

Wildlife Program

Week of May 19-25, 2014

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY PROGRAM

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Conservation Monitoring of Red Knots: Natural Resource Scientist Joe Buchanan spent the week at Grays Harbor leading a Red Knot banding project. During 2 rocket net deployments, nearly 400 Red Knots were captured, 361 of which were processed for research data collection; 344 were new captures and 14 were recaptures from Alaska, Washington or Mexico. Blood samples were collected from over 100 knots for disease monitoring purposes. The team deployed 20 transmitters; a scientist with the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska will monitor their occurrence from an airplane at Copper River Delta as part of a preliminary investigation of space use by Red Knots at that site. During the week we also observed and read the flag codes of 100+ knots that had been marked in Mexico (2006 – 2014) or Grays Harbor (2011 and 2014). Marked birds from breeding grounds in Alaska (several) and Russia (3) also were observed. One red knot marked on the Texas coast was observed and a geolocator deployed from Seward Peninsula, Alaska, was recovered. Participants in the field effort included Adriana Hernandez (Mexico), Nallely Arce (Mexico), Victor Ayala (Mexico), Jim Johnson (USFWS, Alaska), Luke DeCicco (USFWS, Alaska), Nick Hajdukovich (USFWS, Alaska), Joe Buchanan, Lori Salzer (Science Division), Steve Desimone (Wildlife Diversity), Gary Wiles (Wildlife Diversity), Warren Michaelis (Region 6), Sean Dougherty (Private Lands Biologist, Region 2), Joe Evenson (Wildlife Program), Don Kraege (Wildlife Program), Les Holcomb (Lands Division), John Evans (Lands Division), John Ennor (Lands Division), Ken George (Lands Division), Vanessa Loverti (USFWS, Portland), Jim Chu (US Forest Service, Washington), Jim Lyons (USFWS, Maryland), Brad Winn (Manomet Center for Conservation Science, Massachusetts), Brian Harrington (Manomet Center for Conservation Science, Massachusetts), and Charlie Wright (University of Washington). Dave Heimer and Russell Nunez provided other support. The Red Knot is a Species of Greatest Conservation Need and has varied conservation status in Alaska, Canada, Washington, California, and Mexico.

Butterfly Response to Habitat Restoration: Ann Potter, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, met with the San Juan County Land Bank contracted butterfly biologist, Thor Hanson, to conduct butterfly SGCN monitoring for the State Wildlife Grant Prairie-Oak restoration project at the Turtleback Mountain Preserve (Orcas Island). The Turtleback project restores oak woodlands and reconnects grassland patches by removing shrubs and young conifers on approximately 5 acres. The focal SGCN butterfly for surveys at this site is the *Propertius* Duskywing, whose larvae feed solely on Garry Oak. The restoration unit was surveyed before treatment, in 2013; however, no *Propertius* Duskywings were found. We conducted the first 2014 survey and encountered *Propertius* Duskywings within the newly restored unit and nearby.

Golden Eagle Nesting Territory Surveys – Biologist Gerry Hayes reports that early May is a transition point in the monitoring of golden eagle nesting territories from determining occupancy status to determining nesting success and productivity at occupied territories. For those nesting

territories surveyed to protocol, apparent occupancy was 64% at randomly selected nesting territories (n=94) and 73% at lower priority sites (n=73) that included 8 new territories. District Biologists and WDFW's partners continue to monitor the development of young at a sample of nest sites (currently ~4 weeks old) to properly time productivity surveys when young are more than 51 days of age but prior to fledging. As in 2013, District Biologists have done a great job implementing the survey protocol this breeding season. Surveys in 2014 are aided extensively by aircraft use that is supported financially by wind industry partners (Iberdrola, EDP Renewables, Puget Sound Energy), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and WDFW.

Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GNLCC) – Section Manager Wilkerson attended the Steering Committee Meeting of the GNLCC in Waterton, Alberta. The GNLCC is a USFWS-led partnership that works to align and enact regional landscape conservation in the geographic area that encompasses parts of the Columbia Basin, the Rocky Mountains, and the Sage Steppe of the Interior West. Wilkerson serves as the WDFW representative on the GNLCC. Senior Wildlife Scientist Pierce also attended, he serves on the Advisory Team for the GNLCC. The agenda included a species session on Trans-boundary Species conservation and a landscape-level multi-species prairie conservation partnership in southern Alberta, orientation to the natural and cultural history of the area, allocation of \$720,000 in funding to support the goals of the GNLCC (based on a proposal process), the GNLCC science plan and implementation, GNLCC program performance and evaluation, a focus on the Rocky Mountain Partner forum, and orientation to landscape-level conservation partnerships in southern Alberta. The steering committee committed to funding two GNLCC wide projects (one on aquatic invasives and another on landscape connectivity) as well as 7 tribal project, 4 partner forum projects, and 21 strategic science projects. Much conversation surrounded a shift towards action-oriented, partner prioritized projects. The Steering Committee also recommended adding dry forest ecosystems and indicative woodpecker species to their conservation targets.

Pygmy Rabbit Recovery: Section Manager Becker, Biologists Wisniewski, Volsen, Gallie, and several other staff completed the second round of kit captures 5/12-5/16. On Wednesday of that week we captured 28 kits at the large enclosure at Sagebrush Flat (SBF). Fifteen kits were released to wild on SBF and 13 were retained in nursery to reach 150g weight requirement for release. On Thursday we captured 17 rabbits (16 new kits, 1 recap kit) at the Beezley Hills enclosure. Ten rabbits were released to wild at SBF, 6 rabbits were retained in the nursery, and the recap was returned to the breeding enclosure. We were assisted this week by volunteers; Bob Fisher, James Schroeder, Rosann Green, Peter Lancaster, Tracy Barrett, Betsy DeMay and Willa Finger. We also captured and released to wild 8 rabbits from the SBF large enclosure nursery that met the 150 g weight requirement. This brings the total number of kits captured this year to approximately 212.

REGION 1

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Northeast Washington Bear Survey: District Wildlife Biologist Dana Base worked with Idaho Panhandle National Forest Biologist Brett Lyndaker in checking self-activated cameras in the Washington Selkirk Mountains. Of 6 camera stations deployed, 4 got visits from black bears. Hundreds of black bear photographs were taken. Base and Lyndaker also met with the USFWS bear trapping team to coordinate surveillance efforts. This project is in partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forest, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, the Kalispel Tribe, and the Kootenai Tribe.



