

## **Wildlife Program**

Week of August 4-10, 2014

### **WILDLIFE DIVERSITY DIVISION**

#### ***GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE.***

**Golden Eagle Breeding Territory Survey Update:** Biologist Gerry Hayes reviewed survey data forms for the 2014 Golden Eagle breeding season survey. Survey data from all districts has been compiled and transmitted to Olympia staff for further analysis and summary. The focus now turns to estimating territory occupancy and productivity metrics for the more than 100 sample territories. New and updated information will also be compiled for other territories and nests that were examined during the course of evaluating sample territories. This work represents the completion of a great field effort by district biologists and other field staff throughout much of Washington.

**Influencing Eagle Protection:** Natural Resource Scientist Joe Buchanan edited and composed added text for a letter that will be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding eagle management in North America. This is in response to a scoping notice in the Federal Register that indicates USFWS is reconsidering its eagle management practices. The letter will be formulated through the Nongame Migratory Bird Technical Committee and will be submitted to the Pacific Flyway Council for signature and subsequent submittal to the Service.

**Teanaway Community Forest Planning:** Section Manager Wilkerson worked with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) staff in Winford to develop a landscape conservation strategy framework for the Teanaway Community Forest based on input from the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee and Steering Committee work to date. Wilkerson also participated in the weekly TCF Steering Committee meeting.

**South Puget Sound Prairies:** Biologist Hays lead conversation with several DFW diversity, science, and habitat staff regarding technical assumptions related to work with USFWS and Thurston County to develop a county reserve design as part of the Thurston County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Hays also worked with Section Manager Wilkerson and Wildlife Program Manager Cope to review the assumptions from a policy perspective.

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

**State Wildlife Action Plan:** Staff Helbrecht developed and refined an initial outreach strategy for the State Wildlife Action Plan, informed by input from Division Manager Gardner and Section Manager Wilkerson.

#### ***GOAL 4: MAINTAIN A HIGHLY SKILLED AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE.***

**Development of Prioritization Approach for Diversity Division:** Test case preparation was completed by 5 Division staff as part of further development of a Diversity Division prioritization approach. The overall approach has been described, scoring background and data capture processes have been programmed in an Excel spreadsheet format, and testing has been performed in 2 installments with Division staff. The system is expected to be completed and made operational in early fall 2014 after final evaluation by the Division Manager and Section Managers. When completed, the approach will provide a readily used system to judge relative priority for a wide array of conservation actions regarding species and ecological systems. Those priority values will aid activity planning and resolving time and resource conflicts that arise as conservation actions are deployed.

## **SCIENCE DIVISION**

### ***GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE***

#### **Agency Strategic Objectives:**

- A. The ecological integrity of critical habitat and ecological systems is protected and restored.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Research Scientists and Biologists (Michael Schroeder, John Pierce, Jeff Foisy, Matt Vander Haegen, Janet Gorrell, and Ilai Keren) and DNR Biologist Joe Rocchio met to discuss level 1 Ecological Integrity Assessments in forest ecosystems, primarily the Klickitat Wildlife Area.

- B. Washington's fish and wildlife diversity is protected at levels consistent with ecosystem management principles, established in the Conservation Initiative.

Treg Christopher developed a data form for collecting elk hoof disease observations. Treg and Andy Duff are working on developing a mobile device application for collecting these data in areas without phone service. The mobile device application will be ready to test this week.

- C. Threatened and endangered fish and wildlife populations are recovered to healthy, self-sustaining levels.

Michael Schroeder (WDFW Research Scientist) participated in the Rangewide Interagency Sage-grouse Conservation Team conference call. Attendees included Marty Fitzpatrick of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Pat Deibert (USFWS), Robin Sell of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Tom Remington of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), Catherine Whiteman (Montana), Tom Christiansen (Wyoming), San Stiver (WAFWA), Shawn Espinosa (Nevada), Deborah Finch of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Avery Cook (Utah), Ken Mayer (WAFWA), Don Kemner (Idaho), Kathy Griffin (Colorado), Jackie Couples (Oregon), Kevin Doherty (USFWS), Clinton McCarthy (USFS), Cameron Aldridge (Colorado State University), and Troy Wellicome (Alberta). Cameron Aldridge gave a web-ex presentation on the modeling of sage-grouse habitat in Wyoming. Kevin Doherty talked about a plan to

model populations of sage-grouse in anticipation of the upcoming USFWS listing decision in 2015. There will be a workshop in Ft. Collins, Colorado in early September to pursue this exercise.

Scott Pearson is a co-author on the following research article that was recently published:

*Raphael, M.G., A.L. Shirk, G.A. Falxa, and S.F. Pearson. 2014. Habitat associations of marbled murrelets during the nesting season in nearshore waters along the Washington to California coast. Journal of Marine Systems, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jmarsys.2014.06.010>*

Highlights:

- \* Marbled murrelet density is highly variable along the Pacific coast but shows at least 3 “hotspots” of exceptional abundance (Strait of Juan de Fuca in Washington, the central Oregon coast, and northern California).
- \* The murrelet is a central place forager and its density is influenced by the amount and pattern of its inland nesting habitat.
- \* We found that terrestrial covariates had a much stronger influence on murrelet density than marine covariates.
- \* Model results suggest that conservation of inland nesting habitat is key to the species’ recovery.

#### **GOAL 4: MAINTAIN A HIGHLY SKILLED AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE.**

##### **Agency Strategic Objectives:**

- C. Achieve operational excellence through effective business processes, workload management, and investments in technology.

Andy Duff and Lori Salzer have been working on modifying the agency taxonomic (TAXO) data base to include RCW and WAC classifications, NatureServe species codes, and ITIS species codes. Having these codes embedded within WDFW TAXO database will be useful in developing our Novatus Project data.

