

Wildlife Program

Week of November 26-December 2, 2012

REGION 1

None

REGION 2

None

REGION 3

None

REGION 4

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Snow Goose Project: Biologists Milner, Danilson and Rotton located snow geese in the Snohomish system on their way home from Wenatchee. Plans are underway for trapping and tracking in that system.

Heron Colony Management Assistance: Biologist Anderson met with Seattle Parks and Recreation, Heron Habitat Helpers, and University of Washington representatives to discuss heron management and citizen involvement in Seattle. Anderson also provided heron management recommendation to a build applicant working with Seattle Department of Planning and Development.

Osprey Management Assistance: Biologist Anderson provided summary and template language to assist U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (per their request) with Osprey nest site management activity and co-management efforts involving inactive nests and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) requirement of a nest removal permit for this species. Anderson also consulted with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) biologists regarding Osprey nest site management. Anderson provided a nest removal permit for a site working with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services.

Pacific Flyway Shorebird Surveys: Biologists Milner and Slater of Ecostudies Institute cancelled the citizen scientist shorebird surveys that were scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. High winds, substantial water in the rivers, and a relatively high low tidal cycle created a

situation where the surveys simply could not be accomplished. Plans are underway to reschedule for a more reasonable tide cycle in February.

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

Wildlife Management

Elk Monitoring Activity in Game Management Unit (GMU) 466, Stampede: Biologist Anderson worked with a hunter who took a bull in the Stampede unit that had an ear transmitter. It was determined it was part of a Muckleshoot study. Muckleshoot biologists shared information on the individual. The individual was marked in the Lester area in 2010 as a calf.

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

Wildlife Management

High School Student Job Shadow: Biologist Anderson provided a brief interview and job shadow to a high school sophomore who hunts, watches wildlife, and is interested in wildlife biology. The student has family in the natural resource fields. The student is in a class that is currently having students seek information on professional fields of interest.



Biologist Chris Anderson spent time with a high school sophomore interested in wildlife biology for the student's job shadow project.

Wildlife Areas

Cleaning and Winterizing: Natural Resources Worker (NRW) Kraig Paulson began cleaning and winterizing pheasant pens on the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area. NRW Paulson also began clearing brush around the barn to prepare for debris removal. The barn will also be prepared for painting later in the spring and summer. Pheasant volunteer Alex Moody began the process of cleaning and winterizing the pheasant pens on the Skagit Wildlife Area. Alex was also able to begin the process of cleaning crates and vehicles used during the season.

GOAL 4: MAINTAIN A HIGHLY SKILLED AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE

Wildlife Management

Wildlife Program School: Region 4 staff attended Wildlife Program School for Program specific training and updates relevant to staff statewide. This is a valuable learning opportunity for staff in the implementation of the Program's vision, goals and objectives.

District Biologists attended training on Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques, introduction to R, aircraft flight following and data recording, and marine work in the Salish Sea. There was also an interesting series of presentations on wolves in Washington.

Wildlife Area staff attended classes in pesticide certification, GIS training, budget tracking and program updates just to name a few.

Winter Waterfowl surveys: Assistant District Biologist Cyra finalized the flight following documentation for winter waterfowl flights in preparation for flights commencing the first week of December.

Employee Safety: Assistant District Biologist Cyra ordered safety and survival equipment in preparation for the winter waterfowl flights.

REGION 5

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

Wildlife Areas

Deer Season: Klickitat Wildlife Area Manager Van Leuven visited with hunters S. Hill and D. Cox at their camp, where Hill showed the deer she harvested on the Soda Springs Unit of the Klickitat Wildlife Area. The bases of the antlers of this three-by-four buck are larger than Manager Van Leuven's wrists and one of the eye guards is forked. There was no scale available, but the body of the animal appeared to be unusually heavy. A few days of cool weather offered good conditions for storing the carcass in camp. Hill and Cox come from Chinook, WA every year to hunt deer on the Klickitat Wildlife Area.



Hunter S. Hill harvested this three-by-four buck on the Soda Springs Unit.

GOAL 4: MAINTAIN A HIGHLY SKILLED AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE

Wildlife Management

Goose Surveys: Biologist Miller trained Technicians Doorly and Johnson to identify and read the individual neck collars that are present on goose subspecies, such as cackler and duskys. WDFW employees are cooperating with a Pacific Flyway neck collar effort on cacklers, duskys, and other collared geese to document survival and contribute data to a population estimate. We were able to observe both cackler and dusky collars during this effort.



Goose surveys were conducted to document survival and contribute data to a population estimate.

Wildlife Program School: Region 5 staff attended Wildlife Program School for Program specific training and updates relevant to staff statewide. This is a valuable learning opportunity for staff in the implementation of the Program's vision, goals and objectives.

REGION 6

None