

## **Wildlife Program**

Week of July 21-27, 2014

### **WILDLIFE DIVERSITY DIVISION**

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

**Additional Competitive State Wildlife Grant Awards:** Last week's report included information on a competitive grant that was awarded to several western states, including Washington, for bat conservation. As part of that same competitive process, the Department also received a grant, along with Oregon, for Phase 2 of an ongoing restoration effort to Conserving State Strategy Species in Pacific Northwest Prairie and Oak Habitats, as well as a State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) enhancement grant. The restoration project's goal is to substantially improve the population status of 22 rare and/or declining Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) that are highly associated with prairie-oak habitats of the Willamette Valley and Puget Trough regions of western Oregon and Washington, and thus reduce the likelihood for many of their need for consideration under the Endangered Species Act. The SWAP enhancement grant will help the Department to complete the SWAP revision process and will, in part, allow us to develop some geospatial species range maps for the State Wildlife Action Plan revision.

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

**Wildlife TRACS Training:** Division Manager Gardner and section Managers Wilkerson, Becker and Thompson, met with the USFWS Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration office (WSFR) to receive training on the recently implemented Wildlife TRACS geospatial database that is not being used to document and report on WSFR grants.

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

**Technical Interaction with Pacific Flyway Council:** Natural Resource Scientist Joe Buchanan attended the July meeting of the Pacific Flyway Council and their 2 associated technical committees (the Study Committee and the Nongame Migratory Bird Technical Committee; Joe is a member of the latter group). Technical teams assessed information and developed recommendations for review and approval by the Pacific Flyway Council. Content in the primary recommendations included: finalization of the Charter for a Habitat Committee that is jointly chaired by members of each technical team, and endorsement of funding to support a Human Dimensions project designed to assess hunter, wildlife viewer and general public ideas about waterfowl hunting, recruitment, and wetland conservation. The Nongame Migratory Bird Technical Committee also discussed the structure of a database for managing Double-crested Cormorant and American White Pelican survey data, and planned for their scheduled December meeting.

### **SCIENCE DIVISION**

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

**Sharptailed Grouse Monitoring Project:** On 28 July Michael Schroeder (WDFW Research Scientist) met with Lesley Morris (Assistant Professor, Eastern Oregon University) to talk about monitoring on wildlife areas in Washington. Dr. Morris is particularly interested in initiating a project to evaluate restoration of former cropfields, particularly relative to the habitat requirements for sharp-tailed grouse. This project has relevance to Oregon because of their efforts to re-establish sharp-tailed grouse near the Enterprise, Oregon area. Mike discussed potential research opportunities associated with Swanson Lakes, West Foster Creek, and Scotch Creek wildlife areas. Lesley is already familiar with Scotch Creek, thanks to a previous field tour from Jim Olson (WDFW Scotch Creek Wildlife Area Manager).

**Golden Eagle Study:** Jim Watson and field crews completed deployment of satellite transmitters on 7 golden eagle nestlings working in close cooperation with District Biologists and their Assistants in Districts 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8. The work is part of a cooperative project funded by the Fish and Wildlife Service to better understand movements of immature eagles and their survival. One of the 7 nest sites burned up last week in the Carlton-complex fire. The nestling survived, but effects of fire on local prey resources will likely determine its survival in the next few weeks. An estimated 20 historic golden eagle territories are located in the Carlton-complex fire, and a third to half of those have been active in recent years. Fortunately, most nestlings should have fledged from these nests prior to the fires. This recent publication highlights the results of our golden eagle work related to movements and range use:

*Watson, J. W., A. A. Duff, and R. W. Davies. 2014. Home range and resource selection by GPS-monitored adult golden eagles in the Columbia Plateau Ecoregion: Implications for wind power development. The Journal of Wildlife Management 78:1012-1021.*

**Sage Grouse Recovery:** Michael Schroeder (WDFW Research Scientist) participated in a meeting with Penny Becker (WDFW), Jason Lowe (BLM), Mike Atamian (WDFW), Heather McPherron (USFWS), Cynthia Wilkerson (WDFW), Chris Carlton (BLM), Greg Thorhaug (BLM), and Steve Pozanghera (WDFW). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the revised Resource Management Plan for the Washington State BLM, with a focus on issues related to greater sage-grouse. Mike subsequently provided comments to Steve Pozanghera who compiled them for the BLM. On 28 July Michael Schroeder (WDFW Research Scientist) met with Glenn Frederick (BLM), Aaron Jones (TNC), Dawn Davis (USFWS), Michael Schindel (TNC), Leslie Robb, and Megan McGuire (BLM) to talk about a sage-grouse connectivity project that has been initiated in Oregon. Mike helped apply the lessons learned from the Washington connectivity project. The Oregon researchers are in the initial stage of establishing a resistance map for movement of sage-grouse across the landscape. Michael Schroeder (WDFW Research Scientist) met with Adam Wells (Washington State University), Andrew Shirk (University of Washington), Leslie Robb, and Jen Watkins (Conservation Northwest) to talk about sage-grouse occupancy models. GIS layers were discussed as well as available telemetry data sets.

## **REGION 1**

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

### **Wildlife Areas**

**Asotin Creek Wildlife Area – North Fork Fire:** A lightning caused fire was detected on Wednesday afternoon on Forest Service property at/near the west end of the Wildlife Area boundary at Smoothing Iron. The fire burned down into the North Fork of Asotin Creek. Approximate size is 10 acres and DNR estimated about 2 acres were on WDFW land. WAM Bob Dice assisted Forest Service and DNR units with fire suppression efforts. On Thursday Dice and Dave Meisner moved the wildlife area helicopter dip tank from the Halsey Shop to the field at the confluence of North and South forks of Asotin Creek. We set up the tank and pumped it full of water from the creek. A DNR helicopter used the tank on Thursday afternoon. On Wednesday evening well after dark, Dice along with ATV units from Asotin County went up the North Fork trail and gave fire fighters a ride out the bottom. Other support activities completed by the wildlife area include hauling 1,800 gallons of water to the fire vicinity on one of our 5-ton military trucks and hooking up our 4490 tractor to a disk in case the fire spread to our fields. As of Saturday night, the fire was out and a 20-man crew from Idaho

was keeping an eye on it to make sure it is dead out. Many of the firefighters working on this fire were from Idaho including units from Idaho Department of Lands and USFS. This is the first time we've seen Idaho Lands units working in SE Washington. Idaho doesn't have much going on as far as fire activity while Oregon and Washington are slammed with activity causing a shortage of personnel.



