

# Wildlife Program

Week of November 5-11, 2012

## **SCIENCE DIVISION**

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

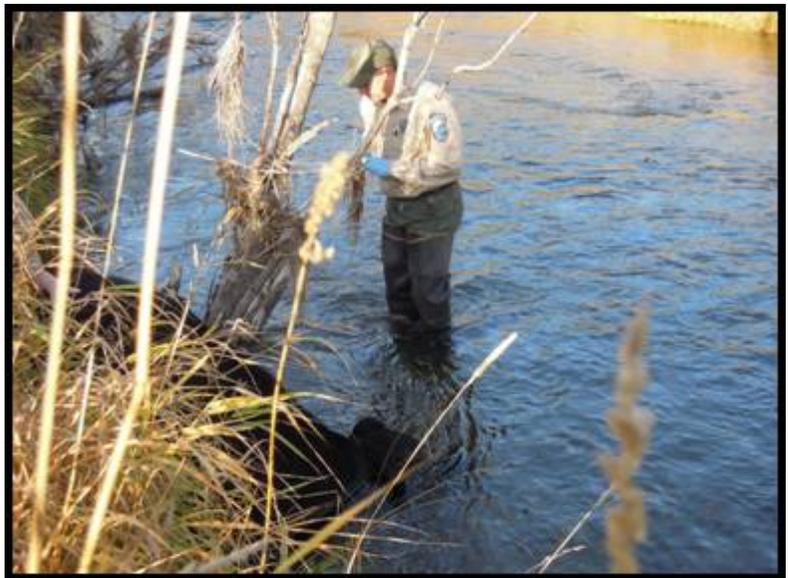
**Harvest of Forest Grouse in the Okanogan Highlands – 2012 Wing Barrel Update:** Mike Schroeder completed a report on population trends determined by monitoring of grouse harvest in the Okanogan. The analysis illustrates long-term changes in the ratio of juveniles per breeding-aged grouse, but the trends are not consistent among species. The ratios for dusky/sooty grouse and ruffed grouse declined, but the ratio slightly increased for spruce grouse. Although it is possible that the 70,000 hectare Tripod Fire played a role in the observations, the results are not clear.

**Wild and Rehabilitated Harbor Seals:** Monique Lance and Steve Jeffries are co-authors on a recent paper in Marine Mammal Science titled “Post-release movement of rehabilitated harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardii*) compared to age-matched wild seals.” In this collaborative study, we compared cohort linked wild and rehabilitated harbor seal pups from the San Juan Islands using satellite and VHF transmitters. Rehabilitated harbor seal pups traveled nearly twice as far overall, over three times as far daily, and dispersed over three times as far from the release site compared to wild weaned seals. Learned behavior during the brief three to four week nursing period when a harbor pup is with its mother likely enables wild harbor seal pups to move less daily and remain closer to their weaning site than rehabilitated pups.

## **REGION 1**

### **Wolf Management**

**District 1:** Biologist Shepherd discussed wolf sightings with Evans Cutoff residents and visited sites with Officer Don Weatherman. While near Northport, a call was received from a Spirit Junction resident concerning a dead cow assumed to be a wolf-caused incident. The cow was partially in the creek on a rental pasture. The landowner had heard multiple wolves howling and cattle running late the previous night. The cattle operator was out of town and the landowner did not have the machinery to pull the adult cow from Deep Creek. Officer Weatherman, Biologist Shepherd and Stevens County Sergeant Harbolt could see no visible wounds, but could not see the entire carcass. Officer Weatherman and Biologist Shepherd



*Officer Don Weatherman inspected a cow carcass in Deep Creek.*

returned to Colville to get hip waders and fladry to secure the carcass until the cattle operator returned to the area. Sergeant Charron, Biologist Shepherd and Stevens County Sergeant Harbolt returned two days later and the cattle operator removed the cow from the steep bank and creek. Again no visible wounds

were evident on the carcass, no other cows were wounded in the area including calves, and the incident was determined to be an unknown cause of death. The owner was advised to bury the carcass.



