

Wildlife Program

Week of January 7-13, 2013

REGION 1

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDIFE

Grouse tracking at Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area (SLWA) and vicinity – Volunteer tracker Dr. Kim Thorburn tracked three sharp-tailed grouse on Saturday. Wildlife Area Assistant Manager (WAAM) Mike Finch continued to work with District 2 Assistant Wildlife Biologist Mike Atamian on scheduling a telemetry flight for next week, after Atamian confirmed that funding exists. However, Atamian is unsure if flight funding will be secured by then. Thorburn's birding notes are as follows: "The biggest excitement of the day was a flock of a dozen or so snow buntings. While I was listening for radio signals, I heard their skeletal rattle call. They actually flew as a flock and perched on the fence when I descended. I watched and photographed them for a while. Their foraging strategy is a delight to behold: constant movement from stems to blades; they look like little balls floating over the snow as their legs are completely submerged. Either they leap or fly to the top of a grass strand, fall with it to the ground, and begin to munch."



Grouse tracking was accompanied by the skeletal rattle call of these snow buntings in the vicinity of Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area, January 5, 2013. Dr. Kim Thorburn photo.

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

Helicopter Survey of Moose, Elk, and Bighorn Sheep: Biologists Jay Shepherd and Dana Base accomplished two helicopter flying segments on January 11, thus completing this winter's survey. For moose and elk these included surveying five quadrants within the LeClerc and Kalispel drainages of Game Management Unit (GMU) 113, two quadrants within the north Kettle Range of GMUs 101, and eight quadrants within the south Calispell Range in GMU 117. In addition, bighorn sheep were censused both at Vulcan (GMU 101) and at Hall Mountain (GMU 113). Only 26 bighorn sheep were observed at Vulcan on December 31 including 13 rams, nine ewes, and four lambs. Even fewer bighorn sheep, eight total including three rams and five ewes were observed at Hall Mountain on January 11, 2013. Classification data of moose will be compiled soon and a project completion report written.



Two bull moose (above), as determined by the lack of a white vulval patch, along with two bighorn sheep and a ewe (below) observed on a helicopter survey in District 1 on January 11.



Cougar: District 3 Assistant District Biologist (ADB) Vekasy and District Biologist (DB) Wik spent one day on the cougar research project. An adult tom that had been previously marked and lost had his collar recaptured.

An adult tom treed in the Tucannon (right). The red ear tags are visible indicating a prior capture, but the collar had been lost shortly after the initial capture. An adult tom reacts after being darted in the Tucannon drainage (below).



Wildlife Areas

Chief Joseph Wildlife Area – Boundary Stock Fence: Wildlife Area Manager Bob Dice and Biologist David Woodall spent a good part of the week assessing burned boundary stock fence on the Chief Joseph Wildlife Area. The fence, which is not on property lines, prevents livestock from entering the wildlife area from land owned by Karl and Diane Magden. All fence corners were marked with a GPS, rockjacks were counted, and photographs were taken along with notes of soil types and conditions. With fresh snow on the ground and frost coming out of the ground, traversing steep slopes where the fence is located was difficult. Dice and Woodall will formalize GPS coordinates, notes, and photos into a document and send it to the Capital Asset and Management Program (CAMP) for their estimation process on cost to either repair or replace the fence.



REGION 2

Wolves: District Wildlife staff was notified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Wolf Specialist Paul Frame that a member of the Smackout Pack (WA-018M) had left his home range and entered the eastern portion of District 6. This animal has a radio collar that allows monitoring of his position. Biologist Heinlen located the animal in the field and confirmed that he is moving west into GMU 204. We are forwarding location updates to enforcement, and we received one public sighting report of this animal. In addition we continue to get photos of the known pair of wolves currently in the Lookout Pack territory.



Lookout Pack male wolf. U.S. Forest Service photo.

