okanogan and Caribou regions of British Columbia. We will work with biologists with the BC Ministry of Environment, Thompson River University, and a graduate student at the University of BC Okanagan will perform genetic analyses of Washington badgers as part of the project.

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

Sagebrush Songbirds with Audubon Washington: Citizen Science Coordinator Wendy Connally is pleased to report that Audubon Washington, supported by Watchable Wildlife funding, was able to provide expanded project-wide training in May and June to improve data collection, quality and delivery on our eBird Sagebrush Songbirds project. Thirteen leaders from six Audubon chapters were trained and they assessed 100 volunteers’ eBird data entries. Each trained volunteer will follow WDFW-Audubon protocols specifically developed for this project and will contribute many observations of three target and five secondary species. Audubon Washington will be presenting this project at the National Audubon Convention July 10-12 and will submit the final narrative report in August 2015.

REGION 1

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE



Wildlife Management

Common Loons: Assistant District Wildlife Biologist Annemarie Prince worked with the Biodiversity Research Institute and other agency partners on capturing and banding six common loons on three loon nesting lakes within District 1.

Adult common loon with leg bands

District Wildlife Biologist Dana Base checked on other lakes where common loons generally occur within the district in search of breeding season occupancy. These included Yocum, North Skookum, and South Skookum lakes. No loons were observed on either North or South Skookum Lake. A pair of loons was observed at Yocum Lake last month along with an active nest. Loon reproduction at Yocum Lake failed, as there was evidence that a bald eagle preyed upon the eggs in the nest. Evidence of bald eagle predation on common loon eggs was also reported at Big Meadow Lake this season. Lakes that successfully produced juvenile loons this year within District 1 include: Pierre (1), Ferry (1), Swan (2), and Long Lake (2). The juvenile at Pierre Lake was reportedly taken by a bald eagle.

Western Grebe Survey: Biologists Atamian and Lowe took a boat out on Long Lake to search beds of aquatic vegetation for nesting colonies of western grebes. Eighteen birds were sitting on nests in a known colony near the Nine Mile Falls Recreation Area, while the majority of broods were observed a few miles downriver in the Sportsman’s Paradise area.

Western grebe sitting on floating nest near Nine Mile



Western grebe with brood and carrying chick on her back in Long Lake

Lincoln Cliffs Bighorn Sheep: Biologist Lowe continued ground telemetry on bighorn sheep in the Lincoln and Whitestone areas to monitor lamb survival, and spent time talking with locals about their observations. Lamb counts have remained consistent over the last two months.



Bighorn ewes and lambs in Lincoln

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

Wildlife Areas/Water Access Sites

Hog Canyon Access Gate installation:

Young worked on the gate installation at the Hog Lake Access Site with Daro Palmer and Jerry Christensen from Sherman Creek WLA. Young had a bad start by hitting solid rock on the first hole, relocated about five feet, and dug two holes for gate posts. The crew finished installing one post and expects to complete the job on Monday, July 13.



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

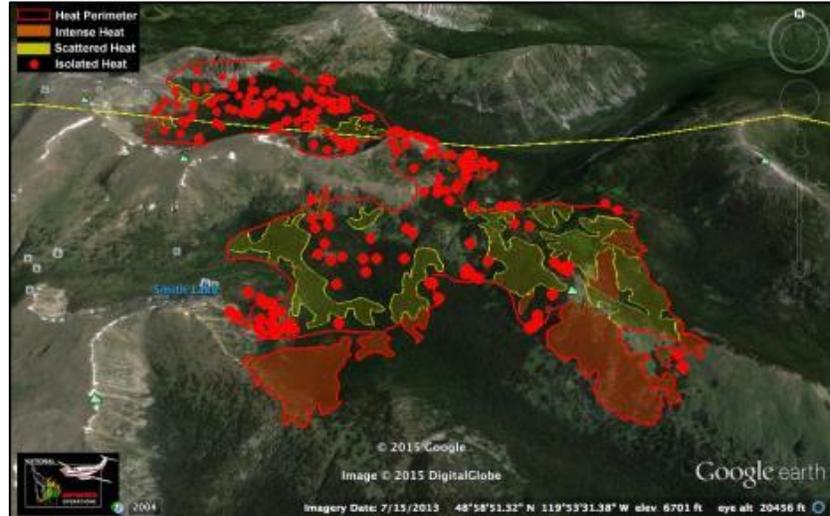
Wildlife Areas/Water Access Sites

Asotin Creek Wildlife Area – Weatherly Grazing project: Wildlife Area Manager Bob Dice and David Woodall spent some time this week working on the Weatherly grazing project. Dice met with prospective bidders to give them an overview of the area and answer any questions they may have had. Three bids were received. Sealed bids were opened Wednesday afternoon by Dice and Woodall. The high bidder was Mike Winroth of Kimberly Black Cattle LLC, CO. Information on the bidding process was sent to Jennifer Maze, who promptly mailed the new permit with Kimberly Black’s name on it for signatures. Dice and Woodall notified the other unsuccessful bidders and thanked them for their participation in our process. Wildlife Area staff will begin moving fence material on site next week for the new permittees use on fixing up stock fences. Dice will work with the new lessee to determine a turn out date.

REGION 2

WILDFIRES

Newby Lake Fire: The Newby Lake fire is burning 15 miles northwest from Loomis, Washington. The lightning caused fire started on July 2, in British Columbia, south of Keremeos in the Snowy Creek Protected Area. The wildfire, pushed by winds to the east and south beyond the international border, moved into the U.S. in the eastern portion of the Pasayten Wilderness. The fire crossed the Loomis State

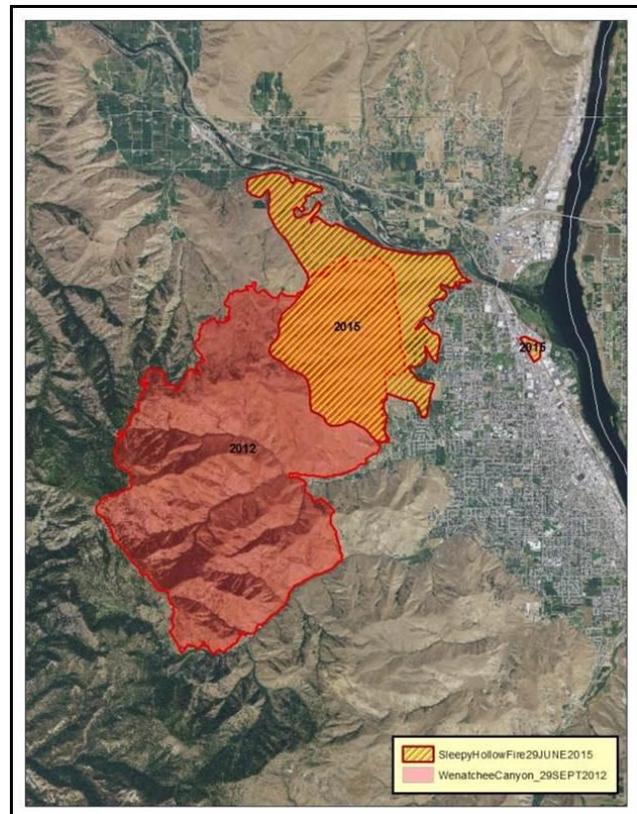


Forest boundary where fire suppression objectives are to minimize acres burned on the Loomis State Forest and to minimize impact to the state forest. Current information about this fire can be found at: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4355/>. The US Forest Service and Washington Department of Natural Resources has implemented closures in the vicinity of this fire. Information about closures can be found at:

