

Wildlife Program

Week of April 8-14, 2013

SCIENCE DIVISION

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

New maps for reptiles and amphibians: Wildlife Program Biologists Lori Salzer and Lisa Hallock worked with Jack McMillen-Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Heritage Program to update the species range maps for the Washington Herp Atlas website. The Atlas, co-managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and WDNR, provides information of Washington's herpetofauna (amphibians and reptiles, or "herps") including life history, habitat, status, threats, management concerns and distribution. Citizens and professionals use this website and provide WDFW with dozens of important observations annually.

Mazama Pocket Gopher: The spring field season for the Mazama pocket gopher translocation study began April 2 with the hiring of three Science Technicians and two non-permanent personnel to assist project leader Gail Olson: Kelly Perry, Chris Capelli, and Sarah Coven, all very experienced pocket gopher trappers and surveyors. They are currently live-trapping gophers at West Rocky Wildlife Area with the goal of estimating the breeding population to determine the status of the reintroduced population and project future trends.

Presentation: Gail Olson gave an invited presentation at the joint meeting of the Cascadia Prairie Oak Partnership and the Northwest Scientific Association in Portland, OR on March 22. Her talk was on the translocation study of Mazama pocket gophers, given as part of a symposium on Vertebrate Reintroductions that focused on prairie and oak woodland species.

Bat Working Group Workshop: Lori Salzer attended the biennial meeting of the Western Bat Working Group. The primary focus of the meeting was to review and update the 1998 Species Threats Matrix and the Northwest Re-Gap species range maps. The threats matrix was reviewed prior to this meeting by WDFW biologists, DNR Heritage biologist and consultants and our comments were rolled in to the final product for the Great Northern & North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative planning area (geographically based). This information will be used to inform the NatureServe species rank updates and conservation and management efforts.

GOAL 4: MAINTAIN A HIGHLY SKILLED AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE

CAPS-TRACS Replacement: Staff met with the finalist vendor to begin "sand box" testing of the contract and project management system under consideration for replacing WDFW's current contract management system. Final sand box testing is scheduled to be completed by the end of April when final decisions on vendor selection will be made. If all goes well, we anticipate a new contract/project management system will be in place at the start of the new biennium.

REGION 1

Wolf Management

District 1: Conflict Specialist Shepherd met for several hours with a local ranching family at their home place to discuss wolves, wolf management, and the funding for the range rider program. Conflict Specialist Shepherd and Officer Taylor investigated a dead calf near Cedonia that died of an indeterminable cause although coyote, bobcat, and domestic dog tracks were observed. A remote camera was set. Conflict Specialist Shepherd, Officer Taylor, and Officer Anderson investigated an observation of three wolves, two gray and one black, near a calving pasture between Addy and Cedonia. A remote camera was set. Conflict Specialist Shepherd and Private Lands Access Technician Bendixen investigated two episodes of yearling Holsteins breaking through a fence at a dairy between Addy and Cedonia. A long discussion about the operation ensued.

Conflict Specialist Shepherd attended a U.S. Forest Service/Stevens County Cattlemen/WDFW meeting held to discuss issues on Colville Forest grazing allotments pertaining to the presence of wolves. Conflict Specialist Shepherd picked up cowbells to be deployed in the Smackout wolf territory from a harness company in Spokane. Conflict Specialist Shepherd discussed remote camera operation with the representative from the U.S. Air Force survival school. Conflict Specialist Shepherd discussed all aspects of wolf conflict and range riding with Conflict Section Lead Simek. Conflict Specialist Shepherd discussed a wolf howling observation from last summer that sounded like two adult and several immature wolves with a recreational property owner in western Ferry County.

District 3: District Biologist Wik talked with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Wolf Manager Morgan about the current status of the Wenaha and Walla Walla wolf packs. No activity is currently known to be occurring in Washington, but all of the collared wolves in the Walla Walla pack have dispersed out of the area.

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Areas

Sharp-tailed grouse translocation to Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area: On Wednesday, Wildlife Area Assistant Manager (WAAM) Finch received a call from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Biologist Jason Lowe that the Sharp-tailed grouse trapping crew in Burley, Idaho was successful on their first trapping experience of the year with the capture of eight female and four male grouse to be released on the morning of Thursday, April 11, 2013.

Jason was on the trapping crew that was going to transport the birds to their new home. On April 12, 2013, WAAM Finch received a call from Kerrin Doloughan, of the BLM, who transported 16 Sharp-tailed grouse trapped that morning. They were able to capture eight females and eight males. That is a total of 28 birds in the last two days; 16 females and 12 males.

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

Private Lands/Access

Elk Damage Prevention: Biologist Rasley met with a farmer on the upper Patit Creek east of Dayton regarding elk in his commercial hay fields. After the meeting the farmer said the four separate fields of Roundup Ready alfalfa they had planted last year has helped to lure the elk away from their Timothy grass plantings. The farmer incurred the entire cost of the alfalfa planting, even with the seed costing \$7 per pound.



REGION 2

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Areas

North Central Washington Prescribed Burn Team – Last Saturday, Burn Boss Guse and Prescribed Burn Team Members Davis and Smith patrolled the Riparian 3 HQ Unit that had its second entry burn the previous day looking for signs of burning fuels near the unit boundaries to mop them up. Quite often, hot-spots do not show themselves until mid-afternoon when the relative humidity drops to its lowest point. The objective was to allow heavier fuels burning in the unit to consume, while extinguishing those near the perimeter, and particularly burning limbs above ground level exposed to wind. On Monday the entire team rehabilitated the equipment used on the burn, and worked to improve functionality of equipment they rely on that needed improvement.

Guse attended the Okanogan Smoke Managers meeting last week where representatives from tribes, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Ecology and federal agencies were

present. Opportunities for cooperation to minimize air-shed impacts, and maximize prescribed fire burning opportunities were discussed.

Assistant Manager Haug attended the Mule Deer Foundation Banquet in Mt. Vernon. He drove over to display the Prescribed Burn Team Trailer paid for by the foundation to better haul our equipment from burn to burn. They were most appreciative of the visit and Assistant Manager Haug thanked the attendees of the banquet for their gracious donation towards our efforts to produce better mule deer habitat through prescribed burning.



Assistant Manager Haug attended the Mule Deer Foundation Banquet in Mt. Vernon.



Fuels Specialist Leuschen demonstrated fuel inventorying techniques at the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area.

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

Wildlife Areas

Wolf Canyon building salvage and demolition bidder's tour: On Thursday, April 11 Tom McCoy and Rob Wottlin along with Tim Ward from the Capital and Asset Management Program (CAMP) led a bidder's tour for the Wolf Canyon building project. There were 10 prospective contractors present.



