

Wildlife Program

Week of September 9-15, 2013

SCIENCE DIVISION

GOAL 4: BUILD AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION BY SUPPORTING OUR WORKFORCE, IMPROVING BUSINESS PROCESSES, AND INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY

Poster Presentations: Lori Salzer worked with Web Development Manager John Burrows to create a new publication section on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) website. Future plans are to include PowerPoint presentations and video webinars. If you have something you would like included in this section, please send it to Lori. Poster Presentations are now available to view and download at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/research/posters.html>.

ServiceNow Software: The Wildlife Science Division with lots of help from Max Pham in IT Services is launching a new application to help manage support requests using the ServiceNow software. The app will allow the Division to track the number of active projects and tasks (including O&M, major projects, and ad hoc) that staff are working on, and summarize into reports. The app will help the Division ensure that work is scheduled efficiently and address priority needs of the program and Agency.

The graphics below illustrates the type of data that will be collected and example reports based on the type of requests that are received by Science Division staff.

The screenshot displays a ServiceNow form titled "Wildlife Request". The form includes several required fields (indicated by a red exclamation mark) and optional fields. The fields are organized into two columns. The left column contains: Number (text input), Requesting Workgroup (dropdown menu with "-- None --" selected), Requestor (text input with a search icon), Start Date (calendar icon), Geographic Region (dropdown menu with "-- None --" selected), Request Type (dropdown menu with "-- None --" selected), and Primary Subject Matter (dropdown menu with "-- None --" selected). The right column contains: Status (dropdown menu with "-- None --" selected), Project (text input with a search icon), Agency Goals (dropdown menu with "-- None --" selected), Escalation (dropdown menu with "Moderate" selected), Priority (dropdown menu with "3 - Moderate" selected), and Wildlife Assignment Group (icon with a person). Below these columns are two text input fields: "Short description:" and "Description:". At the bottom of the form, there are three more fields: "Due Date:" (calendar icon), "Estimated Time (days):" (text input), and "Actual Time Spent (days):" (text input). A "Closed Date:" field with a calendar icon is also present. A "Submit" button is located at the bottom left of the form.

