

Wildlife Program

Week of July 4 – July 10, 2016

WOLF ACTIVITIES

Region 1 Wolf Activities

Wolf Advisory Group Participation: Supervisor McCanna, Wildlife Conflict Specialists Bennett and Shepherd, Biologist Earl, and WAG members discussed budgeting and financial projections, damage claim compensation, range rider compensation, and WAG member replacement. Next steps for both the claims compensation process and WAG member replacement were determined. Public comment was accepted after each day of the meeting.

Profanity Pack: Natural Resource Worker Weatherman spent time in the Profanity Pack area and discovered a calf carcass. Biologist Shepherd and Natural Resource Worker Weatherman determined the calf was a confirmed wolf kill. Wolves and the new lethal protocol were discussed with the rancher. Dissatisfaction was expressed.

Contracts and Invoices: Biologist Shepherd and Natural Resource Worker Weatherman assisted several ranchers with contracts and invoices.

Dirty Shirt Pack: Biologist Shepherd spent time in the Dirty Shirt pack home range assessing wolf activity near ranches and cattle.

Chewelah Water Treatment Facility: Biologist Shepherd observed security video of an animal thought to be a wolf. The video included multiple nights. It appeared to be a dog, but it could possibly have been a hybrid.

Wolf Trapping Training: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Bennett and Wolf Biologist Roussin discussed trapping locations, methods, and tips. Further training is needed for Bennett to have a minimal understanding of the complicated and important process.

Monthly Wolf Updates: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Bennett compiled information from area biologists, public reports, and depredation investigations for interested parties in two areas of the state. The Wolf Advisory Group meeting agenda was also included in this month's update.

Table 1: District 2 (Lincoln, Spokane, and Whitman counties) June reported sightings, camera work, and depredations

County	Sightings (webpage and contact)	Camera, WCS Bennett and District	Depredations
Lincoln	<u>One reported:</u> 1. 06/26/2016 – Sprague, one animal	No cameras out during this period.	No reports for this period.

	seen		
Spokane	<u>One reported:</u> 1. 06/16/2016 – Mt. Spokane, one animal (confirmed coyote)	No cameras out during this period.	<u>Two reported:</u> 1. 06/02/2016 – Chattaroy, lamb Confirmed Non-Wolf Depredation (felid) 2. 06/08/2016 – Chattaroy, lamb Confirmed Non-Wolf Depredation (cougar; this cougar was lethally removed)
Whitman	No sightings reported to WDFW for this period.	No cameras out during this period.	<u>One reported:</u> 1. 06/21/2016 – Pine City, calf Unknown Cause of Death (only skull and spinal cord discovered.)

Table 2: Huckleberry and Stranger pack June reported sightings, camera work, and depredations

How reported	Location	Sightings	Camera Work	Depredations
GPS collar	Stranger collar locations: Predominantly this collared animal has been spending most of the time just south of Kettle Falls and north of Addy-Gifford Road. Huckleberry collar locations: This collared male has dispersed from its natal pack territory. This animal has traveled close to 200 miles in 21 days to end up near Glacier National Park.	<u>Two reported:</u> 1. 05/31/2016 – Blue Creek, one black collared wolf. 2. 06/06/2016 – Monumental Mtn., two black wolves, one collared (several reports in this area and being monitored by WDFW staff)	No reports in this area for this period.	<u>One reported:</u> 1. 05/30/2016 – Hunters, calf Confirmed Wolf Depredation
WDFW Public Sightings webpage		No reports in this area for this period.	No reports in this area for this period.	
WDFW Staff	WAG meeting in Spokane Valley		No photos for this period.	

Damage Prevention Cooperative agreement for Livestock (DPCA_L): Natural Resource Technician Wade met with an Asotin County cattleman to go over the range riding and carcass disposal invoices for his 2015-2016 DCPA_L contract.

Garfield County Wolf Meeting: Natural Resource Technician Wade worked with the Garfield County cattleman who organized the wolf meeting this week to finalize preparations for the meeting. Wade printed out handouts for the meeting attendees, and also gathered all needed information for the meeting. Wade, Biologist Earl, Wolf Specialist Becker, and US Fish and

Wildlife Services (USFWS) Biologist Jones were in attendance at the meeting, along with 51 Garfield and Columbia county cattlemen and sportsmen. Several County Commissioners also attended the meeting. Earl and Becker both gave presentations on wolf recovery in the Blue Mountains.

Region 2 Wolf Activities

Beaver Creek Wolves: Specialist Heilhecker wrote a deterrence plan for the Beaver Creek pack. Specialist Heilhecker met with the WDFW contracted range rider to discuss activities within the Beaver Creek territory.

REGION 1

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Waterfowl Brood Surveys: Biologist Lowe completed the Ewan-Revere waterfowl brood route. The route was mostly dry, with the only waterfowl observed on Cow Lake. Mallards were the most common species, but gadwall, green-winged teal, and northern shoveler broods were also observed.



A single pied-billed grebe (left) and mallard hen with brood on Cow Lake

SCWA Rx Burning: Wildlife Area Assistant Manager Daro Palmer and Natural Resource Technician Jerry “Chris” Christensen worked with the WDFW Prescribed Burn Team on treatments of the Bridge Unit at Sherman Creek Wildlife Area this week. Four sub-units were treated, totaling 42 acres. Burns were conducted early in the mornings and late one evening due to weather parameters driving us out of prescription during the heat of the day. The photos below show a location in the Bridge Unit, before and after treatment, where fire fuels have been reduced. Large woody debris is not consumed due to managed fire intensity, maintaining that habitat structure on the ground.



W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area – Remote Cameras: Wildlife Area Assistant Manager Dingman and Intern Whetzel picked up the three remote cameras out on Abels Ridge.



Black bear cooling off in the McGowan spring trough



Mountain lion sitting in front of the camera watching the salt site

Mule deer buck on Abels Ridge

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

Lamont Producer Damage Plan

Implementation Preparation: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Bennett constructed and distributed a questionnaire for 36 Master Hunters interested in aiding an agricultural/livestock producer who has historically had deer damage to irrigated alfalfa. Information on the project and possible deer hazing dates were gathered.



New Hunter Access Contracts: Baarstad and Natural Resource Technician Bendixen met with a Ferry County landowner near the Canadian border to discuss the possibility of a Hunt by Written Permission contract on approximately 1500 acres of forested land. Bendixen worked extensively with the WDFW contracts office and the Ferry County assessor's office to include all the required information in the contract. The landowner will be signing up in the next week or so. Bendixen is currently working on a total of three contracts in Ferry County that will add approximately 3000 acres of private lands hunting access when enrolled.

REGION 2

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Multi-Carnivore Survey Project: Biologist Fitkin finished retrieving all the remote cameras deployed last summer and fall except for two from wilderness sites that will be pulled this coming week. These baited sites were designed to document wolverine, lynx, and other rare carnivores, and were deployed in areas where the habitat of the two primary species is known or suspected to overlap. We successfully documented both lynx and wolverine at multiple sites, and anticipate more detections with the last two cameras. Biologist Fitkin also finished deploying the remote cameras for the summer portion of the project. These are un-baited cameras deployed along trails and secondary roads, again in occupied lynx and wolverine habitat, including the same general areas covered by the winter sites. Results from these efforts will help us define a methodology(s) for long-term monitoring.