Four different black bears photographed at one camera station in the Selkirk Mtns.

Lincoln County Prairie Grouse Project: Biologist Atamian went out to search for the GPS unit from one of the sage grouse mortality males where the VHF transmitter had failed and the kill site is in/near a birch grove, making this unit very difficult to find. Atamian found the GPS unit up ~10ft in a snag and completed an in close location for a nesting Sharp-tailed Grouse on the way out of the area.



Snag where male sage grouse was consumed

District 3 Wolf Activity: Howling that sounded like adults and pups was reported from the South Touchet area, but no evidence of wolves in the area was found by Biologist Vekasy. Trail cameras were deployed. DB Wik placed remote cameras in the area that the dispersing Oregon collared wolf spent a week. No physical evidence was found in the area to indicate why the animal spent a week there.

Clarkston Bighorn Sheep: A yearling ram came into Clarkston this week and was lethally removed by enforcement officers after they were able to contact ADB Vekasy. Both Biologists were in the field that day and unable to respond in the timely matter required. The young ram had already broken the French doors out of a house, after seeing his reflection, and had required a law enforcement response. The event was widely publicized on a local facebook news page, including the lethal removal. DB Wik provided a news release to the manager of the Facebook page, but numerous negative comments were still received. Preliminary results from WSU WADDL indicated the animal did have pneumonia.

Darting Deer near Chewelah, Washington: Conflict Specialist Bennett, Moose Biologist Hansen, Wildlife Technician Kujala, Big Game Biologist Myers, and Graduate Student James participated in a deer darting operation in south Stevens County. After several hours of waiting in blinds and tree stands, the white-tailed deer did not come close enough to be darted.

Wolf Advisory Group Meeting: Specialists Shepherd, Bennett and Supervisor McCanna attended the WAG meeting in the Spokane Regional Office. Various topics such as lethal take and wolf-dog interactions were discussed.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Tour: Biologists Thorne Hadley and Lewis participated in a CREP tour in Walla Walla and Columbia counties hosted by the Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District.



CREP tour attendees gather to look at a CREP planting in Walla Walla

Pheasant Survey: Biologist Lewis completed the second pheasant survey for the St John route. The first survey resulted in 292 total calls and the second had 271. Other birds heard or observed were Swainson's hawk, Northern Harrier, American Crow,

Magpie, Killdeer, California Quail, Hungarian partridge, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Horned Lark, Western Meadowlark, Song Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Barn and tree swallows, American Goldfinch, House Finch, hen and rooster pheasants, and Mourning Dove.

Wildlife Areas

Lake Creek (Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area) wetland restoration: Wildlife Area Manager (WAM) Juli Anderson and Wildlife Area Assistant Manager (WAAM) Mike Finch joined Ducks Unlimited (DU) engineer Brian Heck and the construction contractor for a tour of the SLWA

Lake Creek project, Thursday morning. Although the project is about 2/3 finished, there is less water (about 1 meter) in the south end than staff had expected, but still enough to support the blackbirds and coots seen in that area. Completion of the last 1/3 of the project is expected to start any day now, and all parties hope that it can be wrapped up by July 1, to avoid the hottest part of the fire season.



Larger pond, further south, estimated 1 meter deep in the middle.



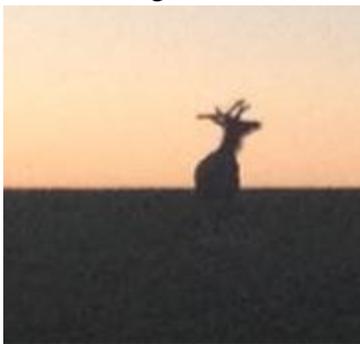
Mule deer doe in restored wetland south of Z-Lake.

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

Wildlife Management

Pomeroy Wildlife Conflict: Under the direction of Conflict Specialist Rasley, Natural Resource Worker Wade worked all week in the early morning and evening hours to keep elk hazed out of the agriculture fields south of Pomeroy. Wade

was able to keep the elk moving towards the one way gates in the elk fence and away from the crop fields. Wade reported that these elk are starting to realize they are not welcomed in the WDFW “No elk zone” and they begin moving out as soon as they see a vehicle stop now; as opposed to their normal behavior.



Lone bull elk being hazed from crop fields



Small group of Bull Elk being hazed out of fields at sunset in Garfield County

Wildlife Areas

4-O Ranch Wildlife Area–Cemetery Cleanup: Biologist David Woodall, Technician Debby Flynn, Technician Dave Meisner and the Ed Johnson Family cleaned up around the McNeill and



Wildlife Area staff and volunteers cleaning up the Mountain View Cemetery.

Autry Cemeteries for the upcoming Memorial Day Holiday. The Johnsons have family buried there and they have always received permission to access the sites and clean the graves when the land was in private holding. We thought it would be good to provide that access as well and assist with the cleanup efforts.



Cemetery Cleanup. WDFW staff worked with volunteers on this project

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

Wildlife Management

Hunter Education PowerPoint: Supervisor McCanna put together a Hunting Access and GO HUNT PowerPoint for the Hunter Education Program. This PowerPoint will be sent to instructors statewide to use in each of their classes.

REGION 2

REGION 3

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDIFE

Wildlife Areas

LT Murray Wildlife Area: Manager Winegeart, Assistant Manager Hunt and Habitat Bio Renfrow responded to a report of an injured eagle in a hay field. Upon arrival the bird was found to be a deceased red-tailed hawk, which was collected for donation to CWU as a study skin.

Sunnyside Wildlife Area: Manager Bjornstrom and Biologist Gregory met with RPM McCorquodale at the Pasco District Office then headed north to tour Windmill Ranch and Mesa Lake. Several topics were discussed including future plans for facilities operations, coordination with BOR on management activities, and other opportunities on the wildlife area.

Wildlife Management

Burrowing Owls: In just over a week, the 7 owlets at the webcam burrow have matured enough to emerge from the burrow. They are now moving freely in and out of the nest box and their parents are working very hard to keep them fed.