Welcome: Dwight Pierce Logout

Type filter text Go to Updated

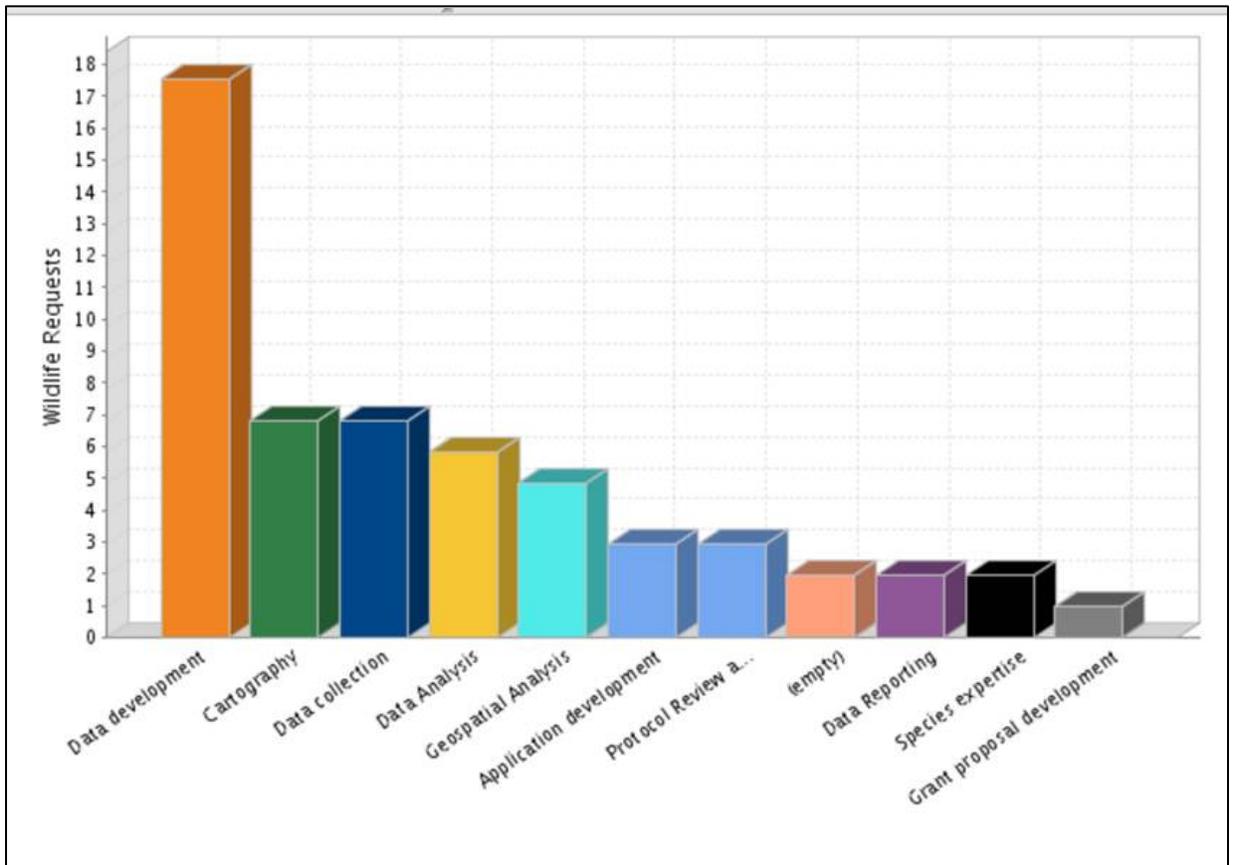
Wildlife Science

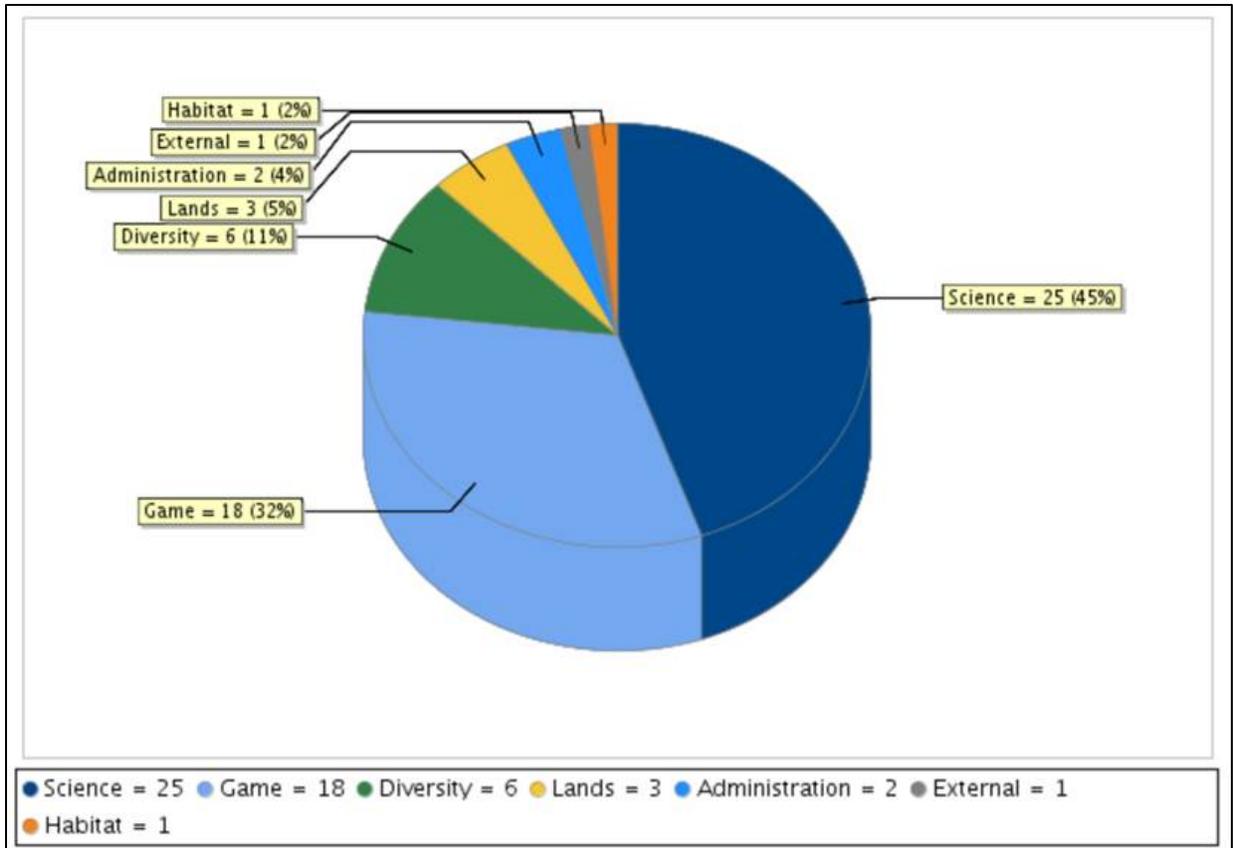
- Create New Request
- Wildlife Requests
- Create New Project
- Wildlife Projects
- Wildlife Team Matrix