*Uninjured cows and calves in the pasture adjacent to Deep Creek where the dead cow was observed (left). Eventually with a post pounder and two pairs of hip waders, fladry was placed around the tarped cow carcass which was left for two days until the owner returned to remove it (right).*

Assistant District Wildlife Biologist Shepherd discussed and wrote requirements and recommendations in the project design criteria for the LeClerc Grazing Allotment Management Plan, an allotment wholly within the Diamond wolf pack territory, which is being revised under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Biologist Shepherd discussed wolves and wolf recovery with Don Phipps, a long time Colville area resident, for an hour. Biologist Shepherd discussed Deep Creek cattle and wolf issues with rancher John Dawson in response to the rumors of the latest cattle mortality. Biologist Shepherd discussed wolf issues, photos, rumors and sightings with contractor Jeff Flood. Biologist Shepherd agreed to a wolf presentation on December 6 with the Rotary Club of North Spokane. Biologist Shepherd de-scrambled, mapped, emailed or texted Smackout wolf locations to Deep Creek cattle owners everyday of the week. District Wildlife Staff Base and Shepherd participated in a staff meeting with Director Anderson and other senior staff to de-brief from the wolf field season activities.

**District 2:** Private Lands Biologist Lewis and technician Clements conducted a site visit and assessment of reported wolf kill and sighting on private property located south of St. John and north of Endicott on St. John-Endicott Road. Landowners called into office and reported seeing two large canids feeding on large white-tailed deer buck. When disturbed, the two animals fled the area and jumped over two barbed wire fences. The rear of the deer had been fed upon by the animals, but no evidence of how it died could be determined. Two small marks were on the neck area, but those did not resemble the work of wolves. Lewis and Clements also searched the area for sign of wolves, but the only sign in the area found were coyote tracks and scat. Area immediately around deer carcass was thick grass and vegetation and was not conducive for tracks. Coyote tracks were located approximately 30 yards away from deer carcass.

**District 3:** District Biologist Paul Wik contacted the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) regarding status of collared Oregon wolves and whether any resided in Washington this summer or fall. ODFW staff confirmed that none of the collared Oregon wolves were in Washington this summer/fall.

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

**Wildlife Management**

**Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GNLCC) Corridor Validation Project:** Biologist Ferguson worked in west Lincoln and east Grant counties conducting surveys looking for jackrabbit pellets in a 12m radius of randomly located circles as part of this multi-agency conservation effort.



*The Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative Corridor project for the black-tailed jackrabbit survey searched shrub-steppe habitat (above) to locate rabbit pellets (below).*



## Wildlife Areas

### **Post-fire grassland overseeding at Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area (SLWA):**

This week, Natural Resources Worker (NRW) Jim Bauer overseeded about 100 acres of shrub-steppe grassland on the Hatten-Finch unit, south of Seven Springs Road, on both the east and west side of Reiber Road. These two fields had been heavily burned during the Apache Pass Fire in September 2012. Although grasses, shrubs, forbs and legumes are already showing new green growth, the intent of overseeding was to provide some competition to the Covar sheep fescue that had become the predominant grass in the fields since original grassland planting occurred in the late 1990s. The seed mix was composed of excess native grasses donated by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and left-over grass and forb seeds from the seed room at SLWA.



*New grass growth at Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area, primarily sheep fescue, post Apache Pass Fire, November 5, 2012.*



*New legume growth (“Remont” sanfoin) at Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area, post Apache Pass Fire.*



*NRW Jim Bauer reseeding grasses/forbs, post Apache Pass Fire, November 5, 2012.*

**WT Wooten Wildlife Area – Floodplain Management Plan Tour:** Wildlife Area Manager Bob Dice and Assistant Manager Kari Dingman participated in legislative tour of the Wooten Wildlife Area on Friday. The tour covered key proposed projects described in the Wooten Floodplain Management Plan.



*The WT Wooten Floodplain Management Plan Legislative Tour covered key proposed projects.*

## **REGION 2**

None

## **REGION 3**

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

#### **Wildlife Areas**

**Wenas Wildlife Area – Wenas Lake Fire:** Damage from the Wenas Lake Fire and related revegetation efforts required the short term closure of local roads to motorized vehicles. Wenas Wildlife Area staff made and posted closure signs and installed a new walk-through gate at the Hessler entrance, prior to locking the Hessler and Kelley Hollow gates. This emergency closure will protect soils and big game in the burned area.



***Closure Signs and new walk-through gate at the Hessler entrance to the Wenas Wildlife Area.***

**Wenas Wildlife Area — Umtanum Creek Bridge Project:** A WDFW construction crew began work on the Durr Road/Umtanum Creek Bridge on the Wenas Wildlife Area. They were able to bring the 60-foot bridge down the Durr Road from Ellensburg with some high quality excavator driving and then spent the rest of the week bringing in materials for abutments and approaches. The bridge will be installed after Veterans Day.