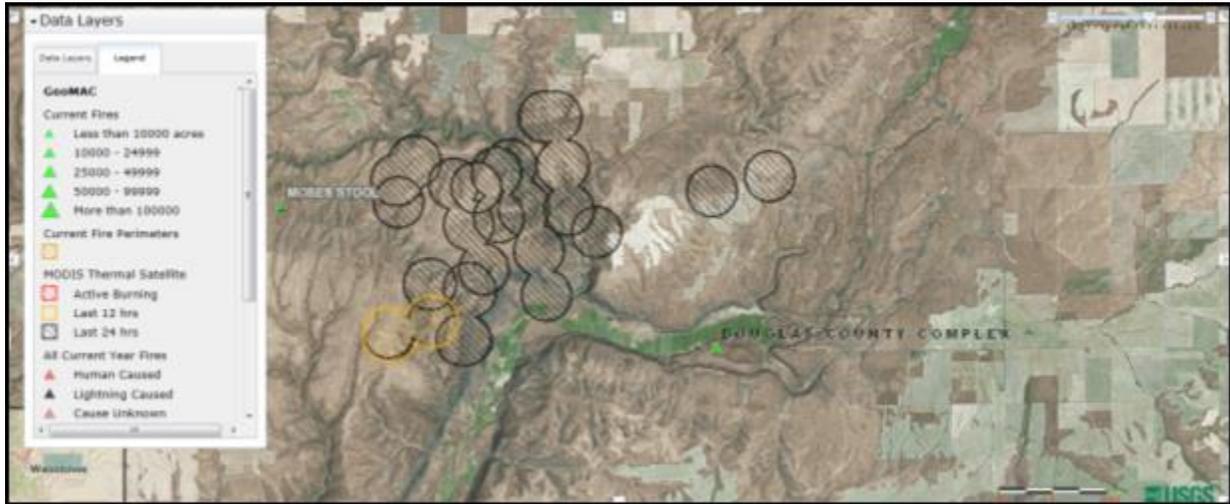
<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/closures/4355/>

Chelan County Wildfire: Wildfires have already left their mark on Chelan. The Sleepy Hollow fire resulted in the loss of 28 homes and multiple industrial facilities in Wenatchee. In native habitat, the fire burned through conservation areas administered by Chelan PUD and the Chelan Douglas Land Trust along the foothills to the west of town. A significant amount of winter range was involved in the fire, some being shrub communities which escaped the 2012 Canyon fire.

Wildfire perimeters showing the overlap of the 2012 Wenatchee Canyon fire with the 2015 Sleepy Hollow fire



Douglas County: Several fires were close to the three pygmy rabbit captive rearing facilities in the last two weeks. Fires were contained before threatening the rabbit enclosures at the sites. The fire coming closest to captive rabbits was in Moses Coulee, which, as of Sunday night, was 1-2 miles from the Sagebrush Flat facility. The winds Sunday evening were blowing toward the WMA; however, the fire has not moved significantly, which may be due to cooler temperatures occurring over the weekend. WDFW staff thanks the firefighters containing the events.



The location of the Douglas County complex fire in relation to the Sagebrush Flat WMA and its pygmy rabbit facilities

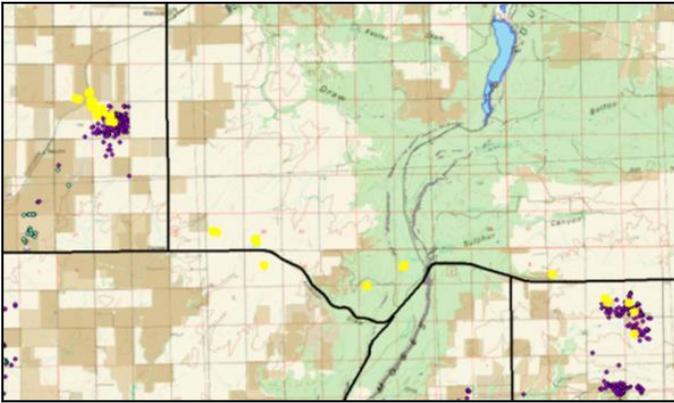


The location of the Beezely Hills and Monument fires in relation to the Beezely Hills pygmy rabbit facilities

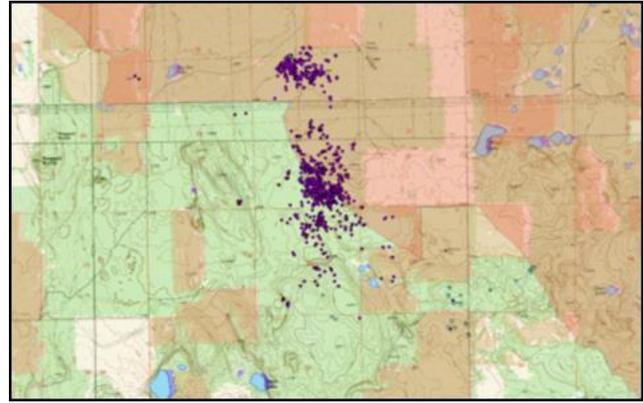
GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Sage grouse GPS Update: Biologist Gallie has been monitoring GPS transmitter data from eight male sage grouse. We had only one mortality in the past three months, and overall survivorship has stabilized since the lekking period ended in May, when male sage grouse are more vulnerable to predation. Since then, nearly 5000 GPS points have been downloaded on these males, showing habitat use patterns, connectivity movements, response to fire recovery areas, and occupancy of areas previously thought to not be occupied by sage grouse.



Connectivity movements by male sage grouse: Yellow points highlighted above show a male sage grouse traveling 15 miles, across Highway 2, across Moses Coulee, across a six-mile block of wheat (cream color on map), and locate a single CRP field in an area we thought was previously uninhabited by sage grouse.



Male sage grouse use of burned (green) and unburned shrubsteppe habitat (red-2012 Leahy-Barker fire boundary). Despite the lack of sagebrush, grouse are still using these lands now dominated by tall bunchgrasses.