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDIFE

Wildlife Management

Washington ground squirrels: With Washington ground squirrel emergence in the immediate future, Biologists Finger and Gregory began preparations for capture at Warden Middle School and the Sage Hills Golf Course in Warden. This year we will be increasing our trapping effort from 180 to 400 traps and potentially expanding our efforts to the Warden Middle School to reduce impacts in specific areas if necessary. We anticipate capture to start during mid-to-late-February. The majority of the captured squirrels will be released on the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge into enclosures that were constructed last fall (see photo below).



Washington ground squirrel enclosure construction took place in November at the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge.

Wildlife Areas

Chesaw Timber Thinning: The project started this week with Pioneer Harvesting moving in and beginning to harvest. Trucking the logs is extremely difficult. It is four miles across the wildlife area, on steep and narrow roads, and then over two passes to get to Boise cascade and Vaggen lumber mills in the Colville area. With long days each driver can barely get two loads delivered.



Sinlahekin Ecosystem Restoration Project - Phase 2 Logging – Timber harvest has begun on Phase 2 of the Sinlahekin Ecosystem Restoration Project (SERP) south of Blue Lake. The winning harvester this year was Coulter Creek out of Leavenworth (see picture below). Conditions are great for winter harvesting this year with approximately two feet of snow on the ground and near zero degrees at times.



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

Wildlife Management

Mule Deer: Biologist Gregory continued to organize and summarize the post-season mule deer survey data collected over the past couple of months in GMUs 272 and 284. The results from this season's survey and previous years are listed below.

| GMU 272 | | Bucks | | | | | | | % |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| Method/Year | Total | Does | Fawns | Yearling | Mature | Unc | F:D | B:D | Adult Bucks |
| Aerial 2012 | 1149 | 539 | 413 | 77 | 89 | 31 | 77:100 | 31:100 | 54% |
| Ground 2011 | 734 | 348 | 244 | 69 | 36 | 37 | 70:100 | 30:100 | 34% |
| Average (1996-2012) | 656 | 349 | 222 | 45 | 28 | 14 | 65:100 | 21:100 | 38% |

| GMU 284 | | Bucks | | | | | | | % |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| Method/Year | Total | Does | Fawns | Yearling | Mature | Unc | F:D | B:D | Adult Bucks |
| Ground 2012 | 350 | 179 | 104 | 29 | 26 | 12 | 58:100 | 31:100 | 47% |
| Ground 2011 | 250 | 122 | 83 | 20 | 16 | 9 | 68:100 | 30:100 | 44% |
| Aerial 2011 | 749 | 360 | 292 | 64 | 25 | 8 | 81:100 | 25:100 | 28% |

REGION 3

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Taylor Bridge Fire---Population Management Units (PMU) 32 Deer Survey: Biologist William Moore spent about half a day looking over deer in the Taylor Bridge Fire area. Deer observed appear to be doing as well as can be expected during winter. A large portion of the area