Self-Service

- Social IT

Updated	Short description	Assigned to	Status	Closed Date	Primary Subject Matter	Requesting
2013-09-10 13:24:32	Assist with Big Horn Sheep Analysis	Andrew Duff	Active/Assigned		Geospatial Analysis	Game
2013-09-04 10:57:00	SGCN Revisions	Dwight Pierce	Active/Assigned		Species expertise	Diversity
2013-08-28 11:51:31	Reorganize L:\programs\wildlife\gis\hunts	John Talmadge	Active/Assigned		Protocol Review and Development	Science
2013-08-28 11:46:42	Reorganize the L:\programs\wildlife\gis\wla directory	John Talmadge	Active/Assigned		Protocol Review and Development	Science
2013-08-28 08:52:44	Reorganize the L:\programs\wildlife\gis\real_estate directory.	John Talmadge	Active/Assigned	2013-09-02	Protocol Review and Development	Science
2013-08-27 15:19:08	Maintain and Enhance WSDM Tools and Upgrades	Andrew Duff	Active/Assigned		Application development	Science
2013-08-27 14:47:20		Lori Salzer	Active/Assigned			Science
2013-08-27 11:33:21	WGA CHAT GIS tool development and data integration	Brian Cosentino	Active/Assigned		Geospatial Analysis	Science
2013-08-27 09:43:02	Provide road layers to Jen Watkins, Conservation Northwest	Brian Cosentino	Active/Assigned		Data development	External
2013-08-27 09:40:59	WHCWG Columbia Plateau Phase II data posting to web	Brian Cosentino	Active/Assigned		Data development	Science
2013-08-27 09:40:24	Base layer metadata compilation and project report appendix	Brian Cosentino	Active/Assigned		Data development	Science
2013-08-27 09:37:45	Move bathymetry data to GeoSpatial portal	Brian Cosentino	Active/Assigned		Data development	Science





REGION 1

Wolf Management

District 1: District staff Prince and Roussin investigated three point clusters from a radio-collared wolf in the Smackout territory. No kills were found, but two bed sites were located.

Biologist Prince and Officer Parkert responded to a possible wolf attack on a domestic dog near Republic. The dog survived with multiple injuries. The cause of the injuries is undetermined due to lack of evidence at the scene; a rain event cleared all tracks. The dog owner will put up remote cameras and keep us informed of his findings.



Biologist Prince next to a wolf bed site (circled in red).

Specialist Shepherd placed remote cameras near the site of an alleged large canine attack on a thoroughbred colt near Sherman Pass that he, Officer Anderson and Sheriff Allen responded to the previous week. The determination was injuries occurred from an unknown cause.