Sage Grouse Mortality: Private Lands Biologist Braaten assisted Biologist Gallie with the recovery of a radio transmitter from a sage grouse last week in Douglas County. Private Lands Biologist Braaten assisted district staff in locating the mortality site this week based on the last known location data from the collar.



Radio collar from sage grouse



Sage grouse feathers from mortality site – Photos by Eric Braaten, WDFW

Northern Leopard Frogs: Biologists E. Duvuvuei, O. Duvuvuei, and Finger began eDNA sampling in the Northern Leopard Frog Management Area. The purpose of this sampling is to determine the presence/abundance of *Bactrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (commonly known as chytrids fungus) in the NLFMA in order to compare disease status at the potential release areas.



Biologist E. Duvuvuei collecting water samples for eDNA detection of chytrid fungus – Photo by O. Duvuvuei



Biologists Finger and E. Duvuvuei filtering eDNA from water samples; eDNA extraction and analysis will be completed by the WSU genetics laboratory – Photo by O. Duvuvuei

Pygmy Rabbit Capture/Release Activities: The team continued capture and release activities this week with two events. On Wednesday, we tried the newly modified funnel trap method at the larger Sagebrush Flat breeding enclosure. The funnel traps were shortened and three were used instead of two. We were able to capture 21 rabbits. It is noteworthy to mention that this was accomplished with a small crew of eight in much less time than if we had set traps. The number of rabbits captured would have increased if we would have had 12 people to help with the drives to the nets. The 21 rabbits captured consisted of 17 new kits, one new adult (kit that eluded capture in previous years), and three recap adults. The new adult was given a PIT tag, and all adults were retained in the breeding enclosure. All kits were released to the wild at the Beezley Hills site. On Thursday, we trapped at the Beezley Hills enclosure using the traditional box trap method. We captured 27 rabbits, including 19 new kits, three new adults, and five recap adults. We also captured one rabbit previously placed in the nursery. One of the captured kits was actually hand captured in the edge of a burrow. This kit was moribund and was euthanized and sent in to the lab for disease testing. The remaining 19 kits and one of the new adults were released to the wild in the Beezley Hills. The remaining adults were retained in the breeding enclosure. Thank you to The Nature Conservancy volunteers Bill, Jason, and Mark and Emilio Bustos for their help. We were also assisted by landowner Peter Lancaster.

To date we have processed 372 rabbits, including 308 new kits, 22 new adults (elusive 2014 kits), and 42 recaptured rabbits. We have released 280 rabbits to the wild, including 152 at Sagebrush Flat and 128 at Beezley Hills.

Sunrise over the Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Management Area

Common Loon Management:

Biologist Heinlen monitored the loons at Crawfish Lake to determine chick survival to inform the upcoming banding effort by the Biological Research Institute Biologist. Biologist Heinlen found two adults successfully caring for their two chicks. Banding may occur July 11 or 12.

Golden Eagle Research: Biologist Fitkin assisted Research Biologist Watson with the deployment of a telemetry backpack on a nearly fledged bird from a second Methow Valley territory. A very feisty and healthy young male will now be providing us with valuable movement and territory use data. In addition, we were also able to recover quite a bit of prey information from remains in the nest.



Golden eaglet enjoying a post-capture juicy mouse treat – Photo by Scott Fitkin



Wildlife Areas

Houndstongue Weed Control:

Assistant Manager Sample and a volunteer worked to control several acres with infestations of houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) plants along riparian areas of Riser Lake in the Rendezvous Unit of the Methow

Wildlife Area, as well as the Breed Ag lease just south of Carlton. Plants were found and treated with an herbicide application to kill them and prevent them from going to seed. A large number of plants have already matured to the seed stage, however many young plants were discovered in areas that had been surveyed and controlled in May. Several other species of invasive weeds were treated as well, including burdock ([*Arctium tomentosum*](#)), Russian knapweed (*Rhaponticum repens*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*). A big thank you to our knowledgeable and enthusiastic volunteer!

Sinlahekin Wildlife Area Biocontrol Releases for Purple Loosestrife: Manager Haug performed one biocontrol release on the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area to aid in the control of Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) along the shore of Fish Lake. The release contained 300 *Galerucella pusilla* insects, which will feed on the leaves and defoliate the plants leading to death. Once established, the insects can significantly reduce seed production – important because each plant can produce approximately two million seeds. Thank you again to Jennifer Andreas with WSU Extension and the Integrated Weed Control Project for providing the insects. WDFW is very appreciative!

Private Lands/Access

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE): Biologist Comstock and Biologist Braaten visited the Road 6 fire to assess the damage to SAFE fields in the burned area. The fire started June 29 and burned approximately 2,000 acres of private lands, including CRP, rangelands and wheat fields. Biologist Comstock mapped all the fire breaks within SAFE fields that would need to be rehabbed and she made an approximate map of the fire boundary. Ten acres of fire breaks will need to be rehabbed this fall. Biologist Comstock discussed the process for rewriting the plan for this SAFE field with FSA. Biologist Comstock sent out forb area maps to operators and updated conservation notes with approved forb seed mixes. Biologist Comstock contacted a landowner and Grant County FSA about some issues with a few SAFE fields.



Road 6 Fire mosaic burn pattern



Road 6 Fire firebreak, which will need to be rehabbed

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

Private Lands

Youth Hunt: Biologist Dougherty was asked to reach out to a landowner in the hunter access program to gauge their interest in allowing a youth pheasant hunt sponsored by the Grant County Pheasants Forever Chapter. The only limitation was that the landowner in question is infamously difficult to get ahold of. However, after only one voicemail, the landowner returned the call and was thrilled about the prospect of hosting a youth hunt. Biologist Dougherty ran through the details and told the landowner that he would be kept up to date as the finer points are worked out.

Access

Access Maintenance: The gates to Jameson Lake public access are now locked to vehicle traffic. Gates will reopen when fishing season starts up on October 1. Access Manager Graves installed invasive aquatic vegetation signs along the Wenatchee River and throughout the Columbia Basin.

Peshastin public access, installing invasive aquatic vegetation signs – Photo by Joe Graves



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

Wildlife Management

Mourning Dove Captures and Banding: Volunteers Parker Haug and (Uncle) Leo Todd aided Assistant District Biologist Heinlen in baiting and capturing mourning doves near the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area Headquarters (see picture below). The group captured two doves – both juveniles – and will continue to capture until the middle of August. The capture effort is part of a larger regional project.



Biologist in-training Haug takes instruction from Biologist Heinlen on how to band doves – Photos by Justin Haug

Methow Beaver Restoration Project:

Biologist Fitkin joined the crew on a beaver release on the Methow Wildlife Area. The crew placed a male-female pair at an excellent site in an island of unburned habitat within last year’s Carlton Complex Fire area. In addition to the usual benefits of wetland enhancement and water quality/storage improvement, establishing a beaver dam complex at this site would provide invaluable flood control benefits in this fire-scarred area.