Given the unique setting and extensive material salvage opportunity associated with this project the discussions were lengthy and interesting. We hope to have all of the bidders questions answered, and the contract ready to bid in the next few days.

Private Lands/Access



Access Maintenance: Access Manager Joe Graves coordinated with a local horseback riding club on a volunteer project to pick up litter along the North Potholes access road this past weekend. The volunteers did an outstanding job collecting and bagging up litter along the 8 ½ miles of road. Access Maintenance and Wildlife Area staff picked up the bags on Monday and transported it to the landfill.

North Potholes volunteer effort

Access Managers arranged for road grading and cleared several downed cottonwoods on the Dryden Access Site long the Wenatchee River. Some industrious beavers provided felling services.



REGION 3

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

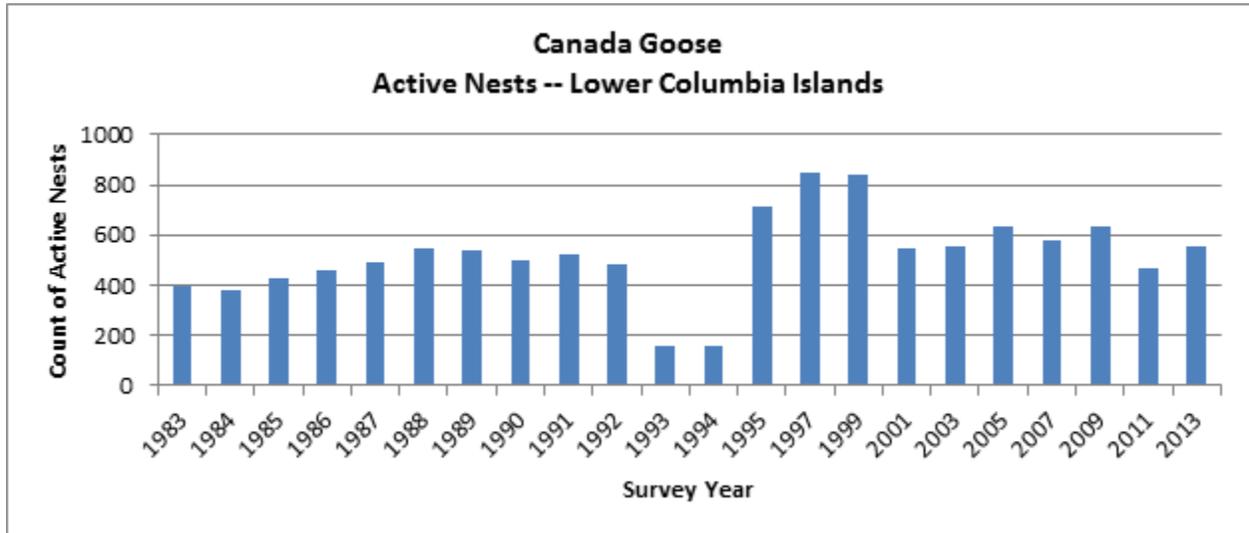
Canada geese: With an immense amount of help from other WDFW biologists and volunteers, Biologist Gregory completed the biennial Canada goose nest surveys on the lower Columbia River. We visited a total of 23 islands from the John Day Pool to Priest Rapids Pool and counted 551 nests. This is a little above the average count of 520 nests since 1983 (see chart below). Most birds were still incubating. A small proportion of the nests had hatched, but in most cases the goslings were not yet mobile.



Canada goose on a nest located in the John Day Pool. Photo by J. Nichols.

This effort involved much cross-program cooperation as Fisheries Biologist Hoffarth generously contributed use of his program's boat and Captain Kaelber who navigated safely through some

windy days. Thanks also to volunteers Estes and Nichols as well as the following WDFW staff: Buser, Hand, Stutzman, and Wehland.



Count of active Canada goose nests 1983-2013



Newly hatched goslings on a nest located in the John Day Pool.

Tieton Bighorn Sheep: Biologist Bernatowicz helped organize and direct culling/sampling efforts. Volunteers were used to spot live sheep and mark carcasses of those lethally removed. Thirty-one sheep were taken during the week by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services staff. A total of 42 have been removed during the last two weeks. Ground and aerial surveys indicate very few bighorns are left within the herd boundaries. The removal has been very efficient and the majority of carcasses have been sampled, thanks to the efforts of volunteers from Safari Club International, Wild Sheep Federation, and Washington State University (WSU).



Infected lungs of a bighorn sheep removed from the Tieton herd.

Deer Survey: Biologist Moore completed the data collection portion of our district wide survey effort. This effort took nearly two weeks of mostly evening flights and included multiple WDFW staff, as well as assistance from Muckleshoot tribal biologists. These data will allow an overall population review of four Population Management Units (PMUs)



Deer in the Taneum Creek Area (Note MIT Collar)

across District 8, and will be comparable to a similar effort that took place in 2004.

Wildlife Areas

Naneum Ridge to Columbia River Recreation Plan: Biologist Moore worked with Wildlife Area Managers Shana Winegeart and Pete Lopushinsky, Regional Program Manager Ted Clausing and numerous DNR staff to host public meetings in Wenatchee and Ellensburg. The focus of this effort was to inform the public on our agency's progress as well as capture comments. Both meetings were well attended.



Biologist Moore presented the Biological Module of the Suitability Analysis at Hal Holmes in Ellensburg.

Road Abandonment: The Lacey Construction Shop crew finished up the road abandonment work on Stray Gulch and Tekison Creek Roads this week, reshaping the road, installing water bars, planting shrubs, seeding grass and placing barrier rock.

A large mud hole created by water seeping up in the middle of the North Fork Tarpiscan Road forced us to close the road for a few days. Colockum Wildlife Area Manager Pete Lopushinsky filled out the PAM form, printed signs, rented barricades, and posted the road closed. The Lacey Shop crew hauled numerous loads of large rock to fill the mud hole and topped it with gravel. The road was reopened on Thursday.

Low elevation forest roads continue to be in very poor shape this spring due to continuing moisture causing issues with mud. This is a great example why we consider spring vehicle closures to minimize damage to soft roads.



Large boulders placed to close the road on Stray Gulch, Colockum Wildlife Area.

Spring Conditions: Spring weather conditions continue to be cool and wet, with more low elevation plants coming into bloom.



Oak Creek Wildlife Education Corp: Manager Huffman and Habitat Technician Kass attended the annual Wildlife Education Corp (WEC) awards dinner. The dinner meeting is designed to wrap up the winter feeding season, thank the volunteers for all their hard work, and presents the volunteers with service awards from WDFW. This year one volunteer received a five year service belt buckle. During the dinner Huffman also presented a summary of the feeding statistics to the volunteers including peak elk count and tons of hay fed at each feed site. It was a very nice dinner with a majority of the volunteers and their spouses present.