Specialist Shepherd and Private Lands Technician Bendixen met with landowners in Harvey Creek to discuss deer and potential wolf depredation. Remote cameras were deployed.

Specialist Shepherd and a local rancher put on a range rider and wolf–cattle interaction presentation for Region 3 in Goldendale, WA. Approximately 25 ranchers, land managers, WDFW employees, and law enforcement personnel attended.

Specialist Shepherd met with and discussed payments, range riding, wolf observations, and hazing opportunities with contract holders and volunteer and paid range riders. Specialist Shepherd discussed range riding and wolf observations with federal grazing allotment permit operators within the Smackout and potentially the Huckleberry wolf territories.

Bendixen and Shepherd responded to a potential wolf depredation issue in southern Stevens County, two cameras were deployed.

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Pre-Season Deer Surveys -- northeast Washington: District biological staff continued this year's late summer deer classification counts. This week four surveys were carried out on standardized transects within Game Management Units (GMUs) 101–121.



Pre-Season Deer Surveys -- Spokane District: Biologist Atamian completed the South Mica Peak, Camden, and Texas Lake deer survey route for September. Fawn numbers were normal (~70 per 100 doe) for all routes, but overall deer numbers were down for Mica and Camden.

Pre-Season Deer Surveys -- Blue Mountains District: Assistant District Biologist Vekasy continued September deer surveys, a repeat of August surveys but with focus on fawn:doe ratios. Routes were completed near Whiskey Creek, McKay Creek, Wolf Fork, Whetstone, Patit, and Tucannon. So far, fawn ratios have improved over August surveys with 53:100 mule deer, and 54:100 white-tails. Adult bucks have been noticeably absent with beginning of archery season and lots of hunters afield.

District Biologist Wik conducted two deer surveys in GMU 181 this week. Multiple contacts were made with landowners and sportsmen during the surveys.

REGION 2

Wolf Management

Nothing to report.

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Areas

Fall Aerial Herbicide Application: Wildlife Area staff spent the week in support of the annual fall aerial herbicide application. The helicopter and pilot from Central Valley Helicopter applied herbicides to 1,380 acres across the Columbia Basin Wildlife Area over four long days; Wildlife Area staff provided the herbicides, traffic control and application sites to the helicopter pilot. Target weeds include Phragmites, Russian Olives, and Rush Skeletonweed.



Left: Helicopter and mix truck. Right: New Phragmites infestation (circle section) at Winchester Lake.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECONOMY, PROTECT COMMUNITY CHARACTER, MAINTAIN AN OVERALL HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Wildlife Management

District 5 -- Weekender Opportunities: The youth hunt is coming up this weekend (September 21-22). Many grassroots organizations provide youth hunting opportunities during this time, such as the Columbia Basin Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and Washington Waterfowl Association. If you've got a youth you're interested in introducing to the sport of hunting, you may be interested in the following resources:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/ColumbiaBasinPF>

<http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/outdoors/tags/ducks-unlimited/>

<http://www.waduck.org/youth.htm>

Wildlife Areas

Columbia Basin Wildlife Area – Road Closure: Water undermined one of the Moses Lake outlet water control structures, causing sink holes to open up in Sand Dunes Road. The Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District drove sheet piling between the lake and the outlet structure for a coffer dam, and closed and gated Sand Dunes Road. The road closure is expected to extend into October.

Rocky Ford Foot Bridge: Access Management staff constructed and installed a new approach to the wooden foot bridge at the Rocky Ford Hatchery Access Site. Shoreline erosion had taken a toll on the old approach and abutment, creating a safety hazard. The aluminum foot bridge, approximately a half-mile downstream, remains closed with repairs beyond our capabilities.



Before



After



Aluminum Foot Bridge

REGION 3

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management



A successful LHP youth hunter poses with his bull.

Landowner Hunting Permits (LHP): Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand coordinated with LHP cooperators on scheduling and conducting special permit elk hunts at Silver Dollar and Blackrock LHPs. One of the youth hunters at Silver Dollar harvested a nice 5x5 bull elk this past week. He also had an earlier opportunity at an even larger bull.