**Recently this long-running project received the prestigious Riparian Challenge Award from the American Fisheries Society recognizing excellence in riparian restoration/management. Congratulations to the WDFW field crew, Project Leader Kent Woodruff (USFS), and all of our other partners!*



Beaver crew delivering critters to their new site – Photo by Scott Fitkin



Verdant new beaver home on the Methow Wildlife Area – Photo by Scott Fitkin

Wildlife Areas

FEMA/Carlton Complex: Manager Furnari spent a day checking the status and verifying the GPS coordinates of burned fences within the Methow SSW project area. She took a couple hours to determine a fence line was missed near Davis Lake and then she spent another ½ day with neighbor Charlie Lehman to review & GPS questionable areas along our shared boundary/fence line. This included locations that were part of a land swap after the burn. He provided the transportation through his land via his UTV. He indicated our hired contractors could travel through his land for the pre-bid meeting and when the time comes to rebuild. She downloaded the GPS unit and photos she'd taken and will work next week to make sense out of it and create GIS maps & Excel spreadsheets for CAMP staff.

Mr. Lehman reviewing a shared, fire-damaged boundary line fence – Photo by Sherry Furnari



Okanogan Valley Wildlife Areas Planning

Team Meeting: Manager Haug, Scotch Creek Manager Olson, and Lands Operations Manager Swedberg met with WDFW planners Demorest and Posner to begin outlining the new combined wildlife area plan for the two areas. They met the entire planning team, which consisted of members of the district team representing the Wildlife, Habitat, and Enforcement programs. The group discussed the general outline of the plan and what items need to be included from each representative from the group. Manager Haug will begin writing the plan ASAP and throughout the summer/fall and hopefully have a draft finished by later this year.

Cool Photos from Cool Staff



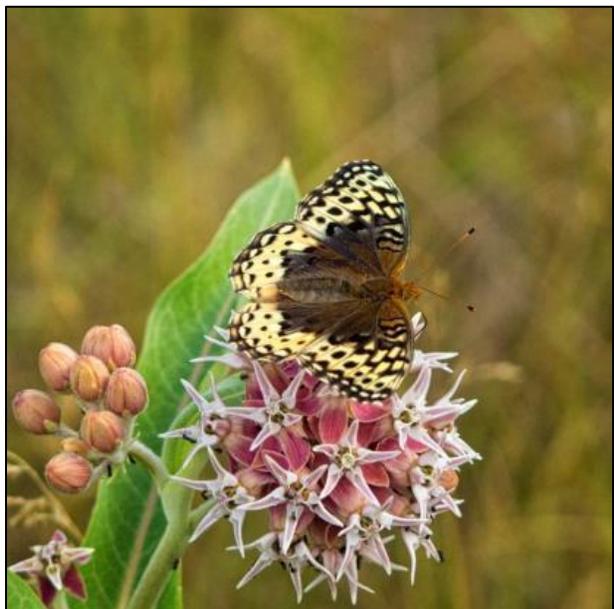
Wild turkey hen with brood in Douglas County – Photo by Eric Braaten, WDFW



Badger in Douglas County – Photo by Eric Braaten, WDFW



Marble sized hail at Lost Lake, July 10, 2015 – Photos by USFS





From Top to Bottom – A trio of Mule Deer bucks near Fish Lake, smoke from the Newby Lake fire blanketing the Sinlahekin, a female Calliope Hummingbird near the wildlife area residence, a Great Spangled Fritillary butterfly on milkweed near Connors Lake, a swallowtail and monarch butterfly in same milkweed patch, a long monarch butterfly sunning on downed pine branch, a kingfisher perched above Blue Lake, and trio of raccoons keeping a close eye on me west of Connors Lake – Photos taken on the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area by Justin Haug (except hummingbird photo by Parker Haug)

REGION 3

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Areas

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Manager Huffman and Assistant Manager Berry spent a day spraying Canada thistle in a sub alpine meadow on the Rock Creek Unit. The infestation took more herbicide than originally thought, as Huffman and Berry sprayed 75 gallons using their backpacks in one day. Berry returned the following day and sprayed the area with the boomless nozzles on the spray truck. One more day treating with backpacks around the edges will be needed.

Assistant Manager Berry spraying Canada thistle in a sub alpine meadow on the Rock Creek Unit



Rock Creek Unit RMAP Work:

Manager Huffman checked on completed RMAP work in the Rock Creek Unit and looked for trespass cows from the adjacent grazing allotment. Huffman found at least seven pairs of cows on DFW land and attempted to contact the operator about removing them. He was not home and has not returned the phone call. This is the second attempt to contact him about trespass cows where he has not called back. Most areas on WDFW and Forest Service lands in the area show signs of livestock use. Even the meadow in the above picture, which is three miles straight west of the allotment boundary, had sign of livestock use.

Oak Creek Commercial Timber Sale: Forester Mackey completed compliance checks for the Oak Creek Commercial timber sale. Log hauling finally began this week. No additional harvest is taking place due to fire hazard conditions. Crews are processing already downed trees and hauling logs. It is expected that the IFPL level will go to a four this coming week with all work being shut down.

Wildlife Management

Benton County Burrowing Owl: District Biologist Fidorra coordinated with a private landowner in Benton County to arrange access to property where a satellite tracked burrowing owl appeared to be residing. The owl was a female tagged in Franklin County in June 2013. This bird provided valuable data to a collaborative research project studying owl movements across many western states. She made annual migrations from her breeding site in Washington State to the offshore Channel Islands of southern California where she spent her winters! Fidorra and a volunteer from the Global Owl Project were surprised by their success in locating an active nest burrow in the center of the fallow wheat field and capturing this female along with four of her

offspring early in the morning. The transmitter was removed from the owl and she was quickly released along with her young.



Satellite tagged Burrowing owl showing minor wear from transmitter on wing (left). The transmitter was still properly in place after two years (upper right) and was removed. The female was captured along with four of her offspring (lower right).

Dove Banding: District Biologist Fidorra conducted dove banding at the Ringold Fish Hatchery two mornings this week and captured 102 doves (including recaps), most of which were hatch-year birds. Hatchery Specialist Roberts assisted with baiting efforts. Dove banding will continue through August 15.

Franklin County Bat Monitoring: District Biologist Fidorra deployed two bat detectors for the WDFW Bat Monitoring project in Franklin County. This starts the second of three rounds of surveys at locations this summer.

Potholes Canal Duck Brood Survey: District Biologist Fidorra conducted the annual Potholes Canal Duck Brood Survey this week. Eight broods were detected, which seemed comparable to previous years. Data was submitted to Waterfowl Specialist Wilson.

