



CHELAN WILDLIFE AREA 2009 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Land Management Summary

This is an update to the 2006 Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan (http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/pdfs/chelan_plan-final.pdf) that provides management direction for the Chelan Wildlife Area Complex including the Swakane, Entiat, Chelan Butte, White River and Pateros Units. The plan identifies needs and guides activities on the area based on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)



mission of “*Sound Stewardship of Fish and Wildlife*” and its underlying statewide goals and objectives as they apply to local conditions.

Plans are updated annually as habitat and species conditions change, as new regulations and scientific knowledge develop, as public issues and concerns evolve, and as administration of wildlife areas change. This management plan update also includes 2008 accomplishments, updates, new issues, new land management strategies and performance measures for 2009.

Chelan Butte fields to be restored to shrub-steppe with PUD funding starting in the 2011 biennium.

Updates/Changes

On February 19th 2009, The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new 43-year license to the Chelan Public Utility District (PUD) to continue operating Rocky Reach Dam. Chelan PUD will soon be providing FERC a wildlife management plan for approval. This plan will be primarily aimed at habitat restoration on approximately 1,300 acres of old agricultural fields located on the Swakane and Chelan Butte Units (see above photo). WDFW, in cooperation with and funding from the PUD, will begin implementing this

Inside

Land Management Summary	1
Updates/Changes	1
Status Report of 2008 Performance Measures	2
2009 Performance Measures	4
Citizens Advisory Group Input	4

plan in 2010. Information on the Rocky Reach Dam relicensing is available on the Chelan County PUD web site: <http://www.chelanpud.org/licensing-compliance.html>

New Issues: None

New Strategies: None

Status Report of 2008 Performance Measures

Key performance measures are identified each year to monitor progress and identify issues that might interfere with planned priority activities. This information will be used to delete, add or alter priority strategies for 2009.

2008 Performance Measure	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/ 2008 Related Activity/ Comments
Maintain up to 50 acres of food plots annually as funding allows	Planted and irrigated about 5 acres of grain food plots on the Swakane Unit. Established about 4 acres of irrigated alfalfa.	Funding was limited Continue activity in 2009
Coordinate the maintenance of 30+ winter wildlife feeders, 35+ water structures (guzzlers and springs), and 25+ nest boxes.	The Wenatchee Sportsmen’s Association (WSA) maintained and repaired most of the spring developments and assisted in filling 32 feeders. Volunteers continue to monitor and maintain nest boxes. A volunteer GPS located and mapped 38 springs and 26 guzzlers.	Continue activity in 2009
Inspect and maintain about 90 miles of road to include routine inspection, weed control and repairs to road surface as necessary.	Routinely inspected road/trail system. Performed minor culvert maintenance and weed control. Cleared snow from roads on the Swakane and Pateros Units. Graded about 10 miles of road.	Continue in 2009
Replace 50 to 75 signs, as needed based on routine inspections.	Completed: Replaced 55 + signs and installed 15 new signs to control vehicular travel.	Continue in 2009
Maintain Swakane irrigation system (including pond and outlet), shop, residence and office. Maintain three informational kiosks as funding allows. Service, repair and maintain equipment	Completed	Continue in 2009