Left: *An image captured on May 16, 2014 of the owlets hatched inside the webcam burrow. Photo: J.Ross*



Right: *A screen capture from May 27, 2014 showing the outside of the webcam burrow including the 7 owlets and one of their parents. Photo: S. Gregory*

Biologists Gregory and Bjornstrom, retired Wildlife Area Manager Ross, and a team from USFWS and the Global Owl Project spent a night trapping burrowing owls around Pasco. A total of 28 owls were captured including 8 males, 11 females, and 9 young. Of the total, 4 males and 3 females had been captured previously. All of the females were either caring for young or sitting on eggs. Only those young that were mobile were banded. One of the recaptured females



was the owl that has been carrying a GPS transmitter for the last year. She was tracked to the Channel Islands off the California coast where she spent the winter and then back to Pasco. This is the first time that a burrowing owl wearing this type of transmitter has been recaptured. She was in great condition and sitting on 8 eggs. Because she seems to have tolerated the transmitter very well it was left in place and it is hoped she will provide another year of migration data. A second and final night of trapping is planned for the coming week.

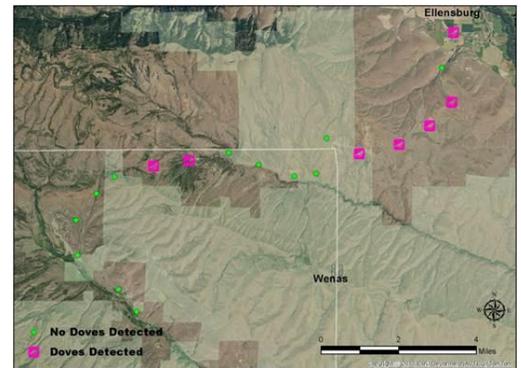
Volunteer and retired Wildlife Area Manager Ross holding an owl marked with a GPS transmitter. Photo: USFWS

Right: *The transmitter harness. The bare spot is the owl's brood patch used for incubating eggs. Photo: USFWS*



Left: *The GPS transmitter worn by a female burrowing owl in Pasco since 2013. Photo: USFWS*

Mourning Doves: Biologists Gregory and Stutzman conducted the second of three surveys for mourning doves using distance sampling on the Wenas Wildlife Area. They observed doves at 4 of the 20 survey locations compared to 6 out of 20 during the first survey. All data collected will be submitted to the USFWS and incorporated with other distance sampling data collected throughout the country to determine if it will be useful for estimating dove abundance and density.



A map of the dove route used for distance sampling data collection showing the survey stations where doves have been detected during 2 visits in May 2014.

Possible Cougar Predation: Biologist Bernatowicz investigated 1 deer mortality this week for MIT researchers. All evidence suggested the deer had been killed by a cougar.

Collared deer killed by a cougar



Bighorn Sheep: Two recently dead lamb samples from the Yakima Canyon were obtained and shipped to WADDL for testing. One lamb was found dead, but was partially consumed by scavengers. The second lamb was chased and killed by coyotes. Other sick lambs were observed.

Predation: Enforcement staff responded to cougar predation on goats and called Biologist Bernatowicz over the weekend. The location was along a creek within a fairly well developed area in Yakima. Enforcement staff had already investigated, determined a cougar was involved, and were en route to retrieve the cougar trap from Ellensburg and deploy it near Yakima. Because the location was outside any known wolf range and first-hand observations by enforcement staff, no on-site investigation was done by Wildlife Program, although the program consulted with enforcement on their findings.

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

Wildlife Areas



Colockum Wildlife Area: Manager Lopushinsky joined members of Kittitas County Field and Stream Club along with WDFW Engineer Kristen Kuykendall and Archaeologist Katherine Kelly in a field trip to Stray and Tekison Creeks to continue to explore possibilities for new road construction.

Members of Kittitas Field and Stream Club, along with Kristen Kuykendall (Engineering) and Katherine Kelly (Wildlife Program Archaeologist) visit Stray Gulch and Tekison Creek.

LT Murray Wildlife Area: Manager Winegeart met with Jason Scribner, LT Murray WAAC member representing the Audubon Society. Jason had proposed two Audubon projects, which were vetted at the last WAAC meeting – installation of kestrel nest boxes, and establishment of birding trails on the wildlife areas. Jason was looking for guidance on potential locations and we will follow up with another meeting after more information gathering.

Assistant Manager Hunt continued working with Regional Lands Agent Hendrix, DNR, and the LDS Church representative (permittee) to get things in order for their June hand cart trek. Since they will camp on DNR ownership (even though DFW leases it), DNR now says they need to permit the activity also. We'll probably get there, but this is an unnecessary exercise in redundancy that could be taken care of with the proper language added to the lease agreements. Recreational use should be a main component of what we manage on lands leased from DNR.

Wenas Wildlife Area: Staff installed new reader boards and kiosks at the Durr road North and the Umtanum/Ellensburg Pass road entrances. They also installed a kiosk at the Black Canyon parking area.

Ellensburg Pass – Umtanum Road Readerboard and Kiosk



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

Wildlife Areas



Creating tomorrow's biologists: Manager Lopushinsky attended the Wenatchee School District 5th grade Career Fair at Columbia Elementary School.

A 5th grade student learning about wildlife careers at Columbia Elementary Career Fair.

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Manager Huffman reviewed and commented on the Biological Assessment for the Oak Creek Commercial Timber Sale. TNC Forester Dahlgreen sent the completed draft to the contract fish biologist for completion. Hopefully in about 2 weeks it will be ready for submittal for consultation.

Wildlife Management

Elk Conflict monitoring: Don Hand monitored elk distribution and movements in Elk Areas 3721 & 3722. No reports this week of elk movements in the Blackrock area. Daily elk activity is occurring along Hanford's south boundary although hunting pressure and hazing has reduced the number and overall time elk are spending on the private land side of the fence.

Staff diligently monitored harvest of DPP permits in Elk Area 3721. After a very slow start to the summer bull permit season, 3 spikes and one 3x3 bull were harvested this past week.

Don coordinated with landowners and hunt managers on elk locations to pressure them away from valuable crops.

Staff also conducted late evening /early morning hazing patrol on Rattlesnake Mountain. Multiple groups of elk and few deer (<10), were hazed from winter wheat fields.

Conservation work with cubs: Biologist Stutzman spoke to a group of cub scouts in Connell about wildlife conservation and being a wildlife biologist. The scouts are trying to earn their "Conservation" badge and so broad topics like wildlife habitat and populations were discussed as were some specific species at risk of extinction. The kids were very interested in talking about wildlife and were relatively well behaved.

