



CHILIWIST WILDLIFE AREA 2008 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Land Management Summary

This is an update to the 2006 Chiliwist Wildlife Area Management Plan (http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/) 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 Malot 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 2007 accomplishments, new issues, new land management strategies and performance measures for 2008.

Updates/Changes

There have been no updates or changes

New Issues

2007 was the 3rd year that an existing 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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Major Stewardship Accomplishments



August rain clouds over the Chiliwist. (Photo: D. Swedberg 2006)

A new pole fence was constructed at the entrance of the Chiliwist Butte Road creating a parking lot. The informational kiosk was renovated and moved inside the parking area.

A new sharecropper signed a 5 year Agricultural lease for the irrigated alfalfa and dryland grain fields on the Chiliwist.

Two wheel lines were dismantled and hauled to the Chiliwist from the Methow and reassembled on the Chiliwist alleviating the need for the sharecropper to acquire wheel lines for use on the irrigated fields.

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

Approximately 2 miles of fence on the north boundary was repaired with the help of the Okanogan WCC crew and an Okanogan County Jail Inmate crew. The fence was brushed out and completely renovated through extremely steep and rough terrain. An additional approximately 2 miles of interior fence was inspected and repaired with the help of the Okanogan WCC crew.



Location of historic sharp-tailed grouse lek site (Photo: D. Swedberg)

Status Report of 2007 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 2008.

2007 Performance Measure	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/ 2008 Related Activity/ Comments
Meet requirements of Federal Aid contract	Completed	
Complete Fire Regime Condition Classification (FRCC) mapping	Not Completed	Continue efforts in 2008
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	Approx. 4 miles were repaired as best could be done	More fence needs repair and will be repaired as time and resources warrant
Apply for at least one fuels planning and treatment implementation grant through the National Fire Plan	Did not apply for grant.	Grant applications will be completed and submitted as opportunities arise
Apply for at least one grant through Mule Deer Foundation for habitat work	Not Completed	Grant applications will be completed and submitted as opportunities arise
Maintain reader boards at 5 entrances to the CWA	Completed	Ongoing maintenance effort
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 GPSed 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 review; however updates need to be completed	Complete updates
Prepare and plant approximately 80 acres of dryland foodplots	New Sharecropper is now responsible for this	Ongoing

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.

2008 Performance Measures

2008 performance measures for the Chiliwist Wildlife Area are listed below.

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

- 1) Complete pumping vault installation
- 2) Complete installation of 3 miles of boundary fence
- 3) Rebuild and repair a minimum of 3 miles of fence
- 4) Grid for weeds on 640 acres minimum
- 5) Meet requirements of Federal Aid contract
- 6) Complete Fire Regime Condition Classification (FRCC) mapping
- 7) Survey and/or mark/sign a minimum of 3 miles of CWA boundary
- 8) 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
- 9) Complete and/or review and update plans including WA plan, weed plan, and fire management plan
- 10) Complete performance evaluations
- 11) Complete layers on CWA GIS project including Fence, Fence features, artificial nest structures, roads, culverts, campsites, toilets, signs, reader boards, power poles.
- 12) Visit all known Dalmatian Toadflax and Russian knapweed sites at least twice to monitor and initiate appropriate treatment.
- 13) Use Okanogan County Jail Trustees for weed control and fence maintenance efforts
- 14) 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
- 15) 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 March 13, 2008 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, Oroville Sportsmen's Club, Okanogan Wildlife Council, Okanogan Cattlemen's Association, 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.

No new input or issues were identified.

Other comments/issues received that apply to all wildlife areas:

No other comments/issues were received that apply to all wildlife areas.

Want to see the full plan?

Go to -

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

Contacts:

WDFW Ephrata Office
509.754.4624
Wildlife Area Manager
509.223.3358