

Wildlife Program

Week of February 4-10, 2013

LANDS DIVISION

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wild Horse CRM/Quilomene Wildlife Area Unit: Jeff Burnham joined members of the grazing Coordinated Reserve Management (CRM) committee which finalized the livestock rotation schedule for 2013. Adjustments to the planned rotation were needed due to the Parke Creek Fire and other circumstances. Other Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) personnel in attendance included Shana Winegeart and Mike Livingston.

Sinlahekin Ecosystem Restoration Project Section 7: The Sinlahekin Ecosystem Restoration Project ESA Section 7 consultation was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Project plans consist of conducting spring and/or fall 2013 prescribed fire in the Phase 1 area (350 acres). Burning was not accomplished in 2012 due to burn bans and rain. The consultation included Phase 2 work planned in 2013 to thin approximately 363 acres of forest.

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

Restoration seminar delivered at Eastern Washington University (EWU): Kurt Merg gave the weekly seminar to the Biology Department at EWU in Cheney. Merg also met with graduate students and faculty before and after the seminar to discuss habitat projects and several relevant studies underway at the University. There appears to be a great deal of interest among both students and faculty to assist with and collaborate on habitat projects that WDFW has in progress. Merg also discussed with the faculty how undergraduate interns might be able to assist with habitat projects for academic credit. This holds some promise for recruiting summer technicians, while providing interns with experience that they value very highly.

Federal Farm Bill: In preparation for the North American Conference in March, Don Larsen worked with co-chairs of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)/Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) Working Group on an agenda that will develop state and partner legislative recommendations for EQIP and WHIP. EQIP and WHIP will likely be combined in the next Farm Bill with an annual budget of over \$1.5 billion.

Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Task Group: Jeff Burnham and Don Larsen attended the quarterly CRM Task Group meeting in Ellensburg. Facilitation training, multiple CRM's, and an annual executive meeting/tour were discussed. The group discussed potential interest in a new CRM dealing with wolf in northeast Washington. Travis Fletcher from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Larry Brewer from the Conservation Commission will follow up with potential interested parties in northeast Washington. In addition each partner was tasked with

getting feedback from CRP executive committee members on how to structure this year's executive committee meeting and report back in March.

Legislative Work - Discover Pass Business Plan: Melinda Posner worked with representatives from Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and State Parks to finalize the multi-agency Discover Pass Business Plan recommendations package. This package included an implementation timeline and proposed legislative language, all of which was provided to legislative staff for distribution. This is a key piece of work that will help the three agencies explain to the public the recommended path forward for implementing the Discover Pass.

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY DIVISION

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Partner Funding of Golden Eagle Breeding Territory Surveys - Wildlife and Habitat Programs have worked jointly to acquire funding for aerial surveys of golden eagle breeding territories statewide in 2013. Biologists in Wildlife Program's Diversity Division, including Wildlife Biologist Gerry Hayes and Section Manager Bruce Thompson in the Surveys and Forest Wildlife Section, and Section Manager Harriet Allen in the Endangered and Threatened Species Section teamed with Travis Nelson, Energy and Major Projects Manager in Habitat Program to seek funding. Funding has been secured or pledged from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (\$20,000), wind energy industry (\$25,000) and WDFW's Wildlife Program (\$15,000-\$35,000). Wildlife Program's Diversity Division periodically monitors golden eagle breeding territories recorded in its database of 272 territories. Surveys beginning in February 2013 will focus on a random sample of 108 territories surveyed intensively for occupancy and productivity; remaining territories will be surveyed for occupancy only, as resources allow. Funding from cooperators will support aerial flight costs required to survey remote breeding territories.

Taylor's checkerspot conservation - A nonprofit conservation group, the Center for Natural Lands Management, finalized purchase of a 152 acre parcel of private land occupied by the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly near the Elwha River in Clallam County. The acquisition is funded under the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program, a Department of Defense program that provides off-base funding for wildlife conservation. WDFW staff in both Region 6 and Olympia helped to bring the property to the attention of the ACUB program. The butterfly has recently been proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act by USFWS.

WILDLIFE OUTREACH DIVISION

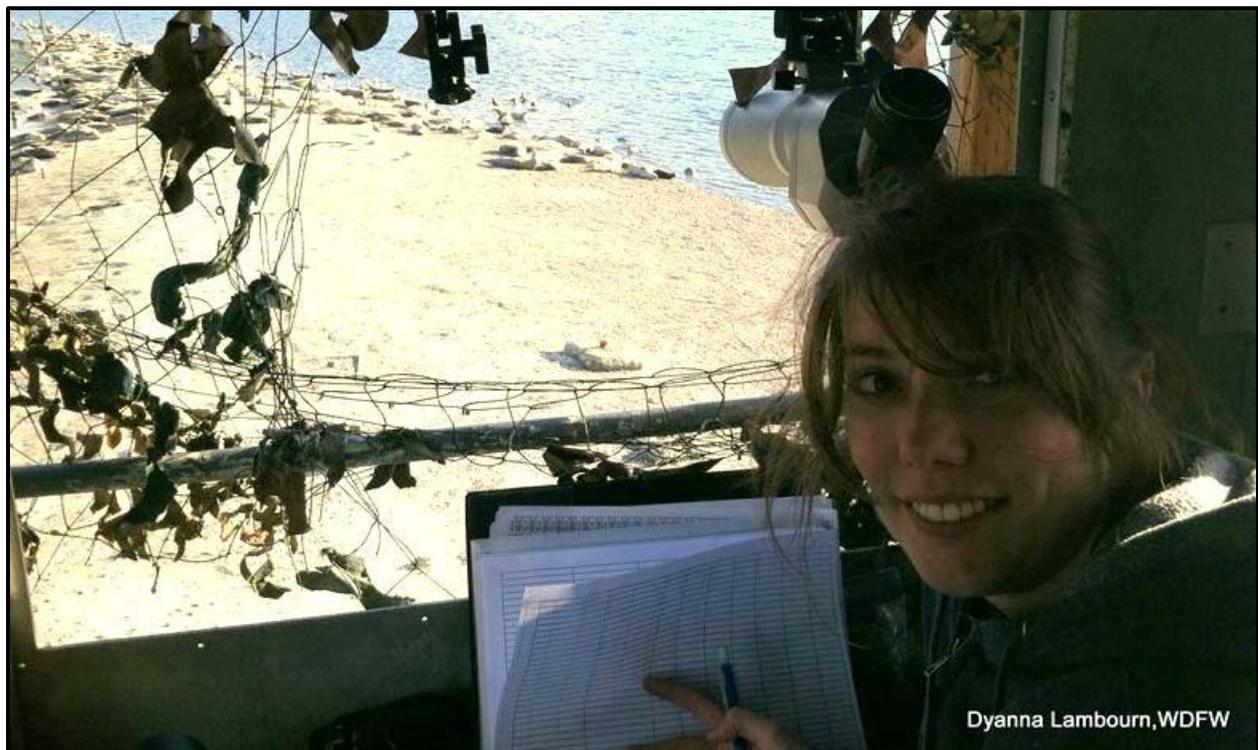
GOAL 2: PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FISHING, HUNTING AND OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES.

Wolf Seminars - The January 17, 2013 wolf seminar in Olympia was video recorded and is available at <S:\WP\Media\1-17-13 wolf seminar> . There are five clips available: Dr. Donny Martorello's introduction, USFWS's wolf recovery specialist Mike Jimenez, retired wolf expert

Carter Niemeyer, Donny Martorello's current update, and the Questions and Answers session that followed. A DVD of the sessions is also available.

Large Carnivore Outreach - New outreach materials on Washington's cougars have been produced for 2013. The first is [a 60-second public service announcement](#) featuring Chris Morgan, who stars in several Public Broadcasting System and British Broadcasting Corporation specials. The second is five-page brochure on Washington's Cougars, with information on their role in the ecosystem, cougar signs, most frequently asked questions, the life of a cougar, and cougar safety tips, produced by [Western Wildlife Outreach](#). These will be posted soon on the WDFW webpage.