*WDFW construction crew moved this 60-foot bridge into the Umtanum Creek crossing of Durr Road on the Wenas Wildlife Area.*

**Oak Creek Wildlife Area Elk Feeding Station:** Oak Creek Assistant Manager Berry improved the ramp that the tour trucks park on while loading and unloading passengers from truck tours during the winter feeding season. Berry removed some dirt and hauled in rock to make a firm and level spot for the tour trucks.



*The parking area for the tour truck loading ramp at the Oak Creek Wildlife Area was leveled to prepare for improvements. In the past the area would become very muddy and difficult to back in to.*



*Improved parking area for the winter feeding tour truck loading ramp at the Oak Creek Wildlife Area after new rock was spread. The rock should provide a good base to back up to the ramp.*

## **REGION 4**

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

#### **Wildlife Management**

**Common Loon Nesting and Productivity Management:** Biologist Anderson and Cyra headed to Calligan and Klaus Lakes to winterize loon platforms. The platform at Calligan was used by the resident summer pair, which nested both on the platform, failed, then nested on the shoreline and failed; unfortunately. Washington State has approximately 15 pairs of Common Loons. These birds are under increasing pressure from habitat loss and alteration, human intrusion and recreational pressure, as well as environmental stressors such as lead toxicosis and mercury poisoning. The range of west coast Common Loon at one time went all the way down to Mt. Shasta area of California and has receded over time. WDFW is working with partners and the public to keep Common Loons in Washington, now the edge of their range, through monitoring and providing management measures to hopefully assist in increasing annual productivity. More can be learned about loon management in Washington at these websites:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/loons/>

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/loons/science/>

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/00341/>



*Biologist Cyra stabilized a loon platform on Lake Calligan before winterizing the platform on land.*

**Osprey Conflict Reduction permits:** Biologist Anderson has consulted with a number of cell tower management entities regarding cell tower maintenance needs that require WDFW to issue a nest removal permit. These permits are issued when the nest is inactive, during the non-breeding season. Osprey nests cannot be removed/destroyed without a permit from WDFW during this time. When Ospreys are active in the nest (bird or eggs in nest), the birds, nests and eggs are protected both under state and federal laws. During the winter season, when osprey are south in e.g. Mexico, WDFW requires a permit under the state Wildlife Interaction Rules to remove the inactive nest. It must be a damage or safety situation. Information on the Wildlife Interaction Rules can be found at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/rules/>

**Winter Waterfowl Flights:** Biologists DeBruyn and Cyra counted dabbling ducks in the bays from Port Susan in the south to the Canadian Border. A total of about 83,000 dabbling ducks were observed during the waterfowl flight with mallards and wigeon being the most common. The largest concentrations were in Padilla and Samish Bays, with other concentrations in Lummi and Skagit bays. Waterfowl specialist Evenson flew with Canadian Biologist Sean Boyd to count snow geese from Snohomish County in the south to the mouth of the Fraser River in British Columbia. While the aerial photo counts from the flight have not been analyzed, approximately 55,000-65,000 geese were observed on the flight.

**Northern Puget Sound Lesser Snow Goose Study:** With goose capture goals nearly met in the Port Susan Bay and Skagit County area, Biologists Danilson and Evenson have switched gears to initiate ground-based surveys throughout the areas where snow geese are distributed in Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish counties. This includes finalizing driving survey routes, fine tuning data collection protocols, and developing and installing radio telemetry equipment.

**Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey:** District Biologist Milner and Ecostudies Institute partner Gary Slater toured survey sites in Port Susan Bay and discussed access with landowners. Volunteers will be conducting shorebird surveys in November and December in Port Susan, Skagit, Padilla and Samish bays as part of a growing effort in Washington, Oregon and California to count shorebird in winter. A volunteer training session was held the evening of November 7, with over 25 people in attendance. Two additional training sessions are planned for the coming week.

**San Juan Islands Terrestrial Land Managers Workshop:** District Biologist Milner attended a workshop on San Juan Island to discuss ideas for cooperation among public and conservation landowners in the islands. Projects currently underway by various groups were shared, and much discussion revolved around how to structure a working group so that all partners benefit from the time invested. The workshop was hosted by staff from the US Bureau of Land Management.