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

Novatus Training for Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Manager Huffman attended training on the new Novatus contracts program at the Yakima Construction Shop.

Manager Huffman worked on organization of volunteer registration for an upcoming Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation volunteer project. Materials were ordered and Huffman registered several volunteers in CERVIS who were having trouble using the program.

Manager Huffman released biological control insects at 4 locations in the Garrett Canyon area to control Dalmatian toadflax. Insects were present at most of the release sites but not in enough numbers to provide any suppression. Hopefully the addition on more insects will increase the population enough to suppress this rapidly spreading noxious weed. While driving to the release sites Huffman treated 4 new locations of Dalmatian toadflax with herbicide. The new locations were isolated and still small enough to eradicate before the weed becomes established in a new location.

LT Murray Wildlife Area: Manager Winegeart reviewed the draft Parke Creek fence SEPA checklist and provided comments back to CAMP. The Whiskey Dick fence project finally has all permits in place and will go out to bid next week.

Wenas Wildlife Area Fire: Manager Confer-Morris responded to a fire at the Cottonwood shooting area Thursday evening. The fire was started by fireworks and burned 3.1 acres before Selah Fire was able to put it out. The individuals who started it called 911, attempted to put it out, and stuck around until we got enforcement on scene. Regional Enforcement Captain Mann responded and cited the male subject for two violations.



Cottonwood fire – Incident #93

Manager Confer-Morris spoke to Ken McNamee, DNR, and then followed up with an e-mail requesting DNR's concurrence on implementing a 2014 fire season timing restriction on target shooting on the Wenas Wildlife Area, beginning June 2. She also sent an e-mail to public affairs requesting a news release for the restriction.

Sunnyside Wildlife Area: Manager Bjornstrom continued working with Dave Miller on the Windmill Ranch electrical project and coordinating meetings with BOR on the Whitstran Unit access site relocation project and Smith Canyon management responsibilities.

Assistant Manager Buser began excavation to establish field entrances for the center pivots on the Windmill Ranch Unit. Spur roads will be incorporated at all center pivots to provide a specific site where all agricultural traffic enters and exits the leased ground. The spurs will be

graveled and anchored on both sides with native shrubs and grasses to allow easy recognition of proper access to the leased ground. In the past, the operator's field staff would drive through established buffer strips and destroy vegetation and spread weeds in the process. The hopes are to reduce maintenance and restoration costs on the property.

Access staff moved barrier rock at Mattoon Lake where people were driving through and dumping trash (photos below).



District 8 Bighorn Sheep: Biologist Moore worked on logistics for Central Washington University interns. Moore checked on the intern's volunteer registration and prepared the necessary paperwork for mileage reimbursement. Moore also worked with the interns for a day and obtained visuals on 2 of 3 ewes they were having difficulty with.

REGION 4

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Species of Greatest Conservation Needs (SGSN) surveys: Assistant District Biologist Cyra assembled additional cover boards for deployment on the Sharp-tailed Snake project in the San Juan Archipelago this summer. These cover boards create habitat in areas of potential snake habitat and help to reduce the impact of searches to the natural habitat of these dry, open oak savannah areas. Assistant District Biologist Cyra assisted District Biologist Milner with a field check of cover boards on Orcas Island, and placement of additional covers. This visit also included use of a canine scent tracking dog from the Conservation



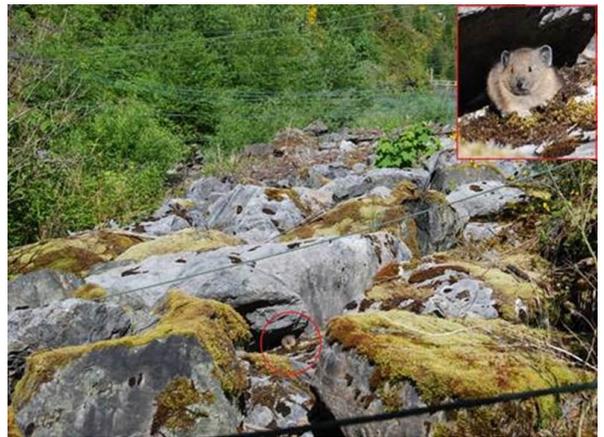
Tucker enjoying his reward after warming up for surveys by finding the sharp-tailed snake training materials prior to beginning formal searches.



Tucker at work tracking Sharp-tailed Snake scent

Canines program at the University of Washington. Tucker (the Black Lab), has been training on scent from a captive Sharp-tailed Snake, and a shed skin was used for reinforcement in the field. Tucker did not detect any Sharp-tailed Snakes on this visit, and no snakes were observed at the cover boards. When not tracking snakes this summer, Tucker will be used on surveys for Killer Whales and Spotted Owls. <http://conservationbiology.uw.edu/conservation-canines/>

Low Elevation Pika Surveys: Assistant District Biologist Cyra continued with Pika presence surveys at this low elevation site. A second survey established the probable existence of two additional Pika groups. Hot weather has made visual observations difficult to obtain as the large boulder fields provide plentiful shade and the pikas do not need to show themselves. A third survey in cooler weather provided visual confirmation on one of the additional sites. This sighting, several years after a brief observation by base staff, likely establishes this as the lowest elevation established pika area in Western Washington.



Second confirmed Pika location at a low elevation site in the Stillaguamish drainage.

Nutria Monitoring at DeBay Slough Unit: Biologist Danilson followed up with US Department of Agriculture (USDA) personnel regarding District 14 nutria monitoring activities as DeBay Slough. After nearly three weeks of remote camera work at the site and two reconnaissance surveys, nutria presence has not been documented. It was agreed that staff continue to rapidly respond to reports of nutria here, since this is where nutria were originally detected in Skagit County nearly a decade ago. USDA does not currently have the resources to conduct additional monitoring in the Skagit at this time, so WDFW will have to take the lead on following up on reports. Biologist DeBruyn surveyed the entire area for aquatic animals and saw some beaver and a muskrat. Trail cameras that had been deployed in the area were removed as no images of nutria have been captured.

Wildlife Areas

Crescent Lake Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm coordinated field preparation and planting efforts with Werkhoven Dairy. Corn will continue to be planted as weather allows. Barley fields will be prepared and planted towards the end of June.