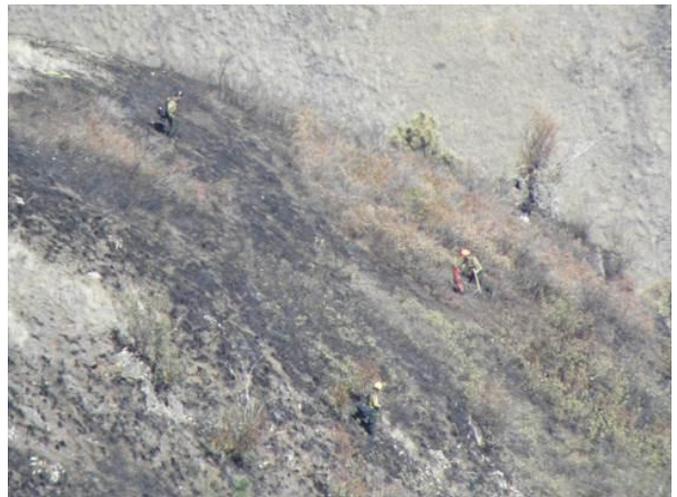
***DNR Helicopter 341 pulling a load of water out of the wildlife area dip tank along Asotin Creek on Thursday afternoon***

***Jumpers from Grangeville Idaho jumping the Asotin Fire on Wednesday. A total of 6 jumpers assisted with the fire.***



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

***Hot and dirty work. Firefighters cold trailing the fire on Friday afternoon.***



**Presentations:** Wildlife Conflict Supervisor McCanna and Conflict Specialist Shepherd attended the Wolf Advisory Group (WAG) meeting in Ellensburg both giving PowerPoint presentations updating the WAG on non-lethal and preventative measures taken to prevent wolf-livestock interactions within region one.

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

**Wildlife Management**

**Conservation Futures site:** Biologist Lowe visited the Trautman Ranch, a 250-acre property in Nine Mile Falls that is being nominated for a Spokane County Conservation Futures grant (see photos). The property lies within a designated open space corridor that includes wooded and riparian habitat along the Spokane and Little Spokane River, and its acquisition would tie together two disconnected parcels of Riverfront State Park. Lowe worked on a letter of support for the nomination, addressing its value to wildlife.



*Photos from the Trautman Ranch*

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

**Private Lands / Wildlife Conflict**

**Pheasants Forever Habitat Planning:** Biologist Lewis assisted Supervisor McCanna to develop a 10 year habitat restoration plan for a possible Pheasants Forever land purchase.

**Private Lands Access:** NRW Wade continued posting access boundaries in Garfield County this week. Biologist Earl spent several hours outside his normal working hours to contact landowners to update contracts and get signatures.

**District Three Tour of Agricultural Damage and Successes:** Conflict Specialist Bennett and Conflict Specialist Rasley examined fields near Walla Walla where DPCA landowners were harvesting agricultural crops. Bennett and Rasley looked for elk to haze out of DPCA landowner fields and meet with Kill Permit hunters.

*View of agricultural fields near Walla Walla, Washington*



## **REGION 2**

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

#### **Wildlife Management**

**Caspian Terns** – Biologist O. Duvuvuei attended the Inland Avian Predation Working Group Meeting via teleconference. The meeting discussed issues related to Caspian tern management in Washington, Oregon, and California. Topics pertinent to District 5 included the recent dissuasion efforts to discourage tern nesting on Goose Island in the Potholes Reservoir. The efforts appeared successful as only 3 terns nested on the island. Similar dissuasion efforts will continue during next year's nesting season.

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

**State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE):** Biologists Dougherty and Comstock spent the majority of the week working on a Ferruginous Hawk SAFE signup. The property was enrolled in SAFE signup and Biologist Dougherty is working on putting the conservation plan together. As part of the conservation plan, there must be an inventory of the entire property, maps created as well as a course of action that will provide guidance to the landowner and other staff for how the desirable native plants will be established. With this particular property the difficulty is that the existing vegetation is mostly in good shape with naturalized-native plants. So rather than have the landowner remove all existing vegetation, Biologist Dougherty has taken on the more challenging approach of keeping most of the existing plants and focusing efforts on areas that can be improved. This will require a much more strategic and unique plan of action. Biologist Comstock assisted Biologist Dougherty with mapping areas that will be targeted for restoration within a proposed SAFE field in Adams County. This particular SAFE

project provides a number of challenges to tackle in writing the plan, including isolated infestations of medusahead rye and cereal rye, soil erosion problems, and remnant crested wheatgrass. On a brighter note, numerous white-tailed deer were observed using the field along with a mule deer doe and fawn. Biologist Dougherty put together the SAFE quarterly report that will be submitted to the Washington State NRCS office to document all work activities for the previous quarter, April through June.

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

**Wildlife Areas**

**Sinlahekin 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Biologists Heinlen and Fitkin gave presentations on bighorn sheep and carnivores respectively at the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area as part of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. In addition, Biologist Fitkin assisted Biologist Rowan with the bat capture portion of her program later in the evening. We successfully netted and processed 6 individuals from four different species.

*Biologist Fitkin and Yuma myotis. Photo – Ella Rowan*



***Big Brown Bat. Photo – Scott Fitkin***



**Carlton Complex Fire – Methow Wildlife Area:** As of Saturday July 26, 2014 the Carlton Complex fire has burned over 250,514 acres and is 59% contained. Hot, dry weather with temperatures into the 100s is forecasted for much of this coming week, so additional fire growth is likely. Previous back burning efforts have made the Methow Wildlife Area HQ much more secure. Additional back burning on WDFW land on the northwest flank of the fire may still be conducted. Biologists Fitkin and Heinlen attended a meeting with Olympia, Regional and District Wildlife and Lands staff to discuss effects of the Carlton Complex fire on wildlife area lands and affected wildlife. Topics of discussion concerned rehabilitation of affected lands such as reseeding were applicable, fixing damaged fences, water developments and road conditions. Wildlife discussions centered on the loss of a significant amount of winter range and that deer populations will be lower across the PMU due to this, loss of significant amounts of occupied Western Gray squirrel habitat, road closures reducing access for hunters this coming season and concerns of increased deer damage in and around the fire area.



