



CHILIWIST WILDLIFE AREA 2007 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Bitterbrush on the high value mule deer winter range of the CWA. (Photo: D. Swedberg)

Land Management Summary

This is an update to the 2006 Chiliwist Wildlife Area Management Plan http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/chiliwist/index.htm that provides management direction for the Chiliwist Wildlife Area, a part of the Sinlahekin, Driscoll Island and Chiliwist Wildlife Area Complex, located about 1 mile southwest of Mallot in Okanogan County. 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 2006 accomplishments, new issues, new land management strategies and performance measures for 2007.

Updates/Changes

There have been no updates or changes

New Issues

2006 was the 2nd year that the water right on the CWA was not used. It is imperative that a sharecropper be located who will begin irrigating the alfalfa to maintain the water rights otherwise they will need to be placed in a trust before the end of the 5th year.

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A member of the EOC CAG reported seeing sharp-tailed grouse on the CWA on 3 different occasions in the winter of 2005. One bunch had 7 birds in it. This is encouraging that sharp-tailed grouse still occur on the CWA.

Major Stewardship Accomplishments



Post 1999 Chiliwist fire succession. Dead bitterbrush is evident, but there are also young bitterbrush shrubs growing well. (Photo: D. Swedberg 2006)

A new infestation of puncture vine found in 2005 was closely monitored and appears that it is eradicated or at least under control. The site will be monitored closely for 5 years.

WDFW partnered with DNR in Scotch thistle control efforts on adjacent lands. Scotch thistle seed has a very long life in the soil requiring many years of repeated visits to assure control.

All of the junk and old wire accumulated at an old haystack yard was cleaned up near the entrance to the Chiliwist Butte Road.



Turkey vultures flying over the CWA (Photo: Caitlin LaBar)

Status Report of 2006 Performance Measures

Key performance measures are identified each year to monitor progress and identify any issues that might interfere with planned priority activities. This information will be used to delete, add or alter priority strategies for 2007.

2006 Performance Measure	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/ 2007 Related Activity/ Comments
Meet requirements of Federal Aid contract	Completed	
Renew grazing leases and agricultural leases expiring on or before December 31, 2006	Completed	
Complete Fire Regime Condition Classification (FRCC) mapping	Not completed	Inadequate time to do
Oversee completion of 2 pumping vaults for pumping irrigation water form on Chiliwist Creek	Not completed	Site visit was made; Plans and designs were developed and reviewed. Communications with the Engineering section stopped and efforts to determine status have gone unanswered
Survey and/or mark/sign a minimum of 10 miles of CWA boundary	Not completed	Apparently no funding
Rebuild or repair a minimum of 5 miles of fence	Not completed	Apparently no funding
Apply for at least one fuels planning and treatment implementation grant through the National Fire Plan	Undone – grant application opportunity was not provided	The Okanogan County Community Wildlife Protection Plan (OC CWPP) took precedence. No fuels planning or treatment grants were offered until the OC CWPP was completed.
Develop protocol and procedures to facilitate implementation of prescribed burns	Completed	

Apply for at least one grant through Mule Deer Foundation for habitat work	Not completed	1 Mule Deer funded grant was in hand, but unable to complete work. An extension was requested and granted.
Build and install reader boards at 5 entrances to the CWA	Completed	
Map with GPS and GIS all weed infestations on the CWA, such that a layer depicting a map of each weed species is included in the CWA GIS project	Partially completed	This is a multi-year project as weed infestations are discovered and eliminated.
Grid, GPS and map Dalmatian Toadflax, Russian knapweed, and other weeds	Newly discovered weeds were GPS'ed and mapped. Most new infestations were discovered during weed control activities and incidental to other activities. Planned gridding with WCC was not completed due to rescheduling and other priorities	Will continue to grid for, GPS and map weed infestations
Complete and/or review and update plans including WA plan, weed plan, and fire management plan	Completed	
Prepare and plant approximately 80 acres of dryland foodplots	Approximately 50 acres were planted. The other 30 needed additional weed treatment	All 80 acres are scheduled to be planted in 2007

New Strategies

The wildlife area plan identifies many strategies or activities to address the agencies strategic plan goals and objectives, why the area was purchased, habitat conditions, species present, and public issues and concerns. The following updated strategies have been added to respond to previously unaddressed or new issues or changes on the wildlife area. New strategies may also be in response to adaptive management as staff evaluate the impacts of past management activities.