Citizen Science Monitoring on WDFW lands – Chuck Gibilisco participated in the weekly Ecological Integrity Monitoring (EIM) meeting as the pilot project moves to western Washington and specifically the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area. May 4 is the date set for the Scatter Creek EIM citizen science workshop. Participants will receive training from WDFW ecologists on the use of GPS, digital cameras and phone apps used to record ecological data, entered into data forms and uploaded to an ArcGIS website. The Scatter Creek Wildlife Area is one of four pilot WDFW lands selected to test the use of 'Citizen Scientists' to collect field data used in the overall ranking of ecological health. Late May or early April has been selected as the time for a one-day 'mentor training workshop' where five to six of the most talented and eager previously trained citizen scientists (CS) receive advanced training and support from WDFW. The Mentor Trainers will offer refresher instructions for (CS) participants in need or train new citizen scientist recruits with no previous training. Currently WDFW has more than 77 registered volunteers indicating an interest in EIM work on WDFW lands. The EIM process launched in 2012 on WDFW lands to conduct various levels of ecological assessment and monitoring that will help determine the ecological health or integrity of WDFW lands.



Erin recording harbor seal mother pup interactions from the blind.

WildWatchcams – Sealcam: Chuck Gibilisco worked with Dyanna Lambourn and Erin D'Agnesse, a Western Washington University (WWU) graduate student, to launch a new field journal from the beach. It is part of a project initiated by WDFW and WWU to study the pup rearing success of female harbor seals and how it relates to factors such as age, body mass, previous pupping experience and mother care behaviors toward the pup. Study results may lead to a better understanding of the unique reproductive strategy used by harbor seals and enhance the use of non-invasive measuring techniques on protected marine mammals.



The seal haul-out project area and solar-powered seal camera system.

Erin has been working as an intern for WDFW in the Marine Mammal Investigations unit. Erin's work at WWU is through the Department of Biology [marine behavior and ecology lab](#). Journal style postings will focus on all the exciting things that Erin observes at the seal haul-out, approximately every other week until May when postings become more frequent.

The sealcam is a key to the long-term research project and is an Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) funded solar-powered camera system through the [Cascadia Research Collective \(CRC\)](#). The first edition of the seal researcher blog is up on the WWU website <http://biol.wwu.edu/mbel/?page=sealcam-blog>. A reciprocal link will soon be activated from the WDFW sealcam webpage so that thousands of viewers can learn about the intriguing ecology and conservations issues surrounding harbor seals and other marine mammals of Washington.

Heroncam – Chuck Gibilisco worked with Chris Anderson and officials from the [Heron Habitat Helpers \(HHH\)](#), a great blue heron conservation group and a partner in the WDFW Heroncam to

pursue enhancements that will add viewer capacity to learn about the life of great blue herons and wetlands habitat.

HHH has recently been awarded a matching grant to be used to expand the outreach capacity of the heroncam as satellite facilities of the Seattle Parks - Discovery Visitor Center and at the nearby Army Corps of Engineers Ballard Locks facility. Additional interpretive considerations include the development of interpretive displays and programs that highlight the live sounds and video action of the nesting herons.



A portion of the Kiwanis Heronry viewed from the ground.

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

Wildlife Volunteer: James Chandler, Wildlife Program Volunteer Coordinator, contacted Scatter Creek Wildlife Area Manager to schedule a time to meet and develop a volunteer project for the Attorney General Office staff volunteer day. This volunteer project on April 20 will help implement an important management tool at the wildlife area. Several areas at both the north and south units of Scatter Creek are considered “Sensitive” and certain recreational activities are restricted or not allowed. With the help of volunteers, each of these sensitive areas will be marked with new posts and signs at several locations throughout the prairie. Additional activities will include kiosk maintenance and Scot’s Broom removal.

James Chandler developed a Wildlife Volunteer Needs Assessment sent to all Wildlife Area, Water Access site Managers, Private Lands Biologists, and the District Wildlife Biologists. Over

the next couple of months, James Chandler is planning on meeting one-on-one with selected staff to develop volunteer opportunities.

REGION 1

Gray Wolf Management

District 1

Elk killed in Wedge: Specialist Shepherd discussed the upcoming aerial wolf trapping effort with Biologist Becker. Specialist Shepherd and Officers Weatherman and Parkert retrieved a remote camera from an elk carcass in the Wedge on Diamond M Ranch property that was apparently killed by a single wolf. No wolf pictures were obtained, but tracks two-to-four days old were present. Jeff Flood volunteered to continue attempting to use remote cameras to assess the number and color of wolves in the area.



Officers Weatherman and Parkert (below) assessed this elk carcass (above) in the Wedge on Diamond M Ranch property.





Wolf tracks near an elk carcass in the Wedge on Diamond M Ranch property.

Pend Oreille Wolf Sightings: Conflict Specialist Shepherd discussed a wolf sighting of three individuals in Southern Pend Oreille County with Jeff Pitts, Arden Tree Farm owner. Specialist Shepherd discussed cow bells and wolf locations, upcoming radio-collaring efforts, and other matters with rancher John Dawson. Shepherd sent out a packing list for a depredation kit with wolf response trailer pictures to the attendees of the depredation meeting in Wenatchee several weeks ago. Shepherd discussed and organized the venues for upcoming WDFW – cattlemen meetings in Colville and the Newport area with Wildlife Conflict Section Lead Stephanie Simek and U.S. Forest Service Range Program Lead Travis Fletcher. Specialist Shepherd discussed a wolf that uses the driveway of northern Stevens County resident Wendell Jones and his desire to trap it and deliver it to the Colville Office. Specialist Shepherd also discussed tracks in the driveway with a Southern Stevens County resident as requested by Sergeant Charron.

District 3

Wenaha pack visits Washington (again): District Biologist Wik was also in contact with a landowner along the Grande Ronde who had the Wenaha wolf pack on his land for a day this week. The seven wolves (observed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife from an aircraft) moved off into the USFS road-less area the next day.

Columbia County Cattlemen Meeting: Supervisor McCanna and District Biologist Paul Wik gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Columbia County Cattlemen Association on Tuesday upon their request. Also in attendance were Scott Rasley, Sergeant Mossman, and Officers Vance and Nelson. A good turnout of 38 adults and seven children were in attendance with several good questions and several landowners following up with Rasley after the meeting.

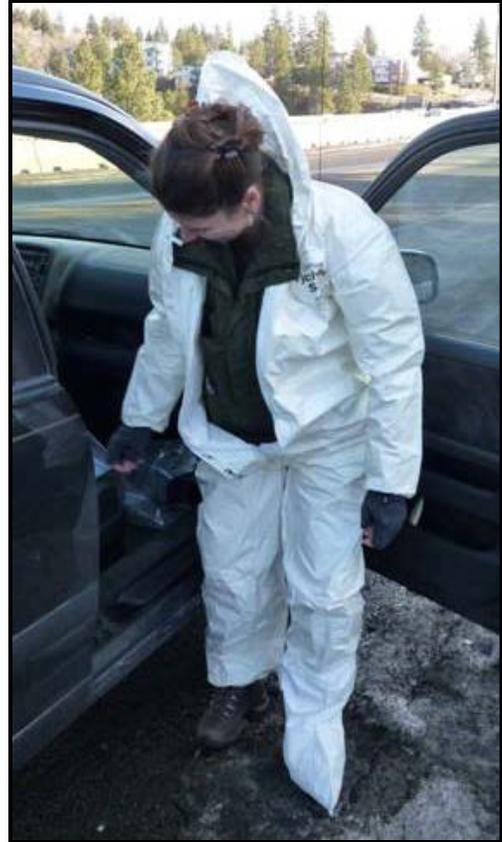
Livestock Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreement (DPCA) Contract: Biologist Rasley met with Asotin Co-Cattlemen Carl Flynn again regarding the new updated version of our DPCA

contract. After going over the new changes in Attachment “B,” Carl said” he would sign the contract and return it ASAP.