## **REGION 1**

### **GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE**

#### **Wildlife Management**

**Pre-Season Deer Surveys:** *Colville District:* Colville District biological staff initiated summer deer classification counts this week on survey transects located within Game Management Units (GMUs) 101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, and 121. This week, 5 of 20 transects were surveyed. *Spokane District:* Biologists Atamian and Lowe conducted a deer composition survey in GMU 130. Few deer were seen on the route, probably due to the hot weather, and it will be

run again. An active osprey nest and turkeys were also observed. *Blue Mountains District*: District Biologist Wik conducted 2 deer/elk surveys during the week. Asst. District Biologist (ADB) Vekasy conducted one deer survey route along Jasper Mnt Rd. Deer numbers were fairly low compared to past years, which may be due to the current hot weather. ADB will re-run this route in cooler temperatures to see if there is a difference in number of deer observed.

*A good number of mature bucks are being observed this year during deer and elk surveys.*



### **Private Lands/Wildlife Conflict**

**Moose on the Palouse:** Supervisor McCanna, Private Lands Biologist Lewis, and technician Clements spent several hours Tuesday hazing a two year old bull moose from a landowner's property 3 miles south of St. John. The landowner has approximately two acres surrounding their house of dense trees and shrubs with water. The moose did not want to leave this oasis, and hazing was cut short due to high temperatures. McCanna and Clements successfully hazed the moose at 05:30 Thursday morning over two miles to a section of land enrolled in the

Conservation Reserve Program. The moose went into a nice north facing draw with trees, shrubs, and water.



**Bullwinkle in St. John:** Biologist Lewis and Technician Clements assisted Supervisor McCanna in hazing a young Bull Moose out of a local resident's yard. The moose was difficult to move, but was eventually moved from the property.

*Bull Moose attempting to make a home in front yard being hazed*

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

#### **Private Lands/Access**

**Private Lands Access:** NRW Wade continued posting access sites in Garfield County and has almost completed all of them. Biologist Earl finished meeting with Hunt By Reservation cooperators and was able to update all of the hunts for 2014.

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

**Wildlife Areas**

**Chief Joseph Wildlife Area:** A large wildfire is burning in Idaho directly across the Snake River from the Chief Joseph Wildlife Area. WAM Bob Dice was in the Lime Point area on Thursday and observed the fire. The river is serving as a strong firebreak and there is little chance the fire will end up in Washington on State Lands. The fire has burned over 65,000 acres including several cabins along the Snake River. Fire crews and other support personnel are using WDFW's access site at Heller Bar as a staging area for firefighting operations.



*The Big Cougar fire in Idaho seen from Lime Point in Washington.*

**Private Lands/Wildlife Conflict**

**Elk Damage:** Conflict Specialist Rasley continues to meet with numerous farmers regarding elk damage in their wheat and Garbanzo bean fields throughout 4 counties in District 3

**Hazing:** Specialist Shepherd and Specialist Bennett spent multiple mornings, days, and evenings in the Tiger and Lost Creek areas south of Ione attempting to haze the Ruby Creek wolf and discussing the issue with residents.



*Fire fighting vehicles parked at Heller Bar*

**REGION 2**

**GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDIFE**

**Wildlife Management**

**Mosquito Control:** Biologist O. Duvuvuei coordinated with the Grant County Mosquito Control District to allow adulticide spraying within the restricted areas of the North Potholes. Due to the

detection of West Nile virus in trapped mosquitos, the Mosquito Control District was permitted to apply adulticides throughout their district in order to reduce the number of vector mosquitos. Biologist O. Duvuvuei continued monitoring the survival of fish and amphibian larvae in enclosures throughout the North Potholes Area.

**Northern Leopard Frog Reintroduction Feasibility:** Biologist E. Duvuvuei continued to research methods, purchase supplies, and recruit volunteers for the metamorph surveys at the end of August. Biologists E. and O. Duvuvuei had a successful and informative trial run where they tested survey and sample protocols for Northern Leopard Frogs (NLF). During the metamorph surveys, we hope to collect 300 NLF toe clips; this genetic material will be used in a population viability analysis to help determine the feasibility of using the NLFs in the Potholes as a source population for translocation efforts.



*Northern Leopard Frog* – Photo by O. Duvuvuei

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

### **Wildlife Areas**

**Chiliwist Irrigation Improvement Project:** Manager Haug met with property owners adjacent to the Chiliwist Wildlife Area to discuss issues surrounding the irrigation improvements being implemented by the WDFW's Yakima Construction Shop. Manager Haug and Okanogan Lands Operations Manager Swedberg worked out the issue of water use on the property and will continue to be in communication with the landowners to make sure everyone remains in good standing.

**Okanogan County Fires:** The Carlton Complex fire has burned over 256,000 acres and is 92% contained as of Sunday August 10, 2014. Little additional growth is anticipated and most work on this fire now involves mop-up and rehabilitation of fire lines.

By contrast, both the Little Bridge Creek and Upper Falls Creek Fires are quite active and have grown considerably to over 3700 and 6500 acres respectively in the last week. The Falls Creek Fire is currently 0% contained and the Little Bridge Fire is only 10% contained. Unlike the Carlton Complex fire that burned vast amounts of low elevation deer winter range, these two fires are primarily burning forested environments at middle and upper elevations.



*Little Bridge Creek Fire* – Photos by Scott Fitkin



*Upper Falls Creek Fire* – Photo by Scott Fitkin

Widespread access closures associated with all three fires are currently in place on the Methow Valley Ranger District and other adjacent public land. Closure information is available on the Okanogan National Forest and WDFW websites. Updates on the fires are available at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov>.

**Pateros and Indian Dan Assessments:** Biologist Heinlen conducted reconnaissance on the Chelan Wildlife Area Pateros Unit and

the Wells Wildlife Area Indian Dan Unit burned in the Carlton Complex Fire. Before the fire, both of these units contained dense stands of bitterbrush, creating excellent deer winter range. Investigation of these units confirmed that the fire burned hot, consuming most all of the vegetation and leaving very little of the landscape uncharred.

Biologist Heinlen is working with Geographic/Game Information System (GIS) staff in Olympia to quantify the acres of deer winter range burned and the potential impacts to landscape carrying capacity. Biologist Fitkin has been working on recommendations for increased antlerless harvest this fall to address current and anticipated deer damage and reduced winter carrying capacity issues created by the fires.

