2014 WAAC Meeting

March 13, 2014

Last Resort KOA

New Name

- Wildlife Area Advisory Committee (WAAC)
 - Previously Citizens Advisory Group (CAG)
- WAAC Guidance document
 - "statewide WAACs are a critical conduit between the agency's lands planning and management activities and interested citizens and stakeholders."
 - "In order to improve trust and support with the local communities, WAACs should be used along with other outreach techniques to involve the public and other stakeholders in wildlife area concerns/issues."

Meeting Ground Rules

- Everyone in the group is valuable and is treated with respect
- One person's concern is the group's concern
- Confine discussion to the meeting topic
- Listen to understand
- Do not interrupt
- No personal attacks

Management Plan Updates

- Highlights:
 - Campground Relocation
 - Grant funded projects
 - Large Wood Projects continuing
 - New kiosks installed in each campground

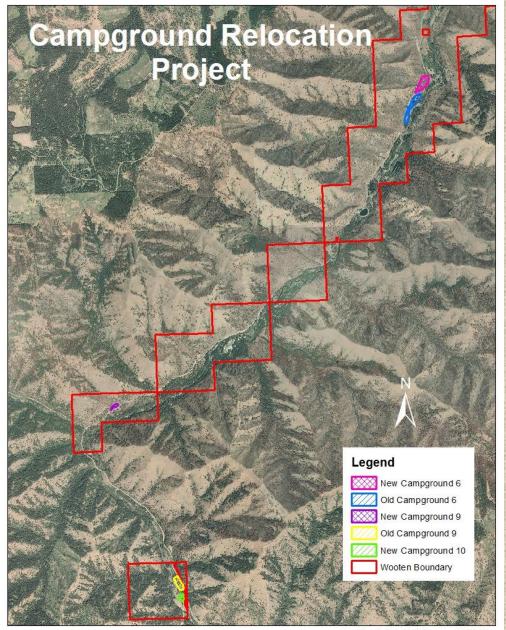
Questions?

Floodplain Management Plan

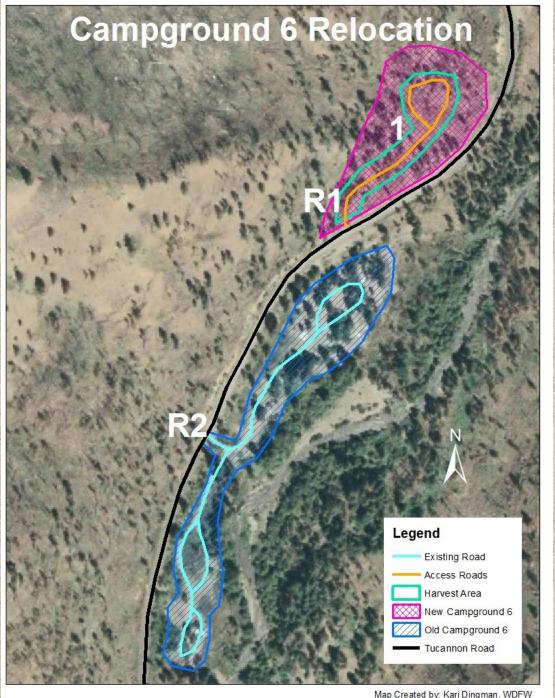
- Submitted for Capitol Projects for 2014-15
- Funded \$500,000
 - Ear-marked for Campground Relocation
 - Budget = \$300,000
 - \$200,000 left
 - Feasibility studies on prioritized list of lakes
 - Rainbow, Deer, Beaver-Watson, Spring, Big 4
 - Blue Lake in best shape

