

# Wildlife Program

Week of May 4 – May 10, 2015

## WOLF ACTIVITIES

### Headquarters Wolf Activities

**Smackout Scouting:** Checked traps daily and scouted for additional wolf sign within Smackout territory.

**Capture and Collar:** Captured and collared one additional new wolf in Smackout territory and communicated that and what I have been observing in the area to livestock producers and appropriate agency staff.

**Smackout Traps:** Removed traps from Smackout territory.

**Dirty-Shirt Scouting:** Spent one day checking traps and scouting for wolf sign within the Dirty-Shirt territory.

**Carpenter Ridge Wolf Sign Report:** Spent most of a day investigating a report of wolf sign within Carpenter Ridge territory.

**Suspected Den Report:** Investigated a report of dead pups at a suspected den site in NE Washington. The den was located and determined to be a coyote den.

**Scouting Uncollared Pack:** Placed and checked several remote cameras and gained significant insight into the current makeup and distribution of an uncollared pack in Northeastern Washington.

### Region 1 Wolf Activities

**Senior Staff Video Conference:** Supervisor McCanna attended the Monday senior staff meeting with Regional Wildlife Program Manager Robinette and Regional Director Pozzanghera to inform Olympia staff about wolf packs in Region 1.

**Wildlife Claim Conference Call:** Conflict Specialists Shepherd, Bennett, and McCanna participated on the domestic loss claims conference call.

**Range Rider Conference Call:** Supervisor McCanna participated on the range rider conference call and also went over the agenda for the upcoming range rider training.

**Range Rider Contract:** Biologist Shepherd participated in a call that discussed the applications received for contract range riders.

**Stevens County Cattlemen's Meeting:** Biologist Shepherd attended the Stevens County Cattlemen's Association meeting and discussed wolves, trapping, working groups, and other predators.

**District Team Meeting:** Natural Resource Technician Wade attended the District 3 team meeting and helped Conflict Specialist Rasley with the wolf update portion of the meeting.

**Umatilla Forest Grazing:** Natural Resource Technician Wade met with the range manager of the forest to gather more maps of the grazing allotments that will begin in June.

## **WILDLIFE DIVERSITY DIVISION**

### ***GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE***

**Landscape Conservation:** Section Manager Cynthia Wilkerson attended the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Collaborative Steering Committee meeting as the Director's Representative from May 6-7th. The meeting, held in Walla Walla, included discussion of place-based landscape conservation collaboration and success in the Blue Mountains region, and a funding discussion including a decision of how to allocate \$700,000 of funds to strategic shared science and capacity projects.

**Red Knot Migration Project:** Partners from Alaska and Mexico joined Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for a second consecutive year to study red knot migration at Grays Harbor. One hundred and fifty-five red knots were captured, and radio transmitters were attached to 50 knots to investigate site use and length-of-stay at the Copper and Bering river deltas, south of Anchorage, Alaska, and the Yukon-Kuskokwim River Delta in western Alaska. As of May 10<sup>th</sup>, 21 of the transmitters had been detected at the Copper River Delta and vicinity in Alaska. The red knot is a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Alaska and Washington and the Pacific Flyway population is placed in the Immediate Management Action category (the next category following that for ESA-listed taxa) in the list of Shorebirds of Conservation Concern released by the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Partnership in 2015. Information collected in Washington indicates that Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay support the largest aggregations of spring migrant red knots between overwintering areas – apparently in northwestern Mexico – and stopover areas in Alaska. Project participants represented several organizations: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska (Jim Johnson, Luke DeCicco, Nick Hajdukovich); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon (Vanessa Loverti); Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur, La Paz, Mexico (faculty member Victor Ayala, recent graduate Adriana Hernandez); volunteers Bill Kellington, Elizabeth Parr, and Charlie Wright; and WDFW staff (Joe Buchanan, Lori Salzer, Brian Cosentino, Paul DeBruyn, Steve Desimone, Sean Dougherty, Brooke George, Les Holcomb, Kevin Kalasz, Susan Lasiter, Jeff Lewis, Warren Michaelis, Russ Nunez, Nicholle Stephens, Derek Stinson, Gary Wiles, and Matt Wilson. Project partners responsible for collecting telemetry data in Alaska include Mary Anne Bishop (Prince William Sound Science Center, Cordova) and Brian McCaffery (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bethel).

*This red knot was captured and banded at Grays Harbor on May 1<sup>st</sup>, subsequently detected there through May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and was photographed at the Copper River Delta, Alaska, on May 6<sup>th</sup> by Milo Burcham. The transmitter and antenna (which is visible extending beyond the bird's tail feathers) will fall off in about two months.*



## **REGION 1**

### ***GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE***

#### **Wildlife Management**

**Pend Oreille County Grizzly Bear Response:** Wildlife Officer Severin Erickson received reports of a grizzly bear on the Kalispel Reservation last Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at about 19:00 hours. Officer Erickson responded, talked to eye witnesses, and was shown a video of the bear, which confirmed it to be a grizzly. It appeared that the bear was still on the reservation as of that night and was last seen alongside the Pend Oreille River. A report was received that this bear had gotten into a chicken coop on the Reservation the previous night and fed on chicken feed, but not on any chickens. The grizzly was also observed by citizens walking along a county road in the Reservation. One report said that a kid riding a bike had a close encounter and two kids fishing were picked up by concerned citizens as the bear was approaching their location from a couple hundred yards away on Saturday. The bear on the video appeared unafraid of the person photographing it while she was inside a car about 20-30 feet away. Others passing by stopped their cars to take pictures of the bear. Officer Erickson was concerned for the safety of the bear if it decided to stay on the Reservation due to the amount of people, amount of unsecured attractants, and a captive buffalo herd that recently calved. The bear had not shown any signs of aggression, but it also was not afraid of people either. After conferring with biologists (including Bart George, Kalispel Tribe, Wayne Kasworm, USFWS, Dana Base, WDFW, and others) as well as Kalispel Tribal Police, Officer Erickson decided that the best course of action would be to try and trap the bear for relocation. If captured, USFWS personnel would come assist with radio-collaring and release of the bear. On Sunday Officer Erickson set a culvert trap suitable for grizzly bears on the Reservation where the bear was last seen. That evening Officer Erickson got a telephone call that the bear was in someone's yard around 22:00 hours where about seven people saw it. They shined flashlights on the bear and reported that it seemed unafraid of them. The location was south of the Kalispell Reservation about 5.5 miles as the crow flies from the trap and its last known location. Other residents in the area later reported seeing the bear in their yards as well. All reports were similar to the first in that this bear seemed unafraid but not aggressive and moving through at a steady walk. Many had garbage cans unsecured but there were no reports of this bear getting into any. It did eat corn in one yard that had been put out for

“wildlife”. Wildlife Conflict Specialist Jay Shepherd spent Monday night patrolling the vicinity and spotlighting fields but did not locate the grizzly bear.