The Oak Creek Wildlife Education Corp (WEC) gathered at the Oak Creek Visitor Center.

REGION 4

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Golden Eagle Nest Monitoring: Assistant District Biologist (ADB) Cyra assisted District Biologists Milner and Anderson with an aerial survey for nesting Golden Eagles in the Cascade foothills. Five territories were flown, resulting in one occupied territory. The remaining four territories were searched thoroughly, but no nests or birds were located. ADB Cyra began reviewing data and preparing survey materials for an upcoming flight to survey territories in the San Juan Islands.



A golden eagle incubates eggs on a nest in a territory that was last checked and active in 2004.



Golden eagle nest sites surveyed from the air in a helicopter.

North Cascades Wolf Monitoring: Biologists Danilson and DeBruyn accessed cameras in the upper Skagit via the Silver Skagit Road from Hope, British Columbia. The road had just been cleared of snow and opened for the year. A late onset of the snowpack meant heavy use on the B.C. side of the valley by hikers and hunters well into December. This was reflected by a high number of human images on the cameras and reduced number of wildlife images. One wolf image was retrieved from a camera on the upper Skagit trail in B.C. One camera was stolen and measures to secure the remaining cameras better are being implemented.

Navy Pika Project: Biologist Milner finalized budget details for pika surveys at Jim Creek Naval Installation. The Navy has wanted to survey for pika on this part of their ownership for some time and were able to rescue the project from the jaws of sequester. Thanks to Bruce Thompson for a thorough review of our budget figures.

Common Loon Efforts: Biologist Anderson continued efforts with coordination of loon monitoring. Anderson participated in a phone conference with collaborators, land owners, and WDFW contracts and fiscal department regarding next steps for planning needs. All will work together this week to finalized 2013 monitoring plans. Anderson also discussed loon camera efforts with collaborators. It was decided that loon camera efforts would be put on hold due to fiscal restraints of WDFW and all collaborators, as well as and difficulties with remote use of equipment. WDFW and collaborators are looking into alternatives for wildlife viewing within the Tacoma Watershed that is less costly and more feasible given restraints.

Bald Eagle Management: Biologist Anderson provided nest information and directed property owners to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for eagle management needs.

Heron Colony Management: Biologist Anderson is working with a number of Seattle applicants on site-specific heron management plans.

Black Canyon Proposed Hydro Project, N. Fork Snoqualmie, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Consultation: Biologist Anderson, along with other staff biologists, provided input and assistance to Habitat Major Projects Mitigation Biologist Applegate regarding WDFW review and comment on proposed monitoring schemes for the Black Canyon Hydropower project.

Peregrine Falcon Management: Biologist Anderson contacted the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and WA State Parks biologists and managers regarding monitoring of the Deception Wall peregrines. The Washington Climbers Coalition is putting the word out to be on the lookout for activity. USFS is monitoring the site, along with volunteers.

Private Lands/Access

Spring Bear Damage Hunts: Region 4 staff continued with hunt preparations for the North Skagit and Monroe units. North Skagit and Monroe units open April 15 and the permit holders who attended the mandatory meetings with private landowners, forest managers, and Department staff were granted access on Saturday, April 13. Among topics discussed were hunter ethics, black bear biology and peeling, landowner concerns, and enforcement reminders.

Skagit Wildlife Area Agreements: Biologist Roozen assisted Skagit Wildlife Area staff with agricultural leases on WDFW lands in the Region. Roozen and Manager Rotton continued discussions with local growers regarding agricultural plans as well as public access as they relate to the agreements.

Skagit Land Acquisition Team: Biologists Roozen and Danilson attended the first District 14 Team meeting. Topics discussed included overview of the intended goals and products, steps and processes to come, and delegation of tasks and roles of individual team members.

Wildlife Areas

Cherry Valley Fish Passage Project: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm met with WDFW Project Manager Jenni Dykstra to discuss the planting plan at the Fish Passage Project restoration site. Planting was scheduled to begin the week of April 8, but was delayed due to high water levels at the site. The first shipment of plants was delivered to the site. Field crews are lined up for planting, but remain “on-call” until the site drains enough to allow for planting.

Ebey Island Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm met with Everett Alexander to continue discussions on a fencing plan for the Unit. This includes fencing to protect aquatic resources such as wetlands, and controlling the movement of cattle on the Unit. Additionally, plans were discussed to prepare for cattle coming on the Unit starting April 15.

Ebey Island Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm met with Dan Evans and Lew Moore from the Sustainable Land Strategy for a walking tour of the Ebey Island Unit. Everett Alexander joined the group to provide historical and practical information concerning agriculture on the Unit. Information on types of crops, drainage, and field size helped to establish an understanding of how the Unit may be utilized for agriculture, while still providing benefits to wildlife and waterfowl.

Stillwater Wildlife Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm met with WDFW Project Coordinator Loren Brokaw, Wild Fish conservancy’s Micah Waite and Ducks Unlimited’ Biologist Graham Peters to continue developing the Adaptive Management Plan for the Stillwater Revetment removal project.

Lake Terrell Alder Mowing: Natural Resource Technician Deyo mowed approximately two acres of alder saplings in one of the fields at Lake Terrell.

Lake Terrell Injured Swan: Natural Resource Technician Deyo found and captured an injured swan at Lake Terrell. Manager Kessler and Deyo dropped the swan off to the Northwest Wildlife Rehab Center.

Intalco Water Control Structure: Manager Kessler and Natural Resource Technician Deyo cleared wood debris from around one of the water control structures on the Intalco Unit.

Nooksack Unit River Dike: Manager Kessler discussed current vegetation management on the Nooksack River dike with Whatcom County Flood managers.

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

Wildlife Management

Elk population and movement in Game Management Unit (GMU) 460: Biologist Smith assisted the Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group with four days (Monday-Wednesday, Friday) of surveys. Elk numbers varied daily, but counts exceeded 200 most days. Groups of elk were consistently seen near the Meadowbrook Farm, Nintendo and Mountain Meadow Farm areas. One sub-herd of 55 animals (9 bulls) was observed near Nintendo on Friday morning.



Habitat being utilized by elk in GMU 460 during surveys conducted the second week of April, 2013.

Band-tailed Pigeon Study: Biologist DeBruyn visited trap sites and built a pigeon trap for an upcoming telemetry study of band-tailed pigeons.

Sky Valley Recreation Coalition: Biologist Milner attended the bi-monthly meeting of this group which coordinates recreation related activities along the Skykomish corridor along Highway 2.