Jumping bobcat – Photo by WDFW remote camera



Lynx pair – Photo by WDFW remote camera



Wolverine – Photo by WDFW remote camera



Lynx – Photo by WDFW remote camera

Beezley Hills Volunteer Survey: Coordinator Gallie and Biologist Gibbs launched a Citizen Science effort with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to conduct burrow surveys in the Beezley Hills Recovery Area. Our efforts this past winter failed to find a

single survivor of the 450 released pygmy rabbits, but we did not get to cover all the areas we wanted. Looking to better assess the release, TNC responded with 30 volunteers (both local and Seattle area) ready to cover TNC property on Beezley Hills this past Friday and Saturday. Breaking into small teams, WDFW staff and volunteers covered 2,157 acres (3.4 sq miles) of selected suitable habitat. To prioritize areas surveyed in GIS, we used soil map and shrub cover data, plus areas with historic occupancy. Disappointingly, we found very little evidence there was any burrow establishment from released kits last year. It was not a total loss, however, as we found three burrow systems with old-bleached out pellets, and two burrow systems with fresh dark pellets, indicating we do have survivors and a fledging population. Four of the five burrow systems were concentrated in a narrow draw. Optimistically, this draw extends into private property we did not survey yet, and the property owner will work with Private Lands to set this up in the near future (already covered by Safe Harbor). The effort was also covered by NPR’s Courtney Flatt, and will be posted sometime next week.

TNC volunteers surveying for pygmy rabbit burrows within the Beezley Hills Recovery area – Photo by Gallie



Wildlife Areas

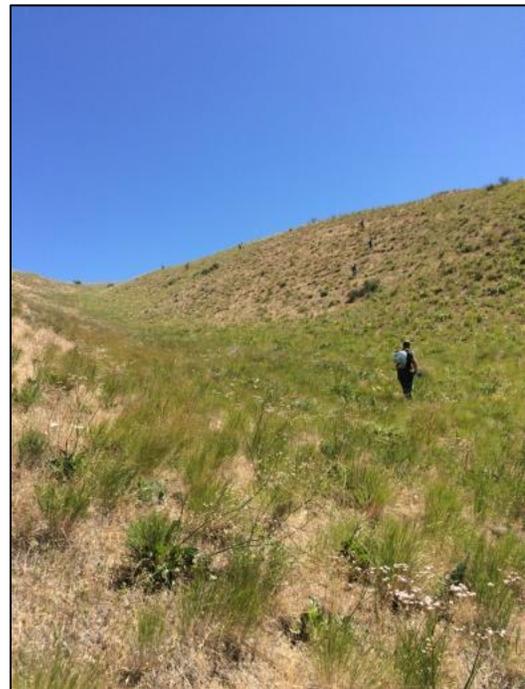
Sun Lakes Fire: Assistant Manager Eidson responded to a fire at the north end of Lake Lenore. The fire started when a vehicle rolled on the highway, sparking dry brush on the side of the road. Grant County 7, along with Grant County 13, responded to keep the fire contained on the west side of Highway 17. The fire burned approximately 15 acres of mixed grass and sage. Assistant Manager Bechtold spent time assessing the fire's impact.



Sun Lakes fire – Photo by C. Eidson

Knowles Unit: All Wildlife Area staff members and WCC crew spent three days on the Knowles Unit for the annual effort to control yellow starthistle. This weed still persists in scattered patches over a 400-acre area that can only be described as rough topography. The good news is there has been a decrease in overall abundance since an explosion of abundance after the 2012 Byrd Canyon Fire. The bad news is it still persists despite more than 20 years of intense control efforts.

Wildlife Area staff members and a WCC crew work along another steep ridge spraying yellow star thistle



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

Private Lands/Access

Candidate Conservation Agreement with

Assurances (CCAA): Biologist Comstock attended an interagency meeting with a Douglas County producer who has agreed to participate in the first individual CCAA for greater sage grouse in Washington. At the meeting, we reviewed property maps, covered lands, and covered activities the producer wants to include in the CCAA. After the meeting, Biologist Comstock updated maps of the property and created a project geodatabase to keep track of all the data. Private Lands Biologist Braaten met with a focus group consisting of USFWS, WDFW, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and landowner A. Miller to discuss his individual CCAA being developed in Douglas County. Information of deeded lands, leases (private and government), activities defined, concerns, and issues were shared and

discussed among the group. It was a good first meeting, with progress being made and a focus on tasks for the next meeting. Biologist Dougherty asked to be included in CCAA discussions to gain fuller understanding of the process and also gain a greater understanding of the workload required to implement a CCAA.



Mule deer doe in turning wheat in Grant County – Photo by Eric Braaten, WDFW



Pygmy short-horned lizard – Photo by Eric Braaten, WDFW



Numerous cormorant and great blue heron nests in powerline towers at Winchester Ponds – Photo by Rowan

Recreational Opportunities (Weekender): The high country is spectacular and most accessible right now, particularly from the Pacific Crest east.

Biologist Fitkin reveling in the glory of the North Cascades – Photo by Amy Fitkin





View along the Pacific Crest Trail south of Harts Pass – Photo by Scott Fitkin



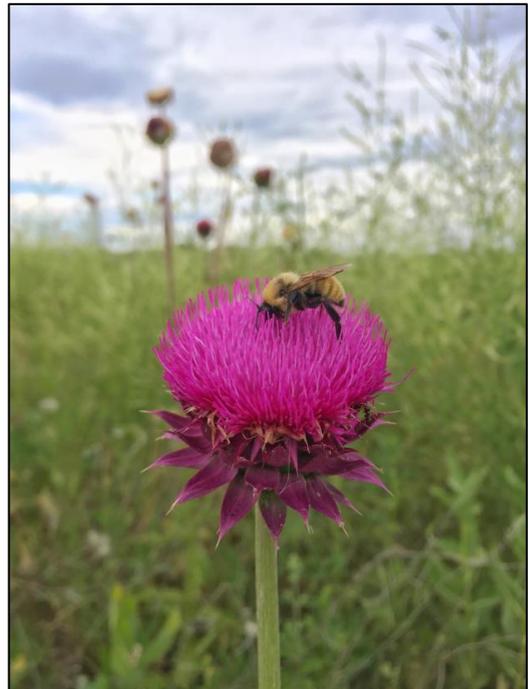
Pacific chorus frogs taking refuge in a damp hole – Photo by Scott Fitkin



Western toad, mountain goat and scenic lunch spot – Photo by Scott Fitkin



Product of one insanely itchy and dusty day



Bee – Photo by C. Eddy



Post thinning and burning on the Chesaw Wildlife Area – Photo by Jim Olson



Quaking aspen re-sprouting following last year’s Okanogan Complex fires

Chesaw mule deer buck – Photo by Jim Olson

REGION 3

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Areas

L.T. Murray Wildlife Area: Acting Manager Hunt had a visit from the public outreach person for Kittitas County Fire District 7 (Cle Elum) regarding the photos of “Buttons the elk”



that had gone viral via Facebook. Apparently the cow had joined the firefighters for a photo op during the planning process at the staging area for the recent wildfire near the same site as the 2014 Taylor Bridge Fire. There was some concern over negative online comments about the exploitation of the elk. This cow is pretty well known by locals, and was not intentionally domesticated. Rather, she was orphaned somehow a few winters back, and adopted other livestock on a ranch in the area as her family. It is a somewhat unique situation, but no one’s fault. This story was carried by media outlets all the way back to New York. There is no expectation that this will become an issue as social media moves on to the next biggest thing.