**Black Bear Trapping:** On Thursday a bear (unknown species) got into some beehives north of the Kalispel Reservation. That bear was reportedly a grizzly bear, though no tracks could be located to corroborate that. Multiple black bear tracks were found at the site. Hives were scattered for ~100 meters into the woods and it was clear that the bear (s) had been active in that area for at least a couple days. The trap was moved to that location and checked through the weekend by the Kalispel Tribe. Pictures from a trail camera from later that evening show a large black bear at the hives. He triggered the trap but was not captured. On Saturday morning, Tribal staff captured a sow black bear that had three cubs and released her at the site. They hazed her away from the trap site and she has not returned. Tribal staff continue to man the trap in coordination with WDFW and USFWS.

**Lincoln Cliffs Bighorn Sheep:** Biologists Lowe and Oyster continued ground telemetry on bighorn sheep in the Lincoln and Whitestone areas to monitor lamb production and survival. Lowe managed data and coordinated with volunteers assisting with lamb monitoring over the weekend. So far, eleven lambs have been observed in both the Lincoln and Whitestone groups, and five of the eight radio-collared ewes have lambed.



*Whitestone Rock on the shore of Lake Roosevelt, where several of the Lincoln Cliffs ewes have had their lambs*

### **Private Lands/Wildlife Conflict**

**Habitat Restoration:** Biologist Lewis continued to check on habitat restoration plantings. Lewis checked several forb/wildflower plantings in western Whitman County. There is some forb germination at the sites, but the area is very dry and the seedlings will need to get some moisture soon.

Lewis also worked with a landowner in the Hay area on preparing the land for a fall forb planting.

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

**Wildlife Management**

**National Pheasant Coordinator Conference Call:** Supervisor McCanna participated on the second and final conference call with Nebraska director Jim Douglas to finalize the job announcement for the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan Coordinator.

**Wildlife Areas**

**Kiosk maintenance:** Young installed new signage and plexiglas on the kiosk at the Horseshoe Lake access site, with the help of neighboring landowner Dick Anderson. The map of the West Branch Little Spokane WLA (WBLS) was provided by WAAM Daro Palmer.



**WT Wooten WA – Campgrounds:** NRW2 Christian mowed Campgrounds 1, 5, and 11 to make them look nicer and to reduce the fire danger for later in the summer.



***NRW2 Christian mowing Campground 5 to reduce the fire danger later this summer***

**Private Lands/Wildlife Conflict**

**Outreach/Cooperation:** Biologist Shepherd attended the Stevens County Cattlemen’s Association meeting and discussed wolves, trapping, working groups, and other predators.

**Cougar:** Biologist Earl, Natural Resource Technician Wade, Officer Sabo, and Officer Mossman responded Friday to a report of a cow calf being killed on Grouse Flats. The RP reported that he had placed trail cameras on the carcass and captured pictures of a cougar returning to feed. Upon arriving, Earl and Wade discovered the cached carcass, skinned the remaining portion of the carcass, and verified that it displayed massive neck trauma and puncture holes to the neck. Officer Mossman delivered a cougar trap to the site and recommended that it be set up. Enforcement will be on call over the weekend to respond if the trap is successful. Biologist Baarstad (acting for McCanna) enlisted Conflict Specialist Scott Rasley to assist Biologist Earl with some logistics of the investigation

by phone. The placement of the cougar trap resulted in the capture of a black bear, which was released by Enforcement staff. The trap was removed from the site. Biologist Earl attempted to contact hound hunters in the area throughout the weekend, as the cougar was expected to return to the kill site. Hound hunters were contacted early Monday morning and are expected to be deployed Monday afternoon.



*Neck trauma and puncture wounds to the trachea*



*Cougar feeding on calf carcass*



*Setting up cougar trap on Grouse Flats*

**REGION 2**

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

**REGION 3**

***GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT  
NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE***

**Wildlife Areas**

**LT Murray Wildlife Area:** Manager Winegeart and retired forester Doug Kuehn conducted a shrub-steppe song

bird survey on the Quilomene WLA. This survey is part of a cooperative state-wide effort between WDFW and the Audubon Society.

## **Wildlife Management**

**Burrowing Owls:** District Biologist Fidorra and a volunteer spent considerable time this week conducting site visits of artificial burrows installed for burrowing owls in District 4. Owl activity and burrow maintenance needs were assessed at all 121 artificial burrows. Sites with owl activity will be further monitored and considered for possible owl banding opportunities. Several sites were identified for possible expansion of the project.

**WildWatch Camera Site:** District Biologist Fidorra installed a new camera and cables at the Burrowing Owl WildWatch Camera site. The long term nest burrow was no longer active and the camera was placed on a nearby burrow entrance where ten owl eggs are being incubated inside.

**Public Calls:** District Biologist Fidorra received and resolved several calls from the public, including calls relating to an injured red-tailed hawk, removing a bee hive, dissuading nesting barn swallows, and other wildlife inquiries.

**Injured Bald Eagle:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand received a call from an acquaintance that was working in a remote southern Oregon area and located an injured adult bald eagle. With coordination from Blue Mountain Wildlife Rehab and Oregon Fish and Wildlife, the injured bird was successfully transported to Pendleton for care.

**Western Gray Squirrels:** Biologist Bernatowicz placed four transects and organized and re-labeled all pictures of habitat for each sample point.

**Bighorn Sheep:** Biologist Bernatowicz spent a day trying to determine which radioed ewes currently have lambs in the Yakima River Canyon. To date, only four ewes could conclusively be determined to have lamb. Lambing is just about over and large numbers are on the ground. It is time consuming and difficult to determine which lamb is with a specific ewe. Bernatowicz corresponded with Section Manager Harris and Oregon Biologist Cassier about the value of lamb ratios for radioed animals vs. the population as a whole.

**Mountain Goats:** Biologist Bernatowicz continued calling individuals with knowledge of mountain goat concentrations between I-90 and Highway 2. The Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance (RMGA) was contacted about volunteers and plans. RMGA would like to have a BBQ Sunday Evening, June 7 for all volunteers. We are tentatively planning on Easton Ponds for the BBQ.

**Umtanum / Selah Butte Bighorn Sheep:** Biologist Moore worked with Biologist Bernatowicz on bighorn sheep pneumonia monitoring in the Yakima River Canyon. This effort focused on collared ewes and their lambs to determine a spring lambs to ewe ratio. The spring data will be compared to a fall ratio to determine lamb survival for 2015.