Submitted again for Capitol Projects for 2016-17

Campground Relocation

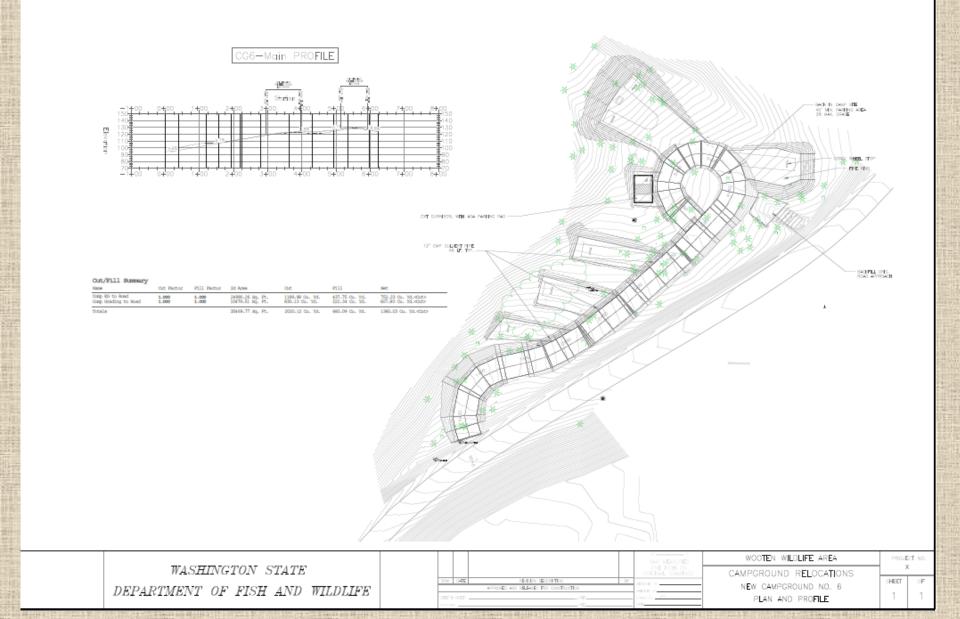


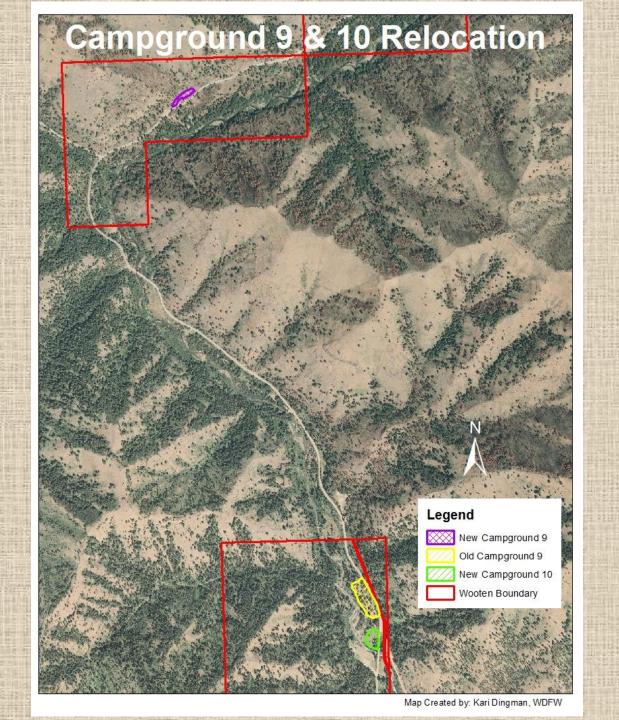
Map Created by: Kari Dingman, WDFW

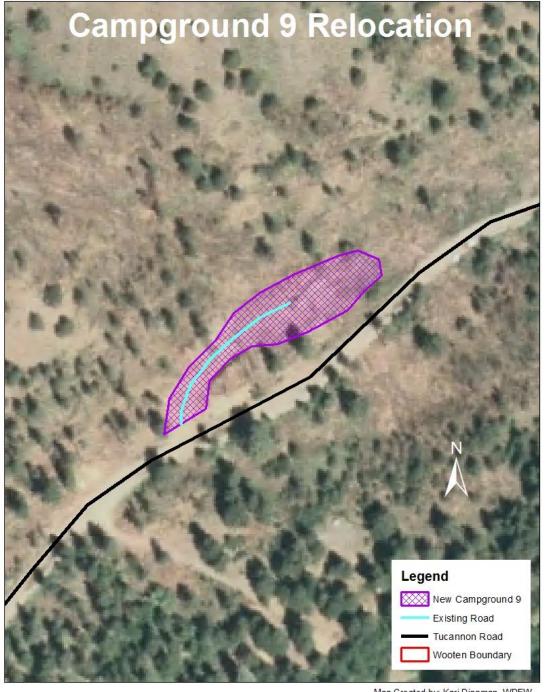