Elk Survey GMU 485: Biologist Anderson received word on initial annual spring flight results for elk in the Green, GMU 485. Muckleshoot and Tacoma Water biologists conducted the flight. WDFW was unavailable to participate due to lack of staff availability. Flights were showing upper 300s of elk for an initial estimation of current population at 548 plus 105 individuals. This

GMU is special permit hunt only. It offers some of the best elk hunting, in an urban area, closest to Seattle.

WDFW – Woodland Park Zoo Amphibian Monitoring: Biologist Anderson provided direction and relayed outreach needs to Amphibian Monitoring Project volunteers. A group of volunteers have stepped-up to assist WDFW in outreach and survey at the University of Washington Arboretum Bioblitz as WDFW volunteers. No WDFW staff was available for this event, so it is much appreciated that these trained volunteers have interest and will assist to provide for a WDFW presence at the event.

Private Lands/Access

Bow Hill Pheasant Release Site: Private lands staff contracted a local company to repair and improve the parking area for this release site. The private landowners that own this property committed to providing parking access for next year's hunt season. Roozen and Manager Rotton also began sorting neighbor landowner surveys and will respond to those owners that require additional attention, then assist analyzing both the hunter and neighbor surveys in the following several days.

Wildlife Areas

Stillwater Revetment Removal Project: Restoration Projects Coordinator Brokaw, Wildlife Area Manager Boehm, Wild Fish Conservancy, and Ducks Unlimited met to review an updated draft of the Adaptive Management Plan and set a timeline for completion. The group set a goal to have a complete draft of the plan by May 1.

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) reviewed the proposed project and gave approval that it will likely not affect the intended recreation use of the site. RCO funded part of the original acquisition of the Stillwater Unit.

Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP): Restoration Projects Coordinator Brokaw received an as-built report and drawings that summarizes restoration actions that Skagit River Systems Cooperative (SRSC) has taken over the past 10 years. That report will be compared to the PSNERP 10% design report to assure recent restoration actions are reflected in the PSNERP design.

Samish River - Welts Property Wetland Enhancement Project: Restoration Projects Coordinator Brokaw coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on their permit process and application requirements. To acquire necessary permits, WDFW must submit a letter that summarizes expected impacts to species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Tennant Lake Boardwalk: Manager Kessler and Natural Resource Technician Deyo hiked in and adjusted the beaver deceiver pipes and dams on Tennant Lake. The beavers continue to dam up the outfalls. The boardwalk is open to the public.

Tennant Lake East Side Access: Manager Kessler and Natural Resource Technician Deyo surveyed the east side of Tennant Lake for a possible new lake access point. Due to the railroad tracks on that side of the lake, no access point will be possible.

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

Wildlife Management

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Grant Review: Biologist Milner finished reviewing grant applications for this round of ALEA grants.

Wildlife Areas

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm met with two members of the Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) to discuss habitat improvements for pheasant hunting at the Cherry Valley and Crescent Lake units. Manager Boehm also met with two members of the dog training and trials community to discuss changes to the Cherry Valley Unit, a Unit traditionally used for dog training activities. Meetings were set up to discuss how to move forward after construction projects are completed.

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm attended a meeting on April 8 with the Sky Valley Stock and Antique Tractor Club at their headquarters near Crescent Lake. After being introduced by the Club President, a short announcement was made to introduce Manager Boehm as the new Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager. Additionally, a brief summary of the Boy Scout Nursery Project that the Club sponsored was provided. The Club expressed their pleasure that WDFW has taken a renewed interest in the Club and look forward to future community involvement opportunities.

REGION 5

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDIFE

Wildlife Management

Sandhill Cranes: Biologist Anderson conducted a follow-up survey for sandhill crane nesting at Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve but did not locate any activity. Local reports indicate that there is a pair of birds around but there is no sign of nesting. Typically, sandhill cranes start nesting the second week of April through the end of May.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Grant Application Review: Biologists Stephens and West presented ALEA grant applications and their scores to members of the District Team. The District Team provided excellent feedback on what applications were priorities in Region 5. Stephens and West have been working to review and score the 87 applications over the past several weeks.

Turkey Season: Biologist Anderson responded to several calls regarding opening day prospects for the spring turkey hunt in District 9. Numerous flocks of turkeys have been seen throughout the late winter and spring in Klickitat County indicating good survival this past winter.