**Western Gray Squirrels:** Biologist Moore preformed a first run GIS evaluation of ten western gray squirrel transects. Most of the sites were functional, but some needed to be adjusted to fulfill the parameters of the survey. Moore created waypoints for each transect and will start out to the field next week.

*Two western gray squirrel transects with waypoints evaluated near Liberty, WA*

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

**Wildlife Areas**

**Colockum Wildlife Area:** Illegal vehicle use on non-green dot roads is also obviously a major problem in the Stemilt Basin, with closed roads showing signs of heavy vehicle use. As the green dot system is designed, closed roads have no signs on them, but in this area many appear as well used roads. In one area a well-meaning person has even taken to posting their own signs to try to remedy the problem.



*A homemade sign posted on a stump on a non-green dot road in a newly acquired WDFW section, Stemilt Basin*



Assistant Manager Hagan continued sprucing up the green dot system, adding new green dot road markers as needed.

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

**Wildlife Areas**

**Sunnyside Wildlife Area:** Assistant Manager Buser and NRW2 Kaelber worked with a Boy Scout troop from the Tri-Cities to install a shrub planting project at Mesa Lake. The troop planted almost 200 shrubs at the work site.

***Boy Scouts planting shrubs at the Mesa Lake Unit***

**Colockum Wildlife Area:** Manager Lopushinsky attended a meeting of the Colockum Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to discuss the upcoming Memorial Day Work Weekend. We are still ironing out the details of where the group will camp and exactly what work they will do.



**Wildlife Management**

**Benton County Deer Damage:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand received a deer damage complaint from a grower in southern Benton County along the Columbia River. Over 1,000 newly planted cherry trees were browsed on and needed to be replaced. Propane cannons, hazing at night, and hunting during general and special permit seasons were some of the strategies used to reduce the damage. Additionally two kill permits were issued with the carcasses donated to the Union Gospel Mission.

**Franklin County Deer Damage:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand handled a damage complaint from a producer experiencing deer damage to an orchard in northern Franklin County. Several older trees in his orchard are being removed and replaced with younger varieties that the local deer are browsing. Several hazing techniques were discussed and will be implemented to minimize the damage impacts.



**Rattlesnake Hills Elk Activity:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand continues to monitor elk activity in the Rattlesnake Hills area. A trail camera set up along the Hanford border captured elk images nightly with over 650 images this past week. Most all images were recorded during the early morning hours between 12am-5am, including a picture of a collared cow. It is likely that the last time any elk were fitted with collars was in 2000.

***Collared Hanford Elk on private property***

**Nuisance Marmot:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand received a complaint from a homeowner of a nuisance marmot in the Benton City area. The marmot had taken up residency under the deck of their house and they were concerned it may compromise the integrity of the structure. The animal was successfully captured and released in a more favorable habitat.

**Benton Conservation Habitat Projects:** Stutzman did two field visits while working on the conservation plans for the Benton Conservation District habitat projects. Stutzman continued writing the plans for the district and should complete them this week.

**Franklin County Habitat Work:** Stutzman consulted with NRCS staff about the programs and practices available to improve range ground where seeding and SGI is not available. Stutzman made the request on behalf of a Franklin County landowner who is interested in improving wildlife habitat on their overgrazed, rocky, range ground.

**CP33 Condition:** Stutzman met with a Benton County landowner about the condition of his CP33 (Field Border for Upland Bird Habitat) stand that was planted last fall.

**Thorp Deer Conflict:** Conflict Specialist Wetzel made field visits to a landowner in Thorp that reported deer in her alfalfa fields. Over 30 deer were observed in her field. Herder Leuck and Conflict Specialist Wetzel have hazed deer several times each week in an effort to change deer use in the area. The landowner signed a DPCA and a pyrotechnics agreement.



***Fused rope placement near a timothy field edge receiving heavy deer use***

**Elk Hazing:** Conflict Specialist Wetzel and herder Leuck made several trips to haze elk from the Taneum Creek area. Several fences were broken and repaired by Leuck and Wetzel and a group of 40 elk have been using the area. A foxlight, fladry, and camera were set on the main creek crossing and fladry was placed on the Taneum ditch. Elk still appear to be crossing under the fladry.



***Repair of elk fence on the Taneum Ditch***



*Taneum Creek break in elk fence prior to fladry and foxlight placement. Based on trail camera images, elk continue to use this crossing area to access agriculture damage areas with fladry and lights in place.*

**Robinson Canyon Hayden Project:** Conflict Specialist Wetzel toured the Hayden Project at Robinson Canyon. Many elk reside in this nearly 1500 acre area, which is below the elk fence. These elk frequently depredate adjacent croplands. The manager of the

project entertained a discussion of herding, hazing, and possible lethal removals of elk in this area, which will help in reducing the growing number of elk that live on the valley side of the elk fence.

**Cougar Depredation:** A livestock owner in Yakima reported five goats killed by an unknown predator. Officer Meyers and Conflict Specialist Wetzel investigated and placed a cougar trap for three nights following the livestock attacks. The baited trap caught no cougars and was removed May 7. All indicators point to cougar predation for this incident.

*One of five goats killed near Yakima. All exhibited trauma to the throat area, with no bite marks, trauma, or punctures of the tail, nose, ears, legs, or flanks. Feeding occurred only on two of the goats and consisted of very neat shearing of tissues.*



***Removal of trap and bait at Yakima location***

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

**Wildlife Areas**

**Sunnyside Wildlife Area:** Manager Bjornstrom drove up to the Mesa Lake Unit to inspect damages caused by a controlled burn that the City of Mesa lost containment on. City of Mesa was burning off one of their holding ponds that lie adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Mesa Lake Unit when winds caused the fire to spread onto the hillside. Fire District 1 was called to the scene and put the fire out, but not before 6.5 acres of shrub-steppe was destroyed. Manager Bjornstrom called Fire District Chief Mauseth to request a fire report, City of Mesa for an explanation, and Mayor Ferguson to request a meeting. Manager Bjornstrom will be attending the City Council meeting for the City of Mesa this week to discuss the fire.



**Graffiti:** NRW2 Nnanabu also painted over graffiti at McGee Road parking lot and picked up garbage at the access sites.

***Vandalized signs at the McGee Road Access site***

**Oak Creek Wildlife Area:** Manager Huffman drove the new Polaris Ranger to check and download information from the vehicle counters in the NF Cowiche Creek

Area. Huffman also checked the Discover Pass and other signs posted at the entrance to the property. Surprisingly, three of the four disco signs were still in place. Huffman replaced the missing sign and also put up several “Keep Gate Closed” signs in anticipation of livestock turnout in June. On Ridge Road, Huffman found the elk fence gate off its hinges and wide open. Assistant Manager Berry had spent extensive time last fall repairing and rehangng the gate so it opens correctly. The gate will need to be brought back to the shop and new posts may need to be installed to further improve the gate so that people will use it instead of driving through it.



