



CHELAN WILDLIFE AREA 2010 MANAGEMENT PLAN UDATE

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/ 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.



Fall colors, Chelan Butte – “Big Spring” Canyon.

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 2010 accomplishments, updates, new issues, new land management strategies and performance measures for 2011.

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Updates/Changes

The Public Utilities District No. 1 of Chelan County (PUD) filed a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan with the Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) describing the PUD funded wildlife habitat improvement projects that will be implemented over the first five years of the license. The plan was prepared after consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Recreation and Conservation Office, the WDFW and the Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum. It includes the first phase of habitat restoration in approximately 1,300 acres of old agricultural fields located on the Swakane and Chelan Butte Units. The WDFW, in cooperation

with the PUD, will begin implementing this plan in 2010 once approved by FERC. The Habitat Management Plan is available at:

http://www.chelanpud.org/departments/licensingCompliance/rr_implementation/ResourceDocuments/33885.pdf

New Issues

Chelan PUD has applied for an easement on WDFW land for a power line south and adjacent to the Ribbon Cliff area near Entiat (Roundy area). This easement will require removal and topping of several mature ponderosa pines. The draft agreement with WDFW includes several mitigation projects that will be implemented by the PUD. The PUD located the easement adjacent to an existing Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) power line easement to minimize road construction and other impacts.

New Strategies

None

The Wenatchee Sportsmen’s Association

We want to recognize and thank the Wenatchee Sportsmen’s Association for its contribution to the Chelan Wildlife Area and to wildlife of the Wenatchee area in general. This contribution is unique in the volunteer arena both in extent and longevity. Over several decades, association members have developed and annually maintained and repaired large numbers of water developments and wildlife feeders. Additionally, they have built, repaired and removed fences, installed signs, planted habitat, picked up litter, collected native plant seed and performed many other wildlife related activities on and off the wildlife area. Many members deserve recognition but we especially want to recognize Larry Watkins and Bill Stegeman. Many years after retiring as a WDFW biologist in the mid 70’s, Larry brought leadership, motivation and direction to the association’s “field crew”. Bill, Larry’s right hand man, has now taken over this role. Larry and Bill are extremely dedicated and have worked diligently and tirelessly to benefit wildlife. Recognition should also go to Ron Poppe, George Komro, Don Rasmussen, Bob Morrison, Ron Balzer, Jim Pritchard, Rick Isaacson, Jack Michel, Herb Troxel, Jim Hope, Dave Gimlin. and many others members for their effort on the wildlife area.

Status Report of 2010 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 2011.

2010 Performance Measure	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/ 2011 Related Activity/ Comments
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.	Planted about 5 acres of grain food plots on the Swakane Unit, and planted 10 acres of wheat on the Chelan Unit. Maintained about 2 acres of alfalfa.	Continue activity in 2010
Coordinate the maintenance of	The Wenatchee Sportsmen’s	Continue activity in 2010

30+ winter wildlife feeders, 35+ water structures (guzzlers and springs), and 25+ nest boxes.	Association (WSA) maintained and repaired most of the spring developments and assisted in filling 32 feeders. Volunteers continue to monitor and maintain nest boxes.	
Inspect and maintain about 90 miles of road and trails 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. Mowed roads to minimize fire hazard.	Continue in 2010
Replace 50 to 75 signs, as needed based on routine inspections.	Completed	Continue in 2010
Maintain Swakane irrigation system (including pond and outlet), shop, residence and office. Maintain three informational kiosks as funding allows. Service, repair and maintain equipment and vehicles (estimated 5 pieces)	Completed: Repaired several breaks in the Swakane irrigation system. Winterized system. Maintained kiosks, buildings and equipment as needed.	Continue in 2010
Control weedy species mechanically and with chemical and bioagents. Extent of weed control will be based on funding.	Completed: Hand pulled and sprayed yellowstar thistle in and around old fields in the Knowles area (Entiat Unit). Sprayed about 13 acres of Russian knapweed, 1 acre of Dalmatian toadflax, 24 acres of diffuse knapweed and 2.5 acres of mixed weeds. Mowed about 217 acres of Russian thistle, rye and other weeds.	Continue in 2010
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.	Continue fence maintenance and removal as needed.

Prepare for PUD funded restoration. Identify and map target areas to prepare for seeding and for weed control.	Completed: Mowed some of the agricultural fields that will be restored through the agreement with the Chelan PUD (see 6 above).	In 2010, continue monitoring older seeding. Will resume restoration efforts when Rocky Reach Wildlife Habitat Management funding becomes available.
Other	Worked with Chelan PUD on a wildlife habitat management plan for portions of the Chelan Wildlife Area.	Chelan PUD has submitted the plan to FERC.

2011 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, chemically and biologically. 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. Quickly respond to newly discovered weed outbreaks. Work closely with Chelan County Weed Board to prevent and control weed infestations.
7. Inspect up to 20 miles of fence as needed. Maintain and repair fence as needed.
8. Prepare for PUD funded restoration and development. Identify and map target areas to prepare for seeding and for weed control. Begin restoration and development activities when funding becomes available.

Citizens Advisory Group Input:

The draft management plan update was mailed to the CAG for comment. One CAG member identified the following issue:

Mike Mackey of the Chelan County Weed Board recommended that we include a sentence in performance measure # 6 indicating that we will implement a quick response plan for new outbreaks of noxious weeds that had never been reported on a site before. This will help stop outbreaks of new noxious weeds before they are a real problem. Quite often they consist of a few plants and can be dug up or sprayed with a small hand sprayer.

Wells, Chelan and Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Areas Citizens Advisory Group - 2010

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 Corps of Engineers – Chief Joseph Dam/ Adjacent Landowner
/Recreationist
Tim Behne Adjacent Landowner/Cattleman/Wheat Grower/Foster Creek Conservation
District
Vacant US Bureau of Land Management
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

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Want to see the full plan?

Go to -
http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/