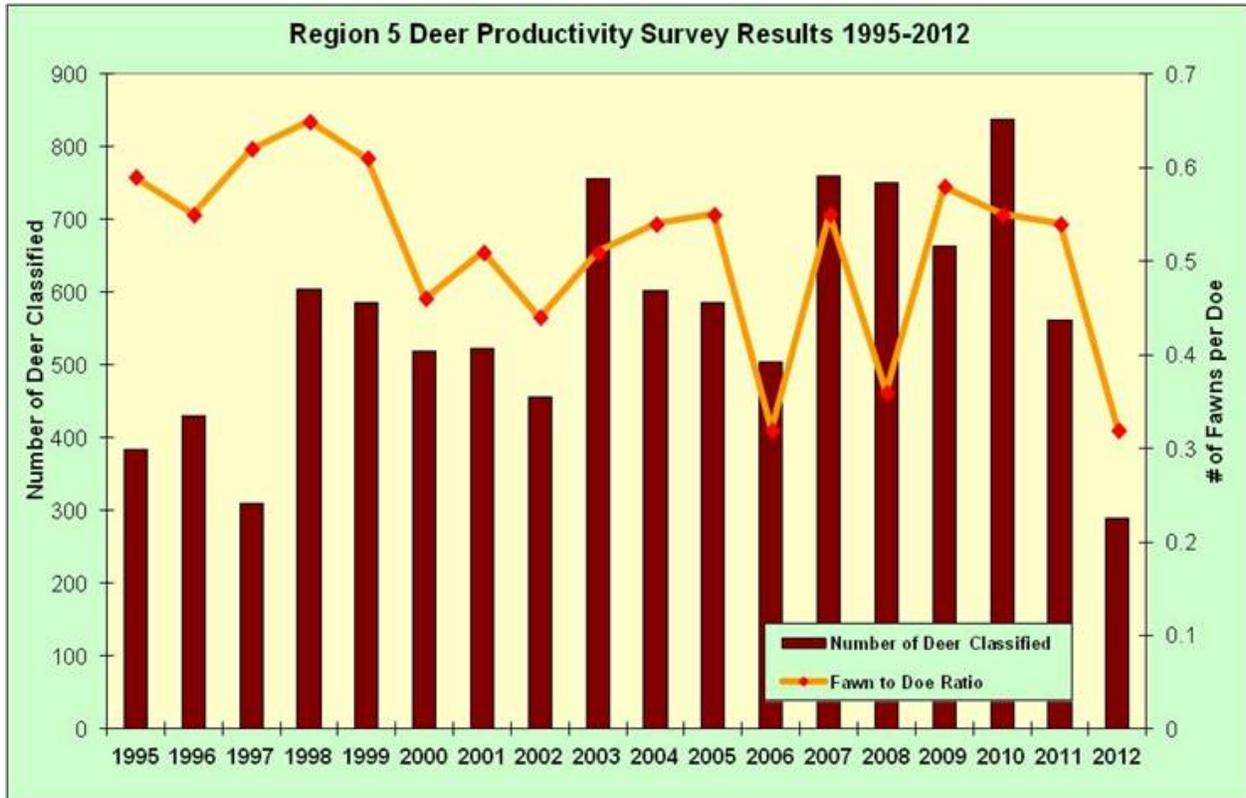
Turkeys in Klickitat County

Resident Dark Canada Goose Meeting: WDFW personnel joined biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for a stakeholder meeting regarding the resident dark Canada goose flock that resides in southwest Washington and northwest Oregon. This flock complicates the Canada goose harvest situation in this area because they are morphologically similar to the dusky Canada goose, yet they do not migrate to Alaska like other dusky geese and instead breed locally. Efforts to mark all geese in this flock with white neck collars will continue this year and a new survey effort to estimate the population of all resident Canada geese in the local area will start this August. Changes to the September goose season are being considered in order to restrict the growth of this flock.

Western Pond Turtle Management: Biologists George and Holman continued work to prepare for initiation of the field season at the Sondino western pond turtle site. Traps are set to go into the water on April 15. This year's work will focus on an evaluation of the shell disease situation among the State Endangered turtles.

Region 5 Deer Management: Biologists Holman and George compiled and summarized the Region 5 summer/fall deer surveys. Surveys are conducted annually each August and September and are used to determine the year's productivity. The fawn to doe ratios generated from these

survey efforts are incorporated into the regional Sex Age Kill population model. Unfortunately, 2012 resulted in both a relatively poor sample size and low fawn to doe ratio among the Region's deer. Please see the figure below for an illustration of the fawn to doe ratio and sample size over the past several years.



Wildlife Areas

Klickitat Wildlife Area

Volunteer Project: Eleven students and staff from Lewis & Clark College (Portland, OR) came to the Klickitat Wildlife Area for a student service day and an overnight camp-out on April 13. This group tackled the job of rolling up strands of old barbed wire that remain from derelict fencing left from farms and ranches that once operated on property that WDFW now owns. Some of the fencing had grown into



Lewis & Clark College volunteers

trees, become entangled in shrubs or partially stuck in the ground. Loops of wire were often hidden where people and animals could trip on it. Two old fence lines were completely removed, and a long section of another line was removed. One pickup load of old wire was collected and hauled off to the transfer station. Many thanks to this merry group of students for their help in cleaning up the Klickitat Wildlife Area!

Wildflower Season: Wildflower season on the Klickitat Wildlife Area is underway, and native plant enthusiasts are enjoying the succession of spring bloomers. Paul S and *Allium scilloides* is a species of wild onion that is not rare statewide, but in Klickitat County has only been documented on the Klickitat Wildlife Area.



Paul S and Allium scilloides (left). Photo courtesy of Klickitat Wildlife Area volunteer and photographer Enz. Glacier lilies are typically found in oak groves or near pine trees (right).

Naked broomrape is thought to be a parasitic plant, and is found in open, sunny locations with other forbs. Two varieties can be seen on the Wildlife Area. A small-flowered form is usually observed on hillsides with poor soil and light plant cover. The large-flowered form shown below grows on the Mineral Springs Unit, on a steep bank with water seeping through the mat of plants.



Naked broomrape

Haul Road: Klickitat Wildlife Area Manager Van Leuven visited the Mineral Springs Unit to look for the petrified tree in a road bank with retired Klickitat Wildlife Area Manager Morrison. Manager Van Leuven sent a message to the Columbia Land Trust advising them of this feature so they will be aware of it as they make future plans for the Haul Road.



Private Lands/Access

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) SW WA Local Work Group Meeting: Biologist Stephens attended the annual NRCS Local Work Group meeting for SW Washington. The purpose of the meeting was to establish priority natural resource concerns for this region. The natural resource concerns identified as a priority will have funds allocated to address these concerns on private land through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

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

Private Lands/Access

Turkey Hole Access Sites: The old fiberglass toilet at Turkey Hole, Klickitat River Access was removed and a new CXT Gunnison vault toilet was installed with an ADA accessible parking stall.



The Turkey Hole Access Site before (left) and after (right)

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

Wildlife Management

Gray's River Elk: Officer Anderson arranged a meeting of landowners in the Gray's River Valley to discuss their concerns regarding the local elk herd. Their concerns included fence damage, agricultural damage, and elk hoof disease. Regional Program Manager Jonker and Biologists Miller and Bergh addressed these concerns and provided information on several options for damage mitigation as well as the status of the hoof disease investigation. A follow-up meeting will take place to plan the details of an elk area and permits for the 2014 hunting season as well as enroll interested landowners in some of the agency's Private Lands Programs such as "Hunt by Written Permission" and "Hunt by Reservation."

Other

District 10 and Mount St. Helens Wildlife Area Winter Conditions

Past Weather: March temperatures and precipitation were both below average for the month. Snowfall for the month was minimal with light accumulations on the valley floor of the Mudflow Unit. Snow levels have generally been above 3,500-4,000 feet the past week, but briefly fell below 2,000 feet over the weekend. Lower elevation snow is quickly melting with the warmer temperatures.

Short-Term Forecast: The 6-10 and the 8-14 day forecast are for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.

Long-Term Forecast: The one month forecast model shows an equal chance for above average, below average, or normal temperature and precipitation. The three month forecast model is for below normal temperatures and precipitation.

Habitat: Forage is available at lower elevations, and elk appear to have fed heavily on willows and cottonwoods in the Mudflow Unit this winter, while most areas above 3,000 feet currently have some snow cover and areas above 3,500 feet have significant snow cover. Most south facing slopes are snow free to higher elevations. Green up has started in the lower elevations and has slowly started on the Mudflow Unit.

Snow Depths: See table below for detailed information.

Animal Concentrations: No unusual concentrations of elk noted to date. On April 1, 2013, a total of 117 elk were present on the Mudflow Unit monitoring area.

Animal Condition: The majority of animals observed to date appear to be in fair condition, although there are some with rough pelage that are in poor condition.

Mortality: No mortalities were observed this week.

Public Contacts: None to report related to winter conditions.

The public is reminded that the Mudflow Unit of the Mt. St. Helens Wildlife Area lying east of a line defined by Hoffstadt Creek, The North Fork Toutle and Deer Creek is closed to public access through April 30 to minimize disturbance and associated energy demands on elk wintering there.