*Bent and damaged gate and hinge in elk fence on NF Cowiche Ridge Road. The area is heavily used by ORV users who do not want to open and close the gate.*



**Salmon Recovery Funding Board:**

Manager Huffman attended a site visit with Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (MCF), The US Forest Service (USFS), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to look at the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant to improve habitat on the SF Oak Creek on WDFW, USFS, and TNC ownership. The focus of the meeting was to determine equipment access points and locate sources of trees for the large wood replenishment.

**Incident Management Training:** Manager Huffman spent two days attending Type III Incident Management Team (IMT) training for wildland fire in Ellensburg. The meeting focused on rapid team building and coordination for Type III IMT fires.

**LT Murray Wildlife Area:** Manager Winegeart finished “cow off” monitoring on the Lower Parke pasture, and established 14 new forage utilization monitoring sites in the Upper Parke pasture. While in the Upper Parke pasture, Winegeart inspected a portion of the newly constructed boundary fence being installed by NW Fence Co. The fence looked to be well built and the crew stated they will likely be done by the middle of next week.

**LT Murray Road Inspection:** Assistant Manager Hunt inspected roads on the LT Murray, including new acquisition roads in T18N, R15E, Section 13, where we have received numerous reports of illegal wood cutting. There has been quite a bit of wood poaching going on in that area. Section 13 was gated off under Plum Creek ownership, and we plan to continue to leave it gated, but someone has been cutting locks and replacing them with private locks. Plum Creek staff warned us that this was an ongoing problem. The current steel gate had been pulled on until it broke, and we are awaiting repairs by Yakima Construction Shop to allow us to lock it back up.

**Winter Closure Sign Removal:** Assistant Manager Hunt removed the last of our winter closure signage at the upper Hutchins Road gate and the Robinson gate, which allow us seasonal management of the county road during winter feeding. He also checked on the time left on that MOU with Kittitas County after being asked about it by Fairpoint Communications staff contracting out fiber optic work in the area. The 2008 agreement was for 15 years, so we’re good till 2023.

**Colockum Wildlife Area:** Manager Lopushinsky and Assistant Manager Hagan attended a restoration tour in the Stemilt Basin with members of the Stemilt Partnership. The purpose of the trip was to visit lands recently acquired by Chelan County and WDFW from the

Weyerhaeuser Company. Portions of these lands were harvested prior to being sold, and the new owners have inherited the responsibility for reforestation. The group also looked at other issues needing attention, including fish passage problems and road maintenance needs.

*Stemilt Partnership members visit Chelan County's section 29 in the Stemilt Basin, recently acquired from the Weyerhaeuser Company*



**Colockum Wildlife Area Advisory**

**Committee:** The WDFW news release has gone out for recruitment of several new members to the Colockum Wildlife Area Advisory Committee. Several replies came in this week from interested parties.

**North Boundary Fence:** The contract fence crew finished up stringing new wire on the north boundary fence this week. All that remains is the installation of several gates and the construction portion of this project should be complete. The contractor still needs to remove nine miles of old wire removed from the burned fenceline.

**REGION 4**

**GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**Wildlife Management**

**Red Knot Banding Project:** Biologist DeBruyn helped out Diversity Division Biologists Buchanon and Salzer with the rocket netting of red knots on sand islands in Grays Harbor. The knots are in the process of migrating from their wintering grounds in Mexico to their breeding areas in Russia and Alaska. Biologists from Mexico and Alaska were also working on the project. 153 knots were captured, and all were banded and equipped with leg flags. Fifty were fitted with VHS radio transmitters. A knot captured earlier in the week (pictured below) was sighted near Cordova Alaska. Signals from 21 knots captured on May 6 were detected in Alaska on May 10.



*DeBruyn with Red Knot just prior to release*



**Common Loon Monitoring:** Biologist

Anderson surveyed six lakes for common loon activity. Three lakes with known use all had bird activity. Birds seem late this year. One lake had a pair going through nest site choices and patrolling shoreline. Two other lakes appeared to have male on territory at one lake with the female feeding on the adjacent lake. It may be they are in egg laying, but more monitoring is needed to determine and also locate where the nest may be. More bald eagles are being seen at sites this season.



*Pair of loons swimming on a lake in District 12*



*Adult bald eagle on nest*

**Citizen Amphibian Survey – WDFW and Woodland Park Zoo:** Biologist Anderson worked with Wildlife Survey Data Management group to examine amphibian data collected thus far this season, as well as in past seasons. All submitted both for this project and otherwise. Anderson received data last week and will be picking through it to examine findings and QA/QC, and will summarize mid-season for volunteers and collaborators.

**Wildlife Rehabilitation:** Biologist Anderson provided suggestions of release sites in King County for two bobcat kittens. The release of these animals needs to take into account area human recreation activity, habitat, potential for finding territory (as bobcat are common and

likely territorial animals just about anywhere in wildland areas and fringe), and avoiding placement in areas where unfamiliar animals may head towards easy pickings, such as area chicken coops. Anderson worked with Biologist Thompson and Officers Capelli and Moszeter to guide the rehabber to an optimal site given all considerations.

**Nooksack Elk Management:** Biologist Yarborough met with members of Puget Sound Energy to discuss future land acquisitions for elk foraging enhancement plots.

### **Wildlife Areas**

**Cherry Valley Unit:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm met with staff from Sound Salmon Solutions to discuss restoration planting and maintenance plans for the Waterwheel Creek Project. New funding from King County will provide up to ten additional acres of riparian planting as a continuation of the project. Sound Salmon Solutions is conducting volunteer-based planting events for the next three weeks and has completed maintenance mowing on last year's planting areas. Manager Boehm also continues to work collaboratively with the Drainage District on the repairs to the dike that breached in December 2014.



*Waterwheel Creek Planting*



*Waterwheel Creek Maintenance*

**Crescent Lake Unit:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm reports that 90 acres of winter wheat was harvested this week on the unit. The wheat provided forage for many swans, geese, and other wildlife over the past winter season. Field prep will continue after the harvest to transition from corn into grass for hay, as well as corn, barley, and wheat for wildlife forage and cover.

**Stillwater Wildlife Area:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm met with Frohning Dairy to discuss field preparation for approximately 80 acres of corn, barley, and grass this season. After discing and plowing, a pesticide application will follow targeting the wire worm infestation that occurred last season, impacting corn yields by up to 40%.

**Ebey Island Unit:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm met with staff from Sno-Valley Farms to discuss field location and planting plans for the middle and west portion of the



unit. Organic beans, corn, barley, millet, and winter wheat will be planted on approximately 150 acres of land. Approximately 30 acres will be retained for wildlife forage and cover.