***Carlton Complex fire behind Methow Wildlife Area HQ.  
Photos – Scott Fitkin***



*Carlton Complex Fire back burn near the Methow WA HQ. Photos – Scott Fitkin*



*Creating a fuel break on the Methow Wildlife Area with the Cougar Flats fire growing in the background*



*Members of the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area prescribed burn crew conduct burn-out operations on the Methow Wildlife Area to help contain the Cougar Flats wildfire.*



*Wildland firefighters staged and ready for action on the Methow Wildlife Area*

*Methow Wildlife Area staff members Rob Wottlin and John Lindsey inspect the mosaic of fire effects created by the Cougar Flats wildfire*



*A view down Pipestone Canyon on the Methow Wildlife Area*

**Carlton Complex Fire – Indian Dan Canyon and Pateros Wildlife Areas:** Late in the afternoon of Thursday, July 17, the fires burning in the lower Methow Valley, aided by temperatures in the low 100's and strong northwesterly winds, made their way over Buckhorn Mountain and burned all 6,447 acres of the Indian Dan Canyon unit. All wildlife area staff with fire training, Manager Dan Peterson, Assistant Manager Noel Winegeart, Maintenance Mechanic Fidel Rios and Natural Resource Technician Angel Hastings, responded to the request of local fire district, Douglas – Okanogan 15, for the use of our dozer and water trucks to assist with suppression efforts on the unit. District personnel lit backfires as an additional protection measure. By this time wind gusts exceeded 30 miles-an-hour creating waves of smoke, flames and sparks cascading over the crest of the hill.

Officials now calculate the fire that hit the towns of Pateros and Brewster consumed 130,000 acres in just 6 hours. Doing some quick math one arrives at an average rate of 6 acres per second. Fire progression maps depicting this should be available sometime Monday, the 28<sup>th</sup>. The Incident Commander for the South Zone referred to that rate as “nearly unprecedented” in his career.

While we can expect the sagebrush to begin returning in a few years, the bitterbrush component may take decades. An example of this is noted in the 2006 Wells Wildlife Area Management Plan where long-time Wildlife Area Manager, Marc Hallet, wrote: *“A fire in Indian Dan Canyon in 1985 destroyed 700 acres of bitterbrush. Twenty years later, this bitterbrush stand has not even begun to recover. Elsewhere on the unit, bitterbrush burned out about 60 years ago is starting to come back in patches but is far from producing the previous dense stand, which was “taller than a saddle horse”.”*

Staff began initial assessment of infrastructure losses and estimating monetary value. As might be imagined, the unit's boundary fence is the most significant loss at nearly 25 miles and an estimated replacement cost of just over 1.3 million dollars. That dollar amount is based on a DFW Engineering figure of \$55,000 per mile. Other losses included two storage buildings, rail fences, registration booths, signs, gates, several hundred feet of deer fence and damage to two water control structures.

Recovery Monitoring: Noel began establishing photo points throughout the unit to document habitat recovery. We'll also use photographs taken by Marc Hallet during his career to create additional points.

Habitat Recovery and Protection: Noel and Maintenance Mechanic Ed Pierson cleaned out 6 culverts located on the area. Years of debris and sediment resulted in them being restricted from about ¼ to ½ of their original diameter. We're hoping that this will prevent, or at least reduces, damage to the roads from fall rains. Three of the culverts are located in dry washes and are grossly undersized. We'll look into replacing these with at-grade rock fords. Noel and Ed also moved two 1,000 gallon water tanks to the unit placing them at a planted stand of water birch that was established 6 years ago. In the coming week we'll created a temporary irrigation system to hopefully spur any regrowth.



*Indian Dan Canyon, July 2014. Photos: Dan Peterson & Noel Winegeart*

## **REGION 3**

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

#### **Wildlife Areas**

**Oak Creek Wildlife Area:** Assistant Manager Berry and NRW 2 Smith observed at least 12 turkeys including poults and toms on top of Bethel Ridge. This is the most turkeys seen on the wildlife area in a long time. They did not slow down enough for pictures.

**Sunnyside Wildlife Area:** Manager Bjornstrom made two trips up to the Mesa Lake and Windmill Ranch Units; one with District Biologist Gregory to check on the progress of a Duck Stamp project and another to recon areas for future wetland enhancements. Two areas were identified for a more detailed evaluation. Manager Bjornstrom met with Assistant Manager Buser to discuss water management and weed control on the wildlife area including areas of concern, coordinating job tasks, and timing of projects.

Assistant Manager Buser worked with Ducks Unlimited engineers and LKE Enterprises on the West Pigeon Pond wetland renovation project at Mesa Lake. Construction work continued with removal of material from the old wetland levee, rebuilding the new levee, setting the new water control structure in place and associated culvert. Assistant Manager Buser cleared weeds and brush from the Pigeon Pond water diversion site in preparation of planting native vegetation. A mix of Indian ricegrass, sand dropseed, bluebunch wheatgrass, Sandburg bluegrass and Idaho fescue will be used.

#### **Wildlife Management**

**Mourning Doves:** An additional 48 doves were marked in District 4 this week during one day of trapping. So far, during eight days of trapping, 277 birds have been banded. Of these, 52 are adults and 225 are juveniles. This is the most birds ever captured at this site over six years of capture. Among the adult birds captured, 29 are female and 23 are male. There have been nine birds captured that were banded in previous years. Four of these are 1-year-old, three are 2-years-old, and two are  $\geq$  2-years-old.

**Ducks:** Biologists Stutzman and Gregory and Technician Kaelber set up three duck traps on the Sunnyside Wildlife Area. Last year, 395 ducks were banded at these sites. Bait is on the water and there are already ducks coming in to feed so hopes are high for another successful capture season.



***Two traps were placed at one pond.***



***Woodhouse toads are very numerous at one of the duck trapping ponds.***



**Burrowing Owls:** Biologist Gregory returned the malfunctioning web camera for a replacement. A new camera should arrive in about a week. Owl captures for 2014 have been summarized. There were a total of 91 owls handled around the Pasco area: 55 young, 17 males and 19 females. Of these 36 adults: 12 of the adults (6 males, 6 females) had been banded in prior years and 24 adults (11 males and 13 females). Captures occurred at 21 sites, most of which were artificial burrows. The 55 young were banded at 12 sites (not all young were banded at all successful sites).

**Dove Trapping:** Biologist Bernatowicz trapped 3 sessions, banding only 3 mourning doves. No raptors observed at the site, but few mourning doves visiting the newly cut wheat field. It may just be a lag time from when the hawk was hunting the site or the raptor is still present, but wasn't seen. Eurasian collared dove numbers were very high with >50 trapped. Collared doves are outnumbering mourning doves 10:1. The Yakama Nation biologist was contacted, but few doves are visiting bait sites. Baiting will continue and other options are being explored.