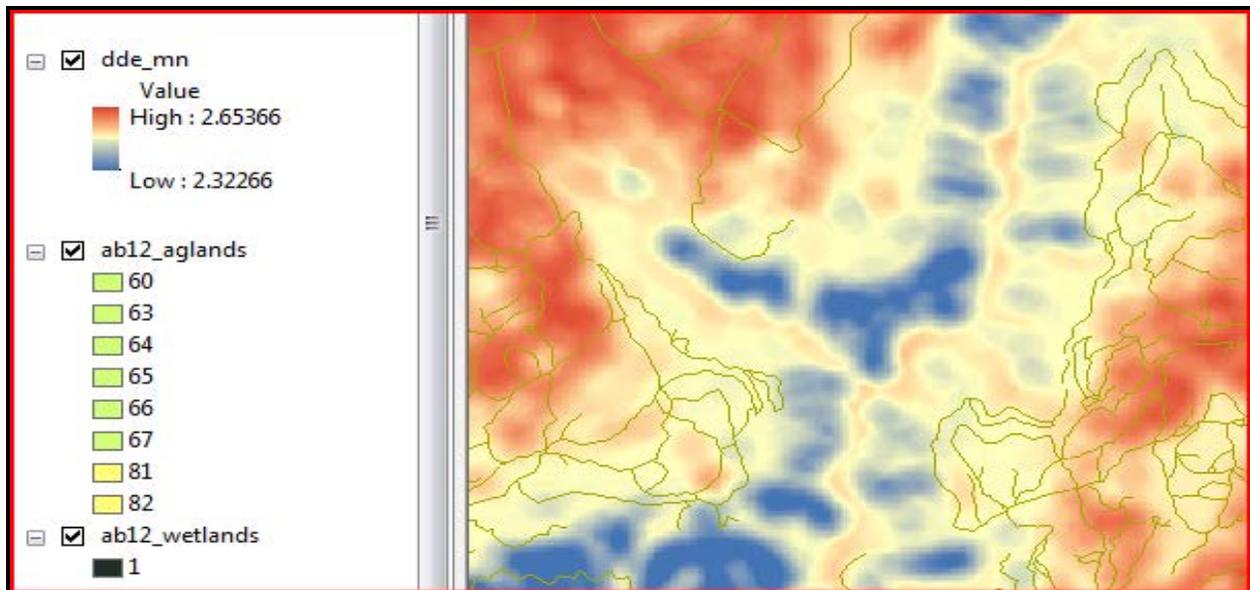
is covered by only 8-10 inches of crusted snow, but there are numerous pockets of open “green up” that the deer are utilizing.



Mule deer utilized the pockets of open “green up” within the Taylor Bridge Fire perimeter.



Eastside Elk Modeling: WDFW Biologist William Moore has been involved in Beta Testing of the Blue Mountain Elk Modeling effort. During the last week, Moore collected all necessary data components to run the nutrition portion of the model for the Colockum elk herd. Moore attended a WebEx meeting to learn the model structure and data needs. The nutrition portion of the model illustrates estimates of kilocalories present on the landscape during the month of August. The picture below is a demonstration of this analysis for the Blue Mountains. Areas depicted in red are high in kilocalories while blue areas are low. The Colockum data still needs to be updated to the attribute tables before they can be run through the model.



Winter Weather: Weather the past week was mild early in the week, with highs in the 40's and lows near freezing, causing a lot of snow melt. By the end of the week, cold weather returned and lows were near the single digits and highs were in the 20's. Weather for this coming week will be slightly warmer, but still cold and mostly sunny. No new snow is expected. Snow cover has been reduced and southern slopes are free of snow. Elk numbers have dropped some on the feed sites. Elk are in good condition.

REGION 4

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Swan Mortality and Morbidity Project: Technician Anderson continued to respond to hotline calls reporting dead, sick and injured swans. Biologists Danilson and DeBruyn and Technician Otto all pitched in to cover for Anderson, who was burning off "comp time" accrued during the many evening and weekend hours he has recently accrued. It was at this time that Otto assisted Northwest Rehabilitation Center (NWRC) staff recover a trumpeter swan in Whatcom County. This particular swan had become entangled in fishing line. Otto went the "extra mile" by launching in over his waders in a slough to capture this bird, which is now in the care of NWRC.

Citizens who see dead, sick or injured swans are reminded to report these to the WDFW swan and nutria hotline at (360) 466-4345 ext. 266.

Swan mortalities collected by WDFW in Washington State

| | Skagit | Snohomish | Whatcom | Sumas* | TOTAL |
|-------------------|--------|-----------|---------|--------|-------|
| Powerline suspect | 19 | 4 | 24 | 3 | 50 |
| Pb suspect | 14 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 25 |
| Trauma* | 4 | | 5 | | 9 |
| Unknown | 10 | | 2 | 1 | 13 |
| Feather Pile | 3 | | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| TOTAL | 50 | 5 | 40 | 11 | 106 |

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



Wildlife Area Manager Kessler and Private Lands Technician Otto worked with Northwest Wildlife Rehabilitation Center to capture an injured swan on Tennant Lake. The swan had fishing line wrapped very tightly around its head, neck and bill. Upon capture, the swan was immediately taken to a veterinarian.