*Chelan Wildlife Area Pateros Unit* – Photo by J. Heinlen





***Wells Wildlife Area Indian Dan Unit –***  
Photo by J. Heinlen

**Carlton Complex Fire:** Okanogan Lands Operations Manager Swedberg continues to spend most of his time working on issues around the Carlton Complex fire. Specifically, he worked with the Carlton Complex Incident Management Team to facilitate use of DFW lands at 3 locations – a new Incident Command Post (ICP) at Geestman place; a Staging Area at Boulder

Creek Campground Access Site; and a potential retardant batch mixing and off-loading site at the Upper Chewuck Access Site. Fuels Manager Leuschen has been attending daily 6AM briefings to keep Manager Swedberg apprised of changes as they relate to DFW lands and fire operations. Leuschen’s previous fire experience in the fire world has been invaluable in helping inform and deal with all the aspects of fire operations and land management. This experience for me has underscored the need for a knowledgeable experienced person such as Tom to be a part of the Lands Division staff.

**North Central Washington Prescribed Burn Team:** Monday was a day of traveling to the Methow Wildlife Area where the team continued GPS work along the fence line throughout the wildlife area. Tuesday the team continued GPS work along Frazer Road and Bear Creek Campground. Wednesday was more GPS work, this time around Texas Creek. The crew was able to finish two units that day. Thursday the crew continued work in Texas Creek, GPSing fence line and trying to figure out locations of fences and boundaries. The crew also traveled back to the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area on Thursday.



Fuels Manager Leuschen continued to attend Incident Management Team (IMT) 6AM briefings. He has coordinated efforts to repair suppression damage, i.e., dozer lines, handlines, etc. He also oversaw re-piling and scattering of slash piles on the Methow Wildlife Area so these fuels can be better managed.

***Re-piled slash in Bear Creek Unit –*** Photo by Leuschen

**Methow Wildlife Area Assessment:** The Prescribe Burn Crew returned to the Methow Wildlife Area (MWA) this week to help inventory the fences burned in the Carlton Complex Wildfire. Hot temperatures and steep terrain made difficult work even more challenging, but the burn crew was up to the task. The crew collected location data and noted fence conditions along approximately 40 miles of burned fence line. The MWA owes the burn crew a great debt of gratitude for making swift work out of what would have otherwise been a protracted and miserable experience for the elderly staff at the MWA.



*Kyle White, Rob Wottlin, and Delcie Peters survey the landscape as they plan for another hot and dusty fence line inventory excursion.*

*The Little Bridge Creek Wildfire erupts in the afternoon heat just west of Twisp, Washington. This wildfire is currently burning US Forest Service lands but, with continued expansion, has the potential to burn adjacent Methow Wildlife Area lands just a couple of miles to the east.*



**Fire Camps:** This week a Type II Incident Command Team began setting up shop on the Methow Wildlife Area's Geestman property. Methow Wildlife Area staff members were able to



help prepare the area by mowing and removing hazardous material. Initially, the mowing operation came to a sudden halt with the breakdown of the MWA tractor, but Jim Olson, Manager of the Scotch Creek Wildlife Area, saved the day by delivering another tractor with a couple of hours. Thank you Jim Olson!

*Methow Wildlife Area staff member Rob Wottlin mows the Geestman property in preparation for the establishment of the Type II Incident Command camp.*

## **REGION 3**

### **GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE**

#### **Wildlife Areas**

**Oak Creek Wildlife Area:** Manager Huffman and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Lands Program Manager Richardson traveled to Olympia and presented the Cowiche Watershed 2014 Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Critical Habitat Project to the RCO review panel. The presentation went well, with several good questions from the panel.

Manager Huffman met with Forester Kuehn and staff from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to work out the logistics for the upcoming timber sale on the wildlife area and nearby TNC land. The group discussed timing for the bids and options for how to sell the timber. Tasks were assigned and a timeline for this fall was set up. The plan would be to advertise both sales at once to hopefully get better bids.

**Sunnyside Wildlife Area:** Manager Bjornstrom went up to Mesa Lake with Biologist Gregory to evaluate the completed Duck Stamp project on the West Pigeon Pond Complex. A new water control structure and dike were constructed by the LKE Corporation, giving management capabilities for a 7-acre wetland. The next phase of the project will be to mow out undesirable vegetation and do an herbicide application prior to flooding the new impoundment. The wetland should be online for the upcoming waterfowl season. Biologist Gregory and Manager Bjornstrom then went to Basin City to purchase bait for one more week of dove trapping at Ringold Hatchery.

### **Wildlife Management**

**Mourning Doves:** Capture efforts continued with good success as the banding season starts to wind down. During two days of trapping, 71 doves (16 adults, 55 juveniles) were marked in District 4 this week. This brings the total number of birds marked this year to 348. A banding summary will be provided next week after one more day of banding.

**Dove Trapping:** Biologist Bernatowicz trapped doves for 4 days, banding only 26. The total for the year is 38. The long term average for the site is 256. Doves did show up one day and captures increased, but a hawk returned. Eurasian collared dove numbers remained very high. Over 200 Eurasian collared doves were captured.



***Four traps full of Eurasian collared doves***

**Bighorn Sheep:** Biologist Bernatowicz reviewed and commented on a power point Dr. Cassier (Idaho) prepared for a SCI event. Biologist Bernatowicz traveled to the event and helped answer questions about Bighorn/domestic conflicts. Most SCI chapters seemed interested in ending conflicts sooner rather than later and may explore options. SCI was also open to helping fund research.

**Mt. Goats Survey:** Biologist Bernatowicz corresponded with Region 2 and the Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance (RMGA) regarding ground surveys. Most goat habitat in Chelan County is closed to access due to fires. A new fire had just started near Cle Elum and smoke was fairly heavy in the area. After much discussion, RMGA decided to cancel the surveys. The plan is to try earlier in 2015.