**Bighorn Sheep:** Biologist Bernatowicz toured a USFS domestic sheep grazing lease that is check board with a new WDFW purchase with Section Manager Harris, Wildlife Area Manager Winegeart, and Range Ecologist Burnham. Topography and timber cover confirm modeling which predicted low probability of contact between domestics and bighorns. Ideas are being discussed to further limit probability of contact.

**Colockum Bull Study:** Biologist Moore worked with WDFW's Scott McCorquodale and Paul Wik as well as Northwest Helicopters Jess Hagerman to capture 10 bulls on the Colockum summer range. This effort increases our 2014-2015 total number of collared bulls to 37 and completes our sampling for another year.



*Colockum Bull fitted with an expandable GPS collar.*

**Umtanum / Selah Butte Bighorn Sheep:** Biologist Moore worked with Biologist Bernatowicz and Muckleshoot Tribal (MIT) Biologists to attempt to dart yearling bighorn sheep in the Yakima River Canyon. The objective of this effort was to collect samples to provide additional information for the ongoing pneumonia monitoring. Moore and a MIT Biologist had a bighorn sheep group, with a yearling, presented an opportunity in the southern end of the canyon. The situation would have been difficult to ensure the safety of the darted animal; therefore a decision was made to wait for a better opportunity.

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

### **Wildlife Areas**

**Oak Creek Wildlife Area:** Manager Huffman checked up on road work completed by the Yakima Construction Shop in the Oak Creek Area. The crew is opening a closed road across US Forest Service land that will provide access to a WDFW section. WDFW has a road use permit from the Forest Service to use the road and the Forest Service provided funding through the



Tapash CFLRP program to complete the work. The crew graded the road and installed numerous water bars, in addition the intersection with the main road had to be reconstructed and a culvert added (picture below).

***Road work completed by the Yakima Construction Shop on the Oak Creek Wildlife Area. The formerly closed road was upgraded to allow access for the public and for work on the Oak Creek Forest Restoration Project. The road is on Forest Service land and was funded by the Forest Service under Tapash.***

Assistant Manager Berry and NRW 2 Smith installed 4 kiosks next to the green dot reader boards at entrances to the Oak Creek Green dot area. Berry and Smith also installed the green dot maps and other signs on the kiosks. Manager Huffman contacted DNR about installing Discover Pass signs as a lot of the kiosks are on DNR land.

**Three-Year Package:** Biologist Bernatowicz submitted reviewed and started commenting on proposals submitted via the internet site.

***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:** Colockum staff spent most of the week maintaining the livestock/boundary fence along the south side of the Arthur Coffin Game Reserve. Volunteers from the Wenatchee Sportsman's Association assisted with splicing wires and clearing trees and brush from the fenceline. There are approximately 45 of DNR lessee Sam Kayser's cows in the game reserve this week. Manager Lopushinsky called Mr. Kayser and requested they be removed.

***Wenatchee Sportsman's Association doing volunteer fence repair, Colockum Wildlife Area.***



**LT Murray Wildlife Area:** Manager Winegeart attended a meeting of the Kittitas County Commissioners' Public Lands Access Committee, along with RD Livingston and Bios Meyer and Teske, to discuss the potential purchase of private land on the border of the LT Murray referred to as Lego Man. The committee was supportive of the purchase, with a request that WDFW and DNR work to reestablish Green Dot road access to Manastash Creek along Shell Rock Road. In response to this request, Assistant Manager Hunt and Manager Winegeart spoke to private landowner Lyle Gardenier, but he is not a willing seller at this time.

Manager Winegeart, Range Ecologist Burnham, District Bio Bernatowicz, and bighorn sheep Specialist Rich Harris all met with sheep permittee Mark Martinez. Mr. Martinez runs a band of appx 800 sheep on the USFS's Manastash allotment, which includes WDFW's newly acquired Gnat Flat parcels. The group toured the grazing allotment, viewed designated bedding sites and areas the band had recently grazed through, and discussed permit requirements. Sheep will reach WDFW lands in appx 2 weeks. Winegeart and Burnham will write a temporary grazing permit for 2014, and develop a long-term grazing plan for next year.

State Auditor Ryan McCord toured Green Gate and Parke Creek units of the Skookumchuck acquisition with Winegeart and Hunt. Mr. McCord is working on a study for the State Legislature to identify how newly acquired lands are managed by WDFW, DNR and State Parks.

Assistant Manager Hunt met with Darrel Eason, a volunteer who has adopted the Manastash Cabin refurbishment project. There are a few tasks that need extra hands, so Manager Winegeart contacted Deb Essman of Kittitas Field and Stream Club to invite their members to participate in a work party in early September.

**Oak Creek Wildlife Area:** Sunday morning at 5:30 Manager Huffman was awakened by pounding on the door of the residence from a motorcycle rider who came across a bad accident on the highway and could not get a cell phone connection to call 911. The person was finally able to connect with 911, to provide information. Huffman responded to the scene to assist and provided traffic control. The single vehicle rollover ½ mile from the HQ entrance had 3 injuries, one person had been ejected from the vehicle; all 3 were transported to the hospital. Unfortunately, a dog was also ejected in the wreck and did not survive.

### **Wildlife Management**

**District 4 Wildlife Conflicts:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand coordinated with landowners and hunt managers on elk locations to pressure them away from valuable crops. Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand continued to monitor and patrol Fewel Farms for elk damage concerns since damage to their apple and pumpkin crop was reported last week. A trail camera was deployed near the affected area as well as a LP gas cannon and no new damage or elk activity has occurred. Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand and Technician Kaelber conducted one late night/early morning spotlight patrol on Rattlesnake Mountain. This was our first attempt at using the newly purchased paintball gun and first strike rifled paintballs. Although a few long distance shots were fired, no animals were "marked" and all were hazed from the wheat crop. Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand received a beaver damage complaint from a landowner near Benton City. Reference to the "Living with Wildlife" document, electric fencing designs, as well as

contact with Wildlife Control Operators in the area was provided. Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand received a damage complaint from Olsen Brothers Farm near Prosser concerning elk in their apple orchard. Multiple non-lethal strategies will be implemented as well as active hazing during the night time hours.

**District 8 Wildlife Conflict:** Two cougars were killed in the act killing sheep by Martinez sheep herders. The operator notified Specialist Wetzel in one case and the wolf range rider called to report another. Enforcement was contacted immediately and the cougars were recovered. One incident was in the Naneum and one incident occurred near Blewett Pass. Both were investigated by Specialist Wetzel.