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

**Wildlife Management**

**Game Management Unit (GMU) 485 Quality Hunt:** Biologist Anderson received final updates on the special permit hunt in the Green River Watershed, which is checked by property owner Tacoma Power. The following animals were taken – Black-tailed deer included 10 bucks: one 4x5, three 4x4, one 3x4, one 3x3, three 2x2, one spike and three does. This hunt ended November 2. Elk included six bulls: one 6x6, one 5x6, two 5x5, one 4x5 and one spike. One boar bear was also taken.



***A first time hunter finds success in GMU 485 during the Green River Quality Hunt.***



*This is one of the six bull elk taken by permit holders at the Green River Quality Hunt in GMU 485.*

**2013-14 Hunting Season Recommendations:** Biologist Danilson coordinated with internal staff, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) personnel, and private timber company representatives in preparation for developing hunting season recommendations. Upcoming discussions with DNR and private landowners may clear up some confounding boundary issues and expand the North Skagit spring bear hunt unit. Potential changes to elk regulations being considered are aimed at addressing elk related agricultural conflicts in the Acme area and the Skagit River valley.

**Modification of Mountain Goat Hunt Area Boundaries:** Biologist Danilson went through old records and communications (2008 to present) related to previous modifications of the Mount Baker mountain goat hunt units. Danilson spoke with the biologist from North Cascades National Park about proposed changes to unit boundaries. Danilson modified (as appropriate) the legal descriptions of these units to reduce hunter confusion and adjusted one boundary line to address goat distribution and movements that are confounding for tag allocation. All changes were provided to Section Manager Harris.

### **Wildlife Areas**

**Pheasant Release Program:** Pheasant Release program was primarily staffed by volunteers this last week on the Skagit and Snoqualmie. Water conditions have improved on the Cherry Valley site following river rise and full releases are being made again. Whatcom Wildlife Area Manager Kessler and volunteers released 465 pheasants for the regular pheasant hunting season on Lake Terrell, Intalco and BP Units. Due to daylight savings time ending, they are now using two trucks and crews to get the birds released before dark.

**Samish and Island Unit:** Natural Resource Specialist (NRS) Greg Meis and Natural Resources Technician (NRT) Curran Cosgrove checked the water control structures on the Samish Unit. Limited water has accumulated on site, but waterfowl numbers have increased in the area and are continuing to utilize the barley plantings. Water control structures were checked and debris removed from the structure between Lorenzen and Ollie Thompson fields on the Island Unit.

**Wildlife Area Beaver Dams:** Manager Kessler checked and removed a beaver dam at the new Lake Terrell dam. The beavers are now focusing on the new dam weir, not the mouth of the Terrell Creek channel. He also checked a dam in the Tennant Lake access channel and coordinated with the Whatcom County Parks Manager on beaver caused flooding on the Hovander Park and Tennant Lake unit.

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

**Wildlife Management**

**Interview and management assistance – “Aggressive Barred Owls”:** Biologist Anderson received reports from State Parks Resource Steward Fielding regarding an aggressive Barred owl at Bridle Trails State Park. Anderson provided management advice to Fielding and the park ranger to provide for the safety of the public using the park.

Anderson was also interviewed by KOMO regarding similar instances of “aggressive” Barred Owls at Soaring Eagle Park in Sammamish. Anderson relayed that at this time of year, we have 10 hours of daylight in October, dwindling to nine hours in November; which is the same pattern of daylight we have in February through early March (9-10 hours and increasing). At that time, these animals become stimulated by natural cues to breed, including being territorial and a bit more aggressive.

It is likely that some younger, newly independent owls in the fall “feel their oats” since the day length triggers these cues a bit due to similar day length and response in hormone levels. However, these owls have not figured out, being young and “dumb” that certain things such as joggers with “strange ponytails” or folks walking their labs are not a threat to their arboreal existence.

This phenomenon of an increase in hormones similar to the same process in late winter and early spring that occurs in a number of birds and other species, such as Pacific tree frogs, which have been caught calling or territorial singing recently. The hormone level regresses quite quickly as we lose light towards the middle to end of this month, when we tend towards eight hours of light. Unfortunately, KOMO did not relay this information as clearly as they could have regarding this length of day effect to hormone levels in birds and other animals – but focused more on the suggestion that the owls currently seen doing this are most likely young owls.