*Natural Resource Tech Deyo continued trapping waterfowl on the Intalco Unit. Many more wood ducks and mallards were trapped and banded. Deyo worked with a neighboring landowner to the Lake Terrell Unit and started trapping there.*

**Herbicide Application on Lake Terrell Barley Fields:** Natural Resource Tech Deyo applied herbicides to two of the barley fields at Lake Terrell to kill invasive grasses. This is prep work for the upcoming barley plantings for winter waterfowl feeding.

*The agricultural lease holder worked to prep the 100 acre corn field on the Nooksack Unit. The farmer plants 100 acres of silage corn, then leaves 10 acres standing after harvest, for winter waterfowl feeding.*



### **Leque Island Alternatives Analysis**

**and Design Project:** Projects Coordinator Brokaw sent an update to tribal staff regarding the need for WDFW to secure funding to provide snow goose forage on a nearby property if an estuary project is implemented on Leque Island. This is needed to comply with requirements set forth in a grant contract with a funding source that was used to acquire a portion of Leque Island in the 1990s, and is also needed to meet program goals to provide walk-in waterfowl hunting opportunity. Additionally, Projects Coordinator Brokaw set up a time for a conference call with WDFW Public Affairs staff and Ducks Unlimited media relations staff to coordinate a communications plan with the media to announce the Leque Island decision on the preferred alternative after it is decided. He also began preparations for a briefing with Director Unsworth regarding the project and the Region 4 recommendation of the preferred alternative.

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

### **Wildlife Management**

**Mountain Goat Survey – Volunteer Effort:** Biologist Anderson worked on King County needs to coordinate Alpine Lake Wilderness Area and vicinity volunteer goat surveys in collaboration with Biologist Bernatowicz and Volsen on the east side. Anderson has been spending time discussing with collaborators and organizing foot routes, ensuring US Forest Service needs as it will be largely on federal lands, and lining up volunteer pass/access needs. Biologist Smith is taking the next step to provide route summaries, as the launch will happen in June. Anecdotally, all are seeing quite a few goats in areas not previously seen – this is a first effort to more broadly provide an index of current use through a baseline rough Visual Encounter survey effort.

**Stilly Valley Area Outdoor Recreation Roundtable:** Biologist Milner joined Regional Fish Program Manager Hoffman to attend the first meeting of the Stilly Valley Outdoor Recreation Roundtable. The goal of this group is to bring together partners from public, private, and non-profit organizations to enhance outdoor recreation in the Stillaguamish corridor. This would bring tourist and recreationist dollars to the communities that lie between Stanwood and Darrington.

**North Rainier Elk Herd Management Plan:** Biologist Smith spent time reading and commenting on part of the ongoing NREHMP revision. Smith also attended a meeting in Olympia where Tribal representatives and agency staff discussed segments of the plan.

**Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program:** Biologist Anderson examined data from our collaborator, National Wildlife Federation, to ensure accuracy before passing it along to our other collaborator – Woodland Park Zoo. More discussions are needed with NWF headquarters in D.C.

### **Wildlife Areas**

**Nooksack and Tennant Lake Units Parking Area Management:** Manager Kessler and Natural Resource Tech Deyo installed new metal cable around the Nooksack and Tennant Lake Unit parking areas. The boundary marking cable replaced over 250 feet of cable that was recently stolen.

**Lake Terrell Pheasant Pen Repairs:** A Master Hunter volunteer continued repairing portions of the pheasant pens, where old poultry wire had broken down. He continued installing new wire where needed.

**Island Unit:** Cosgrove prepared two fields for planting and Meis and Cosgrove planted approximately seven acres of millet in the Ole Thompson field. Cosgrove disked and cultipacked areas in seven fields to prepare for corn planting next week and upcoming barley and fava bean plantings. Meis met with stakeholders about planting the Island Unit and barge retrofits.

**Samish Unit:** Meis has been coordinating planting supplies and timing with local vendors and the contract farmer for the site. Planting is scheduled to occur next week, weather permitting. Cosgrove organized photos taken of the ponds at the Samish Unit to continue monitor vegetation in regards to ongoing cattail control.

**Samish River Unit Wetland Project:** Projects Coordinator Brokaw worked with staff from the WDFW Lacey Construction Shop to fill out a bid sheet to estimate costs to complete the major construction phase of the project, and forwarded the bid sheet to Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) staff after it was completed for their review. Additionally, Skagit County issued the Temporary Construction Access permit for the project that is needed to connect the construction staging areas and access road to the county road during construction.

**Skagit ESA Restoration and Waterfowl Management:** Projects Coordinator Brokaw provided edits to documents related to the effort to secure walk-in waterfowl hunting lands and farmed forage to offset access impacts caused by ongoing estuary restoration efforts. He also coordinated a time and agenda for the next cross-program team meeting to discuss this effort and reviewed some potential opportunities for future grant funding.

**Samish Unit Enhancement Project:** Projects Coordinator Brokaw and Wildlife Area Manager Rotton worked with Ducks Unlimited to make a few minor modifications to the plan set regarding the location of one of the water control structures and the location on the dike at which excavation spoils will be staged for future use by the Dike and Drainage District. Additionally, Skagit County has set the date of the Special Use hearing examiner meeting for May 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room at 1800 Continental Place in Mount Vernon. For more information on this upcoming hearing examiner meeting, contact [Loren.Brokaw@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Loren.Brokaw@dfw.wa.gov).

### **Private Lands/Access Management**

**Spring Bear Hunt Management:** Natural Resource Technician (NRT) Otto completed gate checks on the North Skagit and Monroe spring bear units. NRT Otto found one gate dummy locked open in the Monroe Unit and located a timber crew conducting pre-harvest surveying. Otto spoke with many DNR foresters and timber contractors in both the Skagit and Monroe units. Otto located many recently peeled trees in the northern part of the Skagit Unit and passed on this information to hunters. Otto received multiple calls over the week from spring bear hunters asking about damaged areas, downed trees, and gate issues.

*This young bear was spotted seeking refuge high in a tree. This photo was taken and submitted by one of the 2015 Spring Bear Hunters.*



**Private Land Access and Quality Hunt Management:** Biologist Hans toured three potential new hunt sites in the Acme area with Natural Resource Technician Otto. While at the sites, the two discussed blind placement, material needs, and other hunting logistics for next season. Otto tore down several damaged permanent waterfowl blinds in Whatcom County. Otto removed all material from the field and delivered to disposal.