MOUNT SAINT HELENS ELK HERD
 2012/2013 WINTER CONDITIONS - SNO-PARK SNOW DEPTH,
 NRCS SNOTEL DATA, AND SNOWPACK

From web page <http://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/giffordpinchot/recreation/wintersports/?recid=31178&actid=91>
http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/sno_narr3_pl
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snotel/Washington/washington.html>

SNOWPARKS:		12/07/2012	12/14/2012	12/21/2012	12/28/2012	01/04/2013	01/11/2013	01/18/2013	01/25/2013	02/01/2013	02/08/2013	02/15/2013
Name	Elevation											
TRAIL OF TWO FORESTS	2,200'	No report	Trace of new snow	2ft of snow	More than 2ft of snow	No new report	No new report	No new report	No new report	10" new and 2 ft base	No new snow. 2ft total.	No new snow
MARBLE MT	2,700'	No new report	5" new snow	4ft of snow	More than 4ft of snow	No new report	No new report	No new report	No new snow. 72 inch base.	14" new and 80" base	No new snow. 84" base.	No new report
WAKEPISH	2,800'	No snow	5" new snow	42" of snow at the sno-park	More than 42" of snow	Sno-park inaccessible due to heavy snow	Sno-park inaccessible due to heavy snow	Sno-park inaccessible due to heavy snow	No new report	Sno-park inaccessible due to heavy snow	No new report	No new report

SNOWTEL STATIONS:		Stats	12/1-12/7	12/8-12/14	12/15-12/21	12/22-12/28	12/29-1/4	1/5-1/11	1/12-1/18	1/19-1/25	1/26-2/1	2/2-2/8	2/9-2/15
JUNE LAKE	3,340'	Avg Snow											
		Depth (inches)	12.3	26.8	68.8	103.3	101.6	97.3	93.3	88.4	103.1	98.2	98.4
		Min Temp (F)	30.9	27.5	25.7	27.5	18.7	23.7	17.2	28.6	29.3	26.2	24.6
		Max Temp (F)	43.9	37.8	35.2	34.5	35.1	40.3	47.1	63	39	49.6	42.4
		Avg Temp (F)	36.6	32.7	29.9	31.1	27	33	28.8	44.9	33.8	36.4	33.1
		Year to date precipitation (inches)	68	72	82.9	84.6	85.9	86.3	98.6	97.2	106.3	109.3	109.8
SPIRIT LAKE	3,520'	Avg Snow											
		Depth (inches)	1.1	9.6	19.1	27.8	26.1	19.7	20.1	18.1	25.9	24.7	25.3
		Min Temp (F)	31.5	19	19	22.3	20.3	25.3	9.9	27.7	28.6	12.7	23.2
		Max Temp (F)	48.4	41.9	44.4	35.6	41.7	46	54.4	54.3	42.1	48.2	43
		Avg Temp (F)	37.9	32.7	30.2	31.6	29.2	34.5	28.2	39.1	34.4	35.9	33.5

		Year to date precipitation (inches)	34.4	37.6	42.2	45.2	45.6	47.7	47.8	48.4	56.2	57.2	58.1
Name	Elevation	Stats	12/1-12/7	12/8-12/14	12/15-12/21	12/22-12/28	12/29-1/4	1/5-1/11	1/12-1/18	1/19-1/25	1/26-2/1	2/2-2/8	2/9-2/15
PEPPER CREEK	2,140'	Avg Snow											
		Depth (inches)	0	0.17	14.7	24	24.6	23.8	22.8	23	28.9	25.4	23.3
		Min Temp (F)	32.4	30.4	30	30.4	21.6	27	12.9	23.9	33.1	28.4	23.7
		Max Temp (F)	48	43.2	36.9	36.9	39	41.4	43.5	55.2	43.7	53.8	45.9
		Avg Temp (F)	40.2	35.4	33	33.8	28	33.3	26.5	33.4	35.4	36.2	35.5
		Year to date precipitation (inches)	22.2	23.7	29.9	31	31.3	33.8	33.8	34.3	37.3	38	38.2

Name	Elevation	Stats	12/1-12/7	12/8-12/14	12/15-12/21	12/22-12/28	12/29-1/4	1/5-1/11	1/12-1/18	1/19-1/25	1/26-2/1	2/2-2/8	2/9-2/15
SHEEP CANYON	3,990'	Avg Snow											
		Depth (inches)	12.6	25.7	61.3	96.3	93.6	88.4	84.7	81.4	102.7	102.5	103.4
		Min Temp (F)	29.1	21.9	23.4	25.5	20.5	23.7	14.5	25.5	28.2	24.1	23.9
		Max Temp (F)	42.6	36.5	33.8	33.6	39.9	39.4	54.4	58.5	37.8	52.5	39.2
		Avg Temp (F)	35	30.7	28.2	30.2	28.4	32.3	29.1	43.6	32.3	35.3	31.7
		Year to date precipitation (inches)	60.4	63.8	69.6	77.3	81.7	86.3	86.3	87	95.9	98.3	98.9

Name	Elevation	Stats	12/1-12/7	12/8-12/14	12/15-12/21	12/22-12/28	12/29-1/4	1/5-1/11	1/12-1/18	1/19-1/25	1/26-2/1	2/2-2/8	2/9-2/15
CALAMITY	2500'	Avg Snow											
		Depth (inches)	0	0	13	22	18.7	17.7	15.3	15	15.9	14.2	11.2
		Min Temp (F)	33.8	32.5	29.1	31.3	23.7	28	21.2	32.5	32.4	31.3	30
		Max Temp (F)	47.7	41.2	40.3	36.3	36.1	43.5	56.7	62.1	43.2	48	42.3
		Avg Temp (F)	40.2	35.6	32.8	33.4	29.1	36	32.2	47.2	36.3	39.2	35.8
		Year to date precipitation (inches)	42.1	44.5	52.2	54.6	54.8	59.2	59.4	60.1	66.4	67.5	68

Snowpack % of Avg Snow Water Equivalent	12/07/2012	12/14/2012	12/21/2012	12/28/2012	01/04/2013	01/11/2013	01/18/2013	01/25/2013	02/01/2013	02/08/2013	02/15/2013
JUNE LAKE	no data	no data	180%	134%	no data	no data	147%	139%	149%	no data	140%
SPIRIT LAKE	no data	200%	410%	134%	447%	371%	350%	286%	414%	535%	486%
SHEEP CANYON	86%	91%	151%	165%	170%	184%	169%	145%	164%	173%	160%

02/22/2013	03/01/2013	03/08/2013	03/15/2013	03/22/2013	03/29/2013	04/05/2013	04/12/2013
No new report	No new report	No new snow. 3ft total.	No new snow and 2ft base	No new report	No new snow and 2ft base	Snow is melting	Snow is melting
No new report	15" new snow and 90" base	9" new and 84" base	No new snow and 6ft base	No new report	No new snow and 6ft base	Snow is melting	Snow is melting
Sno-park inaccessible due to heavy snow	No new report	No new report	No new report	Sno-park inaccessible due to heavy snow	No new report	Snow is melting	No new report