Map Created by: Kari Dingman, WDFW

New Campground 6

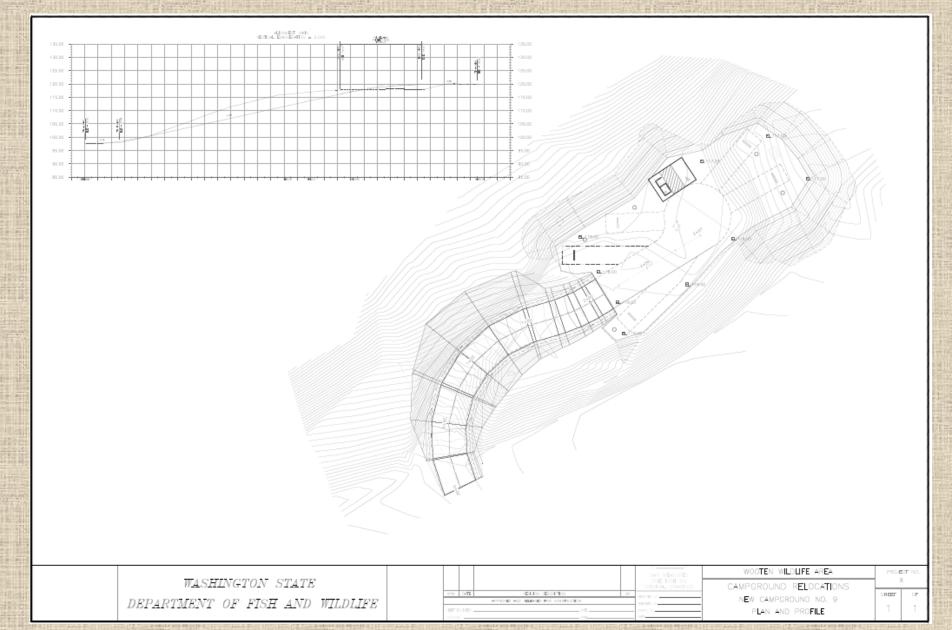


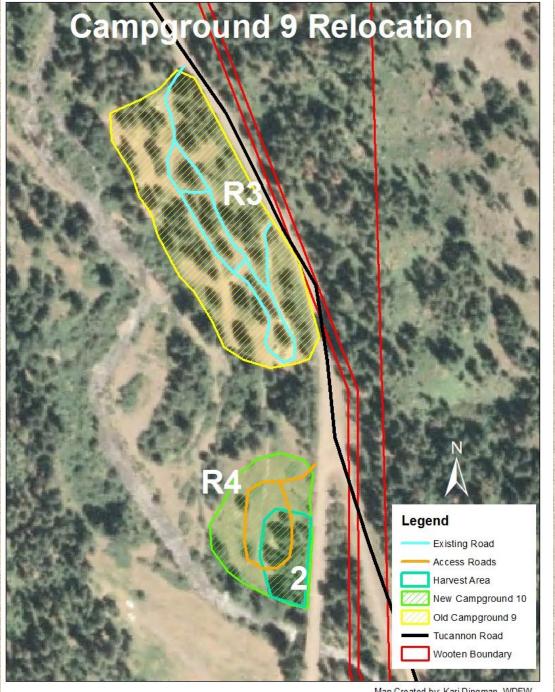




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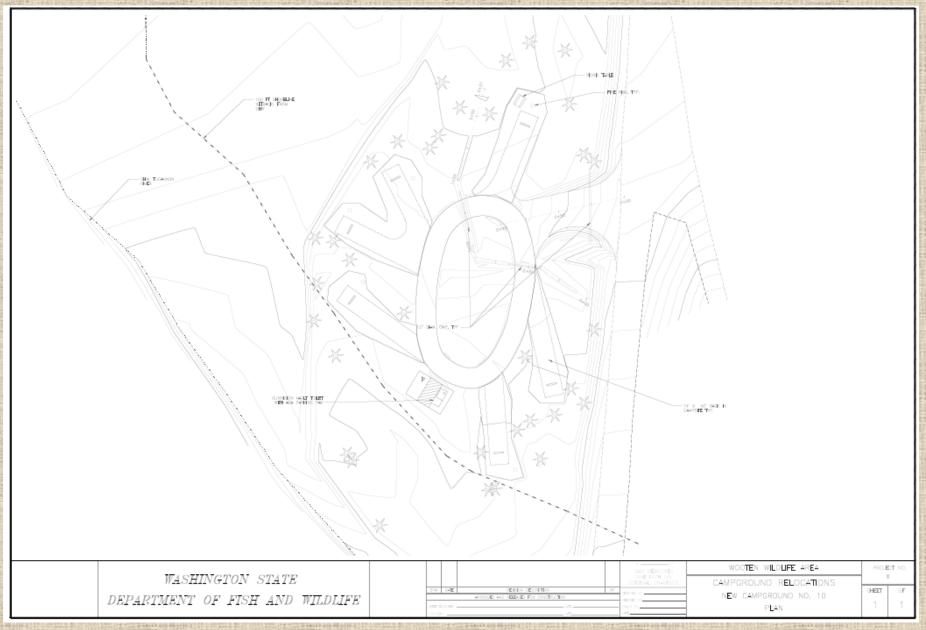
New Campground 9