Wildlife Areas

Fire and Flood Aftermath:

The Colockum Wildlife Area staff spent most of the week cleaning up and repairing the Headquarters area from the fire and flooding events of the summer. A retaining wall was built around the spring box to protect it from future sediment runoff and an excavator was rented to remove the old barn foundation and assist with general cleanup of the area. Earlier in the week, staff replaced the green dot



markers along roadways that were lost to the Colockum Tarps fire. New signs were also put up around the Coffin Game Reserve in preparation of the fall hunting season.



The Restoration Committee toured portions of the Colockum Tarps fire footprint to assess habitat impacts and prioritize restoration activities. The warm temperatures and recent rain storms, while excessive, have kick-started fall green-up. Many burned slopes are showing good grass emergence and riparian shrubs have 1-2' growth of stump-sprouts. The Committee will continue forward with seed purchase for riparian bottoms and dozer lines.



Left: Riparian shrub re-sprouting. Right: New grass growth on burned slopes.

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: A major thunderstorm on September 9 caused landslides and road damage that closed eight miles of access road on the south side of Cleman Mountain, within the Oak Creek Wildlife Area. Lower portions of the Garrett Canyon Road are completely gone and beyond repair. Other access, from the top of Cleman Mountain, should be restored in a few weeks.



Flood damage on Garrett Canyon Road has made the road impassable to vehicles, depositing tons of rocks and debris while removing all dirt and finer material.



Flood damage to Garrett Canyon Road higher up the slope caused severe gullies going down the road.

REGION 4

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Highway 20 Elk issues: Biologist DeBruyn worked with Biologist McAllister, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and Nathan Rice, graduate student from Western Washington University (WWU) to identify locations to erect signs on Highway 20 to warn motorists of high risk areas for elk/vehicle collisions. Locations were based on records of previous collisions as well as work done to identify elk trails crossing the road. The new signs with solar powered flashing lights were allocated by WSDOT as a direct result of meetings held by the elk working group. DeBruyn also assisted Rice with putting up cameras to identify areas where elk are crossing safely.

State Listed Common Loon Efforts: Biologist Smith checked on the active territory at Calligan Lake. The territorial pair was observed, but did not exhibit behavior indicative of care for chicks. The suspected chick from earlier nesting activities may have been predated. Smith also constructed closed cell foam-filled ABS pipe floats to be retrofitted to loon nest platforms to improve buoyancy, as the platforms have become water saturated after several years of service.



Sunrise on Calligan Lake observed during Loon territory check this week.

Waterfowl Trapping and Banding: Biologist DeBruyn removed all duck traps and grain from trapping sites in advance of the coming waterfowl hunting season. DeBruyn also completed and submitted banding schedules to the waterfowl section for mallards and band-tailed pigeons.

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

Wildlife Areas

Skagit Agricultural Enhancement and Lease Program: Natural Resources Specialist Greg Meis coordinated with a local farmer to leave an additional two acres of corn on Leque Island

Unit to replace crops planted for WDFW that were not satisfactory. Natural Resources Specialist Meis measured and flagged the corn to be left standing as replacement.

Island Unit: Natural Resources Tech Curran Cosgrove disked Fireman's fields on the Island Unit before the heavy rains.

Manager Belinda Rotton received Skagit County Shoreline permitting awaiting Army Corp of Engineers permit for the ditch maintenance project on the Island Unit.

Manager Rotton and Natural Resources Specialist Meis toured the Island Unit to monitor plantings and other progress made this year with the assistance of a volunteer.



Corn, barley and millet plantings in the Lorenzen field of the Skagit Wildlife Area Island Unit.

Samish Unit: Manager Rotton and Natural Resources Tech Cosgrove monitored crop, water and field conditions on the Samish Unit. Cosgrove completed field and pond mowing on the site in final prep for the upcoming hunting season. Natural Resources Specialist Meis met with volunteers from Washington Waterfowl Association to provide materials for their work party weekend to install two shell receptacles and complete another duck hunting blind.