Landowner Projects: Stutzman contacted six landowners about EQIP habitat projects and/or CRP SAFE. Predictably, everyone's focus is currently on harvest and any conservation decisions

are secondary, but a couple landowners did show interest and Stutzman will circle back after harvest.

Dove Banding: Biologist Bernatowicz trapped doves in Union Gap most of the week, with average success. A total of 103 new bands were put out. The total for the year is now 107, with 50 adults and 57 juveniles banded. The number of adults banded is much higher than any previous year. There were three adults captured that had been banded in previous years and 20 Eurasian collared doves caught.

A mix of Eurasian Collared and Mourning doves

Western Gray Squirrel: Biologist Bernatowicz checked tubes on four transects, finding no western gray squirrel and minimal small mammal hair. Cameras have detected various rodents that don't seem to be interested in the walnuts. Bear, deer, and elk have been consistent visitors on most transects.



Deer Study: Muckleshoot Biologists responded to a radio collared deer mortality in the Naches drainage. The deer had some signs of Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD/AHD). Samples were collected and sent to WSU. The hot, dry conditions may result in more disease mortality in deer this year. Last year, two deer died of Hemorrhagic disease.

Western Gray Squirrels: Biologist Moore finished the second round of visits to his western gray squirrel transects. Only three tubes had snagged some hair, although it is not believed to be from any western gray squirrel. Hair samples will be sent in to be sure they are identified correctly.

Bighorn Sheep Data Collection: Biologist Moore volunteered to collect bighorn sheep telemetry data from each bighorn sheep manager that has populations associated with or in close proximity to the Wenatchee Okanogan National Forest. Once these data are collected they will be sent to the Forest Service to be analyzed using a Risk of Contact Model. The model was developed by the USFS and informs managers on the potential risk of contact between bighorn sheep populations and domestic sheep on grazing allotments.

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

Wildlife Areas

Colockum Wildlife Area: Central Washington University archaeology students continued their field school work on the Colockum this week. The students are now halfway through their six-week summer course. This week they began working to survey an area that is planned for a future timber enhancement project. Some of the prehistoric items found this week include portions of broken projectile points and flakes of obsidian and petrified wood. Historic artifacts found included mainly tin cans and glass. Colockum staff continued to coordinate with the group through a daily check-in to keep everyone apprised of weather and smoke conditions and locations of nearby fires.



Central Washington University archaeology students working on the Colockum Wildlife Area



The rear half of a broken projectile point found by CWU archaeology students on Colockum Wildlife Area

Wildlife Management

Elk Hazing: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand completed two late evening\early morning elk hazing patrols along the southern boundary of Hanford. Over 50 elk were hazed out of wheat fields and redirected back to Hanford on each patrol.

Elk Pressuring: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand coordinated with landowners and hunt managers on elk locations to pressure the elk away from valuable crops.

Rattlesnake Mountain Damage Assessment: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand coordinated with one crop adjuster on scheduling to complete a possible damage assessment in a winter wheat field on Rattlesnake Mountain.

Apple Orchard Inspection: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand inspected one newly planted high density apple orchard near Prosser that has a history of deer and elk damage issues. So far, only minor deer activity has been observed.

Deer Damage: Conflict Specialist Wetzel met with a landowner in Thorp about deer damage to row crops. This landowner has a cooperative fencing agreement on one parcel, which has been effective. At a second area, measurements and calculations were made to construct another fence to prevent deer damage, which should completely eliminate future deer issues.

Rabbit Depredation: Conflict Specialist Wetzel met with a landowner in Ellensburg that called to report a cougar had killed her rabbits. No evidence supported any kind of cougar or bobcat activity, however evidence of dogs was found. Dog tracks, scratch marks, feeding activity, and the many dogs at the location pointed to some type of domestic canine involved in the rabbit kill.

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

Wildlife Areas

Colockum Wildlife Area: Hagan and Adams walked and inspected 6.5 miles of the north boundary fence that was rebuilt by a CAMP contractor after the 2013 Colockum-Tarps Fire. This was a final inspection by wildlife area staff. They will walk another three miles next week and then Hagan will write up a report for Engineering.

This is a portion of the newly built northern boundary fence on the Colockum Wildlife Area. The fence was built with all-steel construction to prevent fire damage in the future.



Wenas Wildlife Area: Manager Confer Morris worked with PLS (contractor) on language and conservation measures for the aerial herbicide application BA. She also spent time reviewing herbicide risk assessments and adjuvant information, as well as drift reduction technologies.

Clemans Mountain Fire: Assistant Manager Taylor responded to a fire on Clemans Mountain, a holdover from a lightning storm. It was just over the line into a DNR section and quickly contained by DNR fire.

Sunnyside Wildlife Area Fire: Assistant Manager Taylor also responded to a fire on the Sunnyside Wildlife Area, after a request by Sergeant Grant.

REGION 4

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Western Toad Surveys: Biologist Milner searched for western toad tadpoles at Dugualla Bay on Whidbey Island. We have had excellent leads from local landowners that this large site supports breeding toads. No tadpole schools were observed, but low water levels made a thorough search impossible. It's unclear whether eggs and tadpoles were able to develop before water levels dropped. Milner will work with a landowner who typically sees migrating toadlets on his property in normal years to try to track the situation this year. District 13 staff attempted to conduct western toad surveys at Twin Lakes on the Jim Creek Naval Reserve but road construction blocked the way to the sites.

Western toad survey site. Dugualla Bay is much shallower than in normal years, especially around the perimeter.



Jim Creek Wildlife Surveys: A pika survey at the established sites resulted in no animals seen or heard, which is not unexpected because of the warm weather and time of day staff were there. Water levels in Jim Creek were extremely low, as expected.

Biologist Cyra surveying occupied pika site at Jim Creek



USFWS Detectability Marine Waterfowl Surveys: Assistant District 13 Biologist Cyra continued data transcription and processing data from these surveys.

WDFW-USFWS Biologist and Enforcement Coordination – Wildlife viewing and threats to wildlife: Biologist Anderson, Biologist Milner, Officer Jorg, and Sgt. Maurstad coordinated with USFWS biologists and enforcement to provide follow-up and outreach regarding a situation in the Skykomish area. Multiple reports came in regarding a vagrant crested caracara. The crested caracara is a great looking bird attracting a host of birders/listers to observe it this far north. Generally, these birds are found in SW areas of the USA, such as Texas or Arizona, but



this one went on a confusing jaunt. A landowner apparently made some threats to wildlife watchers as well as in regards to the bird. Outreach was provided to the birding community as well as the landowner. WDFW wildlife viewing ethics and information for education on how to watch wildlife and be around wild animals responsibly can be found here: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/viewing/responsible/>

A tropical falcon version of a vulture, the crested caracara reaches the United States only in Arizona, Texas, and Florida. A vagrant crested caracara has been making a stir in birding communities in Region 4 – Photo taken in Costa Rica

Common Loon Nesting and Fledge Status:

Biologist Anderson received a report from Seattle Public Utilities staff regarding a young common loon and an adult on Rattlesnake Lake. Anderson surveyed the lake and found a young bird – seemingly flightless and attaining flight feathers. Over the past four seasons, one to two adult loons have been observed on Rattlesnake semi-regularly. This year SPU staff reported relatively regular occurrences of adult loons. It appears there may have been breeding at this lake. More monitoring of the behavior, interaction with other loons, and better looks at plumage molt status will help confirm this.