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDIFE

Wildlife Management

Inspection of City of Spokane Bridge: Biologists Ferguson and Rowan visited City of Spokane Bridge and inspected the premises for the presence of bats. The duo discovered 13 bats roosting in the internal portions of the bridge – two identifiable species, Big Brown bat and Townsend’s Big-eared bat.



Suiting up to inspect for bats (right), such as this Townsend's big-eared bat (left), during the inspection of the City of Spokane Bridge. Biologists Ferguson and Rowan also observed three Big Brown Bats huddled together during their inspection (below).

Wildlife Areas



Sherman Creek Wildlife Area (SCWLA) Cameras – Wildlife Area Assistant Manager (WAAM) Palmer moved two cameras and deployed two additional remote cameras this week on the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area. Each camera that was moved had recorded approximately 60 deer pictures in two weeks. Cameras will be used over the next few years to monitor winter ungulate use of the WLA within the prescribed burn units. Palmer also observed 18 white-tailed deer while deploying cameras.



A White-tailed deer spotted in the Headquarters 2 Unit. Lights are from the Kettle Falls area on the other side of Lake Roosevelt.

WT Wooten Wildlife Area – Elk Fence: Wildlife Area staff checked the elk fence this week from Mountain Road to the Wooten HQ, a distance of approximately 8.5 miles. Debby Flynn discovered a mass-elk exodus point on the ridge between Tum-a-lum Creek and the top of the ridge along Mountain Road. As evidenced by tracks and soil disturbance, the elk had spent quite a bit of time working this stretch of fence until one of them was able to slip under the wire. Once the first one made it through, the rest blew under the wire and escaped into the Peola Unit. We're guessing that as many as 100 elk made it through the fence. Debby repaired the fence and stacked rock along the wire bottom to discourage further damage. This type of behavior has happened before in previous winters. Many of the elk will return inside the fence via our one-way gates if they are pressured. Wildlife Area Manager (WAM) Bob Dice, Natural Resource Technician (NRT) Debby Flynn, and WAAM Kari Dingman walked and checked more of the fence on Thursday in Cummings Creek and Able's Ridge. Debby repaired a hole where a tree hit the fence and Bob fixed two small holes. We did observe a cow elk against the fence in

Cummings Creek with a broken left front leg. Her body condition was excellent telling us the injury was recent.

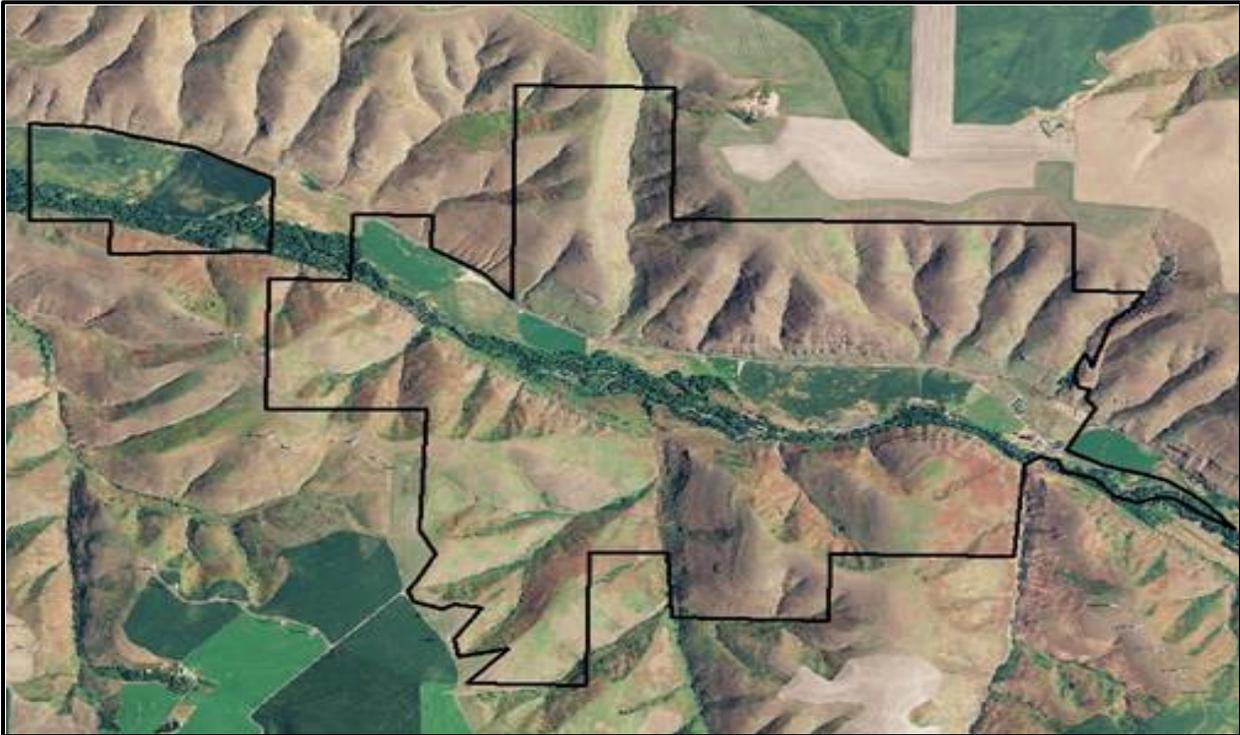


Debby Flynn repaired the damage to this smashed wire from the elk fence on a steep hillside above Tum-a-lum Creek.

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

Private Lands/Access

Private lands access provided: Private Lands Biologist Dawn Davis met with the Walla Walla Conservation District (WWCD) and the Blue Mountain Chapter of Pheasants Forever (PF) to coordinate potential habitat improvement projects with the new WDFW private land access program sign-up opportunity within the Pheasant Focus Area in southeast Washington. Three perspective landowners were identified, including one cooperator in Columbia County with about 1,500 acres and two producers in Walla Walla County with approximately 2,700 acres and 3,000 acres, respectively. In addition, Davis spoke with a Columbia County producer interested in receiving the \$3 per acre incentive payment on an access only agreement on over 2,200 acres, which includes about four miles of river frontage on the Tucannon River. Davis will continue to work with WWCD, PF, and private landowners to develop cooperative agreements under WDFW's private lands access programs.



Property boundaries encompassing over 2,200 acres of public access proposed under PVPA-FFTH.