Ebey Island Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm coordinated planting efforts with Sno-Valley Farms. Approximately 60 acres of corn is in the ground. Additional field preparation will continue as they prepare to plant barley later this year. Manager Boehm also met with Everett Alexander to discuss grazing efforts. Due to wet weather, grass growth rate has been slow. Manager Boehm installed additional fencing in the pump house field to open that field up for grazing. Cattle are being rotated weekly to avoid over grazing the pastures.

Stillwater Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager met with Frohning Dairy to finalize the planting plan for the Unit. Approximately 55 acres are planned to be under plow as soon as the soil dries. A mix of barley, corn, and grass is planned to be planted on the Unit this spring.

Whatcom Wildlife Area Noxious Weed Control: Natural Resource Tech Deyo performed chemical and mechanical weed control on poison hemlock, blackberries and scotch broom on the Lake Terrell and Intalco units. Manager Kessler mowed approximately 5 acres of reed canary grass in fields of the Lake Terrell Unit. Repeated mowing of reed canary grass weakens it, and helps limit its' spread into adjacent areas.

Lake Terrell Barley Fields: Natural Resource Tech Deyo worked to prep the agricultural fields at Lake Terrell for barley plantings. He plowed and disked the fields.

Rainbow Pond Water Control: Manager Kessler coordinated with our Don Kraege and Ducks Unlimited on the upcoming replacement of the Rainbow Pond water control that collapsed in March. The water control will be replaced in late Summer using Duck Stamp funds.

Leque Island Alternatives Analysis and Design Project: Projects Coordinator Brokaw sent draft meeting notes from the April 30th Stakeholder Committee meeting to the committee to review and provide comments by May 30th. After May 30th, the notes will be finalized and be posted on the project webpage at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/skagit/leque_island_project.php.

Fir Island Farm Final Design Project: Projects Coordinator Brokaw calibrated two new water quality devices to prepare them to be launched on the site next week, and scheduled a repair with the manufacturer for a device that malfunctioned. These devices measure water temperature, water depths, and salinity of groundwater and surface water at and near the project site.

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

Wildlife Management

Volunteer of the Year Award: After the only available access to the Island Unit of the Skagit Wildlife Area - a WDFW owned barge - was condemned for safety reasons in 2012, Jay Koetje stepped in with both financial and volunteer assistance. Koetje purchased a barge and made it available for use in maintaining the Island Unit for waterfowl. Additionally, he provided use of a

boat to push the barge, seed for planting barley and corn for waterfowl, all-terrain vehicles, tractors and fuel to maintain farming and dikes.



"With escalating costs of equipment and supplies, we were having difficulty maintaining this area for the benefit of wintering waterfowl," said Russell Link, the local Wildlife Program Manager with WDFW. "Volunteers recruited by Jay planted corn, maintained dikes, removed downed trees, fabricated ramps, and operated the barge to ferry equipment back and forth."

Volunteer of the year Jay Koetje of Mount Vernon led an effort to improve management of the Farmed Island Unit of the Skagit Wildlife Area.

Waterfowl Aerial Surveys: Assistant District Biologist Cyra flew with Waterfowl Specialist Evenson in the south and central Puget Sound basin for this year's breeding waterfowl aerial surveys. Data was transcribed and sent to Specialist Evenson for use in Pacific Flyway planning. In addition, AD Cyra provided flight following for several days of flights in eastern Washington

Spring Black Bear Special Permit Hunt: Biologist DeBruyn surveyed the North Skagit area for hunter use and to check gate security. No hunters were observed but one gate was found to be missing a lock. DeBruyn did observe one large brown phase black bear in the unit and he continued to observe and document peeling damage to timber resources. The special hunt is designed to control bear numbers in areas experiencing tree damage.

Rocky Spencer Award Recipient: Chris Anderson received WDFW's Rocky Spencer Award for his dedication to collaborating with citizen stewards and citizen scientists and his enthusiasm for managing and promoting awareness of local wildlife populations. His citizen science projects include work on purple martins, bats, herons, and taking the lead for WDFW on the WDFW/Woodland Park Zoo/Northwest Trek Citizen Amphibian Monitoring Project.



Wildlife Areas

Samish Unit Wetland Enhancement Project: Projects Coordinator Brokaw, Skagit Wildlife Area Manager Rotton, and Ducks Unlimited drafted an agenda for an upcoming Open House. The meeting is planned for June 3rd from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Padilla Bay Breazeale Interpretive Center. The meeting is open to the public, and attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the project, provide comments, ask questions, and sign up for a project update list to stay current on the project timeline. For more information, please contact Loren Brokaw at Loren.Brokaw@dfw.wa.gov.

Samish River Unit (Welts) Wetland Restoration Project: The date has been confirmed for June 11th at 9:00 am for the project to go before the Skagit County Hearing Examiner as part of the process to receive a Special Use permit. Projects Coordinator Brokaw notified attendees of the public Open House who signed up for the project update list that this date has been set.

Island Unit Tidegate Repair: Projects Coordinator Brokaw participated in a teleconference with Skagit Wildlife Area Manager Rotton, CAMP permitting staff, and NOAA fisheries to discuss compensatory mitigation requirements to repair a tidegate on the Island Unit.

Skagit Wildlife Area Agricultural Enhancement Program: Staff continued field preparation on the Island Unit for corn and barley plantings. Transfer of contract planter equipment has been coordinated and 20 acres are ready to be planted in corn on the Island Unit.

Contract farmer has begun field preparations on the Samish Unit property. Planting is schedule for a few weeks out depending on weather.

Field prep and planting has been started on the DeBay's Slough and Padilla Bay Units. Staff adjusted the planting plan on the Island unit to adjust to field conditions and finalize the planting budget. Staff treated poison hemlock, Canada and bull thistle, mustard and night shade on the Samish Unit.

Cattail Control Pilot Project: Manager Rotton attended a coordination meeting with Skagit River Systems Cooperative Restoration Ecologist, Greg Hood, WDFW Weed crew supervisor, Dave Heimer and Habitat Biologist, Brian Williams to discuss the cat-tail control pilot project and details of the treatment site selection to include some pre and post project monitoring efforts.

Johnson DeBay's Slough: Staff mowed and weed wacked DeBay's Slough Swan Reserve entry road, fence lines and parking lot. Staff also monitored agricultural lease activities on the site.