*A severely damaged permanent Waterfowl Quality Hunt blind in Whatcom County. All of the necessary materials were purchased to rebuild and improve this blind.*



### **Hunter Education / Volunteer Coordination**

**Volunteer Coordination:** Volunteer Coordinator Dazey assisted Eagle Scout candidate Cyprus Norton in finding a resource for his Eagle Scout Service Project. Dazey referred Cyprus to the Skagit Wildlife Area Manager Belinda Rotton, who has appropriate needs that fit with the Eagle Scout project guidelines. Dazey also met with Snoqualmie Wildlife Area manager Brian Boehm to discuss ongoing projects as well as upcoming needs. WLA Manager Boehm currently has several projects going using volunteers and has identified some future needs to Volunteer Coordinator Dazey.

**Advanced Hunter Education:** Hunter Education Coordinator Dazey continues to follow up with NRA Hunter Services Division on advanced hunter education training ideas for Washington State. Currently the NRA has a Hunter Education Instructor program that is focused on hunting, but the program is not well represented in Washington State, with only one instructor in the state. The NRA Hunter Services manager is sending Dazey their advanced hunter information so that we can see if it is something that would work as the HE division in WDFW looks to meeting our goals of providing an advanced training for students after completion of their Basic Hunter Education/Safety certification.

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

**Wildlife Management**

**Nancy Malmgren Environmental Center – Carkeek Park:** Biologist Anderson provided outreach regarding backyard wildlife habitat and community collaboration at an event celebrating the renaming of the Carkeek Environmental Center to the Nancy Malmgren Environmental Learning Center. Both Anderson and Regional Manager Everitt were in attendance for WDFW. Ms. Malmgren has a long history of environmental activism, working with local, state, and federal entities, as well as improving wildlife stewardship efforts and awareness within Seattle and in particular at Carkeek Park and vicinity. Many came out to celebrate her work, including state representatives, senators, representatives of Governor Inslee, city representatives, and a host of others that recognize her great achievements. Here is to Nancy! <http://parkways.seattle.gov/2015/04/20/environmental-learning-center-to-be-named-after-longtime-volunteer/#sthash.7AngUlya.dpbs>

**Wildlife Health – Salmonellosis and Avian Influenza Monitoring:** Biologist Anderson worked with WDFW Wildlife Health staff to submit seven specimens for necropsy and AI testing at the National Wildlife Health Laboratory. Results show no AI. However, as is common in urbanized areas with bird feeders and concentrations of birds at such – we have been getting reports of finches (particularly Pine Siskins) with salmonella – necropsies have confirmed this. Please take your feeders down during the breeding season – they get low use and are unnecessary at this time. Further, please ensure proper cleaning and management of feeders and other manmade wildlife features that are there to attract wildlife, albeit in unnatural concentrations. One sick bird can lead to many sick birds. More on how to care for these at: [http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/winter\\_feeding/index.html#maintenance](http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/winter_feeding/index.html#maintenance)

<http://www.seattleaudubon.org/sas/LearnAboutBirds/SeasonalFacts/BirdDiseases/Salmonellosis.aspx>

**Wildlife Areas**

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm continues to work with WDFW Volunteer Coordinator Steve Dazey to signup community and Master Hunter volunteers for upcoming field work. Master Hunter volunteers are currently assisting with a parking lot monitoring project on the four pheasant release sites. A Master Hunter volunteer has also started chainsaw and brush cutter work, sprucing up the entrance to the Cherry Valley Unit.

**Spencer Island Unit:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm coordinated with staff from the Department of Ecology’s Northwest Straits Commission on a marine debris cleanup project on the unit. Northwest Straits provided funding for a Veteran’s Conservation Corp field crew to retrieve and remove large amounts of debris that had collected along the watered edge of the trail. Snohomish County Parks also supported the effort by providing a utility vehicle to transport debris from the estuary to a dumpster near the entrance of the unit.

*Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm coordinated with staff from the Department of Ecology's Northwest Straits Commission on a marine debris cleanup project on the Unit*



**Skagit Headquarters:** Manager Rotton continued to coordinate with lessees on planting projects on various properties throughout the Skagit. Manager Rotton and Region 4 Wildlife Program Manager Russell Link met with Brandon Roozen of the Western Washington Ag Association to discuss some details of agricultural community needs in agricultural easement agreements. This information is helpful to consider long-term partnerships related to land ownership and management. Manager Rotton met with Joelene Boyd of The Nature Conservancy and Brenda Clifton of the Skagit River Systems Cooperative to discuss the upcoming presentation for the Salmon Recovery Conference

**DeBay's Slough:** Meis toured the DeBay's Slough Unit river bank tree planting areas with the North Sound Weed crew to plan management needs of the site for this field season. Manager Rotton met with the lessee and his field staff to discuss plantings this season for DeBay's Slough Unit. Planting should be completed next week.

**Fir Island Farms Unit:** Manager Rotton continues to work with Environmental Planner Jenna Friebel regarding construction and land management details for the Fir Island Farms projects. Rotton completed the Fir Island Farms lease and is working on a contract planting agreement for the Fir Island Farms project planting area. Rotton prepared soil samples for the Fir Island Farm planting area to determine the salinity level of the ditch spoils and overall field conditions.

### **Wildlife Conflict Management**

**Wildlife Conflict Monitoring & Management:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist Witman responded to a deer damage complaint in the City Limits of Anacortes. The landowner has grafted fruit trees that are being browsed. Specialist Witman consulted with the landowner and suggested some lost cost fencing strategies be implemented, in which the landowner agreed to do and report back on the effectiveness.

**Bear Damage Management:** Specialist Witman and Supervisor Caldwell monitored private industrial timberland property in Skagit County for recent bear damage. Only historic damage was identified. Based on their findings, the company is eligible for a damage prevention permit. Specialist Witman and Supervisor Caldwell monitored a newly erected elk exclusionary fence in the Day Creek area. The landowners are building this fence in their spare time and it appears that the fence is coming along nicely.

**Fencing Strategies:** Specialist Witman and Supervisor Caldwell met with several private landowners in the Day Creek area to discuss fencing strategies, timelines for installment, and other pertinent issues. Each landowner expressed their appreciation for what the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Tribal Co-Managers have done and are currently accomplishing to mitigate elk related damage to private property.

*New Exclusionary elk fence being installed in Day Creek to mitigate elk damage on private property.*



**District 12 Elk Conflict:** Biologist Smith met with several landowners in the Snoqualmie Valley and on the Enumclaw Plateau to discuss elk damage to agricultural properties (fences and grass) and the potential for damage to vegetable crops later in the year. Potential fencing and hazing options were discussed. Smith also met with a landowner in the Green Valley to discuss options for a potential permanent elk exclusion fence.