REGION 2

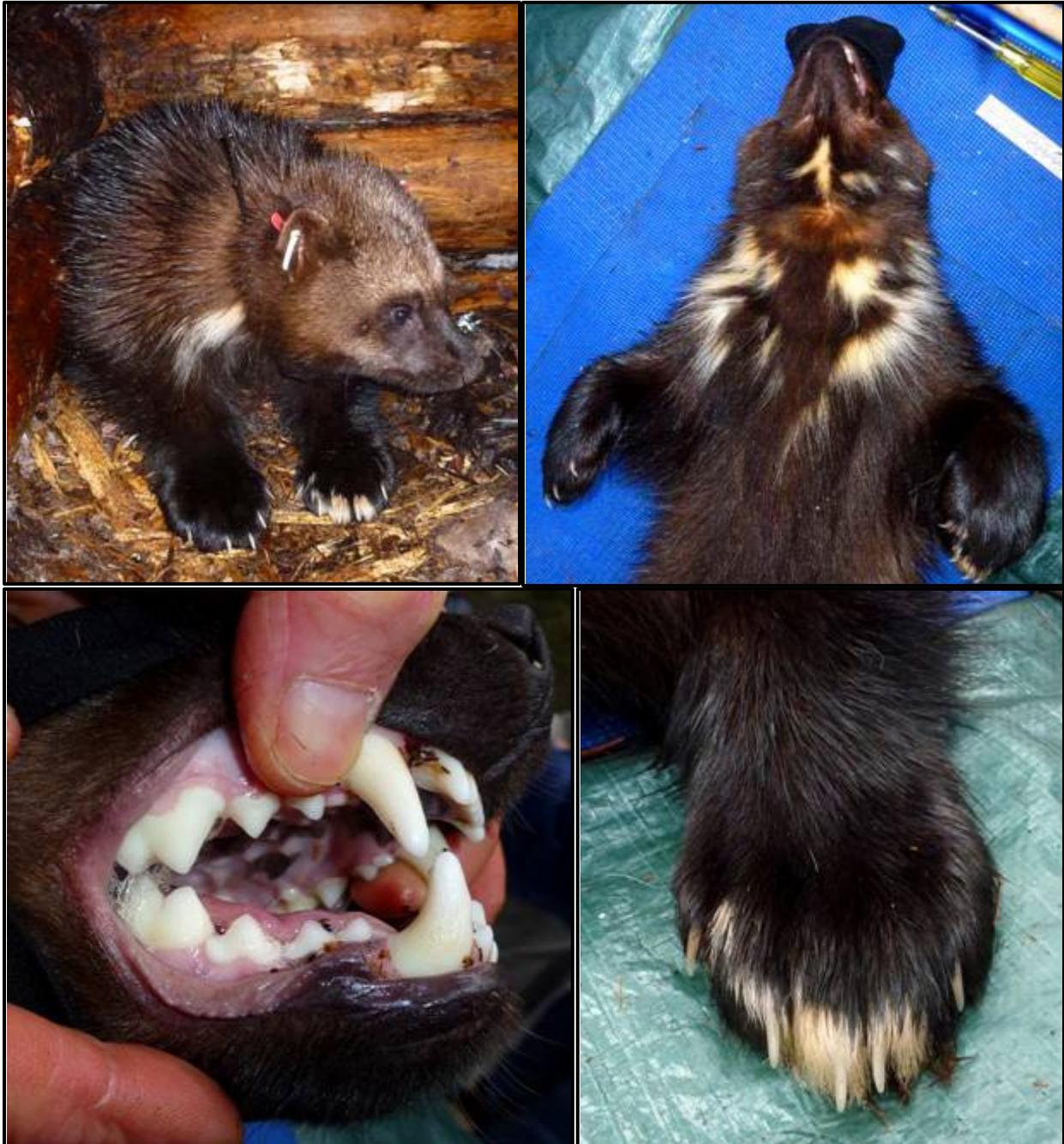
GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDIFE

Wildlife Management

Washington ground squirrels: Biologists Finger and Gregory, Scientific Tech Hastings, and Volunteer Becker attempted to trap male Washington ground squirrels at the Sage Hills Golf Course for the purpose of testing materials used to create climbing barriers on the enclosures at the release site on the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge. We're attempting to move away from the costly metal flashing by testing plastics, which will likely also last longer. After a full day of monitoring 240 traps, one male was transported to the Refuge. This was not a surprise as squirrels are still emerging from their burrows. Trapping will continue next week with another attempt for males on Monday and then the larger effort on Thursday and Friday which will target pregnant females.



North Cascades Wolverine Research Project: Biologists Fitkin, Heinlen and USFS staff recaptured and re-collared young male wolverine, Dasher. This turned out to be fortuitous, as his satellite collar had stopped functioning about a week earlier and we feared he might have been caught in an avalanche. Instead, not only was he alive and healthy, but it turns out he was travelling with Rocky, our old friend that we hadn't seen yet this year. This is a strong indication that Rocky is Dasher's father and likely remains the dominant male in the central part of the study area. Logan's collar is functioning well and he's racking up the miles in very rugged country. We're now in the most active part of the trapping season and with Xena and Mallory having shown up on cameras recently, we're hopeful for more captures soon.



Biologists Fitkin, Heinlen and USFS staff recaptured and re-collared a young male wolverine, Dasher. Scott Fitkin photos.

Waterfowl: Biologist Gregory finished entering the waterfowl data from the annual winter waterfowl flight. Of the 264,286 birds counted, 68 percent were dabbling ducks, 14 percent were divers, and six percent were geese. Thirteen bald eagles were also observed. Scaup were 72 percent of the divers and mallards were 94 percent of the dabblers. The largest concentration of mallards was found in the Winchester Reserve. The photos below helped us tally 33,000 birds.



A “birds-eye” view of 33,000 mallards in the Winchester Reserve.

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

Colville Confederated Tribe Wildlife Coordination: Biologists Fitkin and Heinlen, along with field biologists from the USFS, DNR and the Colville Confederated Tribes met to coordinate ongoing wildlife work on or near the Colville Reservation, including Game Management Units (GMUs) 204 and 101 (tribal “north half”).

The group shared lots of updates and briefings on various projects including wolf trapping/monitoring, sharp-tail translocations, bighorn sheep management, wolf-deer behavioral research and many others. We specifically coordinated on how to most efficiently accomplish upcoming golden eagle surveys including territories on the reservation.

We discussed the possibility of a partner effort to undertake an ungulate survey effort to generate demographic data including a population estimate for multiple species. This last topic will require a follow-up meeting for additional discussion.

REGION 3

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

Wildlife Areas

Elk Feeding Operations: L.T. Murray Wildlife Area Manager Winegeart presented information on the elk feeding operation to 80 first graders from Valley View Elementary and 13 pre-school kids from CWU daycare.



L.T. Murray Wildlife Area Manager Winegart presented information on the elk feeding operation to 80 first graders from Valley View Elementary (above). Pre-school kids from CWU daycare were provided a hands-on experience with elk antlers (below).



Mellotte Feed Site elk numbers: The count totaled 1,170 animals. Elk numbers are holding, but warm temperatures (mid to upper 40's) and lower elevations clearing of snow have caused the elk to start roaming more.



Elk spread across hill slope at Mellotte feed site.

Other

Weather conditions/elk numbers: Low temperatures this week have been in the mid 20's to the mid 30's. Highs temperatures have been in the 40's. No new precipitation this week. Predicted lows for next week are in the 20's and highs are predicted to be in the upper 30's to low 40's. No significant precipitation in the forecast. Elk are spending quite a bit of time foraging on open slopes. Elk are in fair condition.