*In the Naneum area near Croker Flats a large 4 year old male cougar was killed after it had killed a lamb. It was treed at the kill site by the sheep dogs and shot by the sheep herder.*



*In the Swauk-Blewett Pass area, an approximately 1 1/2 year old male cougar was killed after it killed four sheep. The cougar was feeding on one of the sheep and treed at the kill site by the sheep herder's dogs. It was shot by the sheep herder.*



*Sheep killed near Blewett Pass*

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

**Wildlife Areas**

**Oak Creek Wildlife Area:** Manager Huffman worked with DNR and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for outstanding invoices that DNR has not paid for work completed by TNC under the Jobs Now contract. After several emails back and forth the invoices were processed by DNR and this will close out the Jobs Now work on the Oak Creek Forest Restoration Project. Manager Huffman coordinated with Project Coordinator Davidson in CAMP on the replacement of the office roof. The contractor showed up on Monday and completed work by Tuesday afternoon. The new metal roof looks great.

**Wenas Wildlife Area Fires:** Manager Confer Morris received a call from CWICC on Saturday informing her of a small fire near Strande road. It started on private property that is used by the public for target shooting and mudding. The fire was started by an exploding target and burned across the fence onto the wildlife area. The individuals who started it called it in and stayed on-site. DNR was able to contain the fire to ~1 acre. Our property is within the forest protection boundary, so DNR is responsible for the suppression and investigation. Manager Confer Morris reviewed the Sheep Company #2 fire invoice from DNR and sent comments to Richard Tveten. This was a small fire (33.5 ac) that started on WDFW lands, and although most of the area burned was on DNR ownership, WDFW was charged for all of the costs. This brought up the issue of cost share on the checkerboard lands and when DNR fire instituted it. Olympia Lands Division staff are following up with DNR Olympia staff for clarification.

**Access site servicing:** Access Manager Garcia and NRW2 Barbosa worked together, servicing the lower valley, Tim's Pond and Oak Creek, Mile Post 8, Mile Post 10, Thrall, Fio Rito, and Wood House Loop. They took a load of garbage dumped at Mellis Road to the landfill. NRW2 Barbosa serviced Hyde, Snively, Duportail, Ringold Springs, Lavender Lake, Bells, King Horn, Teanaway Junction, and Masterson Property. He checked Thrall and Mile Post 8 & 10 again due to the heavy use they are getting from floaters. While servicing Duportail, he came across a gentleman named Richard Whitby (Richland), who was picking up trash at the site. He stated that he really enjoys fishing at our sites and gets tired of the trash too and just wanted to take a few minutes of his personal time to help out the Department of Fish and Wildlife. There was also a local Richland officer issuing tickets at the Duportail site for no Access Permit. Good job to the locals for support of our sites.



***Garbage dumped at Mellis Road***

NRW2 Barbosa serviced lower valley, mile Post 8 & 10, Oak Creek, Tim's Pond, Fio Rito, Lavender, King Horn, Teanaway, Masterson, Hyde Road, Snively Road, Duportail, Thrall, and Mattoon. He spent an additional day cleaning up the Thrall entrance after a tree fell over the weekend, and at Mattoon cutting back shrubs along the roadway and made two trips to the land field. At the end of the week he mowed and finished cutting back the shrubs at Mattoon.



*Thrall entrance – before and after clean-up*

**LT Murray Wildlife Area:** Upon request, Asst. Manager Hunt provided miscellaneous Wildlife Area information and related things to Reese Lolley of TNC, and provided photos and info to Bios Meyer, Teske and Winegeart for a presentation to the County Public Lands Advisory Committee. Additionally, he contacted Olympia Engineering regarding 2 unpaid invoices charged to our accounts locally and totaling over \$1,000, and paid some other bills. Our WB locks order came in, and Hunt plans to replace old Plum Creek locks on the new Gnat Flat acquisition next week. He spoke with Steve Griswold to obtain a Plum Creek key and talk about a field visit with Steve to get the inside on some roads, gates, and seasonal vs. permanent closures, etc. Our two interns are making good progress on their inventory of roads, trails, and other features in that area as well. Fence construction has begun out in Quilomene/Whiskey Dick, and Winegeart and Hunt worked with Casey Davidson and the contractor to cover a couple of minor issues.

## **REGION 4**

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

#### **Wildlife Management**

**Common Loon Monitoring and Management:** Biologists Anderson and Smith spent time monitoring loons in King Co. Pairs and chick following continues. There is still need to confirm chicks at some area bodies of water that D12 has been unable to get back to recently.

*Common Loon with chick. Photo by Kim Chandler)*



**Band-tailed Pigeon Data:** Biologist DeBruyn compiled data from all mineral spring surveys in the district and forwarded them to the waterfowl section.

**Citizen Science Bat Survey:** Biologist Anderson, along with student interns and volunteers, ran July Acoustic Bat Encounter surveys at the Stillwater, Cherry Valley and Crescent Lake Units of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area.

**Wildlife Management Consultation/Permitting Requests; Municipal, Private Utilities, other:** Biologist Anderson provided permits and assistance regarding wildlife management requests for multiple osprey and heron projects. Some were private; some were municipal such as Seattle Department of Transportation needing to replace a culvert directly adjacent to nesting herons. Biologist Milner talked with several landowners this week who were confused about how their old WDFW plans integrate with the federal system. That was the easy part. These landowners also wanted to know the status of the nests that potentially encumber their property. Since WDFW doesn't have current information, they were told to be patient and staff would try to get out to determine nest status as time permits.

**Region 4 Ungulate Damage:** Biologist Smith responded to calls regarding deer and elk damage from residents of King and Island counties. Damage occurred to corn, potatoes, ornamentals and gardens. Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements and hunt by reservation options were discussed. Smith also monitored elk/deer activity on other area agricultural fields with the help of deployed trail cameras. With the help of Hunter Education & Volunteer coordinator Dazey, Smith arranged for a group of Master Hunter volunteers to haze elk from an area corn field over the coming weeks. Tech Cogdall continued hazing elk from a potato field in the Day Creek area. He also monitored elk herds in other parts of the Skagit Valley. Cogdall also communicated with landowners with fencing projects and facilitated them moving forward.



*Elk frequenting agricultural fields in King County.*

**Amphibian Monitoring Efforts – Woodland Park Zoo:** Biologist Anderson is working on ramping down the seasonal survey efforts with volunteers and focusing more on identification assistance. Biologist Hallock and Research Scientist Hayes have been an invaluable source for bouncing id opinions off of in cases where pictures are....questionable.