**Deer Damage Reduction and Hunting Opportunities:** Wildlife Conflict Supervisor Caldwell and Wildlife Conflict Specialist Witman toured several large berry farms in Whatcom County to assess the possibility for public hunting opportunities. Two possible locations were identified that would allow ample access and safe harvest. Follow up efforts will be made with the landowner in late summer.

**Hunter Questions and Concerns:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist Witman received numerous calls throughout the week from disabled and senior hunters inquiring about the Skagit Valley Damage Area hunt in Unit 4941. Potential hunters were advised of the hunt area along with the coordination with WDFW that will take place. The hunters were very happy with the new hunt selections being available.

### **Private Lands/Access Management**

**Spring Bear Hunt Management:** Supervisory Biologist Caldwell reviewed 2012-present data on Spring Bear Management efforts. In detail, he compiled, reviewed and summarized relative/crude harvest information, compliance for tooth submission, hunter effort, and damage evidence on private industrial timber lands for the North Skagit and Monroe areas. These data will be used to improve survey methodologies and better guide future management strategies. Biologist Hans was contacted by the new City of Everett representative for the spring bear hunt. The current representative will be retiring. Biologist Hans answered general questions about the spring bear hunt and the City of Everett's involvement in this hunt. She will be meeting with the representative in a couple of weeks to tour the City of Everett's watershed area and document new gates that will be put in by the city. Biologist Hans spoke with a private timber company representative regarding equipment vandalism behind one of their gates. Biologist Hans notified

law enforcement and they have opened a report. The same timber company representative requested a meeting in June to discuss with Biologist Hans 2015 issues and ideas for changes for the next season.

**Landowner Meetings:** Natural Resource Technician Otto met with a new grower in Whatcom County. They have leased the land from the owner for this growing season and will be planting silage corn. Follow up efforts will be made this summer.

### **Hunter Educaion / Volunteer Coordinator**

**Instructor Applicant Support:** Hunter Education Coordinator Dazey entered ten new instructors into the Kalkomey system so that they can start getting credit for the classes that they assist in. These were the applicants who completed their training the previous week and who had been issued instructor certification and instructor numbers.

**Hunter Education Instructor Support:** Hunter Education Coordinator Dazey activated two hunter education classes in Region 4. Dazey also assisted new Chief Instructor Ira Gross at his first class as chief instructor at the Nile Shrine Center. Do to health the previous team that taught at the Nile Center is taking a break. Dazey needed to secure the supplies and inert guns from the previous Chief and deliver them to Ira. Dazey provided to Chief Instructor Amy Bozell a list of schools in Washington State that have allowed hunter education classes to be held there. Chief Instructor Bozell is working to find a new venue in south King County and had approached a school in her area. The administrator at the school was supportive but wanted to know if other schools had allowed hunter education on their campus. Using Kalkomey resources, Dazey showed that 46 schools in Washington State have held HE classes at their facilities from elementary to middle to high schools and college campuses. Dazey delivered supplies to Chuck Pardee for his classes and arranged for the exchange of .22 rifles for .223s with instructor Alan Williams. Dazey will deliver the .22s to Alan next Monday from his inventory.

**Teaching Team Evaluations:** Hunter Education Coordinator Dazey evaluated two teaching teams this week. The first team is new and has taken over presenting classes at the Nile Shrine Center. Ira Gross is the chief instructor for this team and has scheduled to hold one class a month at the Nile Center through September with availability of up to 60 students. The other team teaches at the Vashon Sportsman Club. Because of the location of this class on Vashon Island, the team teaches one class a year usually in May. Both teams are doing a good job.

### ***GOAL 4: SUPPORTING OUR WORKFORCE, IMPROVING BUSINESS PROCESSES, AND INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY***

**Summer Mountain Goat Project:** Biologist Milner joined Research Scientist Rice and Section Lead Harris for interviews to hire the Biologist 1 who will serve as crew lead for this summer's project looking at vegetation in mountain goat habitat.

**Farm Bill Field Guide Review:** Supervisor Caldwell reviewed a recent Farm Bill Field Guide. The field guide was put together very well and summarized the history, implications, and necessities for implementing Farm Bill related projects. Supervisor Caldwell also passed this

draft along to other Wildlife Program staff for review. Overall the field guide was very comprehensive but lacked in monetary details related to landowner incentives. In order for this field guide to be enhanced, it is recommend that Wildlife Program staff compile a list of incentive (both monetary and ecological) options for specific types of Farm Bill projects so that landowners can better weigh the costs and benefits of applying their time to such efforts.

## **REGION 5**

### ***GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE***

#### **Wildlife Management**

**Simcoe Project:** Biologist Anderson participated in a site tour to the proposed Simcoe Mountain acquisition with representatives from Western Pacific Timber, Klickitat Conservation District, and WDFW Lands Division staff. The objective of the visit was to get more familiar with ownership boundaries and habitat types within the Western Pacific Timber lands east of Highway 97 in Klickitat County. WDFW is currently working to secure funding for a phased land acquisition of these lands to secure the area for wildlife as well as traditional land management activities that have been a part of that landscape for many years.



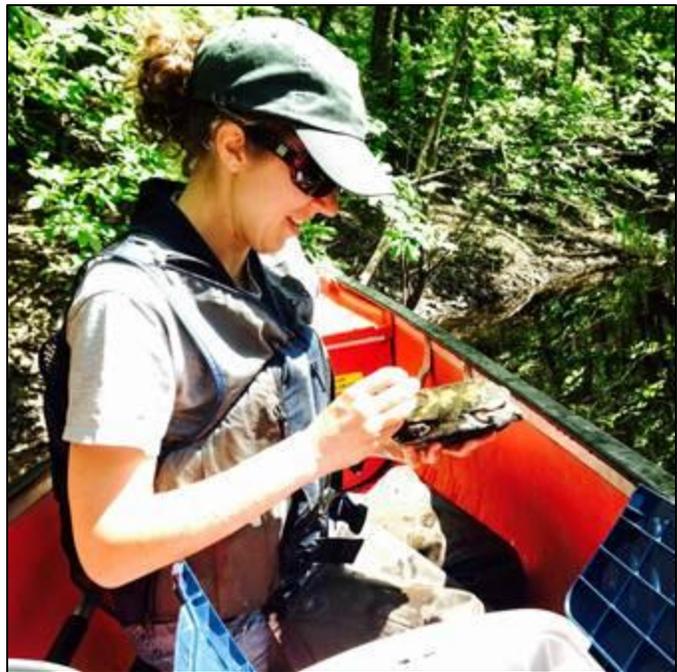
***Simcoe Mountain Project – Klickitat County***

**Columbia River Streaked-Horned Lark Surveys:** In cooperation with Wildlife Diversity Division and the Center for Natural Lands Management, Biologists Stephens and Holman conducted lark surveys in the lower Columbia River. The initial visit was made to one site and a second site was checked for reference.