REGION 4

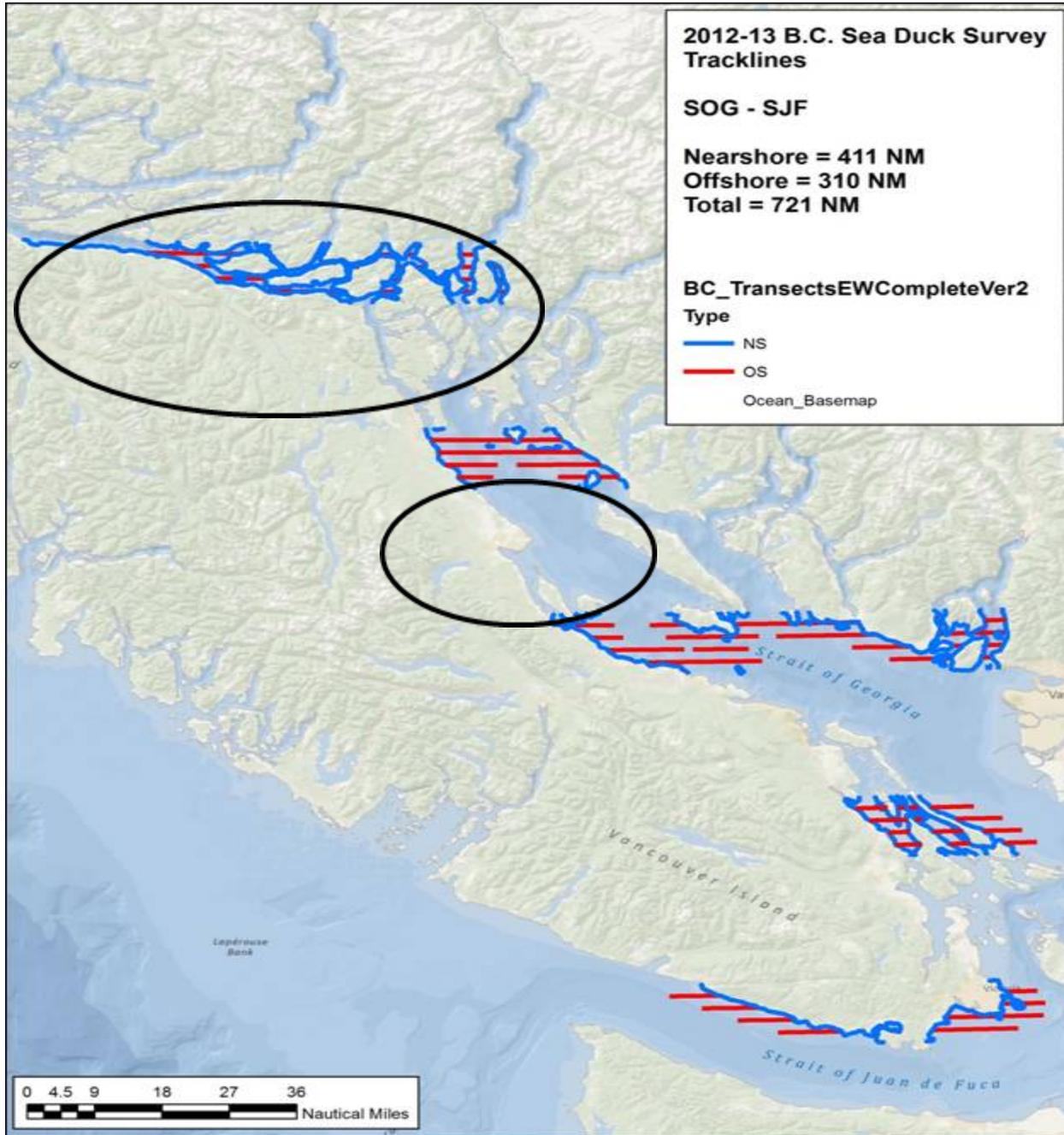
GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Sea Duck and Marine Bird Surveys: Biologist Cyra along with Biologist Murphie and Biologist Evenson completed their winter survey effort recently. These surveys are conducted by air sampling near shore and off shore areas throughout the inland marine waters of the greater Puget Sound Region totaling approximately 672 mile². A preliminary summary of counts by

Biologist Murphie indicates he recorded 14,506 observations totaling approximately 73,848 marine birds and marine mammals. Of these, diving ducks (33%) and dabbling ducks (31%) comprised the largest overall percentage of species counted.

On a grant from the Sea Duck Joint Venture and in cooperation with the Canadian Wildlife Service, this team will be conducting additional sea duck surveys around Vancouver I., B.C. during February. The most unique observation they report thus far is of hundreds of Pacific white-sided dolphins in a single large group followed by a pod of killer whales, but this was on the ferry while traveling to Campbell River.



Primary survey tracklines for the 2013 Canadian sea duck survey effort. Areas within the black circles were completed during week 1 of this survey effort. Courtesy of J. Evenson.

Townsend’s Big-eared Bat Winter site: Biologist Milner documented nine Townsend’s big-eared bats roosting in a very old unused building in a State Park. A local Audubon member arranged to have the site investigated because she has found this species in the area during both summer and winter months in 2012.



Biologist Milner documented nine Townsend’s big-eared bats roosting in a very old unused building, including the two featured above.

Mid-winter Swan Survey: Biologist DeBruyn received the final data from cooperators and compiled and submitted it to the waterfowl section. Over 13,000 swans were counted in six western Washington counties and the lower mainland of British Columbia.

	Trumpeter	Total	Total	Total
	Total	Tundra	Unk.	Swans
Whatcom	2458	99		2557
Skagit	6730	1371	977	9078
Snohomish, Island, King, Pierce	1600	21		1621
Sumas Prairie B.C.	525			525
Total				13781

Oregon Spotted Frog Survey Project: Biologist Danilson spent much of the week preparing for upcoming Oregon spotted frog survey work. The survey season is rapidly approaching and temporary staff will be hired in the next week. Tasks included reviewing survey information from 2011 and 2012 and beginning to develop landowner contact list. Danilson also coordinated with other staff in the Diversity Division, reviewed project funding, arranged transportation, and inventoried and ordered supplies.

North Cascades Wolf Monitoring: Further examination of video retrieved from a camera on Ross Lake revealed images of a single wolf recorded in early December. The area has a history of use by wolves, but it is unclear if it is a member of a pack or a lone vagrant.

Northern Puget Sound Lesser Snow Goose Study: Danilson coordinated with agency personnel regarding upcoming captures to implant a small sample of snow geese with satellite transmitters prior to spring migration. These captures will be conducted during the last week of February and into early March.

Swan Mortality and Morbidity Project:

This week WDFW technician Anderson responded to calls of sick and injured swans in Skagit and Whatcom counties. A total of seven swans (all trumpeter swans) were collected this week and all seven were collected in Skagit County. Not included in the table are three swans from Island County, two swans from King County and one swan from an unknown location.

	Skagit	Snohomish	Whatcom	Sumas	TOTAL
Powerline suspect	23	5	26	3	57
Pb suspect	26	1	13		40
Trauma*	6		7	6	19
Unknown	14		2		16
Feather Pile	8		4	6	18
TOTAL	77	6	52	15	150

*Sumas swans are collected by Canadian Wildlife Service and were last updated the previous week.

Wildlife Areas

North Bend Elk 4601 Master Hunter damage hunt – Hunt Coordinator Recruitment:

Biologist Anderson worked with Officer Moszeter and the 4601 Master Hunter Volunteer Hunt Coordinator to recruit and begin training next seasons volunteer Master Hunter Hunt Coordinator. Anderson will be going through volunteer needs with this recruit, as well as extending a “welcome aboard.” Once again, WDFW is getting a big help from the local non-profit group, Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group (USVEMG), to provide for this coordination need and train the volunteer. More information on this group, hunt opportunities in that area, and outreach efforts regarding urban elk in that area can be found on the USVEMG website:

<http://snoqualmievalleyelk.org/about.htm>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Snoqualmie-Valley-Elk-Management-Group/169882466394463>

Urban Municipal Wildlife Management Assistance: Biologist Anderson telephone conferenced with private consultants working for the City of Seattle regarding storm water upgrades along the Duwamish waterway. Anderson provided management consideration advice regarding terrestrial wildlife in the area, references, and offer of further assistance in form of

review once due diligence and reconnaissance had been summarized. This is to meet WDFW's mandate to provide wildlife management assistance under the State Growth Management Act.

Terrell Creek Remote Site Incubators: The Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) and the Fisheries program at Bellingham Technical College (BTC) stocked chum salmon eggs in the two remote site incubators in Terrell Creek on the Lake Terrell unit. There were approximately 30,000 eggs stocked in the incubators which will hatch out in the next few weeks. Volunteers for NSEA and BTC will monitor the incubators to ensure there is adequate flow of water through them for the hatching.

WDFW-Woodland Park Zoo Citizen Amphibian Monitoring Project: Biologist Anderson and staff with Woodland Park Zoo (WPZ); including Community Engagement Coordinator Jennifer Mears and Dr. Jennifer Pramuk, Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles; led a group of Citizen Science volunteers in a field training of urban amphibian egg mass presence/absence survey. Anderson spent some time earlier in the week obtaining some field survey equipment to be provided to volunteers on a "check-out" basis from WPZ staff – and also for use in this field practicum event.