**Dead Squirrels – Seattle University:** Biologist Anderson picked up and shipped off an eastern gray squirrel, one of a handful, that all died within the same period on Seattle University. Due to circumstances it was felt by WDFW Wildlife Health that these cases should be examined. Test results are to come.

## **Wildlife Areas**

**Stillwater Wildlife Area:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm coordinated invasive weed control efforts with Sound Salmon Solutions. Approximately 4 acres of blackberry was sprayed with herbicide as part of the new Harris Creek II restoration project. Manager Boehm also mowed the weedy parking lots in preparation of herbicide application next week.

**Cherry Valley Wildlife Area:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm coordinated a mowing treatment at the Unit this week. The tractor was provided by Frohning Dairy and the NW Retriever Club. The focus was on mowing the dog training area for an upcoming event, expanding existing field acreage in preparation for next year, and increasing mowed acreage for hunting this fall. All parts of the Unit received some mowing except for the restoration areas. Sound Salmon Solutions completed approximately 1.5 acres of maintenance mowing for the Waterwheel Creek Project area. WDFW staff from the Noxious Weeds crew conducted weed control for the Fish Passage Project.

**Crescent Lake Unit:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm completed maintenance mowing of two parking lots in preparation for herbicide treatment next week.

**Ebey Island Unit:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm completed maintenance mowing at the three parking areas in preparation for herbicide treatment next week. Manager Boehm also reports that the corn, barley, and pasture responded well to the recent rain.

**Lake Terrell Dam Blockages:** Natural Resource Tech Deyo cleared out a beaver made blockage at the Lake Terrell dam. This blockage prevented water flow into Terrell Creek that helps salmon survive downstream.

**Fir Island Farm Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan:** Projects Coordinator Brokaw, Habitat Planner Brian Williams and staff from the The Nature Conservancy completed a round of edits to Fir Island Farm Monitoring and Adaptive Plan. The Plan is now ready for review by the Independent Technical Review Team.

**Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP):** Restoration Division Habitat Program staff provided an update on PSNERP to Region 4 Program Managers and Restoration Projects Coordinator Brokaw via video conference. PSNERP staff will begin a public outreach program for a package of restoration projects that are being designed in Region 4. More information on PSNERP is available at [www.pugetsoundnearshore.org](http://www.pugetsoundnearshore.org).

**North Leque Island Dike Breach Project:** Project Coordinator Brokaw facilitated a transfer of files to WDFW from Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) regarding a mitigation project planned for the area of Leque Island north of Highway 532. WSDOT is considering abandoning that project, and with these files, WDFW now has the option to advance the project if necessary.

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

### **Wildlife Management**

**Private Lands Habitat Management:** Technician Otto performed habitat management operation on invasive plant species at several quality hunt sites in Whatcom county.

**Waterfowl Quality Hunt Options:** Biologist Caldwell coordinated with I.T. staff to facilitate web based hunt by reservation options for the upcoming 2014 waterfowl season. Web based errors were identified and addressed. Follow up procedures will be conducted in the following weeks to handle these issues on a priority basis.



**Unit Status Checks:** Technician Otto completed status checks on multiple units throughout Skagit and Whatcom counties. With recent heavy rains, field status was needed to help schedule upcoming spraying and mowing activities. While at a Skagit the below deer were observed taking advantage of the ample forage.

***Skagit Valley deer taking advantage of the ample forage***

**Hunting Season Recommendations and Prospects:** Biologists reviewed comments submitted as part of the 3 year hunting season package and provided feedback to the comments. Biologist Anderson and Smith submitted the 2014 Hunt Prospects for District 12, King Co. Some new hunt opportunity can be found in the GMU 460 unit. As always, King County is highly urbanized with many types of recreational use in the wildland interface and backcountry. Knock



on doors and get to know the community where lowland hunting is available on private lands. Be courteous and a good representative for the hunting community while out on public lands and coming across other recreationists. Plan hunts during low use times by other folks (e.g. hikers) and hunt away from heavily used areas. Have fun!

***Biologist DeBruyn posted signs at access points to Mt. Baker Wilderness alerting recreational users to a new high buck hunt opening in September.***

## **Wildlife Areas**

**Skagit agricultural enhancement program - Leque Island Unit:** Sharecrop farmer completed final barley planting on Leque Island just in time for the rain that arrived mid-week.

**Skagit agricultural enhancement program - Island Unit:** Volunteer Curt Tronsdal treated the corn plantings on the Island Unit.

**Skagit agricultural enhancement program - Samish Unit:** Sharecrop farmer completed oat and grass plantings this week just in time for the rains that arrived mid-week.

**Intalco Unit Archery Biathlon Competition:** Hamster Endurance Running and the Custer Sportsmen's Club hosted the first Northwest Run-Archery Classic on the Intalco Unit. This new one day event is a biathlon archery competition open to youth as well as adults. The event was very well attended, and plans are already underway for next year's race.



*Archery Biathlon Competition*

**Lake Terrell Hunting Blinds Maintenance:** Natural Resource Tech Deyo repaired many of the waterfowl hunting blinds on the Lake Terrell Unit, including the ADA Accessible blind.

**Lake Terrell Archery Range Mowing:** Natural Resource Tech Deyo mowed fields and paths on the Archery Range on the Intalco unit.

**Samish Unit Wetland Enhancement Project:** Projects Coordinator Brokaw, Skagit Wildlife Area Manager Rotton, and Ducks Unlimited staff completed a review and edits to the Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) permit applications for the project. The applications are now ready for signature and will be submitted this week.

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

## Wildlife Management

**Nooksack Deer Hunt Volunteer Coordination:** Biologist Caldwell contacted two volunteers to discuss volunteer needs during the five day Nooksack deer hunt on private lands. Biologist Caldwell coordinated and scheduled volunteer days and times according to each volunteer's available service hours and private lands access needs. These results were forwarded on to District Biologist Danilson and Volunteer Coordinator Dazey for communication purposes.

**Western Washington Pheasant Release Program:** Biologist Caldwell contacted private landowners to go over land/farming status and access agreements for the 2014 pheasant hunting season. Access agreements were drafted and submitted via Novatus for all willing participants where habitat structures were suitable for pheasant hunting. Hunting participation results were forwarded on to upper management staff. Technician Otto met with partner landowner for the pheasant parking on the Bow Hill release area. Otto verified that they are accepting of another year of parking on their property. Otto discussed the timetable for getting the site ready and to let them know we will get another agreement in place for their signatures.