and vehicles (estimated 5 pieces)		
Control weedy species mechanically and with chemical and bioagents. Extent of weed control will be based on funding but will at least include roadside spraying, control of perennial weeds in the Chelan Butte fields and yellowstar thistle spraying and hand pulling in the Knowles area.	Completed: Hand pulled yellowstar thistle in and around fields in the Knowles area (Entiat Unit). Released 1,500 insects (<i>Mecinus j.</i>) to control Dalmatian toadflax on Burch Mountain. Spot sprayed about 80 acres for Russian knapweed, diffuse knapweed, kochia and Russian thistle. Sprayed about 30 miles of road (spot sprayed).	Continue in 2009
Inspect and maintain about 20 miles of fence as needed. Remove fence as funding and manpower allow.	Inspected fences as needed Repaired 600 feet of fence	2009 - Continue fence maintenance and removal as needed.
Habitat restoration: Maintain (apply herbicide and/or mow) 50 acres of seeded shrubsteppe and steppe habitat in Chelan Butte, Knowles, Deppner and Roundy. Reseed where seeding failed. Continue summer fallowing and seed about 75 acres of shrubsteppe on Chelan Butte if weeds are controlled. Continue monitoring older seeding and reseed as needed. Control weeds in 8 acres of perennial cover planted in the fall of 2006 in the Swakane bottom as needed.	Not completed	Did not seed due to persistence of noxious weeds that will need additional treatment. In 2009, continue monitoring older seeding. Will resume restoration efforts when Rocky Reach Wildlife Management funding becomes available.
Place brush piles on Chelan Butte in areas needing wildlife escape cover when material is available.	Not completed	Funding and material was not available
Seed portions of the Easy Street burn as weather and funding allow	Seeded about 200 acres of grass in the Easy Street Burn partially with funding provided by the Mule Deer Foundation.	

Trim woody vegetation along the Homestead Canyon, "East Draw", and the Entiat cemetery roads	Completed: Cleared brush from about 1 mile of road	Will be clearing brush as needed in the future
Other	Assisted Chelan County PUD and Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association volunteers with planting bitterbrush in the Easy Street burn (Swakane Unit)	In 2009, plant additional bitterbrush seedlings
Other	Worked with Chelan PUD on a wildlife management plan for portions of the Chelan Wildlife Area. This plan is part of the Rocky Reach Dam relicensing process.	Continue to coordinate with and assist the PUD in providing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission a wildlife management plan relating to the Rocky Reach Dam relicensing process.

2009 Performance Measures

1. Maintain up to 40 acres of food plots as funding allows including up to 20 acres on the Swakane, and 20 acres on Chelan Butte.
2. Coordinate the maintenance of 32 winter wildlife feeders, 35+ guzzlers and springs, and 25+ nest boxes throughout the wildlife area. Salvage and replace guzzlers as needed.
3. Inspect and maintain about 90 miles of road and trail to include routine inspection, culvert maintenance, weed control and repairs to road surface as necessary.
4. Replace 50 to 75 signs, as needed based on routine inspections.
5. Maintain Swakane irrigation system (including pond and outlet), shop, residence and office. Maintain three informational kiosks. Service, repair and maintain equipment and vehicles (estimated 5 pieces).
6. Control weedy species mechanically and with chemical and bioagents. Extent of weed control will be based on funding but will at least include some roadside spraying, control of perennial weeds in the Chelan Butte fields and yellowstar thistle spraying and hand pulling in the Knowles area.
7. Inspect up to 20 miles of fence as needed. Maintain and repair fence as needed.
8. Prepare for PUD funded restoration. Identify and map target areas to prepare for seeding and for weed control.

Citizens Advisory Group Input:

The draft management plan update was mailed to the CAG for comment. No comments were received. Over time attendance at meetings has decreased substantially. Only two members attended the last meeting/field trip that was scheduled.

Wells, Chelan and Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Areas Citizens Advisory Group - 2009

Jim McGee	Public Utilities District No. 1 of Douglas County
Von Pope	Public Utilities District No. 1 of Chelan County
Bill Stegeman	Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association

Bob Fischer US Army Corp of Engineers – Chief Joseph Dam/ Adjacent Landowner /Recreationist
Tim Behne Adjacent Landowner/Cattleman/Wheat Grower/Foster Creek Conservation District
John Musser US Bureau of Land Management, Wildlife Biologist, Recreationist
Steve Wetzel Washington Department of Natural Resources
Mary Hunt Douglas County Commissioner
Mike Mackey Chelan County Weed Board
Vacant North Central Washington Audubon Society
Vacant The Nature Conservancy
Neal Hedges Chelan - Douglas Land Trust
Mallory Lenz U.S. Forest Service
Bob Stoll Adjacent Landowner and Member of Lands Management Advisory Council

Want to see the full plan?

Go to -

http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/pdfs/chelan_plan-final.pdf

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