2/16-2/22	2/23-3/1	3/2-3/8	3/9-3/15	3/16-3/22	3/23-3/29	3/30-4/5	4/6-4/12
96.1	122.4	116	116.1	114	114.1	104.3	99.2
25.7	27.1	27	32	25	24	37	32
51.4	41.5	43	50	41	50	63	46
33.3	32.4	34.3	39.3	32.5	38.3	46.7	36.5
111.5	119.1	122.5	123.5	129.3	129.7	131.3	139.3
2/16-2/22	2/23-3/1	3/2-3/8	3/9-3/15	3/16-3/22	3/23-3/29	3/30-4/5	4/6-4/12
24.1	32	26	25	22.1	23.8	no data	2.4
21.7	20.1	19	12	26	18		28
48.9	44.4	44	47	47	53		47
33.5	33	33.5	37.3	32.5	36.6		37

59.2	62.2	63.9	64	68.6	70.5	74.9		
2/16-2/22	2/23-3/1	3/2-3/8	3/9-3/15	3/16-3/22	3/23-3/29	3/30-4/5	4/6-4/12	
21.6	30.7	27	24.1	21.1	19.6	10.7	2.4	
24.8	31.3	26	27	30	29	33	31	
56.8	41.5	50	56	44	58	71	51	
34.9	35.2	35.3	39.8	35.7	39.1	46	40.5	
38.9	42.9	44	44.4	46.8	46.9	47.2	49.3	
2/16-2/22	2/23-3/1	3/2-3/8	3/9-3/15	3/16-3/22	3/23-3/29	3/30-4/5	4/6-4/12	
100.5	123	115.1	114.7	113.8	115.6	103.8	100.5	
24.4	23.2	21	27	24	22	36	30	
52.3	41.4	41	47	40	48	60	41	
31.5	30.7	32.7	37.8	30.3	35.7	45	34.5	
100.3	106.5	109.1	109.7	115.4	116	117.1	124.7	
2/16-2/22	2/23-3/1	3/2-3/8	3/9-3/15	3/16-3/22	3/23-3/29	3/30-4/5	4/6-4/12	
9.4	15.7	11.6	9	2.2	2.4	0	0	
30.6	31.3	31	35	30	29	44	34	
50.5	46	47	53	45	53	63	47	
36.3	35.5	36.8	43.8	35.7	41	51.2	39.8	
69.2	74	75.2	75.4	79.6	79.8	80.2	84.5	
02/22/2013	03/01/2013	03/08/2013	03/15/2013	03/22/2013	03/29/2013	04/05/2013	04/12/2013	
130%	140%	no data	142%	2225%	155%	164%	159%	
398%	371%	344%	no data	no data	no data	no data	1100%	
159%	153%	148%	139%	136%	140%	131%	127%	

REGION 6

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Western Pond Turtle: Biologists Tirhi, Schmidt and staff completed the second and last week of trapping at the Pierce County Western Pond Turtle Recovery site. In total, 121 of the potential 165 turtles at the ponds were captured during this year's trapping including 33 females that were equipped with radio transmitters and will be monitored for nesting from late-May through early-July. Thirty-five captured turtles had various stages of septicemic cutaneous ulcerative disease (SCUD or shell rot) or 21 percent of the potential population at the ponds and all were treated once or more during the trapping period. Last year's transmitter only was located from one of the breeding females, which suggests she was predated. Mink predation has been a problem at the ponds over the years and has been responsible for a minimum of three breeding adult female mortalities.



A 10 year old male is the only natural recruit known at the South Puget Sound Wildlife Area.

Western Snowy Plovers: Biologist Sundstrom installed roughly 85 signs at Midway Beach to mark the critical snowy plover nesting areas on lands administered by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. The signs are necessary to inform beach patrons that human access is not allowed inside these critical areas. Sundstrom also spent time contacting private landowners to the south of Midway Beach Road to gain permission to install critical nesting area signs on their lands that mark the eastern boundary of the critical nesting area. In the past, these areas were not posted, which created a conflict with people unknowingly walking into the closed

area via the private property. Although not all landowners allowed posts to be installed on their property, Sundstrom was able to secure approximately 950 feet of additional land at this time.

Lastly, Sundstrom reported that plovers have begun to nest and she has observed 12 breeding adults thus far. In addition, Sundstrom observed the first snowy plover nest of the season which was located on a section of the private property she posted with closure signs. The nest contained one egg, but was depredated by ravens by the time Sundstrom returned with her camera (see photo below).



Taylor's checkerspot reintroduction: Owing to relatively good weather in March (for a change), Biologists Linders and Randolph completed three rounds of post diapause larval surveys at reintroduction sites at Scatter Creek and Glacial Heritage. March 26 results from the controlled release of larvae onto the native Golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*) and non-native English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) relocated 132 of 300 (44%) larvae; this was about five days before larvae began pupating. Of special interest was the apparent total loss of the 100 larvae in the burned *Plantago* plots, which was accompanied by observations of at least 50 robins foraging in the surrounding area. Robins are known to forage on larvae, but both the literature and expert opinion holds that larvae are unpalatable and toxic due to both sharp bristles and the sequestration of plant compounds (iridoid glycosides) during feeding that are retained to the adult stage. The robins were observed to restrict their foraging to the burned areas and were not

observed in the main release area. Relocation of 44 percent of larvae three weeks post-release is very encouraging. Let's hope conditions continue to cooperate!

Biologists Randolph and Walker have been flagging field sites to prepare for the checkerspot flight season, which is anticipated to begin any day. Five sites are being monitored in 2013 including three on Joint Base Lewis-McChord and two in South Sound prairies.

Harlequin Duck Breeding Surveys – Biologist Ament has been consulting with USFS Biologist Aja Woodrow to coordinate with assisting him with Harlequin duck surveys within drainages on the eastern side of the Olympics. He had originally planned to start surveys last week. Ament was advised that the surveys for the Big Quilcene, Dungeness, and Gray Wolf Rivers would be April 12–14 and then a second survey effort will be May 6-10.

In preparation for surveys, she met with Fish Program Biologist Randy Cooper on April 5 to learn about access and logistics of surveying these rivers. She had provided him with maps that depict the river's sections selected for surveys. He was extremely generous of his time and provided Ament with lots of helpful information. Due to dense streamside vegetation and steepness of the channel in places, Randy did not feel that the surveyors could effectively survey for Harlequins from the bank. They should be in the river (if conditions are safe) in order to truly view the river channel area. He did not think that April or May would provide suitable survey conditions. He basically thought that August may be the only realistic survey period for our efforts on these rivers. Ament provided this information to Biologist Woodrow.