Buttons the elk during recent fire

Wildlife Management

Bat Survey: District Biologist Fidorra continued the WDFW bat survey. He placed acoustic bat detectors at sites in Districts 4 and 5 and coordinated with District 5 Assistant Biologist Rowan to relocate detectors near the Ephrata office. Fidorra is placing detector at eight sites and will repeat recording protocols at each site monthly through August.

Ferruginous Hawk SAFE: District Biologist Fidorra submitted comments on the application for changes to the ferruginous hawk FSA SAFE program. WDFW is recommending changes to the eligible area boundaries, which will allow more landowner fields to qualify for the program in areas where habitat improvements will benefit ferruginous hawk pairs and expand the program to include Walla Walla County.

Mourning Dove Trapping: District Biologist Fidorra trapped mourning doves at the Ringold Hatchery site. Only four doves were trapped in the evening, bringing the total to 17 for the first week of July. Similar efforts last year resulted in >120 doves trapped. Dove numbers appear low and there are hardly any juveniles, which is comparable to trapping success in District 8. Weather this spring may have been responsible for high nest failure. Fidorra and Hatchery staff members will continue to bait and trap doves into mid-August, and additional sites will be considered.

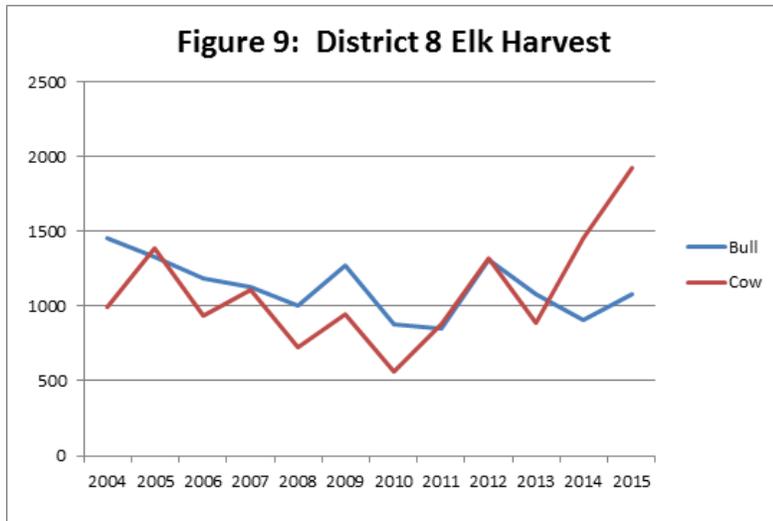
Burrowing Owl: District Biologist Fidorra visited artificial burrow sites for burrowing owl trapping. Clutch size appears to be smaller on average this year compared to last, but occupancy of sites seems fairly stable. Males proved harder to trap during efforts later in the season, but 75 owls have been captured, including 16 adults and 59 juveniles.

Black-tailed Jackrabbit: District Biologist Fidorra retrieved a dead black-tailed jackrabbit from Benton City that a landowner found twitching and convulsing. It quickly expired and was immediately collected. The specimen was sent to WSU for diagnostics.

Dove Banding: Biologist Bernatowicz ran traps two days this week. Only nine (all adult) doves were trapped, and two of those were recaptures from last year. Last year was an average year, with 72 doves banded the first two days. No juvenile doves were seen in the area. It is unknown if 2016 was a poor hatch, disease (canker) is an issue, or birds are not concentrating at the trap site. Trapping will continue periodically through mid-August.

2016 Hunting Prospects: Biologist Bernatowicz started updating the 2016 Hunting Prospects, which included adding 2015 harvest data to the graphs. Last year was a recent record for antlerless elk harvest in the district. Actual antlerless harvest was probably well over 2000 animals, as report rates on permits have been declining and damage harvest is known to be under reported.

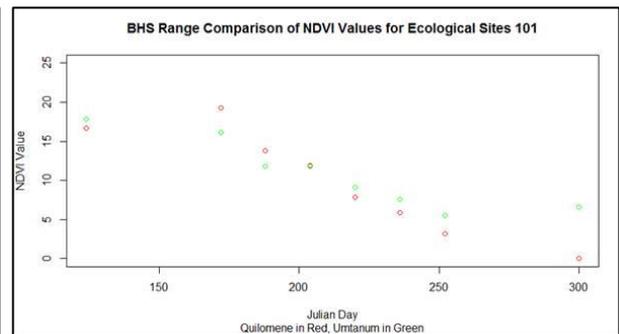
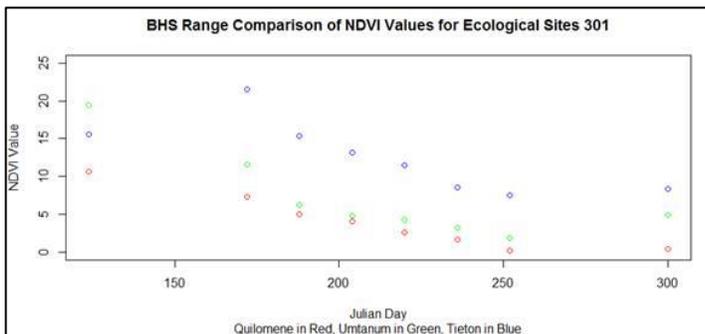
Bernatowicz also reviewed forest grouse habitat maps on a USFS/Ruffed Grouse Society web site. The site is meant to help grouse hunters identify possible hunting areas. Unfortunately, the maps wouldn't be very useful for District 8. There didn't appear to be a good correlation between map/unmapped habitat and known grouse in the district.



Bighorn Sheep Home Range Analysis: Continued progress was made to investigate relative differences of vegetation on bighorn sheep home ranges in District 8. The extraction of Normalized Vegetative Difference Index (NDVI) values from eight scenes from a portion of the growing season during 2011 was completed and preliminary descriptive statistics were started. NDVI data was collected from a sampling frame that involved two ecological site descriptions.

Ecological site R008XY301WA (301) was used to compare like vegetation across the Tieton, Umtanum and Quilomene, while ecological site R008XY101WA (101) compared the Umtanum and Quilomene ranges.