Anderson and District 11 Biologist Tirhi surveyed Lynch and Calligan for a nesting status update. They observed a three week old chick and both adults on Lynch. Looks like a successful year for that lake. Calligan had both adults. The male was patrolling and defensive near the nest site. The female was on the nest. The egg should have hatched the weekend of July 11. Monitoring will confirm if the chick is present. Anderson was informed by Tacoma Water and the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the successful status of six week old chicks on the Howard Hanson Reservoir. Thus far, a pretty good (although timing of each pair is all over the board) year for D12 loon reproduction, with perhaps a new territory. This would mark two new territories in three seasons if it is confirmed.



The male loon at Howard Hanson Reservoir diving off the floating log boom. WDFW knows this is the male due to banding efforts – Photo by R. Lucas ACOE



The female loon at Howard Hanson Reservoir climbing up on the nest to incubate. WDFW knows this is the female due to banding efforts – Photo by R. Lucas ACOE

Bald Eagle and Heron Colony Management: Biologist Anderson and Blatz provided internal and external data for a project proposed near the Black River area in Renton. Anderson provided a number of present reports of nesting herons and eagles (all needing field confirmation and updates for data incorporation) to the consultant party.

Heron Management in Kenmore: Biologist Anderson worked with Habitat Biologist Peace in efforts to provide a heron management plan to the city of Kenmore. Habitat Program is working to take on these duties – Biologist Peace was great at following-up on this and asking questions when needed. Look forward to more collaborations that provide for shifting these duties from Wildlife to Habitat.

Beaver Management Issues: Anderson also consulted with Habitat Biologist Heller regarding ongoing beaver management issues in Lake Forest Park. Anderson provided thoughts on current beaver considerations in light of any HPA stipulations and approvals. Again, a very welcome collaboration and a big thanks to Habitat.

State Consultation: Anderson provided state consultation for Endangered, Threatened, Sensitive, and Protected species, as well as any other Priority Species and Habitats, to King County Housing Authority per their request for consultation on a proposed project. One can assist WDFW with keeping tabs on these numerous nesting species via reporting at our Wildlife Observation Website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/viewing/observations/>

Landscape Initiatives – Mountains to Sound Greenway: Biologist Anderson worked with Biologist Azerrad to flesh out a summary of WDFW involvement and overall benefits of collaborative work to conserve natural lands within the Mountains to Sound Greenway via that nonprofit. Anderson summarized involvement, initiatives, outcomes, and ongoing work. This group does much to collaborate with land managers, the public, private entities, governments, and other nonprofits to keep portions remaining of the “Mountains to Sound Greenway” area in natural lands working for the resource and retaining wildlife and recreational value. More can be learned here: <http://mtsgreenway.org/>

Band-Tailed Pigeon Mineral Springs Monitoring: Biologists Yarborough and DeBruyn conducted band-tailed pigeon surveys at two separate sites in Skagit County. These counts are conducted annually statewide and provide an estimate of population trends. There is one remaining mineral spring in the district to survey during the allotted time window.

Avian Influenza Surveillance: Biologist DeBruyn submitted a box of bald eagle carcasses to the National Wildlife Health Center for HPAI testing.

Wildlife Areas

Ebey Island Unit: The Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager toured the agricultural portions of the unit this week to observe the crops that are planted for harvest and for wildlife forage and cover. The organic bean fields are growing well, and the spring wheat is ripening in the summer heat. Approximately 75 acres of corn, barley, and millet planted for wildlife are also coming up nicely.

Lake Terrell Osprey Nest Platforms: Manager Kessler and Natural Resource Tech Deyo met onsite with Wildlife Biologist Paul DeBruyn and Puget Sound Energy Biologist Mel Walters to pick out optimal trees on Lake Terrell for installation of osprey nest platforms. Two trees were identified that will work well for nest platforms, and one tree was identified as a good perching tree. The project will be a collaboration between WDFW and PSE and will be completed before next year’s nesting season.

Tansey Ragwort Control: Natural Resource Tech Deyo worked to control noxious Tansy Ragwort on the Intalco Unit. Due to the plants beginning to go to seed, Deyo was prepared to cut and bag the Tansey’s flowering heads. Deyo was surprised to see the plants covered with Cinnabar Moth larvae, eating the flower heads. Cinnabar moth larvae are one of the most successful bio controls for noxious weeds. They do an excellent job in controlling Tansey Ragwort. This was the first time in at least five years that Cinnabar Moth larvae were found at this site, and they made it there on their own.

Cinnabar moths on the Intalco Unit of the Whatcom Wildlife Area

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

Wildlife Areas

Cherry Valley Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm reported that seasonal mowing continued at the unit until the driveshaft for the mower failed. Manager Boehm is working with Drivelines Northwest to rebuild and repair the driveshaft. The parking lot and the dog training area received first priority. Manager Boehm also continues to coordinate the dike breach repair project with the Drainage District. The project is planned to begin construction in July.



Crescent Lake Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm reports that the free truckloads of wood mulch continue to roll in. Volunteer Mark Ryder is coordinating the effort. The mulch will be used to improve the interior trail system in the unit. Manager Boehm also met with a Boy Scout to advance an Eagle Scout project that will provide interior trail signage for the unit.

Island Unit: Manager Rotton and Cosgrove walked to the Island Unit to look at the how the agricultural and native plant crops are responding to this warm, dry summer. So far conditions look very good, with lots of diverse forage opportunity. Cosgrove completed field manipulations on the Island Unit. About 15-20 acres of low elevation areas dominated by reed canary grass and cattails were disked, chisel plowed, and cultipacked. Areas were not seeded. Cosgrove is hoping that beneficial waterfowl plants such as millet and smartweed will sprout in these areas.

Samish Unit: Manager Rotton and Meis toured the ponds on the Samish Unit and discussed a plan for pond rehabilitation. This season's dry conditions provide the opportunity for setting back some of the rank perennial vegetation and providing more annual vegetation with an open water component. Meis mowed 20 acres of the Samish Unit to control noxious weeds and to reduce the amount of rank grass. Meis and Cosgrove sprayed thistles and other noxious weeds around field edges on the western portion of the unit. Cosgrove and Meis continued a multi-year project of surveying, monitoring, and manipulating vegetation in the ponds at the Samish Unit. Good results are being seen on ponds that are repeatedly mowed in the summer and flooded during the winter. Dominate vegetation has changed from cattail to marsh dock (*Rumex palustris*), with smaller areas of cattail, *Carex*, smartweed, bullrush, goosefoot, and millet.