Issues identified in italics were provided by the Citizens Advisory Group. These public comments are captured at the end of this document. Although underlined strategies have no current funding source, identifying these needs is the first step to securing additional funds.

No New Strategies were or have been identified

2007 Performance Measures

2007 performance measures for the Chiliwist Wildlife Area are listed below.

Accomplishments and progress toward desired outcomes will be monitored and evaluated annually.

- 1) Locate a sharecropper to farm the irrigated agricultural fields
- 2) Complete pumping vault installation
- 3) Complete installation of 3 miles of boundary fence
- 4) Rebuild and repair a minimum of 3 miles of fence
- 5) Grid for weeds on 640 acres minimum
- 6) Meet requirements of Federal Aid contract
- 7) Renew grazing leases and agricultural leases expiring on or before December 31, 2007
- 8) Complete Fire Regime Condition Classification (FRCC) mapping
- 9) Survey and/or mark/sign a minimum of 3 miles of CWA boundary
- 10) Locate by gridding (see #6) and map, with GPS and GIS, all class B designate weed, e.g., Dalmatian toadflax, Russian knapweed and other weed infestations on the SWA, such that a layer depicting a map of each weed species is included in the SWA GIS project
- 11) Complete and/or review and update plans including WA plan, weed plan, and fire management plan
- 12) Complete performance evaluations
- 13) Complete layers on CWA GIS project including Fence, Fence features, artificial nest structures, roads, culverts, campsites, toilets, signs, reader boards, power poles.
- 14) Visit all known Dalmatian Toadflax and Russian knapweed sites at least twice to monitor and initiate appropriate treatment.
- 15) Use Okanogan County Jail Trustees for weed control and fence maintenance efforts
- 16) Work with private, county, state and federal land managers to promote use of prescribed fire, in a coordinated effort on all lands, to improve wildlife habitat, i.e., North Central Washington Prescribed Fire Council
- 17) Apply for at least one grant or other funding opportunities consistent with planned priorities to supplement funding

Citizens Advisory Group Input

An East Okanogan County Citizens Advisory Group meeting was held on January 18, 2007 to review Sinlahekin, Driscoll Island and Chiliwist Management Plans and management progress and address any new issues or input on existing issues. Those in attendance included representatives from The Back Country Horsemen, Okanogan Wildlife Council, Okanogan Valley Land Council, 2 neighbors of the Sinlahekin – 1 sharecropper & 1 grazing permittee, Conservation Northwest, 2 Forest Contractors, Wenatchee Valley College – Omak, Okanogan Cattlemen's Association, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Office, USFS and a private citizen interested in the management of the Sinlahekin, Driscoll Island and Chiliwist Wildlife Areas.

The following new input/issues were addressed at the meeting.

Issue: Weed management plan implementation is not realistic to try to get all vehicles coming on to the wildlife areas washed and other weed control techniques implemented.

Response: This concern is valid and recognized. However, by having these techniques listed as a means to try to minimize spread of weeds, it is hoped that awareness is elevated regarding the seriousness of weeds and the need for weed control.

Issue: Management plans need a stronger commitment to grazing and goals and objectives of grazing.

Response: Commitment to grazing is as strong as can be. Grazing has inadvertently helped protect a population of state candidate butterflies – the silver-bordered fritillary butterfly by keeping down the reed canary grass that will crowd out the butterfly larval plant host – the marsh violet. A grant proposal is being developed to try to do some research on benefits of grazing for the violets and the silver-bordered butterflies that depend on them.

Issue: Great weed management plan.

Response: Thank you.

Issue: Weed wash is available 1 day of hunting season and 1 day of fishing season.

Response: This will definitely help increase awareness about weeds and weed control of people out for opening day of fishing season.

Issue: Controlled burning efforts are good

Response: Efforts will continue to try to accomplish more. The North Central Washington Prescribed Fire Council was formed recently to help increase public awareness of the need and benefits of prescribed burning.

Issue: Take adaptive management approach in treating riparian areas with fire.

Response: An adaptive management approach is being taken with all management activities to maximize opportunities to learn the affects of management techniques and how to adjust techniques to better achieve desired outcomes.

Issue: Do aspen restoration.

Response: Aspen restoration will occur as part of the planned fuels management and fire regime restoration efforts.

At the conclusion of the meeting those present were advised that another meeting would be scheduled in February to review the Scotch Creek Management Plan and for a presentation on the wildlife area Habitat Conservation Plan.

Want to see the full plan?

Go to -

http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/index.htm

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