An initial evaluation of NDVI means for 301 suggests that Tieton has double or triple the values as the Quilomene and was above the Umtanum from May to October during 2011. This analysis is limited since the first image of 2011 is May 4, and it does not capture the “green-up” of the Quilomene and Umtanum herds, but the initial stages and peak of “green-up” is captured in the Tieton herds home range. Mean values for ecological sites 301 and 101 suggest that the Quilomene and Umtanum are very similar. Additional NDVI data to complete an entire year is needed to gain better insight for this investigation.



Livestock Investigation: Biologist Moore filled in for Conflict Specialist Wetzel on a potential livestock depredation. Moore assisted Enforcement Officer Watts on a report of a dead cow in the Parke Creek area. The initial investigation did not suggest predation and Moore confirmed that impression by performing a partial necropsy.

Elk Herding: Biologist Moore assisted Conflict Specialist Wetzel with herding elk outside the L.T. Murray fence. Two adult cows were pushed back through a reentry gate and approximately 15-20 elk, including a group of seven bulls, were hazed.

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

Wildlife Areas

Colockum Wildlife Area: Natural Resource Worker Adams posted the emergency rules for fire protection signs on reader boards at most entrances to the wildlife area. The upper elevations on the Colockum are still green and lush, but things are drying out at lower elevations in the shrub-steppe.

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest: Manager Lopushinsky reviewed and submitted comments to Habitat Program for the USFS Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Draft Motorized Travel Management Plan.

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Manager Huffman hiked the upper end of the Tieton Nature Trail after several reports of llamas on the trail. There is private property in the area and the landowner has numerous llamas. Huffman used GPS to locate the approximate property line and was able to determine that there was no llama use on the state lands. Huffman posted a property boundary sign along the trail to let hikers know they are leaving state lands.

Sign posted at the private property line of the Tieton Nature Trail on the Oak Creek Wildlife Area. The landowner has multiple llamas on his property beyond this sign.



L.T. Murray Wildlife Area: Natural Resource Technician Hill put up “emergency restrictions” signs at all the Whiskey Dick and Quilomene Wildlife Area entrances.

“Emergency Restrictions” sign at hole-in-the-wall

Wenas Wildlife Area: Manager Confer Morris and Biologist Longoria met to discuss the status of the target shooting EA and other work associated with the project. They also discussed how he could best assist with that work.



Manastash Ridge Trails Project: Biologist Longoria send a formal email to Washington Trails Association (WTA) informing them of the upcoming Manastash Ridge Trails project. The email functioned to introduce the WTA to the project and also solicited the organization for networking, funding, and logistical support. The WTA could be an integral partner for the planning and implementation of the project.

Sunnyside Wildlife Area: Manager Buser contacted the two recipients of the disabled hunter special permit elk hunt for the Thornton Unit. The hunters were informed of the property boundaries, unit regulations, and process of how the hunt is conducted.

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

Wildlife Management

Rattlesnake Mountain Conflict: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand conducted one late night/early morning spotlight patrol on Rattlesnake Mountain. Over 150 elk and more than 25 deer were hazed from wheat fields. Most were redirected back to Hanford.

Rattlesnake Mountain: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand evaluated winter wheat fields on Rattlesnake Mountain for maturity and levels of elk damage. Mild temperatures and light precipitation this past week have helped to produce a healthy stand of wheat in most places, which should increase the quality and yields. Areas of browsing, trailing, and bedding were observed in several fields. Depending on weather, the start of wheat harvest could begin within three weeks.

Deer Damage: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand received a deer damage complaint at a large wine grape vineyard along the Columbia River near Paterson. Heavy browsing has occurred on several of the rows of grape plants on the periphery of the vineyard. Several nonlethal techniques, including LP gas cannons and night time hazing, have been used with limited success. Damage permits were prepared and issued to assist with minimizing damage impacts.



Elk Conflict: Conflict Specialist Wetzel found elk in some agriculture areas this week. Drying conditions and forage curing may have caused elk to seek irrigated agriculture areas, mostly alfalfa. Elk were moved out of these areas several times and stranded calves were moved to the correct side of the elk fence.

Elk calf moved to elk side of the fence with cow

Caitlin Canyon Fencing: Conflict Specialist Wetzal hauled fencing materials to a remote project site in Caitlin Canyon. The new project will help in herding elk out of the area.

Two gates, posts, hardware, and wire placed at project site

Caitlin Canyon Conflict: Conflict Specialist Wetzal and Biologist Moore herded a large group of bulls and cows out of Caitlin Canyon. Some moved to the elk side of the fence, but most did circles around Conflict Specialist Wetzal.



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

Wildlife Areas

L.T. Murray Wildlife Area: Acting Manager Hunt continued coordination with Leo Arias and his crew as they continue with great work on elk enclosure fence at the USBR Heart K property.



WCC crew at work on elk fence at Heart K

Sunnyside Wildlife Area: Manager Buser made all the necessary preparations for conducting interviews for the Assistant Manager position stationed at the Pasco District Office. Manager Buser and Assistant Manager Sak, along with Oak Creek Wildlife Area Manager Huffman, conducted the interviews.

REGION 4

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Protected Wildlife Management – White-Nose Syndrome: District 12 participated in the hiring panel for statewide White-Nose Syndrome Coordinator, transferred dead bats for testing, and picked-up materials for decontamination needs in field efforts. District 12 spent a half day in decontamination of various equipment and field clothes. Survey efforts in the North Bend area are showing similar trends in bat use to early season.

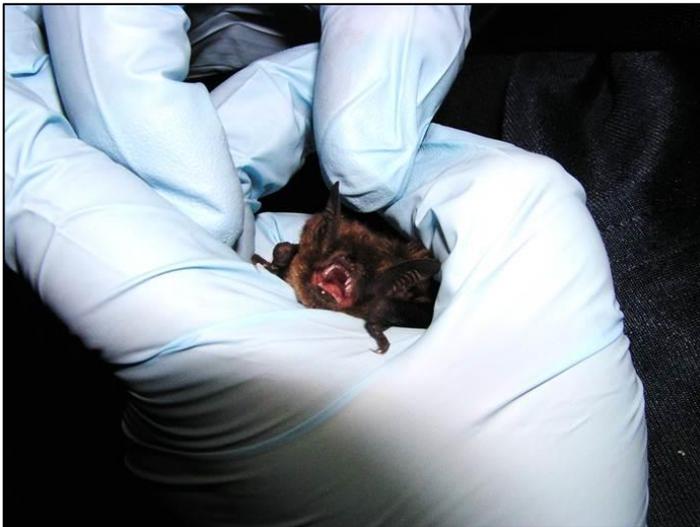
District 12 and Bats Northwest initiated a night acoustic survey of maternity season bats on all Lower Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Management Units for July. One unit was covered, with the other two still in the mix for the month in and around weather considerations.

WDFW and collaborators are asking the public to report dead or dying/sick bats via our hotline found at the link below.

Decontamination, outlined in below links, is essential to assist in management of this pathogen, particularly in the research, management, and recreationist communities, such as caving, climbing, and canyoneering.