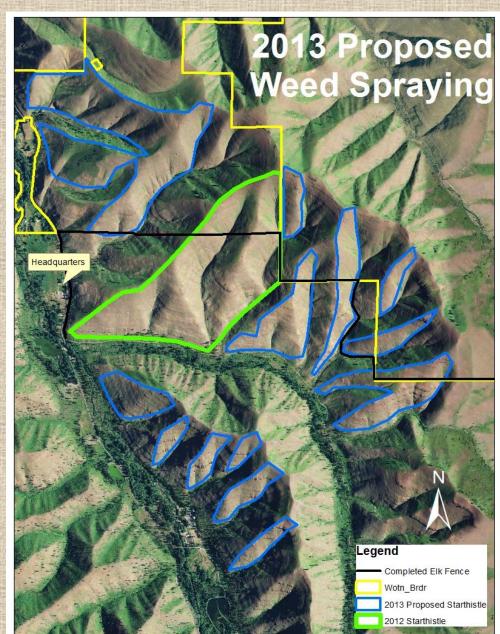
Map Created by: Kari Dingman, WDFW

New Campground 10



Update on Grant Work

- Weed Spraying
 - 570 acres sprayed aerially for yellow starthistle in 2013
 - Blue Mountains Elk
 Initiative (BMEI) funds



Weed Spraying

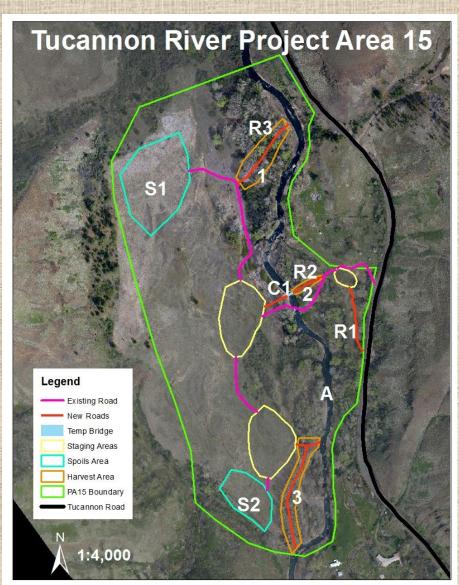
- 2014
 - Due to miscommunication within the Rocky
 Mountain Elk Foundation, several projects in the Blue Mountains were not funded this year.
 - Including weed spraying on the Blue Mountains Wildlife Area Complex (\$30,000)
 - National Wild Turkey Federation
 - \$1200
 - Weed control in and around Camp Wooten

Large Wood Projects

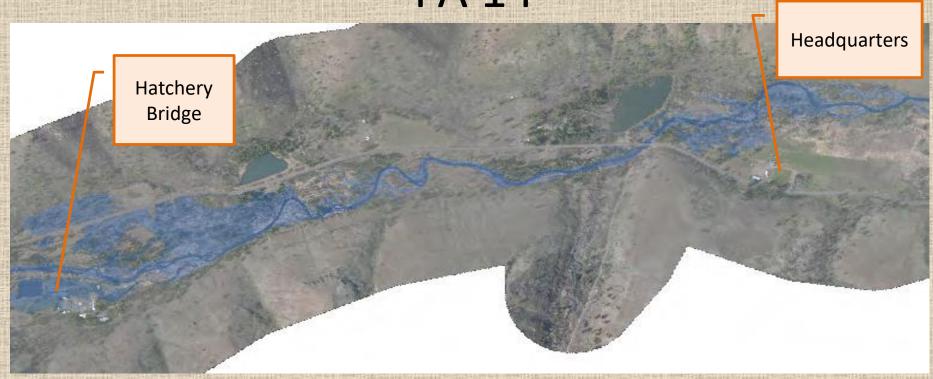
- 3 projects occurring simultaneously in 2014
 - Russell Unit
 - Hatchery Bridge to Wooten Headquarters
 - Mouth of Little Tucannon to Camp Wooten
 - And Panjab Bridge area
- All BPA funded for habitat restoration for spring Chinook and steelhead