Hunter Education

Hunter Education: Coordinator Dazey continued his series of Pre-Service trainings to certify new hunter education instructors. Final sessions were conducted in both Issaquah for ten new instructors on the 18th and in Burlington for two new instructors on the 21st and 22nd. Final or practical sessions requires that the instructor applicants actually conduct a class so in addition to the twelve new instructors forty seven students between the two classes completed their hunter education training and will be receiving their hunter education cards. In addition coordinator Dazey spoke with the new owners of the Skagit Shooting Range in Burlington to build the relationship where they will provide a facility for classes two times a month as soon as we are able to provide instructors. Skagit County is currently one of



Instructor applicant Hageman at the Burlington hunter education class teaching the Field Skills Evaluation.

our more underserved areas for hunter education classes in Region 4. The class also yielded one new application from a parent eager to join our instructor team and help to pass on the hunting heritage to the next generation of hunters.



Chief instructor Bill Vincent explaining gun handling to a student

Instructor applicant Broker explaining field skills to students



Students learning how to safely cross fences and obstacles.



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

Wildlife Management

Wildlife Conflicts: With the District 14 Wildlife Conflict Specialist position vacant, Biologist Danilson fielded calls and followed up with landowners regarding elk and deer damage in Skagit

and Whatcom Counties. A total of 10 complaints for elk and deer damage were received. The majority of complaints were from Skagit County landowners with damage caused by elk. Danilson provide over the phone technical guidance where applicable and made arrangements with several producers to conduct site visits the following week.

Month	Day	Species	County	Crop
May	19	Deer	Skagit	Pasture/Hay
May	20	Deer	Whatcom	Fruits and Nuts
May	20	Elk	Whatcom	Pasture
May	20	Deer	Whatcom	Berries
May	21	Elk	Skagit	Garden
May	21	Elk	Skagit	Produce
May	21	Elk	Skagit	Fruit and Berries
May	22	Elk	Skagit	Hay Damage
May	22	Elk	Skagit	Hay Damage
May	23	Deer	Skagit	Grape Vines

Elk Habitat Modeling Graduate Student Project: Biologist Danilson reviewed and provided comments on the final chapters of a Central Washington University graduate student’s thesis and attended her final thesis presentation and defense.

Wildlife Areas

Island Unit: Manager Rotton coordinates with volunteers regarding the Island planting and ditch maintenance project. Staff worked on jet sled and barge repairs in preparation for ferrying equipment to the Island Unit and mowed interior field roads and dike tops on the Island Unit.

Skagit Headquarters: Manager Rotton met with DOE marine debris removal coordinator to discuss the upcoming work on the Leque Island and Skagit Bay Estuary. Manager Rotton prepared summary of Wildlife Area Advisory Committee meeting minutes and provided to the group for comments, reviewing comments on the plan update, took part in a conference call with NOAA to discuss mitigation requirements for tidegate repair on the Island Unit.

Hunter Education

Hunter Education: Coordinator Dazey worked with a new instructor to help him set up 5 new Field Skills Evaluations in the coming months. Assistance in registering the class and also in presenting the material was presented. Coordinator Dazey will continue to assist the new instructor so that he feels comfortable in scheduling, registering, and conducting courses.

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

Wildlife Management

Radio Communications: Assistant District Biologist Cyra provided radio support to Program staff. In addition, he assisted Skagit WA staff with the removal of several radios from WA vehicles that will be returned to Olympia.

Recruitment: Biologist Danilson followed up with Human Resources staff to make sure the recruitment for the Wildlife Conflict Specialist and Wildlife Conflict Technician positions were on track. The candidate list for the specialist position was received late Thursday, while the technician was advertised on Wednesday.

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, eight Master Hunters are interested in volunteer projects.

REGION 5

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Western Pond Turtle Habitat Improvement: District Biologist Anderson would like to thank the USFS Columbia River Gorge Fire Crew for help in mowing of critical western pond turtle nesting habitat at the Skamania County site. Work was completed last week and just in time as the turtle nesting season should start any day. Plans are being made with Skamania County Weed Control to do additional Scot's broom removal later in the summer.



Western pond turtle nesting habitat at Skamania County site

Western Pond Turtle

Management: Biologists George, Holman, and Hallock all participated in this week's conclusion of the 2014 study of western pond turtles at the Sondino site. Priorities for this year include continuing to evaluate the shell disease condition among the population, collecting specific individuals for veterinary biopsies related to the shell disease condition, capturing sufficient

individuals to generate a population estimate for the Sondino site, collecting young for the head-starting program, and conducting bull-frog control. The overall effort at Sondino encompassed 35 days of trap checks totaling 1,260 trap days in various combinations of 6 water bodies.

Initial summaries of the work include 466 total captures comprised of 179 individual turtles. Additionally, seven wild hatchling pond turtles were captured and delivered to the Oregon Zoo. These results indicate a stable population of this State Endangered species at the site and continue to document naturally occurring reproduction. Specifically, a very similar trapping effort at the Sondinao site resulted in the capture of 177 individual turtles in 2012. In spite of these encouraging results, concern remains regarding the health of Washington's western pond turtles and exploratory veterinary work continues. To that effect, one turtle found dead by predation was submitted for necropsy. Also, 12 animals targeted for biopsy have been captured and transferred to the Oregon Zoo.

Finally, non-native bull frogs are considered to be a significant threat to the turtles. During the work at Sondino, eleven bull frogs were captured in hoop traps and removed. Additional bull frog control efforts are underway under the direction of Volunteer Slavers.

Elk Passage Issue: District Biologist Anderson is currently working with representatives of the Gular Irrigation District to address several wildlife issues in regards to work being done this summer on their water system. One reported issue is elk frequently crossing an open section of irrigation ditch that is causing downstream sedimentation in the water system. Plans are being made to install a large culvert, planted on top with vegetation that will allow easy elk passage over the water system, hopefully keeping elk out of the water.

Black-tailed Deer Research Project: The first fawns of the year in the Coweeman study cluster were captured on May 18th. The satellite GPS collar on the doe detected a status message from the Vaginal Implant Transmitter (VIT) that indicated the temperature sensor in the VIT was no longer at body temperature. This allowed Biologist Bergh to locate the fawns when they were approximately 15 hours old and likely to use their hiding strategy (instead of fleeing) to escape predators. One fawn was 60% larger by body weight than its twin and unfortunately the smaller fawn died two days later. *A second Coweeman Study cluster doe indicated birth on May 23rd. A subsequent fawn search resulted in the location and capture of one fawn.* Monitoring of 10 other does continues in both the Coweeman and Washougal study clusters as fawns are very likely to be born in the next two weeks.