Report dead or dying/sick bats at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/health/wns/>

More information can be found at <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/>



A myotis from 2011 USFS bat grid efforts at Cornwall Park, Bellingham. Biologists Anderson and DeByrun participated in this particular suburban park monitoring effort, which involved both netting and acoustic work.

Protected Wildlife Management – Assistance to Habitat Regarding Priority Habitats and Species Non-jurisdictional Management

Consultation in District 12: Anderson assisted area habitat biologist, when requested, to provide for project and

local jurisdictional requests for wildlife management consideration centered around the WDFW Priority Habitats and Species Wildlife Management Program. More information can be found at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/>

Take Authorization Management – Osprey and Other Raptor: District 12 fielded a number of requests for advice on Take Authorization Management, including osprey nests and red-tailed hawk nests. Inquiries included both industry (cell, developers) and public entities (US Army Corp of Engineers).

Common Loon Management – State Sensitive Species: District 12 provided references and thoughts on common loon management, platform designs, etc. to internal inquiring biologists. District 12 also assisted in age and plumage stage of a loon noted on a lake in the Olympic Peninsula. The bird was identified as a second year bird. District 13 staff members completed a final visit to Spada Lake to search for common loons. A pair of loons is regularly seen on the reservoir early in the season, but are absent later in the season. Lack of shoreline habitat and changing shoreline levels may be factors. Despite it being July, the reservoir has risen by 5-7 feet in the last two months.

Public Reports: District 12 received reports of pied-billed grebes utilizing forage of oriental weatherfish in Lake Washington. It is interesting to see these reports and appreciated that the public and other management entities share this. This fish has been documented in area(s) of Lake Washington for a decade or longer. It has also been seen on tributary areas recently in unrelated surveys both internal and external to WDFW (Thornton and North creeks; Matthews Beach area). Perhaps it has more of a hold than known?



Pied-billed grebe off of Magnusson Park in Seattle, eating an Oriental weatherfish - Photo by Kim Stark



This is what you call “Grebe Yoga” – Photo by Kim Stark

State Sensitive Common Loon: Biologist Smith surveyed District 12 for loon activity. One chick was noted (hatched last week) at an area lake while a pair is still incubating at a second lake. Smith also canoed a third lake, where an adult loon has been seen on several occasions. No nest was found and the adult loon was absent (or very well hidden).



Great blue heron at Magnusson Park –
Photo by Kim Stark, King County

Data Analysis: Biologist Yarborough compiled and analyzed all harvest data from deer, elk, bear, and mountain goats for inclusion into the Hunting Prospects and Status and Trend report.

Wolf Cameras: Biologist DeBruyn retrieved the final trail camera from an area where wolves had been reported. No images of wolves were

found on the camera, but numerous other species were noted.



Wolverine Study: Biologist DeBruyn scouted some prospective sites for camera run poles as part of a multi-state wolverine study to start next winter. Retired Officer Bauman (WL #77) rode along and provided local knowledge of resource roads.

Wildlife #77 rides again - at the base of the Twin Sisters

Invasive Species Surveys: District 13 continued researching and contacting landowners to obtain access permission for upcoming survey/trapping efforts

for prohibited invasive species in south Snohomish and north King County waters.

Mountain Goat Surveys: District 13 staff members reviewed past data and flight routes, mapped reconnaissance areas, and began assembling and testing equipment in preparation for upcoming aerial surveys.

Leque/Fir Island Farms Restoration: District 13 staff members met with Ecostudies Institute staff members to catch up on details of the project. Ecostudies Institute is studying the response of birds to changing conditions as dikes are removed from parcels in the Skagit and Stillaguamish estuaries.

Wildlife Areas

Crescent Lake Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm coordinated with volunteers to continue internal access road and trail improvements at this unit. Truckloads of wood chips are being donated and delivered by a local land clearing business. The chips will form a base on the roads to allow vehicle traffic during the fall and winter season.

Ebey Island Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm met with Drainage District Commissioner Bagwell to review the Ebey Island Knotweed Control Plan that was prepared by WDFW Noxious Weed Program Manager Dave Heimer. The district is interested and is considering working with WDFW on management of the knotweed growing on the dike. Additionally, Manager Boehm met with agricultural lessee Sno-Valley Farms to discuss summer maintenance plans for the unit.

Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) Grant Review: Projects Coordinator Brokaw participated in a webinar to prepare to serve on the ESRP grant review team. Over the next two months, the review team will score grant applications submitted to ESRP for projects that advance habitat restoration or protection in the Puget Sound nearshore environment.

Fir Island Farm Monitoring: Projects Coordinator Brokaw purchased and prepared materials for installing two Rod Set Elevation Tables (rSET) at the Fir Island Farm Estuary Restoration site. rSETs are used to monitor the rate at which sediment is depositing or eroding. They are commonly used at estuary restoration sites to monitor how new marsh develops over time.



An rSET device. The pins are used to measure marsh surface elevation and the rod it is affixed to is driven up to 80' into the marsh to make sure it is a stable benchmark with an elevation that won't change – Photo courtesy of USGS website



A core sample from an rSET, which shows accretion that is measured above the white artificial horizon that was installed prior to a restoration project – Photo courtesy of USGS website

Lake Terrell Dam Plugged by Beavers: Natural Resource Technician Deyo checked the Lake Terrell Dam and found beavers had completely plugged up the dam V notch so there is no flow into Terrell Creek. Manager Kessler contacted Darrell Grey with the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, who have crews of volunteers who can remove the dam. This work will happen very soon to get flow back into the creek as soon as possible.



Lake Terrell Dam plugged up by beavers

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

Wildlife Management

Hunter Access: Biologists Yarborough, Caldwell, and Wingard met with Sierra Pacific personnel to discuss issues related to upcoming hunts on Sierra Pacific land.



Band-tailed Pigeon Surveys: Biologist DeBruyn checked two mineral springs, did some minor vegetation management, and talked with landowners in anticipation of upcoming surveys.

Band-tailed pigeon

Wildlife Areas

Samish River Unit Parking Lot Grant Application: Projects Coordinator Brokaw submitted a grant application that requests funds to build a parking area at the Samish River Unit in the Skagit Wildlife Area. A draft version of this application was submitted in May and, after receiving comments from grant reviewers, he and Skagit Wildlife Area Manager Rotton improved the

final application by adding more letters of support and editing some of the details.

Barn Field Tidegate Replacement MOU: Projects Coordinator Brokaw sent a draft MOU between WDFW and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community that addresses WDFW's mitigation commitments for replacing the tidegate.

Volunteer Opportunities: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm responded to a number of Master Hunters looking for projects to complete for their required service hours. A

number of projects will be available, including trail maintenance, pheasant net-pen maintenance, and brush cutter work on parking lots.

Lake Terrell Reed Canary Grass and Blackberry Mowing: Natural Resource Technician Deyo mowed reed canary grass and blackberries in fields at Lake Terrell. Mowing reed canary grass at this time of year will allow regrowth to a beneficial pheasant release height in September. This mowing also helps open access to areas dominated by blackberry vines.