The goal of these surveys, in their second year, is to develop a long-term monitoring trend database, similar to e.g. a Christmas Bird Count, only amphibian in scope. The enthusiastic volunteers and media that were there to document learned about amphibian ecology, non-intrusive Visual Encounter Survey techniques, conservation issues with local and global amphibians, and how to identify the egg masses found. The group found a number of long-toed salamander egg masses. Seattle naturalists and volunteers were there to discuss the integration and opportunities of the WDFW volunteers to participate locally in Seattle Parks and Recreation Volunteer Naturalist Program – which dovetails nicely with citizen survey efforts and outreach while out and about in their local community natural spaces.

More information on the WDFW-WPZ amphibian survey program can be found here:
<http://www.zoo.org/page.aspx?pid=2004>



The Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association and the Fisheries program at Bellingham Technical College stocked chum salmon eggs in the two remote site incubators in Terrell Creek on the Lake Terrell unit of the Whatcom Wildlife Area.



Biologist Anderson helped provide training to WDFW-Woodland Park Zoo Citizen Amphibian Monitoring Project participants.

Urban Great Blue Heron Colony Management Assistance: Biologist Anderson provided alternative site-specific management recommendations to a Seattle Department of Planning and Development applicant regarding single-family construction activity in a Seattle heron management zone.

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

Wildlife Management

Seattle Times Shorebird Article: District Biologist Milner toured WDFW Big Ditch site and The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Port Susan Preserve with Seattle Times writer Linda Mapes and photographer Mike Siegel. The focus of the article was the designation of Skagit and Port Susan Bays as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) site and the upcoming dedication event that will take place during the Stanwood Snow Goose Festival. We were fortunate in having dry weather and several great wildlife sightings, including a grand display of 10,000 dunlin exhibiting high tide flight behavior and witnessing an attempt by a peregrine falcon to grab a dunlin meal out of the flock.

North Cascades Elk Herd Clover Trapping Project: Biologists DeBruyn and Danilson conducted trap checks and assisted in relocating one trap. To date, trapping has been unsuccessful. The primary objective of this work is to maintain a broad distribution of radio collared elk in the herd as part of the "mark-resight" methods used to estimate the population during late winter aerial surveys.

Urban Peregrine Nesting Activity: Biologist Tirhi contacted Biologist Anderson to discuss "Peregrine Tower" success in District 12. Locally, a group of citizens erected a tower and platform with a gravel box to attract Peregrines that were interested in a local bridge. The birds have not used this tower, outside of a perch, until just the last season, where a new female showed interest in nesting on it but left the site likely due to some adjacent disturbance factors. Anderson put Tirhi in touch with the folks who put this tower up so they could provide more first-hand knowledge and thoughts on these types of nesting structures for urban Peregrines.

Private Lands/Access

Bow Hill Road Pheasant Release Site: Biologist Roozen continued assisting other Region 4 staff with site evaluation and assessment. Roozen met with the parking area landowner and discussed improvements needed, and to be completed, at their lot. More substrate will be added to the parking area in the coming week. Roozen also arranged parking area fence removal and parking area gate lockup and met with company workers on site to sign the work order.

Wildlife Areas

Tennant Lake Boardwalk: Manager Kessler checked the water level at Tennant Lake. The boardwalk continues to be under water. Kessler repeatedly hiked in and removed beaver dams and cleared the beaver deceiver pipes to help drop the lake water level. By the end of the week the water level had finally dropped enough to start drying out the boardwalk.

Tennant Lake Swan Watch: The non-profit group Friends of Tennant Lake & Hovander Park hosted the annual Swan Watch at the Tennant Lake unit. As the sun came up, over 175 swans were seen on Tennant Lake. Paul Woodcock of the Audubon Society, WDFW Biologist Paul

DeBruyn, and Alysha Elsby, Lead Rehabilitator at Northwest Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, gave talks on swan biology, status and rehabilitation efforts in the region. A rehabilitated swan was outfitted with a leg and neck band, and then released at the Lake Terrell unit.



Lake Terrell Hunting Blind Cleanup: Members of the Whatcom County chapter of the Washington Waterfowl Association held a blind clean-up and maintenance check at the Lake Terrell unit. Three bags of garbage were collected from the blinds.

Lake Terrell Fishing Pier: Manager Kessler checked with Department engineers on rust stains found on the fishing pier at Lake Terrell. The rust appears to be superficial and not a structural problem. This summer Manager Kessler will test out painting a small section of the pier to prevent the rust.

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

Wildlife Management

Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary: Biologist Anderson worked with the Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Volunteer to provide for a number of requests for various habitat enhancement information requests, as well as certification in the program. Anderson also provided data to Seattle Audubon Conservation Manager Matt Mega, per request, and worked with Olympia staff to provide information and logos to National Wildlife Federation (NWF) to be used in announcement of collaborative efforts and program opportunities related to the WDFW Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program and NWF Certified Backyard Habitat national program.

Assistance to state Wildlife Rehabilitation: Biologist Anderson worked with Habitat Scientist and Herpetologist Dr. Marc Hayes, Woodland Park Zoo Amphibian and Reptile Curator, Dr. Jennifer Pramuk, and a private biologist who is a herp specialist out of Oregon to determine species identification of a turtle brought into South Sound Critter Care. The turtle was positively identified by the group as an Asian leaf turtle. This tropical aquatic turtle is a species that is becoming more popular in the pet trade. This is largely due to other previously available aquatic turtles, many of which from more temperate zones, now being classified as a prohibited species in a number of states.



The Asian leaf turtle is a tropical aquatic turtle species that is becoming more popular in the pet trade.

University of Washington (UW) “Bruce Lee” Memorial Garden and Heron conflict management: Biologist Anderson followed-up on requests to contact UW regarding a proposed memorial garden for the actor Bruce Lee and the Duwamish Tribe that is proposed to be constructed smack in the middle of the heron colony on campus. Currently, this is the second largest heron colony in Seattle. Anderson is all for the memorial garden – but perhaps putting it where it may not disturb the herons nor provide users with a free whitewashing from above would be something to consider. Anderson continues to make contact with a number of UW staff regarding this.

Osprey Conflict Reduction and Management Assistance: Biologist Anderson is working with the Eastlake Union Community Council to provide management references and consideration to erect an Osprey platform. Recently, an inactive Osprey nest was removed, without WDFW consultation and permit issuance, by a local property owner. Anderson is following up with the property owner to discuss this need and also the community effort to provide for a platform onsite or in the vicinity, where appropriate to provide for the birds and lessen any future conflicts.

Wildlife Areas

Leque Island: Restoration Projects Coordinator Brokaw sent an email to the Leque Island stakeholder distribution list to update the group on a delay in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) determination on the recent groundwater study. EPA granted a two week extension for review and comments to the project Groundwater Technical Team, until February 12. The Groundwater Technical Team meets February 14 to review and address comments. Restoration Projects Coordinator Brokaw assisted with a permit extension request to the Army Corps of Engineers. The request is to extend the date by which existing temporary fixes must be removed in the dikes until a permanent solution is installed.

Samish River - Welts Property Wetland Enhancement Project: Restoration Projects Coordinator Brokaw and Wildlife Area Manager Rotton began completing tasks to advance the project to construction this summer. Brokaw is completing permit applications and Rotton is coordinating review of design documents. Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) and Region 4 staff reviewed a version of the Restoration Pathway via conference call. The goal of the document is to have a clear track for projects to be completed on Region 4 lands through the PSNERP program.

Private Lands/Access

Waterfowl Quality Hunt Program: Beginning Monday, technicians Otto and Deyo began Waterfowl unit removal and cleanup, and will continue to do so through February.



Waterfowl Quality Hunt unit blinds viewed just before (left) and after removal (right).



GOAL 4: MAINTAIN A HIGHLY SKILLED AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE

Wildlife Management

Radio Communication: Assistant District Biologist Cyra continued to provide radio communication training and assistance to several program staff to meet our contract obligations with DNR.