Biologist Ament observed a pair of harlequin ducks on the Big Quilcene River.

On April 10 she met with Fish Program staff to explore various river access points. On April 12 she actually met with Biologist Woodrow to finalize survey plans. Biologist Ament assisted with a survey on the Dungeness River on April 13. Ament and Woodrow surveyed separate sections of the river but were able to maintain radio communications. Ament observed two male Harlequin ducks during this survey while Woodrow reported seeing none. On April 14 she assisted with a survey on the Big Quilcene River. Woodrow and a USFS volunteer also conducted surveys along other sections of the river. Biologist Ament observed one pair of Harlequin ducks during this survey. The two other observers reported seeing no Harlequin ducks.

All surveyors agreed that these surveys were certainly challenging and very physically demanding. Woodrow will be re-evaluating his strategy for future proposed surveys. Ament was pleased despite the challenges (log jams, deep fast water, steep slopes, snow/hail/rain, dense shoreline vegetation, etc.) and she really enjoyed assisting with the project. Woodrow appreciated her enthusiastic attitude and is hopeful she can assist again with future surveys for this season.



Typical harlequin duck habitat observed during the breeding season.

Willapa Elk Herd Surveys: Biologists Hoenes, Michaelis, and Harris conducted a six hour helicopter survey in the Willapa Elk Herd Area and observed 489 elk. They were able to classify 433 of those elk as a calf, cow, spike, or branched antlered bull. Resulting age and sex ratios were 30 calves per 100 cows and 15 bulls per 100 cows. Survey time was equally proportioned among GMUs 506 (Willapa Hills), 673 (Williams Creek), and 681 (Bear River). The number of elk observed in each GMU and the resulting ratios are presented in the following table.

GMU	Spike	Branched	Calf	Cow	Unknown	C:C	B:C
506	13	2	25	77	40	32	19
673	15	4	39	122	16	32	16
681	8	4	25	99	0	25	12
Overall	36	10	89	298	56	30	15

Wildlife Areas

Nemah Unit - Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership: Manager Guzlas was requested by the Regional Coastal Coordinator of USFWS to develop a field trip tour of the recent Nemah estuary acquisitions partnering with Forterra and the Columbia River Land Trust for the Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee. This steering committee was in Astoria, OR for their annual meeting. The group of roughly 30 participants included Pacific County Commissioners Wolfe and Rogers and representatives from numerous organizations from California, Oregon and Washington. The tour also visited several recent projects on the Willapa Bay National Wildlife Refuge including the Bear River Estuary restoration project. Establishing a solid relationship with this relatively new partnership will help with future funding proposals for estuarine projects throughout the region.

The Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership (PMEP) is one of 18 nationally recognized partnerships that seek to advance regional and national goals relating to juvenile fish habitat. PMEP supports existing efforts in targeted priority areas and encourages new efforts to:

- Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems
- Prevent further degradation of fish habitats
- Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats
- Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species

Chimacum Unit: Sergeant Anderson, Officer Hillman and Manager Guzlas met with the neighboring Chimacum Unit estuary residents for settlement of the timber trespass. The family admitted to having the trees cut to improve the viewing corridor of Admiralty Inlet after meeting with Enforcement on several occasions. The settlement figure was based on the triple stumpage value and the donation will be utilized for restoration of the nearshore bluff.

A total of 8 trees were illegally cut and left lying on the WDFW property. All stumps and trees have been measured, branded, and painted along with associated photographs. The cutting of this Washington State resource occurred on a steep nearshore bluff overlooking Admiralty Inlet, with the apparent attempt to improve the viewing corridor. WDFW Enforcement conducted a formal investigation which prompted several interviews with the residents of this parcel. Below is the RCW, which after investigation, were intentionally violated adjacent to the following property location.

RCW 79.01.756 Removal of timber, manufacture into articles -- Treble damages.

Every person who shall cut or remove, or cause to be cut or removed, any timber growing or being upon any public lands of the state, or who shall manufacture the same into logs, bolts,

shingles, lumber or other articles of use or commerce, unless expressly authorized so to do by a bill of sale from the state, or by a lease or contract from the state under which he holds possession of such lands, or by the provisions of law under and by virtue of which such bill of sale, lease or contract was issued, shall be liable to the state in treble the value of the timber or other articles so cut, removed or manufactured, to be recovered in a civil action, and shall forfeit to the state all interest in and to any article into which said timber is manufactured.

The total scaled amount of timber removed from WDFW is 3,530 board feet. Legally the landowner responsible for the trespass is subject to “triple stumpage” since this is a trespass case. Furthermore, this is a public wildlife area and the habitat value for these trees far exceeds the “saw log” or “firewood” value. Therefore, the total scale at treble stumpage is equivalent to 10,590 board feet. Trees were measured and scaled following the “Official Rules for Log Scaling and Grading Bureaus - Grays Harbor” handbook. These resources were apparently removed during the first quarter of 2013, at which time the conservative average price per MBF was \$600 for fir as quoted by Sierra Pacific Industries.

TOTAL MBF	Treble Damages TOTAL MBF	Market Price, Douglas Fir	TOTAL WOOD VALUE
3.53	10.59	\$600 (domestic)	\$6,354



Chimacum Unit Stump with a "view"

Lower Dungeness Unit: North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC) Project Manager Jamie Michel and Manager Guzlas presented the 3 Crabs Restoration Project status to the Port of Port Angeles Commission and the Dungeness River Management Team. The Port owns a degraded wharf structure immediately adjacent to the project area which contains approximately 165 creosote pilings. These piles could be removed in the over-arching restoration effort and the project team is willing to work with the port and the Army Corps “advanced mitigation” process if the port is willing to move in this direction. The project team will host a public meeting for 3 Crabs area residents in mid-May. This project has received four major grants to date and ranks as the number one priority project for salmon recovery in the Strait of Juan de Fuca region and ranks as the number one new restoration project reviewed at the Puget Sound-level by the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program.



Port of Port Angeles Wharf (adjacent to 3 Crabs, Lower Dungeness Unit)

Waterfowl Access: Biologist Harris spoke to a landowner about renewing a waterfowl hunting access agreement, and the details are to be worked out soon. Harris also hazed approximately 2,000 geese from the landowner’s wheat fields on two separate occasions. The geese have done very noticeable damage to his crops.

Biologist Harris spoke to another landowner about his goose problems. This area has been under a hunting lease for several years and we get a call about goose damage after the season each year. Harris spoke to the landowner about the new Hunt by Reservation program and the landowner is interested to hear more. They will meet later this month to discuss public access options.