Nooksack River Bridge Wood Removal: Manager Kessler coordinated with the Whatcom County Transportation division on the upcoming wood removal from the Nooksack River bridge supports at Marietta. Kessler made signs to close the parking area and dike top trail while the work is being done this week and placed them on site.

South Tennant Lake Trail Development: Manager Kessler made final edits to the RCO Grant application for the South Tennant Lake Trail Development project and submitted it. This project would connect three different access sites with an ADA accessible packed gravel and wooden boardwalk trail system. It would connect Tennant Lake, the north of Slater Road parking area, and the Clay Pit Pond parking area.

Island Unit: Natural Resources Technician Cosgrove made final ground preparations, spin-spread millet seed, and incorporated seed on about 20 acres on the Island Unit. Fields planted include portions of the Fireman's 1, Crescent, Barn, and Lorenzen fields. Cosgrove began disking a low and wet area of Seattle Pond field.

Private Lands/Access Management

Spring Bear Hunt: Private Lands Biologist Wingard continued collecting data and preparing the post-hunt report. All data collection will be complete shortly.

2016 Hunting Prospects: Private Lands Supervisory Biologist Caldwell and Private Lands Biologist Wingard worked with District Biologists Milner and Yarborough to update this year's hunting prospects for their districts. Updates include estimated number of Waterfowl Quality Hunt Program sites and additional information about using the Hunt by Reservation system to access some of the most popular sites in Region 4.

Migratory Bird Forage Enhancement Projects: Private Lands Biologist Wingard and Natural Resource Technician Otto checked recent migratory bird forage plantings. All plantings looked good.

A young coyote in a Waterfowl Quality Hunt Program field in Whatcom County



Waterfowl Quality Hunt Unit Contracts: Private Lands Biologist Wingard continued preparing contracts for waterfowl quality hunt units in the region. Biologist Wingard and Natural Resource Technician Otto met with several landowners in Whatcom and Snohomish counties to discuss potential additions to the Waterfowl Quality Hunt program. Both landowners will be new to the program and have high quality properties. Private Lands staff members in Region 4 are excited about the potential of these new additions. Otto coordinated and scheduled meetings with landowners in Whatcom and Skagit counties. These landowners will hopefully be providing new hunting sites into the Waterfowl Quality Hunt program for the 2016 season. Biologists Caldwell and Wingard, along with Otto, met with these landowners and toured their properties.



One of several the new Waterfowl Quality Hunt program sites in Whatcom County

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

Wildlife Management

Executive Management Team Preparation Documents: District 13 prepared maps and narratives regarding peregrine falcon eyries and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Monument to be shared with staff members who will be hosting a tour of the San Juan Islands for the WDFW Executive Management Team.

Ungulate Conflict Management: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Witman and Natural Resource Technician Cogdal met with a berry producer in the Acme area of Whatcom County who is sustaining damage to a blueberry crop from ungulates and other wildlife. The landowner is interested in a cooperative fencing agreement to address the damage situation. The proposal will be brought forward to the elk work group technical committee for further consideration. Witman responded to Whatcom and Skagit counties to address ongoing damage to blueberry crops. A large portion of the crop is anticipated to be harvested early next week, hopefully reducing the ongoing damage and loss. Supervisor Caldwell contacted a Whidbey Island resident who has been sustaining damage to his vegetable garden and orchard. Supervisor Caldwell provided the individual with mitigation information and agreed to perform a site visit with the landowner to provide suggestions on methods to improve the current fencing structures. This meeting will take place during the week of July 18 due to the landowner going on vacation.

Hazing: Biologist Smith responded to multiple calls from the public relating to ungulates entering agricultural properties. Hazing strategies, fencing options, and rules relating to damage

tags were discussed. Smith also made required repairs to a temporary electric fladry fence excluding elk from vegetable crops in the Enumclaw area. Smith also coordinated with volunteers to perform weed removal around the fence perimeter.

Black-tailed deer walking across the road and into a blueberry field while Wildlife Conflict Specialist Witman is discussing the damage situation with the landowner



Wildlife Areas

Wildlife Area Planning Process: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm participated in a Core Team conference call to discuss and plan the next steps for the planning process. In the works are a follow-up meeting with the dog training sub-group members and a Wildlife Area Advisory Committee (WAAC) meeting.

Skagit Headquarters: Manager Rotton reviewed the Wiley Pump station agreement and requested additional assistance from CAMP for a pump station transfer. Rotton also coordinated with Lands Agent Kye Iris and WDFW Surveyor Steve Dabrowski to prepare property descriptions for the review of Dike District #22 and WDFW easements on Wiley Slough.

Sinclair Island: Manager Rotton prepared information for the EMT tour of the San Juan Islands. Rotton continued to participate in the coordination of the County and State tours of the property and issues related the boat dock facility.

Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator

Hunter Education Instructor Support: Hunter Education Coordinator Steven Dazey forwarded the 2014 and 2015 hunting incident reports to the Region 4 instructors to use in their classes. The reports can be found at http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/huntered/hunting_incidents.html. An interesting take away from the two years shows that the majority of incidents were caused by non-hunter education graduates. Hunter education is only required of hunters born after January 1, 1972. Coordinator Dazey met with a new instructor to preview a new teaching venue. The instructor is looking at starting classes in the new venue and building a team to teach there. Dazey assisted the instructor to post the class in Kalkomey and also to identify supplies that he will need. Dazey assisted an instructor who had recently moved to a new city in Region 4 to find a teaching team to start teaching with.

Stillaguamish Hunter Education Class: Hunter Education Coordinator Dazey assisted instructors from the Stillaguamish tribe to put on a hunter education class for tribal members. The Stillaguamish tribe made their facility available for the class and offered use of the venue to other instructors in the future who needed a place to teach. The venue worked very well and the

instructors did an excellent job presenting the material to the students. A big thanks to Bill Hebner, Jeff Tatro, Jeff Graves, and Gary Tatro from the Stillaguamish, Rick Webber and Larry Downs, both certified instructors from other teams who traveled to assist with the field course, and Bill Vincent, who attended all four sessions and assisted.

Public Outreach: Coordinator Dazey reached out to the Region 4 hunter education instructors to enlist their help in publicizing the WDFW Firearm Safety bookmark contest. More information can be found on the hunter education webpage at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/huntered/index.html>. Dazey answered a parent's question on what live fire firearms are used in hunter education classes.

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

Recent Graduate Mentorship: District 13 staff members provided an informational interview to a recent WSU graduate who is interested in a career in Natural Resources. Tips on where to look for jobs and resume building were shared, as well as descriptions of the kinds of work we do within WDFW.

Meetings and Training: Hunter Education Coordinator Dazey attended staff meetings and a staff training session in Cle Elum. The meeting covered areas of concern to the hunter education division and was followed by a training session at the Cascade Field and Stream facility.