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

**Wildlife Areas**



**Oak Creek Wildlife Area:** Assistant Manager Berry and NRW 2 Smith posted the signs and maps on the Rock Creek kiosks.

*Assistant Manager Berry acting as the “You Are Here” pointer for the new informational kiosks on the Rock Creek Unit.*

**Wenas Wildlife Area:** Assistant Manager Taylor and NRW2 Farias installed a kiosk and reader board at the Ridge Road entrance. They also finished sealing a kiosk and making and painting metal brackets for the reader boards.

**Three-Year Package:** Biologist Bernatowicz provided RPM McCorquodale with a table of Archery open/closed/permit GMU’s to compare current and proposed deer/elk seasons. The goal is to balance allocation, opportunity, and quality. In general, the proposal is to close GMU’s to early deer if a GMU is managed for quality bull permits and open to deer if the GMU is open to general elk.

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

**Wildlife Areas**

**LT Murray Wildlife Area:** Manager Winegeart visited with 3 landowners burned over in the Taylor Bridge fire two years ago. WDFW is cooperating with the Mule Deer Foundation to replant bitterbrush on private lands that once held quality mule deer winter range.

Manager Winegeart toured the Parke Creek area with several members of the Audubon Society. As part of the WAAC process, Audubon had expressed interest in creating a birding trail on the wildlife area and installing kestrel nesting boxes. Several potential trail locations and nest box installment sites were identified.

*Audubon members tour the Quilomene WLA*



**Wenas Wildlife Area:** Manager Confer Morris responded to a neighbor's e-mail request to discuss fuel reduction opportunities in the Basin wild rye stands at Mt Vale. They border our property on the east and are concerned about fire risk. She will be setting up a time to meet with them on-site in the next week.

**Oak Creek Wildlife Area:** Manager Huffman worked on changing the project for the upcoming Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation volunteer workday. The original plan was to have one group thin trees and pile brush in the Oak Creek Project and another group remove old stock fence in the Cowiche. However, with the elevated fire danger, no chainsaw operation is allowed and the access road into the fence removal has too much tall grass for vehicles to drive on. The project was switched to rebuilding a stretch of elk fence on Cleman Mountain. The fence is on private property with good vehicle access.

### **Wildlife Management**

The Teanaway Range Rider, Chris Holcomb, has accepted a job with WDFW in Yakima. He will transition out of range riding and help train the new Teanaway Range Rider, Niki McBride. Range Rider Holcomb assembled and tested the RAG box for use in the Teanaway.

The Naneum Range Rider, Randy Brunson, is curtailing his efforts. Due to the Snag Canyon Fire, the Martinez sheep have been moved out of the western Naneum and likely will not return to the range this season.

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

### **Wildlife Areas**

**Colockum Wildlife Area:** Manager Lopushinsky attended another IDT field meeting for the Colockum Fire Salvage Project. The team was happy to see all the unit boundaries, RMZ's, and hazard trees marked, but still had concerns about stream adjacent roads and sedimentation issues. Quite a bit of drainage work needs to be designed and flagged on both the North Fork Tarpiscan Road and the Brewton Road. Richard Tveten will coordinate with Engineering and will also be in contact with DNR to get a permit amendment in by the end of this week.

Colockum staff worked with volunteers from the Wenatchee Sportsman's Association on more fencing along the game reserve. We are having continual trespass livestock to the south of the reserve. We also discovered more boundary/livestock fence that was damaged by the Colockum-Tarps Fire last fall.

**Oak Creek Wildlife Area:** Assistant Manager Berry and NRW 2 Smith worked on painting the fuel shed and the elk viewing platform. Smith pressure washed both buildings and then primed bare wood sites. Berry went to Yakima to purchase new paint. The fuel shed is complete and the viewing area has been primed and is ready for paint this coming week. Manager Huffman worked on ordering new warning signs to be posted on the fuel shed.



*Oak Creek Fuel Shed before Painting.*



*Oak Creek Fuel Shed after Painting.*

## **REGION 4**

### ***GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE***

#### **Wildlife Management**

**San Juan Island Bat Captures:** Biologist Milner joined a graduate student and faculty from the University of Washington Biology Department for two nights of mist netting on San Juan Island. Twenty-one bats were captured and processed the first night, but only one bat was caught the second night.



*Examining the slightly furred wing of a long legged myotis bat.*

*Recording standard morphology measurements.*





*Setting up the 3 tiered mist net.*

**Citizen Science Bat Survey:** Biologist Anderson coordinated with volunteers and conducted the last acoustic survey of Stillwater Wildlife Management Unit for this pilot project.

**Waterfowl Trapping:** Biologist DeBruyn began trapping ducks at a private gun club in Edison, Skagit County. He banded 31 mallards over the weekend and prospects for further success are promising. Two more sites in Whatcom County are pre-bated but have not seen much in the way of bird activity. Yearly mallard banding is done in cooperation with western flyway managers to assess survival and recruitment of local ducks.

**Wildlife Management Consultation/Permitting**

**Requests; Municipal, Private Utilities, other:** Biologist Anderson provided permits and management consultation assistance regarding projects requiring wildlife consideration (osprey, herons, and peregrine falcons). Some were private and some were municipal requests for needed permits from WDFW or general management suggestions per the Growth Management Act.

Biologist Anderson followed-up with the city of Seattle in regards to an emergency road repair less than 200 feet from currently active nesting herons. The city was intent on meeting its own code of providing for the herons. Anderson provided recommendations to assist in avoiding disturbance via phasing of project and monitoring of the nests for eventual fledge.

**Common Loon Monitoring and Management:**

Biologist Anderson received notification and pictures from Tacoma Water staff showing two older chicks on the Howard Hanson Reservoir. This is the farthest south common loon nesting location left on the west coast. Common loons once nested into Northern California down to the Mt. Shasta area.