Samish Pond 7/2014



Same Samish Pond 7/2015

Skagit Headquarters: Cosgrove mowed areas at the Headquarters Unit, including the entrance road and spur dike trail. Meis mowed grass areas around the shop and interpretive center areas.

Wildlife Skins and Skulls Display: Manager Kessler worked with the Friends of Tennant Lake & Hovander Park and held a display of wildlife skins and skulls at Tennant Lake. The event was well attended, with many school aged children checking out the skins and skulls and asking many questions.

Reed Canary Grass Field Mowing: Natural Resource Technician Deyo continued mowing reed canary grass in fields at the Lake Terrell and Intalco units. Fields are mowed to weaken the reed canary grass and prevent it from going to seed. The field grass will grow back some by the start of pheasant hunting season, and will be at a height that provides good cover for the birds.

Private Lands/Access Management

418 Elk Hunt: Biologist Hans finalized a key exchange with the private timber company representative and discussed hunter packet preparation with Natural Resource Technician Otto.

Spring Bear Hunt: Biologist Hans finalized and sent out the 2015 summary report to participating stakeholders. She also compiled a brief report for the Private Lands Access Team which was finalized and sent out to them for feedback.

Partner Collaboration: Biologist Hans contacted staff at the Whidbey Island Camano Land Trust to inquire about recently acquired properties. The finalization of this acquisition will impact future diversity and deer hunt contracts that the team has on Whidbey Island.

Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator

Hunter Education: Hunter Education Coordinator Dazey followed up on a survey monkey survey requesting information from chief instructors on their firearms needs to conduct live fire at classes. Department policy dictates that all live fire exercises after January 1, 2017 must use department issued firearms. To insure that the hunter education division is adequately stocked

with firearms to meet this requirement an online survey was issued. Dazey followed up with those instructors who had not completed the survey to learn if they would need firearms to continue their classes and if they used live fire as part of their instruction. Some classes do not offer live fire due to the restrictions of their venue. It appears that most of the chief instructors who had not responded to the survey teach at venues where live fire is restricted.

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

Wildlife Management

Hunting Season Inquiries: District Biologists continue to respond to numerous hunter inquiries.

Great Blue Heron Rookeries: Biologist DeBruyn spoke with several land owners who live near heron colonies that had concerns about potential development issues. Follow up documentation was discussed.

Region 4 Ungulate Damage: Biologist Smith responded to calls from residents of King County regarding elk damage. Damage occurred to a variety of crops, gardens, and infrastructure (fences). Non-lethal measures to deter elk from entering properties were discussed. Smith also constructed temporary electric fencing for loan to protect pumpkins in the Auburn area.

Wildlife Conflict Management: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Witman coordinated with co-managers for additional elk fencing supplies for landowners in the Day Creek area of Skagit County. Specialist Witman and Natural Resource Technician Cogdal met with a landowner in the Birdsvie area of Skagit County and walked his property surveying elk damage and discussing possible long term solutions to the property. The property has been a long term elk damage area in the heart of the Skagit Valley floor. Supervisor Caldwell and Specialist Witman continue to field deer damage calls from throughout the region, especially from within the city limits of Anacortes. Conflict Specialist Witman and Conflict Supervisor Caldwell will meet soon to discuss strategies on reducing complaints.

Private Lands/Access Management

Volunteer Coordination: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Witman and Natural Resource Technician Cogdal coordinated with Master Hunter volunteers and completed a deer fencing project for an apple orchard in Skagit County. The landowner provided all the supplies. Consultation and installation was provided for the project by WDFW and Master Hunter volunteers. The landowner was very pleased with the response from WDFW and the work done by the Master Hunter volunteers.

Wildlife Areas

Ebey Island Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm reported a small dumping and evidence of homeless campers living on the unit to WDFW Enforcement. This on-going

problem has resulted in numerous calls to the area which resulted in citations issued and arrests for outstanding warrants.

Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator

Hunter Education Instructor Support: Hunter Education Coordinator Dazey assisted Instructor Ira Gross in conducting an on-line field skills evaluation. At the evaluation, Dazey met with a new instructor applicant and helped him to fill out the required paperwork. The applicant recently returned from mainland China where he has lived for several years. It is hoped that the new applicant will help us to better serve the Chinese community here who are looking to take hunter education and speak English as a second language. Dazey assisted a new instructor to hook up with and establish a team in the south King County area. Coordinator Dazey assisted a bilingual instructor to set up a class for students who speak Spanish and English is a second language.

Pre-Service Training: With a high volume of applicants in the Snohomish/King County area, Hunter Education Coordinator Dazey arranged a venue and scheduled a pre-service training at the Boy Scout camp near Lake Roesiger in late August. Hunter Education Coordinator Dazey started to receive interest from Hunter Education applicants to sign-up for the newly scheduled pre-service training classes.

Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator: Volunteer Coordinator Dazey presented a short talk and power point at the Region 4 meeting on his work as a hunter education coordinator and also on his volunteer coordination efforts. Immediately following the meeting, Dazey received requests from staff for assistance on projects they had coming up. Projects included work on the Snoqualmie wildlife area, a painting project in Seattle, and scanning of documents for a PDR request. Dazey was able to immediately find a volunteer to assist on the PDR project. Work is ongoing to recruit for the other projects.

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

Wildlife Management

Regional Meeting: The Region 4 meeting and awards ceremony in Mill Creek was well attended and several staff received awards.

Volunteer Recruitment Help: Coordinator Dazey assisted other hunter education staff who had requested help on a presentation they planned to make. Dazey forwarded power points that he had prepared for Region 4 presentations that the Region 6 coordinator could modify for his use.

Hunter Education Staff Assistance: Coordinator Dazey assisted staff in compiling a report showing stats on no-shows, on-line vs traditional classes, pass/fail rates, and other data that will better enable us to track trends and respond to the needs of hunter education students.

REGION 5

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Drought/Fires: Biologist Anderson provided DNR and USFS with recommendations on critical resource issues related to the Horseshoe Lake Fire on the west side of Mt. Adams. The support teams for the fire are stationed out of Trout Lake, including water trucks and helicopter bucket support crews. Initial concerns to WDFW were the plans to withdraw water from the Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve where the current drought has reduced or eliminated critical wetlands that support the endangered Oregon Spotted Frog. After consultation with the DNR and USFS, alternative watering sites in the Trout Lake Valley were located that avoided impacts to key aquatic species like the Oregon Spotted Frog. This exercise brought to light the competition for water resources during a drought and fire year.