**Private Lands Management:** Biologist Caldwell met with private landowners and private timber managers to go over contract obligations, personnel changes, and meeting agendas for the 2014 waterfowl hunting season and GMU 418 elk and deer hunts. Pertinent contracts and payment documentation were forwarded on to Olympia staff.

**Bear Depredation Tracking:** Biologist Anderson, Wildlife Conflict Program Specialist and east side GIS and Data Specialist Owens worked together to compile data related to bear depredations for a research request. Data is being organized by Anderson and passed along this week.

**Urban Peregrine Management:** Biologist Anderson, Thompson and Tirhi all worked with volunteers and rehabilitation entities to place orphaned young of the year peregrine falcons with specialists to provide for care, training, and release upon good health and hunt skill.

## Hunter Education

**Hunter Education** Coordinator Steven Dazey along with coordinator Dan Boes from regions 5 and 6 conducted Hunter Instructor Applicant training at the NW Indian Fisheries Commission in



Olympia. In attendance were applicants from 5 Washington state tribes desiring to become hunter education instructors. Three tribes in Region 4 were represented, The Lummi, Stillaguamish, and Sauk-Suiattle. Coordinator Dazey plans to complete the certification process for the six Region 4 applicants (2 from each region 4 tribe) this September 20<sup>th</sup> at Camp Pigott where the applicants will teach an actual class of students.



*Volunteer Steven Mills leads a presentation on the on-line course while applicants prepare to demonstrate teaching skills*



*Applicants Emily Wirtz (Sauk- Suiattle tribe) and Bill Hebner (Stillaguamish tribe) practice their presentations*



*Volunteer coordinator Steven Dazey assisted hunter education instructors Grove and Sluder in presenting safe gun handling to 90 youth at a Cub Scout day camp. Safety talks as well as an opportunity to shoot BB guns on the range were included.*

## **Wildlife Areas**

**Snoqualmie Wildlife Area:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm posted new “Dog Training Area” signs and reference map detailing the location of official dog training locations at Cherry Valley and Crescent Lake Wildlife Units.

**Field Spraying:** Technician Otto sprayed a waterfowl site in Skagit County which is overrun with reed canary grass. This site was previously mowed earlier in the month to allow new grass growth which is below sprayer boom height.

**Skagit Headquarters:** Manager Rotton coordinated with Dike District #22 regarding the dredge spoils removal on the Wiley Slough and met with a local contractor to provide estimate for the disposal of these materials. Manager Rotton coordinated with David Brock, Regional Habitat Program Manager to provide necessary HPA approval for the removal of derelict vessels in Hall Slough near the entrance to Skagit Bay. Skagit staff and the North Sound Weed Crew surveyed and treated Purple Loosestrife on portions of the Headquarters Unit. Additional treatment days are schedule during good tidal conditions.

**Samish River Unit:** Manager Rotton coordinated with Natural Resources Conservation service and Dike District 5 on proposed flood gate repair project on the Samish River property. Staff performed a mowing treatment on problem weed areas on the Samish. In addition, they worked with the North Sound Weed Crew for the treatment of weeds along ditch lines. Mowing of cattails continued on the dry portion of the ponds and areas were opened up around hunting blinds.

**Lummi Island Heritage Trust:** Manager Kessler wrote up a Letter of Support for the Lummi Island Heritage Trust’s RCO Grant application to acquire funds to purchase the old quarry property on the southeast side of Lummi Island.

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

**Employee Evaluations and work plans:** Staff completed all paperwork for employee evaluations and position descriptions.

**Snoqualmie Wildlife Areas:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm continues to coordinate with WDFW Master Hunters to provide volunteer opportunities for them. With support from Steve Dazey, the WDFW Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator, two Master Hunters and one additional volunteer continue to remove fallen trees, conduct trail maintenance, and tend to nursery needs over the past week.

**Hunter Education** Coordinator Dazey prepared for two upcoming Pre-Service Trainings. Aug. 2 and 3 on the Upper Skagit reservation where 2 new tribal instructors will present their first hunter education class and July 29<sup>th</sup> at the Mill Creek regional office where the classroom portion of the Pre-Service training will be presented. Coordinator Dazey also assisted a hunter

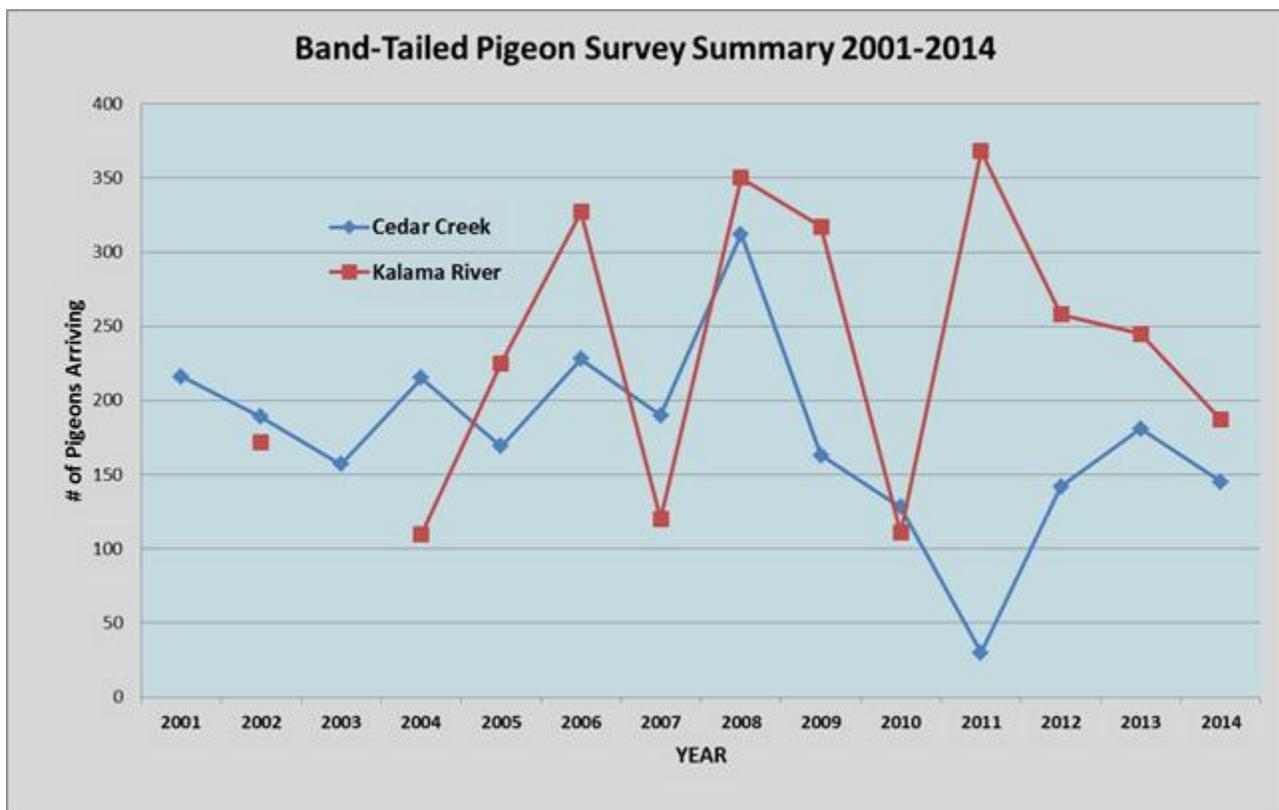
education Chief Instructor to find instructor help for his upcoming 3 days of classes in Mount Lake Terrace.