*Streaked-horned larks on an island in the lower Columbia River*

**Western Pond Turtle Trapping:** Biologists Bergh and Doorly continued the trapping effort to catch western pond turtles at the Sondino population site this week. This spring's trapping effort has two goals: one is to find wild turtles that are between 1-5 years old for a study on how bone density and morphology might affect the turtle's susceptibility to shell disease, and the other is to perform a health assessment and collect samples that will help determine if there are genetic differences between healthy turtles and those with shell disease. Hatchling turtles will be captured opportunistically and brought to the Oregon Zoo as part of the headstarting program to grow them large enough to be less vulnerable to predation. To date, a total of 294 turtles have been captured, with 114 individual turtles caught. This week, one wild turtle aged 1-5 was captured and seven hatchlings were captured and sent to the zoo.



*Biologist Bergh processing a turtle in the canoe*

### **Shillapoo Wildlife Area**

**Pasture Restoration:** Assistant Wildlife Area Manager Hand finished up the pasture restoration efforts this past week. There are three sites that were focused on: eight acres in the North Unit at the old ag field, twelve acres in the South Unit south of Hart Lake, and fifteen acres at Vancouver Lake Unit in the southeastern section of the pasture. A total of 35 acres were sprayed, tilled, planted, and fertilized. Each field was planted with a variety of grains, including corn, wheat, barley, oat, soy bean, chickpea, and sunflower. In addition to grain, each field was also broadcast with a variety of grasses, including ryegrass, fescue, orchardgrass, timothy, red clover, white clover, and alfalfa. These should provide ample forage for both blacktail and Columbia white-tailed deer as well as wintering geese next fall.



### *Pasture Restoration*

**Waterfowl Sightings:** Assistant Wildlife Area Manager Hand reports that this time of year is very busy for waterfowl at Shillapoo Wildlife Area. Some birds are still hanging around and or stopping over on their migration north to the breeding grounds. Species currently observed include northern pintail, northern shoveler, green winged teal, blue winged teal, American wigeon, taverer Canada goose, greater white-fronted goose, lesser scaup, and shorebirds. There are also birds that are just arriving and using the wildlife area for the nesting season. These include cinnamon teal, gadwall, mallard, wood duck, and western Canada goose. There are even a few early broods out and about!





*Waterfowl Sightings*

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

**Access**

**Shillapoo South:** A “Do Not Enter” sign was hit and bent over by a vehicle. Access staff Spangler and Rhodes were able to right the sign by pulling it with the truck and will secure it with sand bags around the base. In addition, they sprayed herbicide around this parking lot as well as several other access sites.



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

**D-9 Wildlife Conflict**

**Wildlife Conflict:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist McDonald signed Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements (DPCA) with four farms in Klickitat County this week. Three of the farms are expecting elk damage to their hay, alfalfa, and oats fields. The fourth farm has 60 deer

on an alfalfa field near Goldendale. Wildlife hazing pyrotechnics were issued to five landowners with deer, elk, and bears visiting their property.

**Wolf Conflict Prevention:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist McDonald met with five Klickitat County ranchers to sign new DPCAs and to finalize billing for the previous contract period. The agreements are part of a pilot project in Klickitat County with the goal of providing ranchers proactive measures to reduce wolf-livestock conflict. Klickitat County does not have any known resident wolves, but their future presence is anticipated. McDonald emphasized the importance of range riding activities including monitoring cattle behavior, maintaining a human presence when possible, and alerting WDFW immediately to potential wolf sign or depredations. This is the third year of the project and it has received positive reviews by the participants.

**Prevention:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist McDonald entered fourteen damage prevention cooperative agreements (DPCA) into the Department's Novatus database. Invoices, reimbursement forms, interaction logs, and mitigation checklists were submitted for ten livestock DPCAs for the 2014-2015 contract year.

## **REGION 6**

### ***GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE***

**Red Knot Captures:** Biologist Michaelis assisted Scientist Buchanan, researchers from USFWS-Anchorage, and researchers from Mexico capturing red knots in Grays Harbor. On Tuesday they captured 153 knots, installing coded flags and equipping 47 with radio transmitters. In addition, a federal aluminum leg band was installed on the tarsus of the bird. One bird captured and equipped with a transmitter was detected in the Copper River Delta, Alaska six days after being in Grays Harbor.



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

#### **Wildlife Conflict**

**Bears in Long Beach:** Deputy Chief Censi, Captain Chadwick, Officers Jacobson and Dielman, and Biologist Harris met with City of Long Beach officials and representatives of the local sanitation provider regarding ongoing bear problems in the city.

With ongoing and expected increase in the number of complaints, the meeting was held to discuss ways of minimizing the problem. The first item on the agenda was talking about the successes from last year regarding business owners who made efforts to secure garbage and other waste from bears. The Sahalee hill bear feeding case and Long Beach PD action behind the Super 8 motel were examples used. The next item was discussing solutions. WDFW personnel informed attendees on the reasons that they cannot kill or relocate every bear and the difficulties and expense of relocating. They were also informed on the reasons that they have this problem in regards to food sources and the fact the area has really good bear habitat on the peninsula. It was then stated that the problem starts with the food source. Without efforts to reduce the food waste available to bears this problem will continue indefinitely.

The following are items that all agreed to do or look into:

**Bear proof garbage cans and enclosures:** The city will look into replacing its garbage cans with bear proof garbage cans. This will likely require some type of funding assistance. The sanitation provider will look into providing bear proof garbage cans upon request from residents who agree to pay an additional small monthly fee. The provider will also have to go through state procedures to request the fee increase. All will continue to request that businesses with bear problems build or improve garbage enclosures.

**Outreach:** The city and the sanitation provider will communicate to individuals the importance of securing garbage and removing other food sources. WDFW will continue to educate residents and businesses and hold a local town hall type meeting to discuss the bear problem and ways to resolve the issue later this summer or fall. Depending on availability of funding, WDFW will provide additional outreach materials in the form of handouts and select mailings.

**Trap and euthanize or relocate problem bears:** WDFW will continue to euthanize or relocate problem bears when it is determined by WDFW that the action is necessary for public safety reasons or to prevent further property damage after reasonable attempts have been made to remove or secure food sources.

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

### **Access Areas**

**Luhrs Access:** Daniel Hull, Director of the Nisqually Reach Nature Center, secured donations for labor and materials to gravel and grade the lower parking lot of the Luhrs Access in Thurston County. A site inspection was conducted after construction and Access Manager Mitchell found the completed work to very professional.

This work, added to the new asphalt and grading of the upper parking lots, is a nice finishing touch. The site looks great.