Drought at Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve

Western Gray Squirrel Project:

Biologists Doorly and Stephens conducted a first check of western gray squirrel hair tubes that were set out in Camp Bonneville last month. This monitoring effort is



part of a state-wide study to determine the range of western gray squirrels. This information will be used in conducting a status review for this state-listed species.

Pika Management: Biologist Anderson and Habitat Biologist Fornes developed management recommendations for the proposed Blue Lake rock mining project in Skamania County. The proposed project is located in low elevation pika habitat Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Since pikas are considered a special management species in the Gorge, WDFW has the opportunity to provide recommendations and mitigation for minimizing impacts during the operation. Based on our discussions with several pika experts in the western US, we recommended that operations take place in the winter between Nov 15- January 31st and that mitigation be required that created three-four rock piles (18” – 30” boulders) at least eight feet deep and at least 65 feet across. We recommend a mix of rock sizes and the addition of large logs on top of the rocks to offer surveillance sites for pikas. These island refugia are considered the minimum habitat patches required to support a breeding pair of pika and to provide dispersal corridors.

Pika in Columbia River Gorge Habitat

Band-tailed Pigeon Mineral Site

Survey: Biologist Bergh completed the annual band-tailed pigeon mineral site survey at the Cedar Creek Wildlife Area. Bergh and Wildlife Area Manager Hauswald visited the mineral site the week before and observed very dry conditions. A few birds were seen and lots of feathers and scat indicated that the pigeons could still use the site despite the lack of water. Weather conditions on the day of the survey were very good and the count of birds visiting the mineral site went well. The total count of pigeons was slightly lower than average, which may be explained by the dry conditions or the Trichomoniasis mortality event in California where the birds winter. The Cedar Creek mineral site is one of 15 sites surveyed in the state as part of the Pacific Flyway's management of the band-tailed pigeon population.



Band-tailed pigeon viewed through a spotting scope



Black Tailed Deer Project: While working out in the Coweeman GMU, downloading data from the doe collars for the black-tailed deer study, Biologist Doorly spotted some “unusual” wildlife. Right off of a logging road was a feral horse. These horses, while not native to the area, are not domestic and live on tree farms and other areas like wild animals.

Feral horse



Treponeme-associated Hoof Disease Survival Study: On Wednesday of this week, Elk Specialist Hoenes and Biologist George investigated a mortality of an elk on the Mount St. Helen's National Monument. The elk in question was Elk 172, captured and collared on 2/23/2015 as a part of the hoof disease survival study. At the time of capture, we noted her hind left hoof had recently sloughed. She was not pregnant or lactating and had an estimated IFBF of 0.3%. The collar documented the mortality event at ~2am on 7/8, which suggests she died sometime around 5pm on 7/7.

The carcass was intact, with no visible signs of struggle or predation and very little bloating. Other than the severely necrotic condition of the hind left hoof, we also did not observe any external injuries. This elk was in very poor condition at time of death. Spine, hip, and pin bones were all readily visible. Kistner scores were all zero. Femur bone marrow was gelatinous (almost liquid) with a clear to light red color. The carcass was fresh and we were able to get good samples which have been sent to Colorado State University for further analysis.



Elk 172 mortality

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

Access

Access Sites: Access Staff Spangler and Rhodes had a very busy week responding to very high use at many access sites. Hot weather has brought masses of swimmers to many WDFW sites and the corresponding litter picked up was way above average. Restrooms were over capacity for WDFW weekly visits. Staff worked with Corrections crew to assist in removing all the trash. At one site, Rhodes had to collect eight kittens abandoned in a cage on site and take them to the Clark County Humane Society.



Items left at access sites

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

D-10 Wildlife Conflict

Cougar: Conflict Specialist Conklin responded to a farmer in Clark County who reported losing four goats since May. He reported the last one was still on the property. Conklin responded and performed a necropsy of the goat. It appeared by evidence in the field that the goat was most likely killed by a cougar. Sergeant Weaver and Conklin erected a cougar trap on the property and baited the trap with the goat. Unfortunately the cat did not return. Conklin will continue to monitor the situation.



Cougar trap set up on property

Goat Depredation: Conflict Specialist Conklin has been working with a farmer in Cowlitz County that continues to lose goats to predation. Conklin placed a game camera in the area to better determine what may be taking the goats that are enclosed in a six-foot high fully fenced area. The land owner called Conklin at approximately 8:30 pm Friday night reporting another goat was taken. He had not turned on the camera yet for the evening. Conklin coordinated between WDFW Enforcement and the land owner for a response. WDFW Enforcement were going to meet with the land owner the next morning to better determine how best to respond to the depredations that have been occurring on the property.

Elk: Conflict Specialist Conklin responded to a pea farm in Lewis County which is beginning to experience damage to the pea crop from elk. The peas will be harvested in the next two weeks and the farmer has been irrigating heavily, which is further attracting the elk. Conklin verified the damage and will continue to document and work with the farmer to deter damage.



Damage to pea crops from elk

REGION 6

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Taylor’s Checkerspot Captive Rearing and Release: The Oregon Zoo has a total of 2,574 larvae in diapause, with an additional 21 still in the fourth instar. On June 19, when several hundred larvae became sick at the Oregon Zoo, staff suspected the larval food was the cause of the problem, as only larvae that had eaten showed any symptoms. Samples of the food were submitted for toxic screening, which came back positive for Chlorothalonyl. According to Wikipedia, Chlorothalonyl “is an organic compound mainly used as a broad-spectrum, nonsystemic fungicide with other uses as a wood protectant, pesticide, acaricide, and to control mold, mildew, bacteria, and algae”. The food (Plantain) had been collected at the Hoyt Arboretum nearby, a source which was also used two years ago when prediapause larvae also fell sick. Additional testing is underway to try to detect the presence of this chemical in larvae from 2013. In the absence of a suspected chemical, toxicity screening is difficult to do because there are so many potential compounds to test for. Chlorothalonyl is known to be highly toxic to fish and marine invertebrates, although it is listed as being “relatively non-toxic” to honey bees. Mission Creek has a total of 2,866 larvae, all but five of which are in diapause. Two of those larvae are quite large and are expected to pupate. One male and one female that emerged from this year’s hatched larvae are being housed in the same tent in the hopes they will mate.

Streaked Horned Lark

Damon Point/Oyhut Spit: Biologist Sundstrom conducted dual surveys for both streaked horned larks and snowy plovers at Damon Point and Oyhut Spit. There were no larks detected nor snowy plovers observed. During the Damon Point survey, two newly fledged Peregrine Falcons were observed. One of the young hung around long enough to obtain a photo. The young birds flew to a channel tower where they were greeted by an unidentified adult.



One of two young peregrine falcons at Damon Point



Three peregrines on a channel tower (circled in white)