Oregon Spotted Frog Survey Project: Biologist Danilson reviewed applications, selected candidates for interview, and began conducting interviews for the two seasonal positions for the Oregon spotted frog surveys in Skagit and Whatcom counties. These seasonal positions are funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will assist District 14 personnel in ongoing surveys of Oregon spotted frogs in Skagit and Whatcom counties. Biologist Anderson worked the District 12 interview panel (District 11 and District 13 Biologists Tirhi and Milner) to develop interview questions and prepare for District 12 Assistant District Biologist interviews.

Diversity Planning Meeting: District Biologists attended a Diversity Division planning workshop with Olympia staff. The coming year's work was outlined, and new planning approaches now underway throughout the Agency were discussed.

REGION 5

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Black-tailed Deer Research Project: A fawn mortality search associated with the Region 5 portion of the black-tailed deer research project was conducted. Study does and their associated young are being monitored by a combination of remote (satellite) and field (VHF) methods. The does are located in two study clusters concentrated within the Washougal (568) and Coweeman (550) GMUs. To date, in the Washougal cluster of five remaining does, four fawns remain alive.

Mt. St. Helens Wildlife Area Elk Survey: Biologists Miller and Bergh conducted the monthly winter survey of elk on the Mt. St. Helens Wildlife Area. A total of 142 elk were observed on the valley floor, which was free of snow. The cow to calf ratio observed was 100:32. This is an increase in number of total elk seen in the past two surveys, however all elk looked to be in fair condition. A possible mortality was spotted during the survey and two mortalities were examined on the far western edge of the Wildlife Area. One of these mortalities was a cow elk that was radio-collared as an adult in 2005. Both of these elk had red, gelatinous bone marrow and protruding backbones, which indicate poor body condition.

Golden Eagle Survey Coordination

District 10: Biologists Miller and Bergh met with Biologist Hayes of the Diversity Division and Biologists Bruce and Hansen from West Fork Timber Company to plan for the upcoming Golden

Eagle Breeding Territory surveys. West Fork Timber will be monitoring territories on their property as well as some neighboring territories in the eastern part of Lewis County. Golden eagles are not as common on the west side of the Cascades and Biologist Bruce has been monitoring them throughout Lewis County for several decades, noting interesting life history information such as their frequent use of mountain beavers as prey.

District 9: Biologist Anderson continued with early season golden eagle surveys in eastern Klickitat County, including monitoring efforts to locate the nest on the Klickitat Wildlife Area. In addition, Biologist Anderson met with USFS Biologist Cathy Flick to discuss her assistance with surveys in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Beaver Reintroduction: Biologist Anderson met with USFS Gifford Pinchot staff and a representative of the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group to discuss possible beaver reintroduction into tributaries of the Columbia River of Skamania and Klickitat counties. A preliminary analysis is being done of select watersheds on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest for vacant streams that could benefit from beaver reintroductions. In addition, an analysis is being done for the lower White Salmon River.

Wildlife Areas

Shillapoo Wildlife Area

Watchable Wildlife at Shillapoo Wildlife Area: On a recent trip to the Shillapoo Wildlife Area, Manager Hauswald observed the following birds; Dusky Canada geese, Snow geese, Tundra swans, Sandhill cranes, Bald eagles, Peregrine falcon, Red-tailed hawk, Sharp-shinned hawk, American kestrel, Northern harrier, mallard, pintail, widgeon, Green-winged teal, Great Blue heron, egrets, Anna's hummingbird, Yellow-rumped warbler, chickadee, and many others. Needless to say it is a great time to go birding on the Vancouver Lowlands.

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

Wildlife Management

Southwest Washington Management Area 2A Late Season Goose Depredation Hunt: The Southwest Washington Area 2A late goose hunting season is well underway since opening on February 2, 2013. This late season will continue to run through March 6, 2013. The extended season is only open to authorized master hunters in an attempt to assist landowners with goose depredation concerns. The 58 master hunters are available to assist four landowners on Wednesdays and Saturdays in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties. Landowners have additional hazing methods in place for the remainder of days when hunters cannot be present. An assigned Coordinator is available to connect landowners with master hunters on the designated hunt days. Landowners can enroll in the program at any time throughout the season. Those that are experiencing crop damage from geese are encouraged to contact the Regional Office to gain more information and/or become enrolled in the program.



Master hunters (left to right) McKenna, Spurbeck, and Hendrix visited the Woodland check station to have their harvest identified after assisting a landowner in Longview, WA.

Wildlife Areas

Shillapoo Wildlife Area

Shillapoo Wildlife Area Tree Plantings: Wildlife Area staff along with help from Biologists George, Stevens, and Ehlke planted trees and shrubs in two planting areas in the North Unit. Both plantings are multi-year projects with several more years of planting until completion. All of the trees will have tree protection tubes and weed mats placed around them, which greatly increases the survival rates of the plants. Without the tubes and mats being placed around the trees, survival is typically less than 20 percent, with the tubes and mats in place most years the survival rate is over 90 percent.

Vancouver Lake Unit Vehicle Closure: La Frambois Road going into the Vancouver Lake Unit will be closed to all vehicle traffic from February 11-15. This closure is due to the City of Vancouver installing a new waterline under the roadway. Both the North and South Units are open during this timeframe.

Private Lands/Access

Feel Free to Hunt Contract: Technician White entered data into the Private Lands database and discussed renewal of a Feel Free to Hunt contract with one of our local contractors. Technician White and Officer Kimball visited with Trout Lake Dairy Farmers to get feedback regarding Special Elk hunts that are conducted in the Trout Lake Valley. Results were passed on to Biologist Anderson for assessment of these hunts.

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

Wildlife Management

Pacific Northwest Sportsman's Show-Portland Oregon: Regional Wildlife Program Manager Jonker, Klickitat Wildlife Area Manager Van Leuven, and Biologist Holman represented Wildlife Program at differing shifts at the Pacific Northwest Sportsman's Show. Hundreds of public contacts are facilitated by maintenance of the WDFW booth at the event. Popular topics of conversation among those visiting the booth included cost of non-resident hunting and fishing opportunities in Washington, wolves, hoof-rot among Washington elk, barbless hook rules for salmon fishing on the Columbia, special permit deadlines, multi-season permits, Columbia River sturgeon management, sea lions, etc.

Other

District 10 & Mount St. Helens Wildlife Area Winter Conditions

Past Weather: January temperatures and precipitation were both below average for the month. A cold dry period of weather persisted throughout the month with low snow levels, but no significant snowfall below 1,000 feet.

Short-Term Forecast: The 6-10 day and the 8-14 day forecasts are for below normal temperatures and 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 an equal chance for above average, below average, or normal precipitation.

Habitat: Forage is available at lower elevations, while most areas above 2,500 feet currently have some snow cover, and areas above 3,000 feet have significant snow cover.

Snow Depths: See attached table for detailed information.

Animal Concentrations: No unusual concentrations of elk noted to date. On February 5, 2013, a total of 142 elk were present on the Mudflow Unit monitoring area.

Animal Condition: Animals observed to date appear to be in good to fair condition.

Mortality: A possible mortality was observed in the Mudflow Unit during the monthly survey.

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.

District 9 Winter Conditions

Past Weather: Mild winter conditions dominated District 9. Dry conditions continued throughout the District this week.

Winter Severity: The Klickitat Wildlife Area continues to be mostly free of snow and eastern Klickitat County is generally snow free below 2,000 feet. In the southwestern Cascades, north-facing slopes maintain snowpack at approximately 1,800 feet elevation, while south facing slopes are snow-free up to approximately 2,100 feet.

Habitat: Habitat continues to be open below 1,500 feet with snowpack above 2,000 feet in the south Cascades, near normal levels. The Rock Creek drainage of eastern Klickitat County is open and there are no reports of habitat limitations at this time below 2,000 feet.