Pheasant Release program: Natural Resources Specialist Meis and Natural Resource Tech Cosgrove continued preparations for the pheasant season general opener at the Bow Hill Road site. Approximately a quarter-mile of barbwire fence along Shadle Road was taken down with the assistance of volunteers. The parking area was fenced and mowed. Large wood barriers were placed to block access on the southern part of property.

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm worked this week to prepare the pheasant pens for the upcoming pheasant release program. Manager Boehm and volunteer Mark Ryder assessed the condition of the pens and delivery truck. The delivery truck is in poor operating condition

and is currently in the shop for diagnostics and potential repairs to the brake system and hydraulic lift system.

The pens themselves are also in need of a lot of maintenance and repair work that will continue this coming week. Pheasants are due to arrive on Thursday, September 19. Manager Boehm has recruited a small team of volunteers who are interested in delivering pheasants to the Wildlife Areas, but is still searching for more.

Whatcom Wildlife Area Manager Kessler held a coordination meeting with volunteers for this year's pheasant releases. The meeting was well attended. All together there are 24 pheasant release volunteers on the schedule for this year.

Ebey Island Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm conducted invasive weed control on this unit. Targeted species included knotweed, blackberry, butterfly bush, and purple loosestrife. Most of the species were bordering parking areas and confined to small patches. Large stands of knotweed growing along the dikes are being treated by a contractor for the Dike District. Additionally, Manager Boehm met with the grazing lease holder to discuss the plan for moving cattle off of the unit and the upcoming hunting season.

Stillwater Wildlife Area: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm worked with a volunteer to mow walking paths for improved hunter access. Manager Boehm continues to recruit additional volunteers for project work on this unit.

Tennant Lake Boardwalk: Manager Kessler met onsite with the Whatcom County Parks managers to tour and discuss the Tennant Lake Boardwalk project. We have secured \$170,000 RCO funding for the project.

British Petroleum (BP) Farming: Manager Kessler completed posting the new Safety Zone on the BP Unit to protect the new railroad off-loading site adjacent to the refinery.

Wildlife Area Reader Boards: Manager Kessler completed updating the reader boards on all units of the wildlife area where hunting occurs.

Private Lands/Access

Bow Hill Pheasant Parking: Natural Resource Tech Otto met with fence contractor and assisted in temporary fence install for the parking area. Otto also sprayed the parking area for weeds in preparation for line striping next week.

GMU 418 Muzzleloader Key Pick-Up: Natural Resource Tech Otto made arrangements and met with hunters to give them keys for access on private timberlands for the GMU 418 hunt.

Skagit Washington Waterfowl Association: Natural Resource Tech Otto attended the Tuesday evening of the Waterfowl association meeting in Conway. Otto discussed the upcoming Waterfowl Quality Hunt sites for the 2013-14 season and answered questions.



The new Mueller Access sign at south WDFW Penn Cove.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECONOMY, PROTECT COMMUNITY CHARACTER, MAINTAIN AN OVERALL HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Wildlife Conflict: Conflict Specialist Griffith and Biologist DeBruyn spent the first part of this week preparing for and participating in the North Cascades Elk Working Group Damage Committee meeting. The meeting was held on September 10 and was attended by local landowners and representatives,



The first meeting of the North Cascades Elk Management Group's Damage Committee - Photo by Russell Link.

Senator Pearson and staff, WDFW Commissioner Larry Carpenter, WDFW regional and

headquarters staff, and Stillaguamish Wildlife Police. Committee participants discussed current WDFW tools for elk damage management, including tools that have and haven't worked, suggested ways to improve and expand tools, and developed ideas for new and experimental approaches. Damage Committee members will continue to work on and prioritize these ideas, and will share progress with the Work Group at the meeting on September 26.

The meeting was well attended, productive, and all participants were very engaged in the process. The group developed a list of tasks and one member volunteered as point of contact that will coordinate directly with Specialist Griffith. The committee will meet again on September 26 and October 10.