*Two older chicks on the Howard Hanson Reservoir in the Green River watershed. This is the farthest south common loon nesting location left on the west coast.*



**Amphibian Monitoring Efforts – Woodland Park Zoo:** Biologist Anderson coordinated with zoo staff to receive data hard copies and provide an end of season wrap up with 2014 volunteers. Anderson also corresponded with Wildlife Data Management and a volunteer to troubleshoot internet data entry issues.

**Mountain Goat Surveys:** Assistant District Biologist Cyra continued to work on data, track, and aerial imagery from last week's aerial mountain goat surveys in the northern Cascades.

**Bald Eagle nest status surveys:** Assistant District Biologist Cyra performed status surveys on two Bald Eagle territories on Whidbey Island. With the delisting of the eagle, WDFW has managed the database that the US Fish and Wildlife Service uses for site management and the counties use for development issues. These two territories have not shown activity in recent years and the landowners were seeking a status review for potential redevelopment. Nests were located on both parcels.



***Bald Eagle nest observed on site status surveys on Whidbey Island***

### **Wildlife Areas**

**Port of Bellingham Tennant Lake Wetland Enhancement Project:** Workers continued to manually water trees and shrubs planted in the wetland enhancement project site on the Tennant Lake unit. Manager Kessler coordinated with the Port of Bellingham managers on the status of the project.

**Fir Island Farm Site Tour:** Projects Coordinator Brokaw, Skagit WLA Area Manager Rotton, and Regional Director Everitt hosted a group of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and congressional representatives at the Fir Island Farm Snow Goose Reserve to present the planned estuary restoration project at that location. This stop was part of a 2-day tour that the group was on to view how NOAA funds are being spent in the Puget Sound region. Several project partner groups also attended the Fir Island Farm portion of the tour and contributed to the presentation.

**Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP):** Projects Coordinator Brokaw and Habitat Planner Theresa Mitchell prepared a handout to be distributed at a Skagit Watershed Council Board of Directors meeting to inform the group about an upcoming NEPA comment period required to close out the project feasibility stage. More information on PSNERP is available at [www.pugetsoundnearshore.org](http://www.pugetsoundnearshore.org).

**Leque Island Alternatives Analysis and Design:** Projects Coordinator Brokaw communicated with staff from Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and a groundwater consultant regarding needs for monitoring Leque Island habitat, biological, and water quality parameters prior to the implementation of a project on Leque Island. Regardless of which design alternative is eventually selected, WDFW has an interest in monitoring these parameters. For more information on the project, visit the project webpage at:

[http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife\\_areas/skagit/leque\\_island\\_project.php](http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/skagit/leque_island_project.php).

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

### **Wildlife Management**

**Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Grant Application:** Biologist Milner joined the Area Habitat Biologist who presented the final acquisition application for parcels on Ebey Island to the evaluating and scoring committee.

**GMU 418 Elk Special Permit Holders Meeting:** Biologist DeBruyn helped facilitate a meeting with hunters wishing to hunt on a commercial timber property for the upcoming elk season.

### **Wildlife Areas**

**Samish Unit Wetland Enhancement Project:** Projects Coordinator Brokaw met with Ducks Unlimited and handed over signed copies of the Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) for submittal to the Army Corps of Engineers and Skagit County for permit approvals.

**Crescent Lake Unit:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm announces that the Sky Valley Tractor Club annual show and threshing bee happened over the weekend. The Club uses a portion of the Wildlife Area to grow wheat for the show.

### **Maintenance and Agricultural Enhancement**

**Island Unit:** Staff disked and cultipacked areas on the Island Unit that are low and wet in the early season and are affected by the high summer river conditions. As the Skagit River continues to drop and drainage increases, lower areas are becoming dry enough to manipulate and set back plant succession to more desirable species for waterfowl forage. Staff coordinated supplies and equipment for the ferrying operation to transport brush-hog and tractors with sprayers to the Island Unit.

**Leque Island:** Staff monitored the second barley planting and the Washington Department of Transportation (WDOT) project considering potential impacts to the unit for the upcoming fall seasons.

**Samish River Unit:** NRS Meis mowed approximately 5 acres of the Samish River Unit, areas targeted consisted mostly of noxious weeds and access road for constructing a new fence on the Southeast corner of the property.

**Johnson DeBay's Slough Reserve:** Staff mowed the grass fields and around the planting areas at DeBay's Slough Swan Reserve. Manager Rotton began GPS boundary markers for the Reserve and Hunt Unit for the map update process occurring on the site. Manager Rotton contacted the new neighbors for the property to discuss the posting of the Reserve boundary.

**Stillwater Wildlife Area:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm conducted invasive weed control and mowing of the two parking lots. Manager Boehm also discussed foot bridge repairs with a volunteer carpenter to be completed next week.

**Cherry Valley Wildlife Area:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm reports that irrigation and maintenance was completed on a portion of the Waterwheel Creek restoration project. Additionally, Manager Boehm reports that the Northwest Retriever Club dog trials event that was held last weekend was a complete success. They said the fields were mowed well, and appreciated the additional signage that was posted.

**Ebey Island Unit:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm conducted herbicide treatment to the west parking lot. Additionally, a large patch of blackberry regrowth was sprayed along the property boundary. Additional herbicide control of knotweed is planned for later this month.

**Lake Terrell Weed Control:** The Region 4 Weed Crew worked at Lake Terrell applying herbicides and using mechanical control on noxious Purple Loosestrife. With very good control measures over the last few years, the amount of Purple Loosestrife around Lake Terrell continues to go down.

### **Private Lands/Access Management**

**Private Lands Habitat Management:** Technician Otto performed habitat management operations on invasive plant species at several quality hunt sites in Whatcom and Skagit counties.

**Whidbey Island Diversity Site Management:** Biologist Caldwell and Technician Otto performed site maintenance at a Whidbey Island Diversity site. Overall trail conditions and use logs were in good order.