**Wildlife Areas**

WDFW Crew from Capital Asset Management Program continued dredging Wiley Slough. WDFW staff has been coordinating with Dike District #22 to be certain desired drainage standards are being met. This week Dike District Commissioner Wolden with the help of NRT Cosgrove checked the water depths following dredging and was satisfied with the work being completed.

Manager Rotton is coordinating with Washington Waterfowl Association on the installation of shell receptacles for this hunting season to be installed at the Headquarters and Samish Units.

**Samish Unit:** Program Manager Link, Manager Rotton and NRS Meis attended the next stage of the Restoration Framework meeting for the Samish Unit wetland enhancement project. The meeting was attended by Regional staff to review the enhancement before moving the proposal to the permitting and public input phase. The decision has been made to postpone this project until the summer of 2014.

**Leque Island Unit:** Manager Rotton has been working with Peter Swartzman from Pacific Water group to provide additional background and site information for the water quality report.

### **Private Lands/Access**

**GMU 418 Elk Hunting Access:** Region 4 private lands staff surveyed the GMU for hunter activity, logging operations, and unwanted activity. Biologist Roozen met with successful elk hunters, collected access keys, and recorded harvest information.

**Waterfowl Quality Hunt Program:** Biologist Roozen met with partner landowners to discuss access agreement topics and questions. Technicians Otto and Deyo continued blind construction and maintenance, and prepared parking at multiple hunt units in the Region. Region 4 private land staff continued scheduled surveys of hunt units.



*Waterfowl Quality Hunt Program unit operates with optimal hunt conditions.*

**Snow Goose Quality Program:** Region 4 private lands staff readied parking for the hunt units and began monitoring public use at the sites. Private lands staff identified and began negotiations for snow goose access in new, expanded locations that the birds are regularly using. Biologist Roozen and technician Otto will meet with these landowners this week.

## **REGION 5**

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

#### **Wildlife Management**

**Mazama Pocket Gopher Surveys:** Biologists Bergh and George completed the final wave of Mazama pocket gopher random plot surveys in Lewis County. This multi-component study was conducted with the intention of updating distribution descriptions and illustrating relative occurrence of gophers among broad habitat associations. The three plots with possible gopher activity will now be investigated further by agency staff.

**Double Crested Cormorants:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Portland District is the federal land manager of East Sand Island, and is currently considering management alternatives to reduce double-crested cormorant predation on Columbia River basin juvenile salmonids listed under the Endangered Species Act. The management alternatives will be studied in an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Corps is the lead agency under NEPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Wildlife Services; and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife are cooperating agencies on the Environmental Impact Statement. Wildlife Program Manager Jonker attended the first of three public scoping meetings this week. More information can be found at the USACE website: <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Currentprojects/CormorantEIS.aspx>

#### **Wildlife Areas**

##### **Klickitat Wildlife Area**

**National Wild Turkey Federation Volunteer Project:** Volunteers from the Yakima chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) came to the wildlife area to help with slash disposal from the thinning project initiated last spring. This is a habitat retention project that consists of creating shaded fuel breaks along two major roads on the Soda Springs Unit. Much of the thinning slash was chipped by a Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crew in May. However, a considerable volume of small trees and limbs were left beside the road after the WCC crew's time ran out. NWTf volunteers gathered and piled material along about half mile of road, creating 18 piles which were covered with plastic, to be burned later. This energetic group accomplished the work in just five and a half hours, which includes travel time from the Klickitat Wildlife Area office to the project site. A big "Thank you" goes out to the Yakima Chapter of the NWTf for their great help in completing this important project!



***National Wild Turkey Federation volunteers provided energetic support to help complete the Klickitat Wildlife Area project.***

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

**Wildlife Management**

**Goose Management Area 2A Goose Season Training:** Waterfowl Section Manager Kraege and Enforcement Officer Van Vladricken, along with Biologists Holman and George held a training day for those involved in goose hunting management in Area 2A. The training featured sections on goose management within the Pacific Flyway, regulations, check station procedures, law enforcement, goose identification, etc. The training was well attended by WDFW and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologists and Technicians, as well as WDFW Enforcement Officers. The special regulations and check station requirements for Area 2A (and 2B) are in place cooperatively with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the States of Washington, Oregon, and Alaska, as well as British Columbia, Canada and are designed to protect populations of the Dusky Canada goose.