A trumpeter swan that had encountered some fishing line was immediately taken to a veterinarian upon capture on Tennant Lake.

Annual Mid-Winter Waterfowl Surveys: Biologist Anderson surveyed Lake Washington and Green Lake for Priority 1 lakes this week. Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, Redhead, Eurasian Wigeon, Ruddy Duck and Greater White-fronted Goose were all species found that are typically a bit rare in the urban areas, but now being found in small numbers annually.

Biologist Milner completed inland lakes and wetland surveys in Snohomish County. Highest numbers occurred on the Everett Sewage Ponds, which is typical, and in the French Creek Valley due to the large amount of wetland restoration and waterfowl food plots initiated by the various gun clubs found in the area.

Biologist DeBruyn surveyed dabbling ducks in the marine waters from Port Susan to the Canadian border. A shift in weather patterns resulted in a high proportion of ducks feeding inland during the morning of the survey. The mid-winter waterfowl count is used to estimate waterfowl populations across the country, so it is critical to get an accurate count. DeBruyn therefore will conduct another survey next week when anticipated freezing temperatures should be more conducive to saltwater dabbling. DeBruyn also organized the mid-winter swan survey to be held in Whatcom and Skagit counties later this month.

Great Blue Heron Management – Seattle: Biologist Anderson provided a great blue heron management plan to assist the city of Seattle with a proposed construction project.

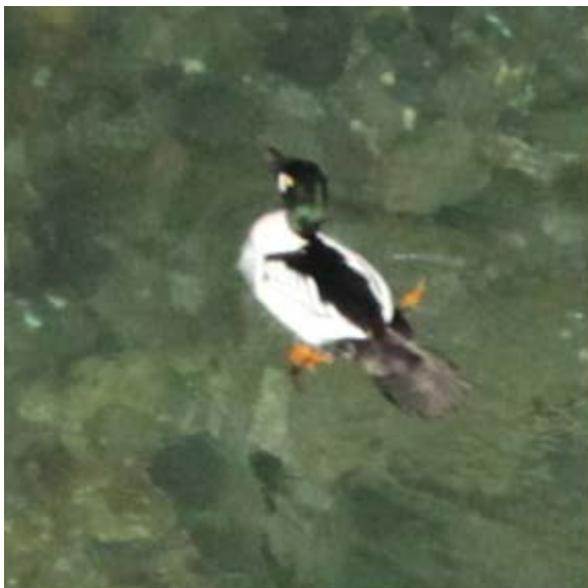
Winter Marine Waterfowl Aerial Surveys: After a stormy start to the week, Marine Bird Specialist Evenson along with Assistant District Biologists Cyra and Murphie completed another week of annual winter marine waterfowl surveys; this week the weather allowed just two days of surveys bringing our total to around 55 percent of the survey routes completed to date. Time on the ground was used to transcribe data from days flown earlier. These annual surveys are used to determine trends in marine waterfowl species – both game and diversity species; and results are used to help inform the Pacific Flyway in season setting for sea ducks. Maps, data and species information from the nearly 20 years of annual surveys are available online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/psamp/>



Male Red-breasted Merganser



Female Red-breasted Merganser



Male Common Goldeneye



Common Murre



Male Hatch-Year Common Goldeneye



Female Red-breasted Merganser

Marine Bird Specialist Evenson has been taking aerial identification images of marine birds to contribute to Sea Duck Joint Venture and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service efforts to create an aerial identification guide to waterfowl.

Mountain Goat Augmentation Site Review: Biologist Milner met with Biologist Phyllis Reed from the Darrington Ranger District to review and recommend sites for possible augmentation. Thought was given to the number of goats known in a site as well as connectivity to other sites and logistics of delivering transplanted goats to the region.

Island Marble Butterfly Conference Call: Biologist Milner participated in a conference call with various interested parties to discuss the proposed work plan for staff at San Juan Island National Historic Park relative to conservation of the Island Marble Butterfly. Park staff are committed to doing everything they can to conserve the butterfly and have done a superb job of engaging local experts to develop a highly valued spirit of cooperation among all parties.