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

### **Wildlife Management**

**Region 4 Ungulate Damage:** Biologist Smith responded to calls regarding deer and elk damage from residents of King, Skagit, and Island counties. Damage occurred to a variety of crops, ornamentals, and infrastructures (fences). Non-lethal measures to deter elk from entering properties were discussed. Smith provided temporary electric fencing for loan to protect crops in the Enumclaw area and purchased additional temporary fencing to be deployed in Skagit County, in cooperation with several representatives of local Tribes, over the coming days. Smith also deployed electronic devices (as a test) to deter elk from entering a crop in the Green Valley area, and monitored elk/deer activity on other area agricultural fields with the help of deployed trail cameras. Tech Cogdal continued monitoring and hazing elk in affected areas of Skagit Valley,

assisted in the delivery of a tractor to Carsten's, and surveyed the fence project. Tech Cogdal also cleared fence line at Valley Pride field to get ready for a temporary fence.

### ***Elk frequenting agricultural fields in King County***



#### **Bear depredation needs:** Biologist

Anderson coordinated with Enforcement staff to transfer depredation hides to the contract processor per protocol. Hides had been switched over in depredation from Enforcement to Wildlife and needed to be deposited. Thanks to Officer Jaros in Detachment 11 for his kind assistance.

### **Wildlife Areas**

**Fir Island Farms Monitoring ESRP Grant:** Project Coordinator Brokaw prepared a draft pre-proposal for a funding opportunity offered by the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) to fund post project monitoring and adaptive management associated with the Fir Island Farm Estuary Restoration Project.

#### **GMU 418 and Elk Area 4941 Nooksack Bull Elk Special Permit Hunt Coordination**

**Meeting:** Biologist Caldwell, Biologist Debruyne, Natural Resource Technician Cogdal, WDFW Enforcement Officer Ludwig, and Sierra Pacific Forester Sand met with special permit hunters to discuss GMU 418 and Elk Area 4941 access/use regulations. Each hunter was given an individual packet with an access pass, area maps, WDFW contact information, aging and tooth information, a tooth sample envelope, information on Sierra Pacific Industries, and a 2014 Big Game Regulation Pamphlet. All attendees were informed about the history of the hunt, the importance of the hunt, use guidelines, access guidelines, biological sample submissions, reporting sightings of wildlife disease and illness, reporting damage to private property, hunter liability, and safety.

**Waterfowl Quality Hunt:** Biologist Caldwell answered several questions about quality hunt options across Region 4 to a new resident of Washington. Many of the questions involved where to hunt and how the registration and reservation system worked in different areas. Biologist Caldwell directed the person to internet resources, explained how each hunt type worked, and provided the person with his contact information. A follow up with the person will be provided once the 2014 Waterfowl Regulation Pamphlet is released to the public.

### **Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordination**

**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, one Master Hunter and two additional volunteers continue to conduct trail maintenance, mowing maintenance, and the tending of nursery needs over the past week.

Hunter Education Coordinator Dazey attended and evaluated one of the teaching teams that use the Shrine Center. The team is new and Coordinator Dazey worked to assist them in putting on their first field skills evaluations.



*Instructor Bob Sluder leading a couple of students through the Field Course with shoot/don't shoot scenarios.*



*Instructor Grove leading student through course.*



*Grading final quiz to complete the class.*

Hunter Education Coordinator Steven Dazey attended the third session of a hunter education class at the Kenmore gun range to evaluate the teaching team and also to present service certificates and pins to three of the team members for 5 years of service as hunter education instructors.



*The team at the Kenmore Gun Range teaching the third session of a traditional hunter education class.*

Hunter Education Coordinator attended and evaluated a new team's first attempt at teaching on their own in Enumclaw. Amy and Corey Bozell were certified earlier this year and have been working with a team that teaches in Ravensdale. They have decided to start teaching in Enumclaw and trying to build a new teaching team. Amy located a new venue that was willing to let them use their facility, the Enumclaw VFW. Amy and Corey plan on teaching a number of classes still this year, and with the addition of these classes we should be able to better serve the south end of Region 4.



*Instructors Amy and Corey Bozell teaching students about the different actions and safe load/unload of firearms*

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

**Radio Communications:** Assistant District Biologist Cyra continued to provide radio support to Program staff.

## **REGION 5**

### **GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE**

#### **Wildlife Management**

**Mt. St. Helens Mountain Goat Survey:** Section Manager Harris and Biologist Holman teamed with Staff from the Cowlitz Tribe, U.S. Forest Service, and several volunteers organized through the St. Helens Institute to conduct a survey of mountain goats on and around Mt. St.

Helens. Goats have re-colonized the area in the decades following the 1980 eruption. Prior to the survey, goats were thought to number 20-40. Results will be finalized and corrected for any double observations but it seems that there are a few more goats than previously thought on St.

Helens.



Thanks to all who participated in the initial year of the Mt. St. Helens mountain goat survey. The project exemplifies the importance and value of cooperation among Tribal, State, Federal, and private stakeholders related to this valuable wildlife resource. Please see the attached photos from the St. Helens goat survey and a 2007 photo of mountain goats in the volcanic crater of Mt. St. Helens.

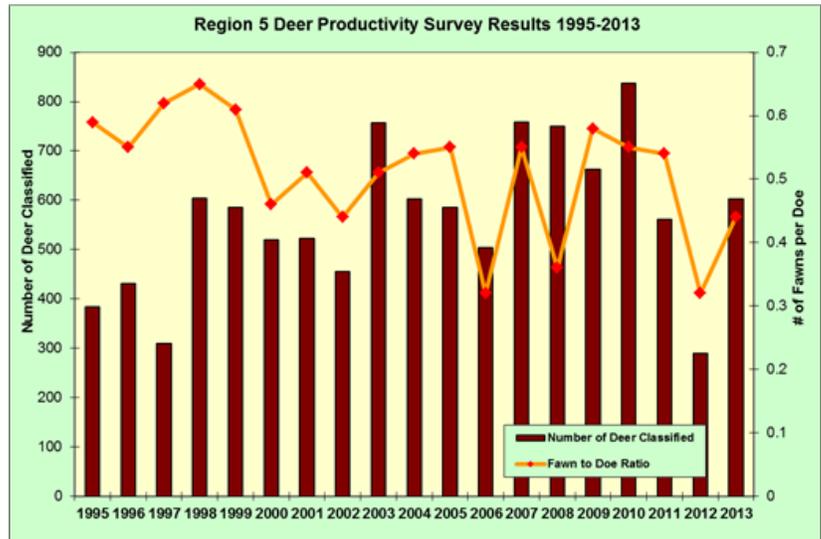
#### ***Mt. St. Helens Mountain Goat Survey***