*Dusky Canada Geese spotted on the Shillapoo Wildlife Area.*

Goose hunting season opens in Area 2A on Saturday November 10 and continues each Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday through November 25. Hunting then resumes on the same three-days-per-week arrangement from December 5 through January 27. Those interested in hunting geese in Area 2A are reminded of the certification and check station requirements detailed on pages 16, 20 and 21 of the 2012/13 [Washington State Migratory Waterfowl and Upland Game Seasons Pamphlet](#). Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge differs in season lengths and authorized hunt days and will also require a reservation to participate. Please refer to the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge website for further information regarding hunting on the Refuge.

**REGION 6**

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

**Western Snowy Plovers:** Biologist Hoenes organized and participated in a meeting to discuss western snowy plover recover efforts in 2013. Biologist Sundstrom, Regional Program Manager Cope, Research Scientist Pearson, and USFWS Biologist Richie were also in attendance. The focus of the meeting was to identify management issues that needed to be addressed prior to the initiation of the 2013 nesting season. Topics included predator control initiation and monitoring, funding for temporary biologists, enforcement coordination during peak use weekends (e.g. clam digs, holidays, etc.), monitoring protocols, and compiling the annual report to summarize current year's efforts.

**Mazama Pocket Gopher Surveys:** Biologists Hoenes and Michaelis completed the last wave of Mazama pocket gopher surveys in Grays Harbor County. Biologists visited 31 plots in Grays Harbor County, but no gopher mounds were observed. Biologists in District 15 and 11 also completed the 2012

season gopher surveys assigned to their area as each district wrapped up the survey season. Data collected during this effort will be combined with efforts from Region 5 and other biologists working from Headquarters to help WDFW determine relative occurrence of gophers among several different habitats and soils in Thurston, Lewis, Mason, Pierce, and Grays Harbor counties. In addition, the information collected during these efforts will inform overall distribution across some or all of each county.

### **Wildlife Areas**

Manager Gerchak and Asst Manager Gallegos made adjustment to the water level at John's River to flood the smart weed planting and fill the ditches. Some 20 areas were tilled this past spring to encourage smartweed production. The areas were over seed with barley. The area has already produced some good waterfowl hunting.



*Adjustments were made to the water level on John's River Unit at the Olympic Wildlife Area.*



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

### **Wildlife Management**

**Canada Goose Check-Stations:** Biologists Michaelis and Sundstrom manned the Canada goose check stations in Raymond and Reikkola. Sundstrom checked 36 geese from 15 hunters. None of the geese checked were determined to be dusky Canada geese.

### **Private Lands/Access**

**GMU 667 Any Buck Youth Permits:** Regional Program Manager Cope and Biologist Harris spilt the day controlling access at the main gate of the Vail tree farm on Saturday, November 10. This hunt was originally scheduled for October 6-12, but due to season conflicts the schedule was changed to earlier in October. Another emergency change followed due to the fire closures, changing the season to November 1 -23. When Biologist Harris notified Weyerhaeuser of this change they immediately offered to allow a day of motorized access to the youth hunters. To make sure this occurred they actually curtailed some of their operations to ensure a safe hunting experience. Out of 17 permit holders, nine took advantage of the access. Three bucks, two adult 2x2 and one adult spike, were harvested. All three were nice healthy deer.

All hunters except one reported seeing deer. The high number was 50 deer with most reporting seeing several bucks. One young hunter reported seeing 20 does and four bucks. He was holding out for something bigger. Another reported seeing 32 does and two bucks. The first buck was small and the second buck was a monster, he missed a broad side shot. It was his first experience with buck fever. Bio Harris told him not to worry and that it happens to all of us at some point and even some with lots of game experience. All hunters reported having a great time and were very appreciative of WDFW's and Weyerhaeuser's efforts to make this happen. Even the contractors made a point of stopping and telling us that they thought it was great that WDFW went to such an effort for the youth hunters.

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

### **Wildlife Management**

**Safe Capture Workshop:** Biologist Hoenes attended the two-day Safe Capture Chemical Immobilization Workshop in Port Townsend. The class focused on capture pharmacology, drug combinations and calculating dosages, a variety of drug delivery techniques, post capture care and anesthetic monitoring, and human safety considerations. The course was very informative and a good a good complement to the course offered by WDFW Veterinarian Mansfield.