REGION 5

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Mountain Goat Surveys: Biologist Holman coordinated with members of several groups to put together a plan for surveys of mountain goats in the Goat Rocks Wilderness and in the vicinity of Mount St. Helens. Groups involved in the surveys include Safari Club International, the Mountain Goat Alliance, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, USFS, and the St. Helens Institute. Surveys will take place later in the summer.

Western Gray Squirrel Habitat Evaluation: Biologist Anderson conducted a site visit to a landowner who is interested in managing a portion of his 150-acre ownership for western gray squirrels. The Klickitat County landowner wants to protect western gray squirrels and wanted WDFW to verify their presence on his land and give him recommendations for the best way to provide for good habitat. During the site visit, several western gray squirrel nests were located, primarily in Douglas fir. The ownership has a variety of Oregon white oak woodlands, ponderosa pine, and Douglas fir habitat, in combination with abundant water. A follow-up site visit will be done later in the summer to GPS these nest sites for entry into the WDFW data system.

Black-tailed Deer Research Project: Regional Wildlife Biologists continued to monitor fawn survival for this year's work on the black-tailed deer research project. Currently in the Coweeman cluster, seven out of 10 adult does captured in 2016 remain alive, while in the Washougal cluster, all four captured adult does remain alive. During the May-June birth period, all adult females associated with each study cluster were monitored frequently by a combination of satellite, VHF, and Vaginal Implant Transmitter (VIT) technology, and multiple attempts were made to capture their fawns. During the 2016 effort, a total of 14 fawns have been captured in the two Region 5 study clusters and seven remain alive. In addition, the collars from the four remaining does captured in 2014 are scheduled to drop off starting in late June. Two collars from the Coweeman cluster have already dropped and the collars were successfully retrieved from the field this week.

Western Pond Turtle Trapping: Biologist Butler began preparations to begin western pond turtle trapping at the Sondino site next week. Traps were examined for any necessary repairs, water levels at each pond were assessed, and the trailer was cleaned out and organized. Traps will be set next week and trapping will occur for only one week. This trapping effort focuses on trapping turtles with moderate to severe Undefined Shell Disease who will then be sent to the Oregon Zoo for treatment.

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

Wildlife Conflict

Wolf Advisory Group Meeting: Biologist Meyer attended the Wolf Advisory Group meeting in Spokane. The group discussed wolf program financing, habituation, and range rider contract payments.

District 10 Wildlife Conflict

Bear: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Conklin is still working with a landowner in Centralia experiencing black bear coming onto her property. Conklin met with the landowner and provided advice about bear and how to prevent attracting them in. After the landowner cleaned everything up the bear came in to at least check it out. It has not been seen on the property since.



Bear in Centralia neighborhood

Bobcat: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Conklin issued a kill permit for a bobcat in the Kalama area that continues to depredate on livestock and pets.

Unknown Depredation: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Conklin responded to two baby goats missing from an urban farm in Clark County. Last year this farm had several goats killed by a cougar. Conklin could not find evidence of what killed the goats this time. A trail camera has been set and she will experiment with using fox lights to possibly deter the predator(s).

Beaver: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Conklin is working with a landowner who is experiencing beaver damage to his planted riparian area on the Kalama River. The USDA also responded and deployed a trap.

Elk: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Conklin is working with WDFW Police on captive elk that have escaped their enclosure.

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

Performance Evaluations: Regional Wildlife Program staff members began working on documents and meetings related to annual employee performance reviews. The time period for evaluation is July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Reviews include an evaluation of the prior year's performance, training requirements and needs, Position Descriptions, employee self-appraisals, and expectations for the upcoming year.

REGION 6

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Snowy Plover: Fourth of July festivities resulted in some trespassing onto snowy plover nesting grounds despite additional enforcement. Some warnings were given. Multiple vehicles were turned back after entering the vehicle closure area at Leadbetter, but fortunately tracks and observations indicate that few people were located in the posted nesting areas. Midway beach suffered much more extensive incursions that included various driftwood forts and campfires within the closure area.

Leadbetter: Technician Raby conducted nest and brood searching, nest checks, and egg floatation this week at Leadbetter.

2016 Leadbetter and Island Season Totals				
<i># Nests Discovered</i>	<i># Nests Active</i>	<i># Nests Hatched</i>	<i># Nests Failed</i>	<i># Nests w/ Unknown Fate</i>
47	13	14	16	4

Midway/Graveyard:

2016 Midway Beach and Graveyard Spit Season Totals				
<i># Nests Discovered</i>	<i># Nests Active</i>	<i># Nests Hatched</i>	<i># Nests Failed</i>	<i># Nests w/ Unknown Fate</i>
62	?**	14**	20**	2**
** Numbers not updated at time of submission				

Streaked Horned Lark: In addition to snowy plover nests, several streaked horned lark nests have been located at both sites. Unfortunately, lark nests are not immune to human disturbance and predation. Only one known lark nest is known to have hatched three of four eggs.



Active streaked horned lark nest



Predated streaked horned lark nest

Cormorant Survey- Grays Harbor: Biologist Michaelis completed surveying Grays Harbor for double-crested cormorant nesting locations near Westport. During this survey, a large group of non-breeding cormorants (500+) were observed. It is possible that these non-breeders arrived from East Sand Island in the lower Columbia River, where the nesting colony recently collapsed.

Fisher Monitoring District 17: Biologist Michaelis conducted the last station check on Hex 85, which was located along the middle portion of the Wishkah River. No fishers were detected and all three cameras operated flawlessly. He then established three camera stations in a new survey hex along a portion of the Wynoochee River.

Fisher Camera Stations District 15: In a multi-agency, collaborative effort to document fisher presence on the Olympic Peninsula, Biologist Murphie established three camera/bait stations within a survey block located near the town of McCleary, WA. Biologist Murphie conducted his second check of these camera stations this week and reports taking photos of bears, a raven, opossum, spotted skunk, and a bobcat. Camera sets were refreshed and left in place for another two weeks.



Photo taken of a bobcat at camera station 3



Photo taken of a two bears at camera station 1

Satsop/Mason Deer Project; District 15: In 2009, WDFW initiated a study of the effects of forest management practices on black-tailed deer reproduction. Two of eight study sites are represented in District 15: Mason and Satsop. The Mason cluster includes 11 GPS collared does, while the Satsop cluster has two. The collars for six of the Mason does are expected to drop off in July and we did not attempt to collar fawns from these deer this season. Nine fawns associated with seven does were collared or accounted for as stillborn (n=1) from the remaining does. An objective of this study involves determining sources of mortality among all radio-collared deer. The radio-collars in the Mason cluster have remote monitoring capabilities and text messages are sent when certain events occur, although periodic field checks are recommended. The Satsop collars require field monitoring to determine status. So far this year, two fawns were likely killed by bear, one by a coyote, and we attributed one fawn's death to poor condition at birth. Four yearlings collared in 2015 were active until mid-June, but two of these were not found this week and either the collars have failed, or the deer have dispersed.

Biologist Murphie reports that a fawn mortality occurred this week, likely due to coyote predation.