**Region 5 Deer Productivity Surveys:** Biologist Holman sent solicitations to approximately 30 individuals asking them to again record deer observations that they may have during the next six weeks. The annual productivity surveys are used to generate the annual fawn to doe ratio for inclusion in the Regional Sex Age Kill method of population estimation for deer in the Region. Interested parties who spend time in any "500" GMU, as well as GMUs 388 and 382, and want to record deer should contact Biologist Holman. The survey period encompasses August 15 to September 30. Thanks in advance to all those who gather deer observations. Keep in mind that even though a handful of deer may not seem like many, in aggregate these are valuable and helpful data, and when combined with formalized surveys, they add up to roughly

500 observations per year. Please see the figure below illustrating the fawn to doe ratios generated in part from these surveys over the past several years in Region 5.

**Region 5 Deer Productivity Survey Results 1995-2013**

**Resident Dark Goose Collar Mark-Resight Survey:** Biologists Holman, George, and Bergh, along with retired Biologist Miller and Biologist Sanders of the USFWS, completed the first round of the resident dark Canada goose mark-resight survey. The purpose of the survey is to estimate abundance and distribution of resident dark geese in southwest Washington and northwest Oregon. Geese from this



flock were marked with an individually-coded neck collar in early July for the purposes of resighting during this survey and identification for goose hunters during the hunting season. During the two days spent searching areas of Region 5, 295 resident dark geese were seen, 20 neck collars were observed, and of those, 13 complete codes were read. Other efforts were conducted in Region 6, northwest Oregon, and on National Wildlife Refuge lands. The survey will be repeated again in two weeks and after that an abundance estimate will be generated. A special thank you to Miller and Sanders for all of their help before and during the surveys.

**Western Pond Turtle Shell Disease Assessment:** Biologist George assisted Dr. Storms of the Oregon Zoo with shell biopsies on 12 western pond turtles this week. The biopsies were taken from six wild turtles currently presenting mild shell disease, and from six wild turtles that do not visually display any symptoms of the disease. Samples were sent to various labs for a comparable analysis and results will further inform the Department regarding a shell disease diagnosis. Following four weeks of recovery under the care of the Oregon zoo, the 12 turtles will then be returned to their original site in the Gorge in time to re-acclimate before the fall. Please see photos regarding the biopsy procedure.



**Western Pond Turtle biopsy procedure**

**Western Pond Turtle Habitat Work:** District Biologist Anderson met with representatives from the USFWS at Pierce National Wildlife Refuge to discuss wetland development to benefit western pond turtles. This site historically had a small permanent beaver pond that was used

extensively year around as western pond turtle habitat. A flood event occurred approximately 8 years ago that destroyed the pond and thus reduced turtle use of the area. Options are being discussed for a variety of solutions that include a new water control structure and/or more natural modifications that would enhance habitat to encourage beaver back to the wetland.



### ***Western Pond Turtle Habitat Work***

**Hoof Disease:** Wildlife Program Manager Jonker and State Veterinarian Mansfield provided an in-depth update to the Fish and Wildlife Commission on results to date of the hoof disease diagnostic investigation and the proposed management approach. In addition, the proposed WAC to leave hooves on site from elk harvested in SW Washington was presented and adopted by the Commission.

### **Wildlife Areas**

**Hoffstadt Unit Field Mowing:** Natural Resource Technician Sample completed mowing three fields, totaling about 5 acres, located on the Hoffstadt Unit of Mt. St Helens Wildlife



Area. Mowing down tall dead grass and other vegetation will allow new regrowth to occur before winter, providing better forage.

### ***Hoffstadt Unit Field Mowing***

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

**Oneida:** Access staff Spangler and Rhodes pressure washed the restroom and parking area. They also mowed the lower field that is being used for additional parking and cleaned a fire pit filled with melted beer cans and bottles.

### ***Oneida lower field***



**Vancouver Lake, Lacamas, Barbers, and Kress Lake:** Access staff Spangler and Rhodes spent much of their time this week with maintenance at these sites picking up large amounts of trash – the access sites are very busy with swimmers, jet skis, etc., and are accumulating high levels of trash as well as some vandalism.



***Broken windows at Vancouver Lake***

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

**Wildlife Conflict**

**Elk:** Conflict Specialist Conklin met with owners of a hobby farm experiencing damage in the Vader area. Due to the locality of the farm they are not allowed to use firearms for hazing. Conklin gave them advice on building a tall fence of at least eight feet instead of the five to six foot fence they had in place. When the elk return, Conklin will work with the land owner on installing a Critter Gitter noise alarm and possibly bird bangers to assist them in deterring elk.

**Cougar:** Conflict Specialist Conklin responded to a residential neighborhood west of Woodland reporting frequent observations of a cougar. One of the residents was concerned about her and her children’s safety. Conklin walked the tree line above the residence to try to detect any known attractants that would lure the cougar close to the neighborhood. There was nothing out of the ordinary. Conklin gave advice to the caller about safety precautions and referred her to the WDFW website Living with Wildlife. The caller will continue to monitor the situation and call Conklin if the cat really does begin frequenting the neighborhood or is otherwise posing a safety hazard to humans or domestic animals.

**Wildlife Monitoring:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist McDonald retrieved a trail camera placed in July to monitor for predator presence in Klickitat County. A variety of wildlife species made an appearance including owls, deer, coyotes, cougar, and bears.