Wildlife Areas

Migratory Bird Stamp Projects: Wildlife Area Managers are working with Private Lands Staff on bird stamp projects to be submitted this year.

Island Unit: Natural Resources Specialist Greg Meis and Natural Resources Technician Curran Cosgrove monitored and managed water levels on the Island Unit.

All Units: Birding activity is increased with the recent flurry of articles regarding snow geese and eagles in the local and regional newspapers. Manager Rotton is talking with local Western Waterfowl Association and Audubon chapter to develop a general code of conduct list for wildlife area users. The hope is to minimize user conflict and encourage better understanding for other user groups on the multiple use sites that we have on the Skagit.

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

Wildlife Management

North Cascades Elk Herd Clover Trapping Project: Biologist Danilson attended the initial coordination meeting for upcoming efforts to trap and radio collar elk in the North Cascades herd. This project is a joint WDFW-Tribal project that was initiated last year. Following the meeting, Danilson and tribal representatives deployed two Clover traps at sites that had been baited during the previous week. 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.

WDFW-Woodland Park Zoo Citizen Amphibian Monitoring – Kick off: Biologist Anderson, along with Woodland Park Zoo education staff and Herpetology Curator Dr. Jennifer Pramuk, trained the 2013 volunteer group. The group of 50 folks are now prepared to survey for amphibian egg masses and will be working with zoo staff and Anderson to finalize any access permission, as well as ID questions as they come up in submittal of data. For more information on the monitoring program, please visit <http://www.zoo.org/backyardhabitat>

Skagit County Brant Hunting Season Inquiries: Biologist Danilson continued to respond to inquiries and provide information to brant hunters regarding the upcoming Skagit County season, which opens this weekend. Danilson and Biologist DeBruyn conducted brant bag check sampling on opening day. A total of 68 brant were checked with many hunters getting their two brant limit. The average however was about one brant per hunter. The purpose of this sampling is to determine the age, sex and subspecies of brant harvested by hunters. DeBruyn also tuned up the posting of the Swinomish Brant reserve.



Brant hunters return to the Swinomish Channel boat ramp after a cold day on the bay.



Successful Skagit County brant hunters display their harvest.

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

Wildlife Areas

Leque Island Planning: Restoration Projects Coordinator Brokaw drafted an initial public outreach plan for Leque Island land use. The plan outlines a process that is designed to solicit feedback from internal WDFW Programs and public stakeholders to steer potential design alternatives for the Island. The first step in the process is an internal cross-program meeting that will take place on January 22 in La Conner.

Regional Director Everitt and Brokaw participated in a conference call with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to coordinate timelines among each group regarding Leque Island projects. WSDOT is on schedule to widen and raise SR532 this summer. WDFW relayed the outreach timeline to WSDOT of which any activities planned as a result of the outreach are not expected to conflict with WSDOT projects.

Skagit Headquarters: Natural Resource Technician (NRT) Cosgrove and Natural Resource Specialist (NRS) Meis removed and repaired the Skagit Wildlife Area boat launch. The ramp is continuing to degrade, rebar from the concrete is becoming exposed and curled up. The exposed rebar is being removed and will be carefully monitored for the remainder of the season. The site is scheduled to be rebuilt during the next budget cycle.

Samish Unit: Natural Resource Technician Cosgrove, Natural Resource Specialist Meis and Access Area Manager Derek Hacker improved the entrance and parking area to the Samish Unit or West 90. The entry had developed some very large and deep pot holes along the edge of the paved area making safe entry and exit from the site difficult.

DeBay's Slough Swan Reserve: Natural Resource Technician Cosgrove and Natural Resource Specialist Meis cleared brush and limbs in the viewing area on the Swan Reserve.

Fir Island Farms Game Reserve: Natural Resource Technician Cosgrove and Natural Resource Specialist Meis repaired a broken gate and checked game reserve signs along the west boundary of the site that is adjacent to a neighboring gun club.