Capital Forest Deer; District 17: Biologist Michaelis responded to a separation notice and possible fawn mortality. No vhf signal was received to trigger the notification. A second search was conducted later in the week and yielded the same results.

Black-tailed Deer Study; District 16: Biologist McMillan responded to the separation alert for Doe 12477 and her collared fawn. This has happened frequently for this doe and fawn. A site visit on June 27 confirmed that the fawn had a loud slow signal, while the doe signal was difficult to hear from any of the drivable DNR roads. A faint signal was detected from two areas along the road, appearing to be slow signals. The doe was on private ownership where owner contact had not been made yet due to the difficulty in determining how to contact the landowners. Later that evening, a mortality alert for the collared doe was received via iridium satellite technology. Biologist Murphie was able to check the site a couple days later when landowner permission had been obtained. There were classic signs of a cougar kill. Most of the deer had been consumed. The fawn signal was loud and slow through the first week of July, when the doe collar was deployed near the fawn to transmit the status of the fawn collar signal.

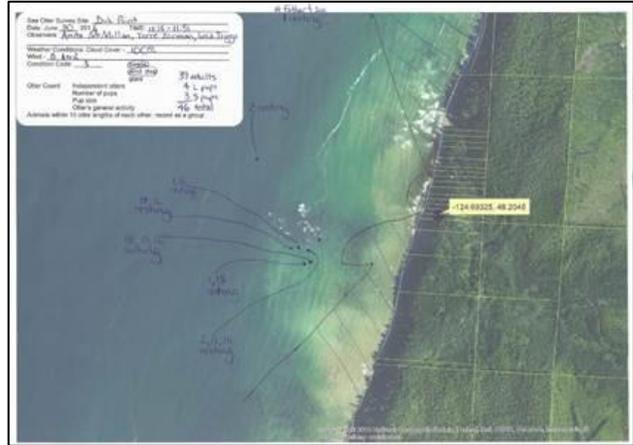
Sea Otter Surveys: Biologist McMillan was stationed at Duk Point, a location between Point of the Arches and Cape Alava from June 28 through July 1st. She conducted the counts of sea otter using the rocks and nearby kelp beds. The counts are orchestrated so the fixed wing aerial surveys are conducted at the same time the ground count crews are counting. Biologist McMillan was the primary counter at Duk Point, with several assistants that came through during the week, including Liam Antrim from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Lisa Triggs from Point Defiance Zoo, Terre Zorman (volunteer), and Sue Thomas (USFWS).



Duk Point site weather varied from fog to mostly blue skies at times. The two photos to the right are during the fixed wing aerial pass.



Observers Lisa Triggs (Point Defiance Zoo), Terre Zorman (volunteer), and Biologist McMillan counting sea otter



Sample Data form for counts at Duk Point

Purple Martin: Biologist McMillan observed two purple martins visiting the martin next boxes near Morse Creek on July 6. One purple martin perched on the box next to the entrance hole and called out several times. The other purple martin attempted to land on the same box ledge, but couldn't and would then try to land on the alternate nest box, which is being used by swallows this season. The purple martins were observed by another birdwatcher on Friday, July 8.

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

Wildlife Management

Hunting Assistance: Biologist Harris spoke with several hunters who received permits and with others just starting to scout early. For several it is starting to become a yearly call to visit. As one stated, he harvested his first bull following his advice and figured he may have good chance at a second one with a refresher.

Wildlife Areas

Conflict Contracts: Biologist Harris submitted two Hunt by Written Permission contract requests into NOVATUS. Both of these were for producers who were not interested when he started working with them on elk conflict. Because of the increased public access and the proven effectiveness of controlled pressure they have changed their minds. Youth hunters are likely to benefit most as both producers enjoy having kids harvest on their lands.

Private Lands /Conflict

Chehalis Valley Elk: Two elk were harvested last week. Both had TAHD. One was by a kill permit issued to a producer and the other by a licensed hunter who received a damage prevention permit from a producer.

Willapa Valley Elk: Biologist Harris received a report of 105 haylage bails damaged by elk. At a cost of \$5.00 per bail plus equipment and staff time, this is a significant loss to the producer, especially with milk prices at an all-time low. The main culprits are two bulls. Both have large spikes with exceptionally long eye guards. These two are kind of an anomaly, since they should have lost their antlers by now, and they have reportedly been around for a couple of years. This is a property where aggressive pressure has been applied to the elk and now the producer is not overly concerned with the lowered elk use. A permit was issued for one of the spikes or a cow to try and get the elk to move on. The producer was concerned that a cow with calf may get harvested or that, because this was close to the main barn, his cows could get spooked and possibly get injured and asked for assistance. Biologist Harris contacted a local Master Hunter. The producer gave the permit to the hunter, who purchased a damage tag. A condition of the permit was if one of the spikes was harvested, the head with antler remained the property of the State and to avoid harvesting a cow with calf. The hunter spent considerable time trying to harvest, and opted to haze instead at times. However, as expected, hazing does not work well with the small local groups. The hunter was unable to harvest a spike and eventually harvested a young non-lactating cow elk. This did the trick, as the elk have not been back since. Once again, a Master Hunter did a great job in showing good judgement on what elk to harvest. A Master Hunter designated permit holder will be deployed to another portion of the ownership this week to deal with a group spending too much time in a recently seeded field. This part of the property is easier for a person unfamiliar with the area.

Long Beach Cranberries: Fence construction has started at one bog. Deer and elk use has been very quiet, leading Biologist Harris to expect it will blow up shortly.

Grayland Cranberries: Bear dragging their paws when walking across the bogs is still a big grumble. Deer use is picking up, with the remote camera system taking several pictures recently. A Master Hunter with designated deer tag will be deployed shortly to one bog. A producer reported one lone bull in his bog. The producer has a kill permit allowing him to harvest the elk. He chose to turn on the sprinklers first. That worked as the bull was last seen heading into the timber. Hopefully the young bull got the message and will avoid the bogs for a while.

Biologist Harris replaced batteries on one of the remote cameras and spent time walking a few bogs looking for deer and elk sign. No recent elk sign was observed. Deer sign was high. However, in bogs where a few deer were harvested last year, sign was much lower than in the past, indicating that efforts to remove the most common crop raiders may be working. Harris was stopped by one producer who was concerned about increased coyote observations and a trail camera taking pictures of a cougar locally. Biologist Harris asked if the coyote or cougar were damaging crops. When the producer said no, Biologist Harris reminded him that both are likely helping control the wildlife populations that do. The producer stated that was good point.

Ocean Shores Bear: After a few weeks of no reports, the little bruin made a short appearance, generating calls to the State Patrol. Currently no effort is being made to relocate. This is not an area where bears are a good idea. Biologist Harris has been unable to pattern this bear and believes that the massive amounts of apples and other items being fed to the local deer population is the reason he was unable to trap it. This little bear is flat out well fed. In one case,

it ignored 16 unopened bird suet blocks. Perhaps during the fall, when hyperphagia sets in, he will have a better chance of being captured. Hopefully the little bear can stay out of trouble until then.