***Wildlife monitoring***

## **REGION 6**

### **GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE**

#### **Wildlife Management**

**Mourning Dove Trapping and Banding:** Biologist Michaelis continued to capture and band Mourning Doves in two locations in Grays Harbor County. In Satsop, at the residence of Officer Harry Cilk he captured 40 doves (34 Hatch year and 6 adults). At Oakville he captured only four doves thus far. These are the only locations where Doves are captured in western Washington and data from banded doves are used to estimate survival, harvest rates, and migration distances of Doves. Only two adults are needed to meet the quota.



***Brandon Cilk with banded mourning dove.***

**Pysht Deer Monitoring:** Six does (with Vectronic collars), four 2014 fawns, one yearling doe (collared as a 2013 fawn), and one doe (collared as a 2012 fawn) continue to be monitored in the Pysht cluster. A signal from a fifth 2014 fawn has not been heard since June 30<sup>th</sup>, and efforts continue to determine where that collar might be. There were no known deer mortalities from the Pysht Cluster the week of August 3-9.

**Satsop/Mason Deer Monitoring:** The Mason cluster has 7 does and 1 yearling on air, while the Satsop cluster has 2 does and 2 yearlings still transmitting. An objective of this project is to collar fawns associated with the radio-collared does. Fifteen fawns were collared this season and two fawns were found dead prior to capture. Biologist Murphie reports that 5 mortalities and 2 slipped collars have occurred so far this year; 2 from coyote predation, 1 from a cougar, 1 from bear predation, and 1 fawn from non-predation natural causes based on evidence found on scene. The slipped collars were due to a flawed collar design causing them to loosen too early. No mortalities or radio failures occurred this week.

**Protection Island Deer:** Biologist Murphie, RPM Cope, and District Biologist Skriletz visited Protection Island and met with USFWS refuge staff to discuss black-tailed deer conflicts with nesting sea birds and their efforts to re-establish native vegetation on the island.

**Western Pond Turtle:** DFW played host to Woodland Park Zoo staff and visitors for the annual release of head-started Western pond turtle yearlings. Visitors enjoyed hearing about the history of Western pond turtle conservation, handled equipment that biologists use to monitor the turtles, toured a recovery site, and, the “piece de resistance”, released 134 turtles.

**Oregon Spotted Frog:** Biologist Tirhi spent one day this week with Biologist Hallock on the spotted frog non-breeding movement study. Tirhi and Hallock captured another adult female and attached a radio transmitter (the largest frog captured thus far in the study) and tracked three additional transmitters to record location and habitat.

**Mazama Pocket Gopher:** Scientific Technician 2 Chris Capelli assisted USFWS and Thurston County with Mazama Pocket Gopher surveys. Thirteen sites were surveyed according to gopher soils. On Monday, Technician Capelli participated in a debriefing meeting with the USFWS to discuss survey results for the 27 sites visited the previous week. Two sites were positive for pocket gopher presence.

**Western Snowy Plovers:** Biologist Sundstrom aided in the live capture of a young-of-the-year Peregrine Falcon at Midway Beach who has been consistently observed harassing and targeting snowy plovers. The falcon was trapped by a Master Falconer with a WDFW permit. The bird will reside in Eastern Washington under the legal falconry guidelines.



*Young female Peale's Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus pealei)*

Sundstrom was able to conduct nest checks and brood searching at Midway. One nest remains unhatched and is likely to never hatch. Three young broods should be present as well as 3 older broods; only 1 young chick (newly hatched and still in the nest cup along with 2 yet hatched eggs) was found, and 5 older chicks, representing 3 broods, were found. Additional brood searching will resume next week now that the problematic falcon has been removed.

Larissa Pfleeger from the Shoalwater Tribe reported that a new 3 chick brood was found at Graveyard Spit. This brood would be from an undiscovered nest. The brood from the last remaining known nest was also located although only 1 chick was observed.

*Season Cumulative Nest Information*

Midway Beach											
# Nests Found	# Nests Currently Active	# Nests Hatched	# Active Broods	# Chicks Hatched	# Chicks Currently Alive	# Fledglings	# Nests Failed				
							Pre d.	San d Buri al	Abando ned	Hum an Caus ed	Unkno wn /Other Cause
15	1	8	4	16	6	2	3	0	2	0	1

Graveyard Spit											
# Nests Found	# Nests Currently Active	# Nests Hatched	# Active Broods	# Chicks Hatched	# Chicks Currently Alive	# Fledglings	# Nests Failed				
							Pre d.	San d Buri al	Abando ned	Hum an Caus ed	Unkno wn Cause
7	0	6*	2	16	4	10-11	0	1	1	0	0

*\* Includes 1 undiscovered nest represented by the presence of 3 newly hatched chicks*

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

**Private Lands /Conflict**

**Aggressive Elk:** Biologist Harris received two more reports of aggressive elk. He has been working on one in the Johns River area where the landowners reported that the elk would no longer run when hazed. The original RP stated they ran her back inside the house. Some aggressive hazing by Biologist Harris has got these elk a little more leery of people. The landowner has also started using rags soaked in a repellent hung around the property and reports that it is helping.

A second report received by Montesano administrative staff and relayed to Biologist Harris referred to aggressive elk in the East Hoquiam area. The reporting party would not leave any contact information. Below is the report from front office staff.

“I received a call this morning from an upset lady who lives on the East Hoquiam Road (no address or contact info given) who had a cow elk trample her small dog over the weekend. She stated that the herd isn’t usually on her property and isn’t there now, but aggressively went after her dog. She does not believe that the dog chased the elk and thinks that we need to be aware that they are becoming much more aggressive. She also stated that her husband tried to chase them away and one bull “squared himself off” to him, eventually moving away.”

A third call came in later in the week. The reporting party called to ask for help. She stated that the elk are no longer responding to hazing efforts. In the past she was able to run the elk off with her riding lawn mower, and, when they were no longer afraid, she switched to an ORV (Razor). Now that is not working either. They just bunch up and stand their ground. Gun fire has also been tried with no affect. Biologist will be working with the landowner to make these elk a little wilder. He informed the reporting party that since the elk are not responding to hazing he will need to look at the problem before advising on the best course of action.