Private Lands/Access

Snow Goose Quality Program: Region 4 private lands staff monitored and noted hunter use in units. Cold temperatures through the weekend concentrated flocks around Quality Hunt units both in Stanwood and on Fir Island, offering good hunting as well as excellent photo opportunities for the public.



Photographers line the county road adjacent to a hunter occupied Snow Goose Quality Hunt unit on Fir Island.

Waterfowl Quality Hunt Program: Region 4 private land staff continued scheduled surveys of hunt units and attended to unit repairs as needed. Early in the week wet, cool weather provided opportunity for hunters, while cold, calm, sunny weather late in the week limited hunter success.



Region 4 private lands staff continued scheduled surveys of Waterfowl Quality Hunt units. This particular unit features a blind in the distance (above) while this potato field is filled with foraging ducks (below).



GOAL 4: MAINTAIN A HIGHLY SKILLED AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE

Wildlife Management

Oregon Spotted Frog Project: Biologist Danilson completed and submitted paperwork for the recruitment of two seasonal positions for the Oregon spotted frog project. These seasonal positions are funded by the USFWS and will assist District 14 personnel in ongoing surveys of Oregon spotted frogs in Skagit and Whatcom counties. NRT Meis and NRS Cosgrove are beginning the process for pesticide licensing and recertification for this upcoming season.

REGION 5

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDIFE

Wildlife Management

Midwinter Waterfowl Survey: Biologist Holman completed the midwinter waterfowl survey from the mouth of the Washougal River upstream along the Columbia to Bonneville Dam. Survey conditions were favorable with light winds. Consequently, over 2,200 scaup were observed along with the typical western Canada geese and concentrations of dabbling ducks associated with Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge. Survey results will be further summarized and submitted to Olympia Staff for inclusion in the overall cooperative effort to monitor waterfowl populations in North America. Biologists Miller and Bergh began the 2013 Midwinter Waterfowl Inventory in District 10. Water levels seem average and bird numbers are lower than in past years in Wahkiakum and Lewis counties. Surveys will continue into next week.

Wildlife Areas

Klickitat Wildlife Area - Water Gauge Reading at Sondino Ponds: Volunteer Enz reported water levels at three of the Sondino ponds.



Sondino Pond B.

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

Wildlife Management

Southwest Washington Management Area 2A and 2B Goose Hunt: Only two weeks remain in the Southwest Washington Area 2A goose hunting season and all zones continue to be open. Technicians have identified a total of 1,111 geese through 533 hunter harvests from November 10, 2012, through January 13, 2013. Harvest rates have been approximately two geese per hunter and 10 dusks have been harvested during this period.

Southwest Washington Area 2A late goose hunting season will begin on February 2, 2013, and run through March 6, 2013. This extended season is only open to authorized master hunters in an attempt to assist landowners with goose depredation concerns.

On Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., authorized master hunters will be available to assist landowners with goose depredation issues provided that landowners have a hazing program in place in addition to this assistance. An assigned Coordinator is available to connect landowners with master hunters on the designated hunt days. Landowners 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.

Private Lands/Access

St. Helens Land Access Program: The St. Helens Land Access program wrapped-up its 2012-13 volunteer effort this week. A total of 55 volunteers donated time to the effort this year. An impressive 2,425 hours were logged by these volunteers. An enormous thank you goes out to those who took the time to volunteer with the program this year and for their dedication to obtaining hunting access in our Region.

Hunter Assistance: Technician White assisted master hunters with permits for Trout Lake Hunt 2722, providing landowner names and weather conditions.

Other

District 10 and Mount St. Helens Wildlife Area Winter Conditions

Past Weather: December temperatures were average and precipitation was above average for the month. Snow levels this past week rose to 5,000 feet early in the week, and fell below 1,000 feet later in the week, but little precipitation remained with the low snow levels.

Short-Term Forecast: The 6-10 and 8-14 days forecast both predict normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.