## **REGION 5**

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

#### **Wildlife Management**

**Band-tailed Pigeon Surveys:** Natural Resource Technician Sample and Biologist George conducted band-tailed pigeon mineral site surveys this week. These surveys have taken place consistently since 2004, and have been adopted by the Pacific Flyway Council as the official index by which to set management and closure thresholds for the Pacific Coast population of band-tailed pigeons. A total of 332 pigeons were observed at two mineral sites in Districts 9 and 10. Please see the chart to compare mineral site survey results over the past 13 years for the Cedar Creek and Kalama Sites. Surveys are expected to conclude next week.



Biologist Anderson completed the annual band tailed pigeon mineral springs survey for the St Martin's Wind River site in the Columbia River Gorge. This year's numbers were similar to 2013 with over 300 birds recorded using the mineral springs.

**Western Pond Turtle:** Biologist George continued to verify, update, and enter records associated with the 2014 western pond turtle trapping effort which took place at the Sondino Unit throughout April, May, and June. Results will be summarized and reported at a later date. Biologist George also finished preparations for the upcoming habitat management efforts and western pond turtle release event to take place next week at the Bergen site.

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

**Wildlife Management**

**2015-17 Three-Year Season Setting Process:** Regional Wildlife Program Manger Jonker met with Biologists and Conflict Specialists to discuss details regarding proposals to be brought forward in the 3-year season setting effort. Possible changes to deer hunting in GMU 382 (East Klickitat), elk hunting in GMU 524 (Margaret), and hunting related tools to address damage caused by elk and deer in various parts of Region 5 were all discussed as proposals. Public scoping including internet surveys, informational websites, and public meetings will all be employed in the continuation of the development of the hunting season proposals. Interested parties should continue to watch the Hunting page of WDFW's website for developments and opportunities to comment on the 2015-17 seasons. In addition, Regional wildlife biologists worked to review public comments/proposals submitted by the public and relevant to Region 5. Public scoping is an important part of the 3-year season setting process and the 213 comments associated with Region 5 will be considered for further development as the season setting process proceeds.

**Annual Region 5 Deer PR Report:** Biologist Holman completed the annual Pittman-Robertson (PR) report for deer management in Region 5. The report summarizes activities related to deer including hunter harvest, season structure, survey efforts, the black-tailed deer research project, habitat enhancements, population estimates, etc. The report will be compiled with similar documents on all hunted species in Washington and finalized this fall. Interested parties can read the annual reports from past years by visiting the Hunting page of WDFW's website and selecting Game Status and Trend Reports.

**Access**



**Vancouver Lake:** Access staff Spangler and Rhodes picked up and hauled over 300 pounds of garbage. In addition, a new lock that had been removed was replaced on the gate. Rhodes later reported a vehicle had run off the road near the paved parking lot and crashed through the wire fence. There was no vehicle at the scene and not sure if the vehicle had rolled over, but there were a lot of car parts and debris spread around the area.



***Vancouver Lake garbage dumping***

***Vehicle off the road at Vancouver Lake***



**Lacamas Lake, Barbers, and Martin Access Sites:** Access staff Spangler and Rhodes coordinated with the Larch Mountain inmate crew to work on Lacamas Lake and Barbers where they picked up around 20 pounds of trash from the beach and upper parking lot at Lacamas and 60 pounds of trash from Barber's parking lot. Most of the weight came from the many beer bottles left on site by swimmers during the hot weather. Unfortunately, a dozen or so beer bottles were thrown against the restroom and shattered at the Martin Access site. The broken glass was removed and hauled away.

**Lacamas Lake:** A couple drove their truck on the boat ramp, parked, and got out. The truck rolled into the water, bobbed around, and finally sunk about 40 yards out. A diver and two tow trucks were called to get the vehicle out of the water. There didn't appear to be any petroleum spilled into the lake.



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

## **Wildlife Conflict**

**District 10 Deer Damage:** Conflict Specialist Conklin met with owners of a small hobby farm who were experiencing deer damage to their crops. Conklin lent them a bird banger and a critter gitter noise alarm to try for thirty days. If either of the devices is effective, the land owner stated they would purchase the equipment on their own.

**District 10 Elk Damage:** Conflict Specialist Conklin met a land owner in the Winlock area who has a 140 acre crop of sweet peas being damaged by elk. Conklin set up two Critter Gitter's on the main trails leading into the pea field. She also coordinated with a Master Hunter volunteer who will drive by early morning and late evening and haze off any elk he observes in the field. Conklin met the volunteer at the property and gave him an orientation.



*Sweet pea damage from elk*

Conflict Specialist Conklin met with a land owner who owns a dairy in the Silver Creek area. The land owner wanted Conklin to verify damage caused by elk to his hay fields. Conklin took pictures and they also spoke about options for permits and master hunters.

**District 9 Wildlife Conflict:** Conflict Specialist McDonald signed a Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreement with a Woodland blueberry farmer. The farmer continues to use Critter Gitters, mylar tape, and bird bangers to help deter deer from browsing on her blueberries. Damage prevention permits were issued for the month of August. The farm has sold over 2,500 pounds of blueberries so far, and it appears to be one of the best crops she has had in 40 years. The landowner is very appreciative of the help that WDFW has given this year.

**Wildlife Deterrents:** Conflict Specialist McDonald continues to work with Vancouver homeowners with resident deer. Mylar tape has not deterred the deer from browsing on their fruit trees. A Critter Gitter has been installed. The homeowners will wrap the tree trunks with chicken wire to prevent the bucks from damaging the trees while rubbing their antlers.



*Resident deer in Vancouver*

## **REGION 6**

No report submitted.