Black tailed deer fawn

Wildlife Areas

Klickitat Wildlife Area Road Grading: The WDFW road maintenance crew graded the Grayback and Sheep Canyon Roads, plus the Leidl Park and Stinson Flat Campgrounds. They also added rock to segments of roads that tend to be muddy or form puddles. The Sheep Canyon Road received the most surface improvement. The Mineral Springs Campground will be graded next week.

Klickitat Wildlife Area Hatchery Unit Fence: The last end brace for the section of fence along Hill Road was finished this week. The wires were put up and a few other posts were added to the fence line to help support it.



Hill road fence repair

Guzzler Maintenance: Technician Davis checked and cleaned the two guzzlers on the South Breaks Road. Both structures need extensive repairs due to age and weather in one case and half of the roof being destroyed in the other case.

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

Wildlife Management

Hoof Disease Public Working Group Meeting: The 4th Public Working Group meeting was held last week. For the first part of the day, the working group plus Representatives Blake and Orcutt were taken on a tour of vegetation exclosures on the Weyerhaeuser St. Helens Tree Farm where the group had a good discussion about habitat and forage availability on herbicide treated and non-treated sites with two researchers from the National Council on Air and Stream Improvement. The purpose of the second portion of the meeting was to present and discuss the management approach that has been developed with input from the Hoof Disease Public Working Group Meeting, the Hoof Disease Technical Advisory Group, and WDFW staff in response to the hoof disease phenomenon in elk in Southwest Washington. The meeting wrapped up with public testimony from 11 members of the public.



Hoof Disease Public Working Group tour of vegetation exclosures on the Weyerhaeuser St. Helens Tree Farm.

Employee of the Year: The Employee of the Year Award recognizes an employee who has demonstrated consistency in production and performance of work assignments, community involvement, excellence in public and department relations, strong leadership skills, serves as a role model, has made a commitment to the improvement of the Department, and has a major accomplishment within the preceding year. This week District Biologist Anderson was recognized as the employee of the year – congratulations David!

Wildlife Conflict



District 9 Wildlife Conflicts: Wildlife Conflict Specialist McDonald verified bear damage to conifers on private industrial timberlands in Skamania County. Fresh and historical damage was observed within the stand of trees.



Bear damage to conifers in Skamania County

Conflict Specialist McDonald worked with a Klickitat County farmer to install a Scary Man to help keep elk off of his agriculture fields. The farmer has a Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreement with WDFW and has tried several hazing methods to deter the elk.



Scary Man to help deter elk off agriculture fields

District 10:
Bear Damage Verification: Conflict Specialist Conklin verified bear damage for depredation permit issuance in the Morton and Packwood areas and also checked the trail cameras at the Curtis property. A bear was captured again “adjusting” the camera again to point toward the ground.....



The cameras were adjusted and noise devices were re-located to the area where the bear has been seen the most at camera 1 location. In addition, it is interesting to note that at Camera 3 location where there was a high traffic area for deer, we have not seen anything on that camera since installing the noise device. We removed the noise device from this location to find out if the deer come back. This will further give us an indication if the noise devices have been effective at deterring the deer presence. In addition, there still has been no new peeling of conifers detected on this property.

REGION 6

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Western Snowy Plovers: Biologists Sundstrom, Michaelis, Hahn, and Doorly continued to monitor snowy plovers at Midway Beach, Leadbetter, and Graveyard Spit. Biologist Hoenes assisted at Leadbetter during one day this week. A summary of monitoring efforts at each location is provided below.

Leadbetter Point

Biologists Hahn and Doorly focused their efforts on areas of the beach with potential high nest numbers. USFWS Biologist Ritchie was on the beach on Thursday and focused his efforts on searching for the SNPL brood that Biologists Hahn and Doorly observed last week. This week, the greatest number of SNPL were observed on Wednesday May 14 with 10 individuals (6 females, 4 males, 0 unk) and the lowest number of SNPL were observed on Friday May 16 with 1 individual (1 female, 0 males, 0 unk). The lower numbers observed this week could be due to several factors, including, but not limited to: high focus on nest searching areas, razor clamming and high winds during one day.

All Snowy Plover nests are still active. They are all either in the incubating or initiation phase. The brood observed last week was not seen this week by Biologists Doorly, Hahn or Ritchie. However, the group did find 5 new SNPL nests. Of the 5 new nests, 4 were incubating and 1 was initiating. The initiating nest was found with one egg. Four of the nests found this week were in the South HRA and one was found on the outer beach near the north point of Leadbetter.

Table 1. Summary of total SNPL nests and broods at Leadbetter.

Leadbetter											
# Nests Found	# Nests Currently Active	# Nests Hatched	# Active Broods	# Chicks Hatched	# Chicks Currently Alive	# Fledglings	# Nests Failed				
							Pred.	Sand Burial	Abandoned	Human Caused	Unknown Cause
10	10	0	1	2	2	N/A					

□



**Biologist Hahn photographing Nest LBN009.
Female is still on nest in photo.
Photo Credit: Steph Doorly**

**Unbanded Female at Nest LBN009.
Photo Credit: Jennifer Hahn.**

Midway Beach

Biologist Sundstrom discovered the first snowy plover nest at Midway Beach on May 15th. The nest discovered at Midway, although within the posted area, is located in a high usage area, not only by predators but people not obeying the posting. To deter further disturbances to the nest, it was necessary to add rope along the sign line (east to west). Additional locations along the posted sign line were also roped; those areas have been identified as “high human non-compliance” areas. During each site visit, notes are taken that include what type of violation (human, dog off leash, vehicle, human/bicycle, horse, etc.), direction of entry and exit within the posted area, how many, and at what location within the posted section. Many of the violations are not directly observed but their evidence is left behind in the sand, such as is depicted in the below picture.



Bicycle and human tracks well within and throughout the posted area at Midway Beach

Table 1. Summary of total SNPL nests and broods at Midway Beach.