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

forecast model shows an equal chance for above average, below average, or normal temperatures and precipitation.

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

Snow Depths: See table below for detailed information.

Animal Concentrations: No unusual concentrations of elk noted to date. On January 3, 2013, a total of 58 elk were present on the Mudflow Unit monitoring area.

Animal Condition: No reports of animals in poor condition that can be attributed to winter conditions. Animals observed to date appear to be in good condition.

Mortality: None to report.

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

pages: <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 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| Name | Elevation | | | | | | | |
| TRAIL OF TWO FORESTS MARBLE MT | 2,200' | | No report | Trace of new snow | 2ft of snow | 2ft of snow | No new report | No new report |
| | | | No new report | 5" new snow | 4ft of snow | 4ft of snow | No new report | No new report |
| WAKEPISH | 2,700' | | 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 |

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 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| JUNE LAKE | 3,340' | Avg Snow | 12.3 | 26.8 | 68.8 | 103.3 | 101.6 | 97.3 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| Depth (inches) | | | | | | | |
| Min Temp (F) | 30.9 | 27.5 | 25.7 | 27.5 | 18.7 | 23.7 | |
| Max Temp (F) | 43.9 | 37.8 | 35.2 | 34.5 | 35.1 | 40.3 | |
| Avg Temp (F) | 36.6 | 32.7 | 29.9 | 31.1 | 27 | 33 | |
| Year to date precipitation (inches) | 68 | 72 | 82.9 | 84.6 | 85.9 | 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 |
|-------------|------------------|--|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | | Avg Snow Depth (inches) | 1.1 | 9.6 | 19.1 | 27.8 | 26.1 | 19.7 |
| SPIRIT LAKE | 3,520' | Min Temp (F) | 31.5 | 19 | 19 | 22.3 | 20.3 | 25.3 |
| | | Max Temp (F) | 48.4 | 41.9 | 44.4 | 35.6 | 41.7 | 46 |
| | | Avg Temp (F) | 37.9 | 32.7 | 30.2 | 31.6 | 29.2 | 34.5 |
| | | Year to date precipitation (inches) | 34.4 | 37.6 | 42.2 | 45.2 | 45.6 | 47.7 |

| 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 |
|--------------|------------------|--|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | | Avg Snow Depth (inches) | 0 | 0.17 | 14.7 | 24 | 24.6 | 23.8 |
| PEPPER CREEK | 2,140' | Min Temp (F) | 32.4 | 30.4 | 30 | 30.4 | 21.6 | 27 |
| | | Max Temp (F) | 48 | 43.2 | 36.9 | 36.9 | 39 | 41.4 |
| | | Avg Temp (F) | 40.2 | 35.4 | 33 | 33.8 | 28 | 33.3 |
| | | Year to date precipitation (inches) | 22.2 | 23.7 | 29.9 | 31 | 31.3 | 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 |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | | Avg Snow Depth (inches) | 12.6 | 25.7 | 61.3 | 96.3 | 93.6 | 88.4 |
| SHEEP CANYON | 3,990' | Min Temp (F) | 29.1 | 21.9 | 23.4 | 25.5 | 20.5 | 23.7 |
| | | Max Temp | 42.6 | 36.5 | 33.8 | 33.6 | 39.9 | 39.4 |

| 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 |
|----------|-----------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | (F) Avg Temp (F) Year to date precipitation (inches) | 35 60.4 | 30.7 63.8 | 28.2 69.6 | 30.2 77.3 | 28.4 81.7 | 32.3 86.3 |
| CALAMITY | 2500' | Avg Snow Depth (inches) | 0 | 0 | 13 | 22 | 18.7 | 17.7 |
| | | Min Temp (F) | 33.8 | 32.5 | 29.1 | 31.3 | 23.7 | 28 |
| | | Max Temp (F) | 47.7 | 41.2 | 40.3 | 36.3 | 36.1 | 43.5 |
| | | Avg Temp (F) Year to date precipitation (inches) | 40.2 42.1 | 35.6 44.5 | 32.8 52.2 | 33.4 54.6 | 29.1 54.8 | 36 59.2 |
| | | Snowpack % of Avg Snow Water Equivalent | 12/07/2012 | 12/14/2012 | 12/21/2012 | 12/28/2012 | 01/04/2013 | 01/11/2013 |
| | | JUNE LAKE | no data | no data | 180% | 134% | no data | no data |
| | | SPIRIT LAKE | no data | 200% | 410% | 134% | 447% | 371% |
| | | SHEEP CANYON | 86% | 91% | 151% | 165% | 170% | 184% |