Specialist Griffith responded to two elk complaints and one deer complaint this week. One of the elk complaints is for a potato producer in Skagit County. Griffith is assisting him with filing a damage claim. The remaining elk and deer complaints are on non-commercial properties and Specialist Griffith provided technical guidance and is working on experimental deer hazing with one producer.

Private Lands/Access

Contract Signing Whidbey Island: Natural Resource Tech Otto met with multiple landowners on Whidbey Island to sign new three-year contracts for deer and pheasant hunting along with a diversity/watchable wildlife site. Otto also issued one A19 payment form.

GMU 418 Unit Monitor: Natural Resource Tech Otto toured parts of GMU 418 checking for any issues. Otto found one gate that was left open that is typically closed. Otto contacted the timber company to see if they knew it was open before leaving the area. The timber company advised Otto to close and secure the gate as they have been having problems with unauthorized people accessing that system. They suspect a contractor from another timber company entering the area. They will be installing cameras in the area in the near future.

Wildlife Areas

Headquarter Unit: Natural Resource Specialist Meis sprayed alder trees at Headquarters Unit Dike Trail with assistance from a technician from the North Sound Weed Crew.

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm distributed a task list and request for local volunteers to assist with field work that is needed to be completed for this coming hunting season. Through numerous Citizen Advisory Group meetings targeting specific user groups, Manager Boehm explained that volunteer labor needs to be a part of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager's "tool box." Manager Boehm was pleased to hear from four different groups or individuals so far who are interested in volunteering at the Wildlife Areas.

Port of Bellingham Wetland Enhancement Project: Manager Kessler coordinated with the Port of Bellingham managers on the Wetland Enhancement project on the Tennant Lake Unit. Summer watering of the planted vegetation has completed.

Friends of Tennant Lake & Hovander Park: Manager Kessler attended the monthly meeting of the Friends of Tennant Lake & Hovander Park.

GOAL 4: BUILD AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION BY SUPPORTING OUR WORKFORCE, IMPROVING BUSINESS PROCESSES, AND INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY



Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Managers conducted tours of Wildlife Area Units for visiting WDFW staff Russell Link, Clay Sprague and Lisa Nelson. Everyone in attendance agreed that the tour was a very effective way to discuss issues, concerns and plans for the Wildlife Areas.

Damage Tours: Biologists Anderson and Smith accompanied Officer Krenz on a tour of areas subject to damage from recurring visits by elk or bears in the Green River Watershed and Kent Valley areas. This tour was in keeping with the transition of damage complaint duties from Enforcement to the Wildlife Program and the coming retirement of Officer Krenz.

Wetland Ecology and Management Training Workshop: Manager Rotton continued coordinating with Waterfowl Program Manager Don Kraege and Dr. Leigh Fredrickson in preparation for the Wetland Ecology and Management training workshop on September 17-19, 2013.

Aircraft Ditching, Egress, and Emergency Breathing Device Training: Assistant District Biologist Cyra and Waterfowl Survey and Sea Duck Specialist Evenson travelled to Groton, CT to attend an aircraft ditching and egress training provided by Survival Systems. Survival Systems

has developed a modular dunker system (METS) that is in wide use among the off-shore oil companies as well as military aviation units. The METS can be configured to accurately represent a number of types of commonly used aircraft and is much more robust and realistic than commonly available training. This training was acquired to bolster the survival training necessary for crews performing extensive low-altitude, over-water aerial surveys; additionally, the training was used to evaluate the use of the METS for future Department training. Previous attempts to coordinate training with METS equipped military facilities operated locally by the Air Force in Spokane and the Navy at Whidbey Island had been fruitless. In addition, training was obtained in Emergency Breathing Device use. These small scuba-type air bottles provide 20 or so breaths of air, and allows for more time, less panic, and clearer thinking in the event of an inverted submerged ditching.

The training was highly useful and comments and recommendations will be forwarded to the Program aircraft safety committee.



Photos courtesy of Survival Systems USA, Inc. www.survivalsystemsinc.com



Photos courtesy of Survival Systems USA,
Inc. www.survivalsystemsinc.com



REGION 5

None

REGION 6

None