Midway Beach											
# Nests Found	# Nests Currently Active	# Nests Hatched	# Active Broods	# Chicks Hatched	# Chicks Currently Alive	# Fledglings	# Nests Failed				
							Pred.	Sand Burial	Abandoned	Human Caused	Unknown Cause
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Graveyard Spit

Biologist Sundstrom assisted Shoalwater Indian Tribal biologist Pfleeger with a survey at Graveyard Spit on Friday, May 16th. The survey was initiated because Pfleeger had observed a minimum of 6 adult plovers using the site. Sundstrom and Pfleeger discovered two nests during their survey. ATV usage at the Graveyard Spit location continues to be a problem both on private and Tribal land. Irrespective of land ownership, motorized vehicles, licensed or not, are not allowed along that portion of the beach.

Table 1. Summary of total SNPL nests and broods at Midway Beach.

Graveyard Spit											
# Nests Found	# Nests Currently Active	# Nests Hatched	# Active Broods	# Chicks Hatched	# Chicks Currently Alive	# Fledglings	# Nests Failed				
							Pred.	Sand Burial	Abandoned	Human Caused	Unknown Cause
2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Streaked Horned Larks: Biologists Hahn and Doorly located 1 Streaked Horned Lark (STHL) nest this week at Leadbetter. They found the nest in the South habitat restoration area. The nest was complete but unlined, thus it is still in the building phase. There were many signs indicating that this nest will be active soon including male singing and lots of tracks.

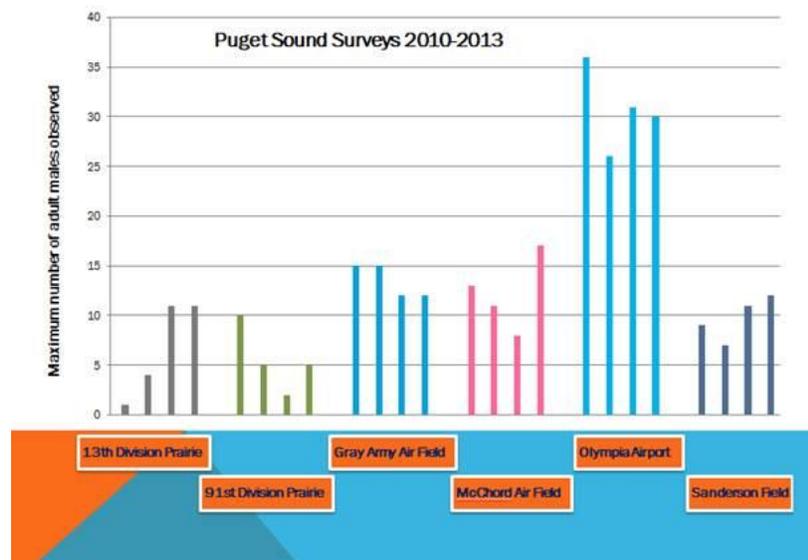


STHL nest LBN001. Nest is still in the building phase.
Photo Credit: Steph Doorly.

Red Knots: Biologist Michaelis assisted Scientist Buchanan, researchers from Mexico, and USFWS staff from Alaska with the capturing and banding of Red Knots in Grays Harbor. In two days, the team successfully captured and marked 355 Red Knots. Various biometric measurements were collected including blood samples which will be used to test for the H1-N1 virus (Avian Influenza). A few of the Red Knots captured during this event had been originally captured and banded in Mexico in 2006 and by the same group of researchers from Mexico that assisted with this effort. Red Knots are being captured in Grays Harbor as part of a larger project that is trying to identify areas that are important to this species during their annual migration between breeding grounds in Alaska and wintering grounds in South America.



Streaked Horned Larks: District 11 staff produced the following graphic showing the results of annual abundance surveys for the six South Puget Sound lark breeding sites on which annual abundance surveys are conducted (note: larks also nest on the Columbia River dredge spoil islands and the Outer Coast):



Taylor's checkerspot reintroduction: Biologists Linders, Randolph, Walker and Johnson continued distance sampling surveys for adult Taylor's checkerspots in the Puget lowlands under a mix of clouds and sun the past two weeks. Survey returns at all reintroduction sites look promising, with the exception of PCM, which received only a single release. Surveys at SCS on 11, 14 and 15 May produced counts of 30, 22 and 13, respectively, before dropping to 3 on 20 May. At GHP surveys on 12 and 15 May produced counts of 30 and 10, respectively; no checkerspots were observed during a final survey on 20 May. On JBLM, surveys at TA7S returned a count of 30 adults on 13 May and just 2 on 20 May. Surveys at PCM on 13 and 20 May did not encounter any adult checkerspots, although an outside observer reported seeing one north of the Seibert-staked area on one occasion. Surveys at R50 on 12, 16 and 21 May produced counts of 214, 23 and 14; a final survey is expected to take place on Tuesday. Numbers at R76 were proportionately higher with 539 adults counted on 13 May, with another 305 counted on in 4 additional transects on the north edge of the standard survey grid. Numbers at R76 dropped to 146 on 16 May, and then just 2 adults were counted on 24 May to close the season. Exploratory searches beyond the survey area were also conducted during the past week at R76, TA6, and at GHP. A lot of potential habitat was identified in these locations, but with "high" numbers for only two weeks, detecting adults in these peripheral areas was unlikely by the time surveys occurred.

Taylor's checkerspot captive propagation: Female checkerspots at both rearing facilities continue to lay eggs, moving us toward our 10,000-egg target. As of 22 May, Mission Creek had a total 2,838 eggs, including 1,760 from wild females and 1,078 from captive-bred females. Wild females at the Oregon Zoo have laid 4,150 eggs so far; no captive females were retained in 2014. Egg development is looking good and the first clusters have begun to hatch at both facilities. The Oregon Zoo is also in the process of moving their butterfly lab to a new location as part of a long-term development plan; the new facility passed USDA inspection this week, which was the final hurdle prior to having checkerspots occupy the building.

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

Wildlife Management

Willapa Hills Elk Herd Plan (EHP): Biologist Hoenes attended two public meetings to gather public comments that pertained to the Willapa Hills Elk Herd Plan. Also in attendance during these meetings were Deer and Elk Program Manager Nelson, Regional Program Managers Cope and Jonker, Private Lands Biologists Harris and Stephens, and District Biologist Bergh. The meetings occurred in Montesano and Longview and 13 people showed up during each meeting. Although the turnout was lower than expected, both meetings were productive and the Willapa Hills EHP team received some great feedback from those that attended. The public comment period is open until June 2nd. Anyone interested in providing comments can find a copy of the plan online (<http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hunting>). Comments can be submitted online or during the public meetings.