Animal Concentrations: No unusual concentrations have been reported for big game this past week. Deer numbers are low in eastern Klickitat and animals are dispersed.

Animal Condition: Deer and elk appear to be in very good condition and no winter stress/mortality has been reported this week.

Mortality: None reported this week.

Public Contacts: None.

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:									
Name	Elevation		12/07/2012	12/14/2012	12/21/2012	12/28/2012	01/04/2013	01/11/2013	01/18/2013
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
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
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

SNOWTEL STATIONS:

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
JUNE LAKE	3,340'	Avg Snow							
		Depth (inches)	12.3	26.8	68.8	103.3	101.6	97.3	93.3
		Min Temp (F)	30.9	27.5	25.7	27.5	18.7	23.7	17.2
		Max Temp (F)	43.9	37.8	35.2	34.5	35.1	40.3	47.1
		Avg Temp (F)	36.6	32.7	29.9	31.1	27	33	28.8
		Year to date precipitation (inches)	68	72	82.9	84.6	85.9	86.3	98.6
SPIRIT LAKE	3,520'	Avg Snow							
		Depth (inches)	1.1	9.6	19.1	27.8	26.1	19.7	20.1
		Min Temp (F)	31.5	19	19	22.3	20.3	25.3	9.9
		Max Temp (F)	48.4	41.9	44.4	35.6	41.7	46	54.4
		Avg Temp (F)	37.9	32.7	30.2	31.6	29.2	34.5	28.2

		Year to date precipitation (inches)	34.4	37.6	42.2	45.2	45.6	47.7	47.8
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
PEPPER CREEK	2,140'	Avg Snow							
		Depth (inches)	0	0.17	14.7	24	24.6	23.8	22.8
		Min Temp (F)	32.4	30.4	30	30.4	21.6	27	12.9
		Max Temp (F)	48	43.2	36.9	36.9	39	41.4	43.5
		Avg Temp (F)	40.2	35.4	33	33.8	28	33.3	26.5
		Year to date precipitation (inches)	22.2	23.7	29.9	31	31.3	33.8	33.8

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
SHEEP CANYON	3,990'	Avg Snow							
		Depth (inches)	12.6	25.7	61.3	96.3	93.6	88.4	84.7
		Min Temp (F)	29.1	21.9	23.4	25.5	20.5	23.7	14.5
		Max Temp (F)	42.6	36.5	33.8	33.6	39.9	39.4	54.4
		Avg Temp (F)	35	30.7	28.2	30.2	28.4	32.3	29.1
		Year to date precipitation (inches)	60.4	63.8	69.6	77.3	81.7	86.3	86.3

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
CALAMITY	2500'	Avg Snow							
		Depth (inches)	0	0	13	22	18.7	17.7	15.3
		Min Temp (F)	33.8	32.5	29.1	31.3	23.7	28	21.2
		Max Temp (F)	47.7	41.2	40.3	36.3	36.1	43.5	56.7
		Avg Temp (F)	40.2	35.6	32.8	33.4	29.1	36	32.2
		Year to date precipitation (inches)	42.1	44.5	52.2	54.6	54.8	59.2	59.4

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
JUNE LAKE	no data	no data	180%	134%	no data	no data	147%
SPIRIT LAKE	no data	200%	410%	134%	447%	371%	350%
SHEEP CANYON	86%	91%	151%	165%	170%	184%	169%

01/25/2013	02/01/2013	02/08/2013
No new report	10" new and 2 ft base	No new snow. 2ft total.
No new snow. 72 inch base.	14" new and 80" base	No new snow. 84" base.
No new report	Sno-park inaccessible due to heavy snow	No new report

1/19-1/25	1/26-2/1	2/2-2/8
88.4	103.1	98.2
28.6	29.3	26.2
63	39	49.6
44.9	33.8	36.4
97.2	106.3	109.3
1/19-1/25	1/26-2/1	2/2-2/8

18.1	25.9	24.7
27.7	28.6	12.7
54.3	42.1	48.2
39.1	34.4	35.9

48.4 56.2 57.2

1/19-1/25 1/26-2/1 2/2-2/8

23 28.9 25.4
23.9 33.1 28.4
55.2 43.7 53.8
33.4 35.4 36.2

34.3 37.3 38

1/19-1/25 1/26-2/1 2/2-2/8

81.4 102.7 102.5
25.5 28.2 24.1
58.5 37.8 52.5
43.6 32.3 35.3

87 95.9 98.3

1/19-1/25 1/26-2/1 2/2-2/8

15 15.9 14.2
32.5 32.4 31.3
62.1 43.2 48
47.2 36.3 39.2

60.1 66.4 67.5

01/25/2013 02/01/2013 02/08/2013

139% 149% no data
286% 414% 535%

145% 164% 173%

REGION 6

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Black-Tailed Deer Study: Biologist Tirhi and Schmidt assisted Biologist Rice with deer captures at Weyerhaeuser's Vail Tree Farm. The process involves using a hired capture crew, helicopter, and rocket net to capture and sedate does. Once sedated, the process crew (WDFW) takes biometrics (weights and measurements) and attaches both a radio collar and vaginal implant transmitter (VIT). The radio collar is used to track movements and mortality; the VIT is used to inform the crew of fawning. Both systems rely on satellite; the crew will next be involved in either investigating the doe mortality or searching and processing fawns once alerted. Eight does were successfully captured and processed in approximately six hours. No capture mortalities occurred and all eight does were awakened quickly after sedation and appeared in good condition.

Biologist Michaelis continues to monitor radio-collared black-tail deer in Capitol Forest and no mortalities were reported this week. In addition, Biologist Michaelis assisted Research Scientist Rice with the capture and radio-collaring of two adult does. With the addition of these two does, there are now 11 black-tailed deer being monitored in Capitol Forest (nine does and two yearlings). The two captured does were all fitted with vaginal-implant transmitters (VITs), which will alert biologists when the doe gives birth. This technology assists tremendously with the capture and tagging of fawns.

Sea Duck and Marine Bird Surveys: Biologist Murphie along with Biologists Evenson (HQ) and Cyra (Region 4) completed their winter survey effort recently. These surveys are conducted by air sampling near shore and off shore areas throughout the inland marine waters of the greater Puget Sound Region totaling approximately 672 mile². A preliminary summary of counts by Biologist Murphie indicates he recorded 14,506 observations totaling approximately 73,848 marine birds and marine mammals. Of these, diving ducks (33 percent) and dabbling ducks (31 percent) comprised the largest overall percentage of species counted.

On a grant from the Sea Duck Joint Venture and in cooperation with the Canadian Wildlife Service, this team will be conducting additional sea duck surveys around Vancouver I., B.C. during February. The most unique observation they report thus far is of hundreds of Pacific white-sided dolphins in a single large group followed by a pod of killer whales, but this was on the ferry while traveling to Campbell River.

Taylor's Checkerspot Monitoring Mapping – Dan Kelly site: Biologist McMillan continued working at adding 2008 and prior survey records to the Dan Kelly site ArcMAP document to evaluate the occurrence records to date. The records from 2009 through 2012 were collected and saved using a GPS format (saved via GPS Garmin) that works relatively easily to bring into ArcMAP. The 2009-2012 records have been saved as ArcMAP layers, one layer for each survey effort. The 2008 records had been saved in an .mps format that needed to be reformatted to .gpx

or digitized by hand. All pre-2008 records will need to be digitized to be added to the ArcMAP document.

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

Wildlife Management

Olympic Peninsula Technical Working Group: Biologists Ament, Harris, Hoenes, McMillan, Michaelis and Skriletz attended the annual Olympic Peninsula Working Group Meeting in Sequim, WA. The meeting functions as an opportunity for land management agency (i.e. U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, WDFW, etc.) and tribal biologists to present, discuss, and coordinate management and research efforts related to deer, elk, mountain goats, and raptors.