Russell Unit – Project Area 15

- Large Wood structures constructed with excavator
- Reconnect old channels
- Construct new access road
 - Keep for public access and parking

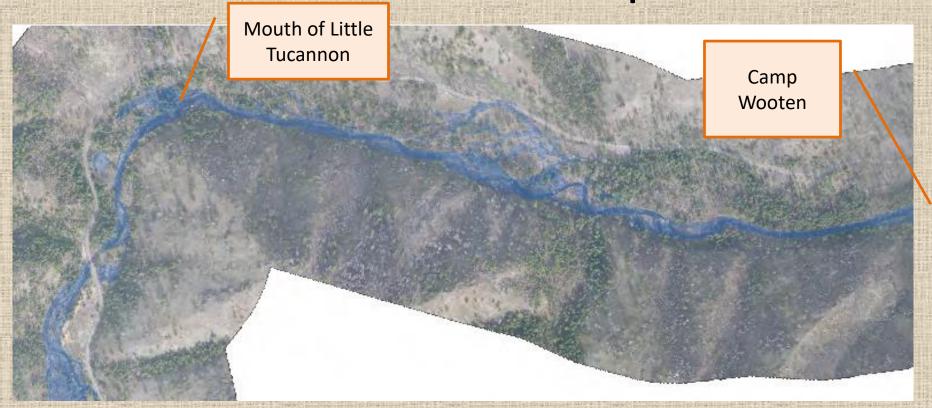


Hatchery Bridge to Headquarters
PA 14



- LW structures placed with excavator
- Removal of old road bridge near Spring Lake
- Reconnect floodplain and protect infrastructure at Hatchery, Spring Lake, and Headquarters

Little Tucannon to Camp Wooten



- Excavator and Helicopter project
- Umatilla Tribe is overseeing
- Reconnect floodplain and protect infrastructure at Camp Wooten

Outhouse Replacement

- Looking at funding options to replace the old fiberglass outhouses with new concrete outhouses
 - Currently have 6 old-style fiberglass outhouses
 - Not ADA approved



Kiosks

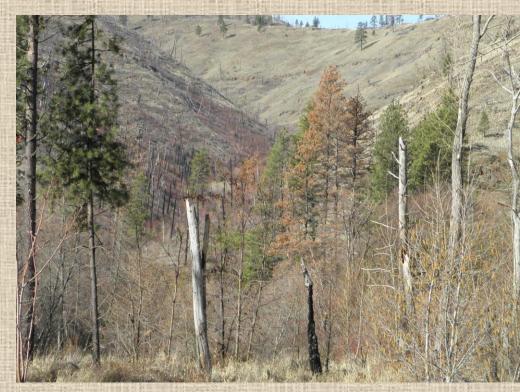
- Installed in Campgrounds 1,2,3,5,7,8, & 10
 - Campground 4 already had a kiosk
 - Campgrounds 6 & 9 are being relocated this summer
 - Kiosks will be installed when new campgrounds are completed





Beetle Kill Update

- Pine beetle infestation
 - Attacking mature pine trees in Tucannon drainage
 - Hazard trees
 - Removed around campgrounds and lakes
 - Dead trees left for wildlife trees and snags
 - Lewis' woodpecker requires 30 snags/acre



Grouse Flats/Wolf Fork PROPOSED Trade

- WDFW is investigating a land exchange
 - Grouse Flats 640 ac
 - Wolf Fork 770 ac
- Justification
 - Wolf Fork (currently owned by Bennett Lumber)
 - 1.4 miles of bull trout habitat
- Process
 - Notification flyer posted at Grouse Flats
 - US Fish & Wildlife Service has to approve exchange
 - NEPA will be done (WDFW will do SEPA)
 - Public meetings in future
 - Interested parties should contact WDFW to receive further notice

Management Plan Rewriting

- Time for updating and rewriting the management plans for each wildlife area
- Public version is on Wildlife Area website
- New items to include:
 - Agency initiatives (ex. Conservation Initiative)
 - Cultural Resource survey information
 - Consistent wording across all plans
- Proposing 3 WAAC meetings
 - Feedback on prioritization of issues
- Hope to have completed statewide in 10 years
 - We don't have scheduled start date yet

WAAC Communication

- WDFW wants regular communication with the WAAC
 - Quarterly, weekly
 - Quarterly newsletter with updates?

Suggestions?? Preferences??

Questions??