REGION 6

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Western Snowy Plovers: Biologist Hoenes completed and submitted the State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) Environmental Checklist that is required by state law prior to the initiation of proposed predator control efforts in areas where western snowy plovers (*Charadrius nivosus*) nest. Biologist Hoenes also finalized a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Fund proposal to secure the funding that is necessary to implement predator control. Predator control efforts are being initiated because the Pacific coast population of the western snowy plover is federally listed as threatened, and is listed as endangered in Washington State. Western snowy plover populations in Washington continue to persist below recovery objectives and predation has been identified as the primary factor limiting population growth. Although a number of species are potential predators, American (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and common ravens (*Corvus corax*) are the primary predators of snowy plovers in Washington. In response to the effects of predation on snowy plover recovery efforts, WDFW plans to implement lethal predator control efforts to improve snowy plover fecundity and survival.

Wildlife Areas

Lower Dungeness Unit: Manager Guzlas met with acting Lands Division Manager Cope and Amy Windrope to set up the “Restoration Framework” for Region 6 projects. This process will be implemented for the 3 Crabs Restoration on the newly purchased parcel located at the Lower Dungeness Unit. Over the next few weeks Manager Guzlas will work to develop this process specific to Region 6 issues and will work with the RMT and Regional Director Culver to develop an appropriate review team.

The Restoration Framework will be utilized to review possible restoration projects on WDFW being brought to the agency by outside entities such as the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG) and Tribes.

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

Private Lands/Access

Security Meeting: Biologist Harris attended the “Security Information Sharing Group meeting” last week. This is a meeting of industrial forestland security personnel and law enforcement agencies where they share information on current problems. Overall things have quieted down since the hunting seasons are pretty much over. Equipment vandalism is still a big problem and wood left is still at epidemic levels. Some had questions for WDFW on cougar behavior as their contractors have had several recent observations of curious cougars that cause them to be nervous. WDFW was well represented showing that we have a strong interest in problems they are dealing with. Captain Brinson, Sergeant Nixon and Officer James were also in attendance.

Clearwater Cooperative Road Closure: Biologist Harris assisted volunteers with the removal of the remote cameras system last weekend. Due to the unusual amount of snow this winter, Eyes in the Woods members were unable to recover the equipment on their last attempt. They reached out to their members and WDFW master hunters for people who own snow machines and are highly experienced riders. One of the master hunters is a member of the “Cascade Drift Skippers” snow mobile club. He obtained assistance from another member of the club, along with four hunters from the Arlington area with snow machines to provide insight during the planning phase. Six volunteers stayed at the WDFW Cabin and four others had access to a cabin on the Hoh River. Retired Region 6 Regional Program Manager Jack Smith and his wife participated on Saturday. Equipment recovery started Saturday morning with teams going to their assigned roads. Due to the snow and windfall, teams had to first open a safe trail to the camera equipment. Once the trail was opened the equipment was recovered. The good planning by the volunteers helped complete this project safely and efficiently. The project included multiple volunteer groups and is just another example of the great service they provide to WDFW.

Volunteers reported seeing lots of elk that were using the closed roads as bedding areas. One bear was observed on Soleks Ridge. The weather was absolutely fabulous allowing for some great views of the Olympics and the surrounding area.



Volunteers headed out to recover remote camera equipment on Sunday morning. Due to their good planning and cooperative effort, the volunteers safely and efficiently recovered the equipment, exemplifying once again the great service they provide to WDFW.