



CHILIWIST WILDLIFE AREA 2010 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/index.htm

that provides management direction for the Chiliwist Wildlife Area (CWA), 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 develops, as public issues and concerns evolve, and as administration of wildlife areas change. This management plan update also includes 2009 accomplishments, new issues, new land management strategies and performance measures for 2010.

Updates/Changes

None at this time.

New Issues

Both the agricultural lease and pasture permit on the Chiliwist changed in 2008. The agriculture lease was transferred from one individual to another using the same lease with minimal changes. WDFW staff has worked extensively to improve the irrigation system, specifically: a new segment of mainline (880 ft with 12 risers replacing 3



*No-name draw on Chiliwist Butte
Photo by Justin Haug*

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risers), new pump 15 hp pump replacing a 10 hp pump at the Upper Pond, two wheel lines repaired with motors and hydraulics fixed, and hand lines repaired. The water right has not been used on the Chiliwist since 2004, and there is a 5-year limit of non-use after which the right will be relinquished to the Department of Ecology's Trust Water Right Program. Water availability has been an issue this season and irrigation renovation and upgrades need to be addressed.

Major Stewardship Accomplishments

Treated known infestations of Scotch thistle. Treatment involved clipping seedheads and bagging plants in addition to digging next year's rosettes. Treated Dalmation toadflax in areas; all visited plants had biocontrols or showed signs of damage. Augmented the population of diffuse knapweed beetles in the southeast portion of the wildlife area, boosting the population in a heavily infestation of diffuse knapweed.

A riparian exclusion fence was constructed around the draw adjacent to Chiliwist Butte Road. A new fence was also constructed around springs and watering holes. The Natural Resources Conservation Service also assisted in the re-configuration of the pasture layout, and a new fence was placed along those new lines. Approximately 2.5 miles of new fence was constructed and 2.25 miles were repaired. Nearly ½ mile needs to be constructed in order to complete the pasture re-configurations as well as the repair of several portions of existing fence. A cultural resource survey was completed prior to construction of the new fencing.

With the assistance of the Renton Fish and Game Club and the Okanogan Hound group; the exclusion fence at the Buzzard Lake Wildlife Area was partially completed. In addition, three new reader boards and other signs were installed. The southwest corner of the wildlife area was surveyed and posted; fence construction on the boundary is scheduled to commence in the spring of 2010.

Status Report of 2009 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 2010.

2009 Performance Measure	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/ 2010 Related Activity/ Comments
Meet requirements of Federal Aid contract	Completed	
Renew grazing leases and agricultural leases expiring on or before December 31, 2009	Completed	
Complete Fire Regime Condition Classification (FRCC) mapping	Not completed	Inadequate time
Locate a sharecropper to farm the irrigated agricultural fields	Completed	
Survey and/or mark/sign a minimum of 3 miles of CWA boundary	Partially completed	South and East boundaries surveyed; need to complete markings of boundary.
Rebuild and repair a minimum of 3 miles of fence	Completed	
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	Completed	Communication on the importance of prescribed burning will continue in 2010.
Develop protocol and procedures to facilitate implementation of prescribed burns	Not completed	Inadequate time
Complete the reseeding of approximately 5 miles of dozer lines	Not completed	Early fall snow and late cold spring prevented completion.
Update reader boards with new signage and postings	Not completed	
Locate by gridding and map, with GPS and GIS, all class B designate weed, e.g., Dalmatian toadflax, Russian knapweed and other weed infestations on the Chiliwist Wildlife Area, 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.

2009 Performance Measure (continued)	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/ 2010 Related Activity/ Comments
Survey for weeds on 640 acres minimum	Not completed	Will continue to survey and GPS/treat new infestations
Complete and/or review and update plans including WA plan, weed plan, and fire management plan	Not completed	Will work on these as time permits
Complete performance evaluations	Completed	
Apply for at least one grant or other funding opportunities consistent with planned priorities to supplement funding	Completed	Applied for funding to develop watering sites; and awaiting final approval.

New Strategies

None identified.

2010 Performance Measures

2010 performance measures for the Chiliwist Wildlife Area are listed below. Accomplishments and progress toward desired outcomes will be monitored and evaluated annually.

- 1) Update reader boards with new signage and postings
- 2) Work with WDFW engineers and personnel to complete irrigation renovations and improvements.
- 3) Complete installation of 3 miles of boundary fence (high priority)
- 4) Rebuild and repair a minimum of 3 miles of fence (high priority)
- 5) Survey for weeds on 640 acres minimum
- 6) Meet requirements of Federal Aid contract by mapping, with GPS and GIS, all class B designate weed, e.g., Dalmatian toadflax, Russian knapweed and other weed infestations on the CWA, such that a layer depicting a map of each weed species is included in the Chiliwist Wildlife Area GIS project
- 7) Renew grazing leases and agricultural leases expiring on or before December 31, 2010
Complete Fire Regime Condition Classification (FRCC) mapping
- 8) Survey and/or mark and sign a minimum of 3 miles of CWA boundary
- 9) Review and update plans including wildlife area 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.



Western Bluebird Photo by Justin Haug

- 12) Visit all known Dalmatian toadflax and Russian knapweed sites at least twice to monitor and initiate appropriate treatment.
- 13) Utilize 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 Eastern Okanogan County Citizens Advisory Group meeting was held on January 28, 2010 to review Sinlahekin, Driscoll Island, Chiliwist and Scotch Creek Management Plans, management progress and address any new issues or input on existing issues. No new issues were raised or addressed at this meeting. Those in attendance at this meeting included:

Dave Sunde	Okanogan Valley Chapter Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
Gail Sunde	Okanogan Valley Chapter Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
Geral Cox	Rancher - neighbor
Mark Williams	Forester, Bureau of Land Management
Kathleen Johnson	Instructor, Wenatchee Valley College North
Dave Swanberg	Okanogan Valley Chapter Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
Brandon Wood	Neighbor
Eric Keane	Small Landowner, Neighbor
Peggy Swanberg	Okanogan Valley Chapter Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
Anne Lyon	Okanogan County Noxious Weed Office/Board
Joe Allemandi	Rancher- Sinlahekin grazing permittee
Jon Shoemaker	Small Landowner, Neighbor
Bob Rothrock	Operations and Maintenance Whitestone Reclamation District
Hugh Jensen	Sportsman and City of Tonasket Public Works Department
John Zabreznik	Sportsman
Rick Lind	Sportsman and USFS Fire Management Officer, Tonasket & Winthrop Ranger Districts
Tim Vugteveen	Highlands District Manager/Department of Natural Resources
John Oakes	Large Landowner – part of property in negotiations for purchase of a Conservation Easement
Cari Haug	Administrative Assistant Okanogan Valley Land Council
Andre Corso	Forester, Sinlahekin Ecosystem Restoration Project; Reforestation Forester - USFS
Tom Jones	Rancher – neighbor and sharecropper
Clare Painter	Large Landowner – neighbor

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Want to see the full plan?
 Go to -
http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/index.htm