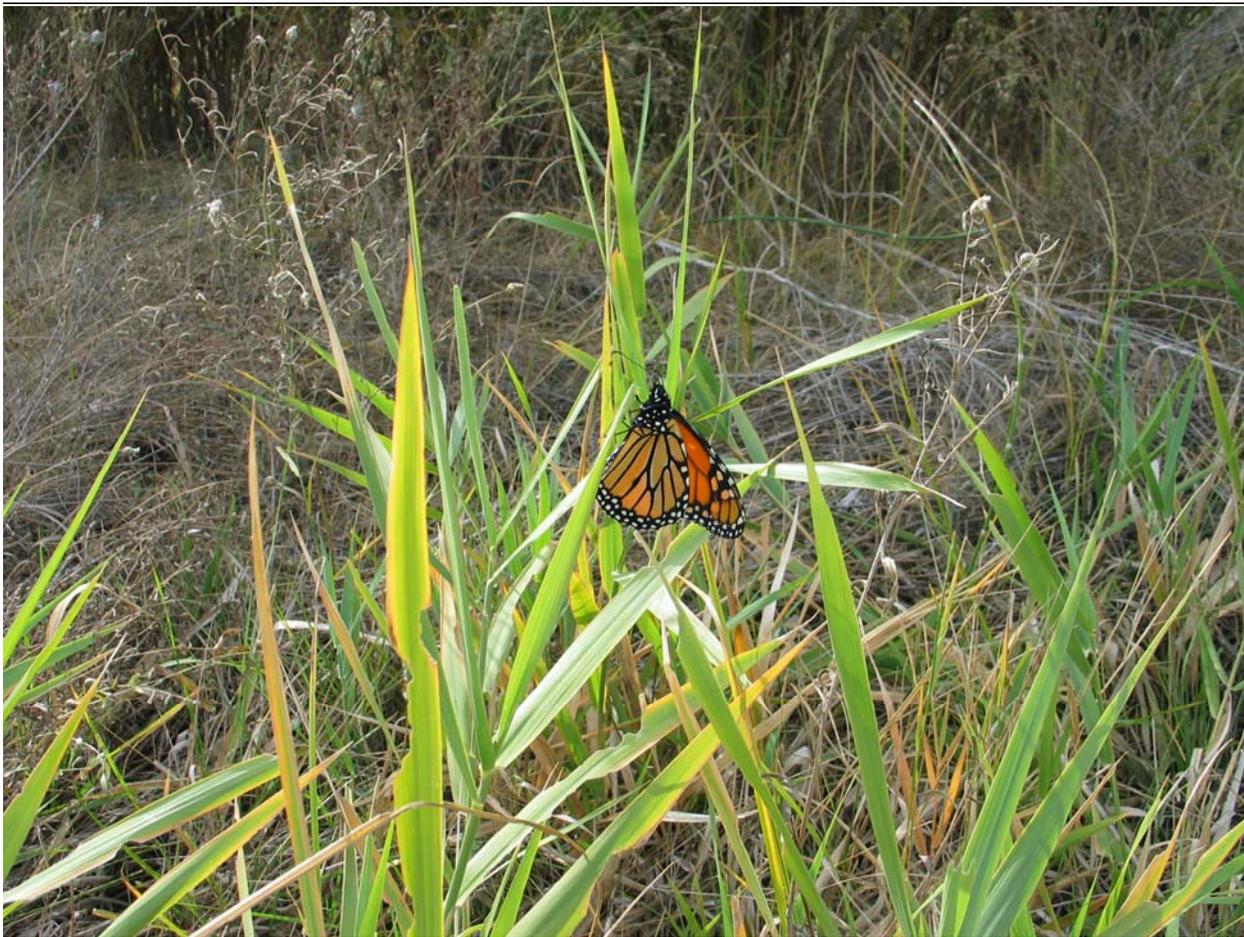




DRISCOLL ISLAND WILDLIFE AREA 2008 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



A monarch butterfly in the early morning on Driscoll Island 1 October 2007. (Photo: D. Swedberg)

Land Management Summary

This is an update to the 2007 Driscoll Island Wildlife Area Management Plan (http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/) that provides management direction for the Driscoll Island Wildlife Area, a part of the Sinlahekin, Driscoll Island and Chiliwist Wildlife Area Complex, located about a mile south of Oroville in Okanogan County. The plan identifies needs and guides activities on the area based on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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(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

In 2007 the majority, about 84 acres, of Eyhott Island, located south of Driscoll Island was purchased and added to the Driscoll Island Wildlife Area.

New Issues

A sharecropper, who had been farming Eyhott Island, agreed to enter into an agricultural lease with WDFW and continue farming. Accordingly an Agricultural Lease was developed and finalized with the sharecropper.

Major Stewardship Accomplishments

Weed control efforts began to show success with a significant reduction in the common tansy and plumeless thistle populations. Also it was noted that the Dalmatian toadflax population was heavily infested with *Mecinus janthinus* beetles. Indicating these bioagents were beginning to have a big impact.



Healthy Dalmatian toadflax



Photo: D. Swedberg Biological Agent *Mecinus janthinus* on Dalmatian toadflax

Photo: D. Swedberg



Dalmatian toadflax plants showing results of *M. janthinus* Infestation Photo: D. Swedberg



M. Janthinus in stem of Dalmatian toadflax

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
GPS and GIS map of all Dalmatian Toadflax, Plumeless Thistle, Russian knapweed and Common Tansy infestations and Russian Olive trees	Completed, however as new patches appear and former patches disappear GPSing and GIS mapping will be updated accordingly	GPS'ing and GIS updating will continue as required
Continue weed control efforts using chemicals, hand pulling and biological control methods	Completed, however this is an ongoing effort	Weed control will continue as needed to reduce and control weeds
Remove all old scrap iron and metal	Inadequate time to accomplish	Continue in 2008
Maintain shrub planting irrigation system	Completed	Ongoing
Assess survival of shrubs and replace shrubs that died	Inadequate time to complete	Attempt to get this completed in 2008
GPS and GIS map all fences, bird feeders, structures, watering troughs, irrigation lines and wells	Mostly completed	Remaining features will be GPSed and mapped in 2008
Monitor sharecropping to assure compliance with sharecropping lease	Completed	Ongoing

Prepare a trails grant application for DIWA	The bridge has not been installed as anticipated therefore without access a trail is of limited value	Prepare trails grant after installation of the bridge
Provide encouragement and assistance to keep Driscoll Island Bridge project with a bridge capable of holding a load consisting of a minimum of 15,000 lbs on track and moving	Driscoll Island Bridge grant proposal was resubmitted to the North Central Regional Transportation Planning Office, however, did not rank high enough to get funded.	Efforts will continue to find funding to build a bridge to Driscoll Island.
Complete and/or review and update plans including WA plan, weed plan, and fire management plan	Review completed, updates still needed	Complete updates

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.

No new strategies were or have been identified.

2008 Performance Measures

Performance measures for the Driscoll Island Wildlife Area are listed below. Accomplishments and progress toward desired outcomes will be monitored and evaluated annually.

- 1) Grid for weeds on 100 acres
- 2) Complete GPSing features not GPSed in 2006
- 3) Assess shrub survival planted for WHIP project and replace shrubs that died
- 4) Check and maintain shrub watering system
- 5) Complete sharecropper agricultural lease renewal before expiration
- 6) Remove all old scrap iron and metal
- 7) Monitor agricultural leases

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/

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