



# Klickitat Wildlife Area 2010 Management Plan Update

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

## **Land Management Summary**

This is an update to the 2006 Klickitat Wildlife Area Management Plan that provides management direction for this Wildlife Area. 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. The 2006 Klickitat Wildlife Area Management Plan may be viewed online at:



[http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife\\_areas/management\\_plans/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/)

The Klickitat Wildlife Area is comprised of several units. Most of the units share similar elements in habitat and recreational values, but have different management priorities according to the specific character of the unit location. The largest unit, the Soda Springs Unit, is approximately 13,000 acres in size and is managed primarily as deer winter range. It also provides access to the Klickitat River for steelhead and salmon fishing and supports a strong population of wild turkeys. Deer and turkey hunting are the primary recreational uses of this unit. Western gray squirrels (Washington State threatened species) are also present and are a priority species for management. Land purchases for the Soda Springs Unit began in 1948 and continued into the 1990’s. The Mineral Springs Unit, Dillacort Canyon Unit, Fisher Hill Unit, and other smaller parcels are located in the Klickitat River Canyon and serve to protect fish habitat and provide access for fishing. They are distributed downstream from the Soda Springs Unit almost to the mouth of the Klickitat River. Collectively these units encompass more than 800 acres. They also offer limited access for turkey and deer hunting. The Mineral Springs Unit features an old building that has been retained by WDFW as an important communal roosting site for Vaux’s swifts. The Goldendale Hatchery Unit is 240 acres in size (excluding the hatchery facilities)

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and has been managed as a pheasant release site and for trout fishing. The Sondino Unit, on the plateau adjacent to the Columbia River, now totals approximately 211 acres. This unit is a conservation area managed specifically for western pond turtles, which are a Washington State endangered species. Purchases of parcels for this unit began in 1992 and continue to the present. A new unit, the Swale Creek Unit, was added in 2007. This 516-acre unit straddles the Klickitat Trail, which is owned and managed by Washington State Parks. It was established to furnish additional upland bird hunting opportunities and to maintain streamside and upland habitat for fish and wildlife.

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

### **Updates/Changes**

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has been involved in land exchange negotiations with Washington Department of Natural Resources for at least four years. Several parcels that belong to DNR but that have been managed as part of WDFW's Klickitat Wildlife Area were to be acquired by WDFW as part of the original statewide land exchange proposal. Negotiations between the two agencies have resulted in changes to the proposal. Presently, two 40-acre parcels are expected to be transferred to WDFW ownership. The other DNR parcels will continue to be leased by WDFW for wildlife rangeland.

WDFW began developing a Habitat Conservation Plan for the Wildlife Areas in 2006. While the purpose of habitat conservation on Wildlife Areas would seem to be self-evident, land management practices may benefit certain species at the expense of others, and the agency wishes to minimize the unintended negative consequences of these activities. Federal funding sources want assurance that WDFW has given careful consideration to the effects of land management activities. Therefore, WDFW has compiled a list of priority species and a list of human activities that occur on agency lands. These have been mapped in order to identify when and where these species and activities may overlap. This will allow the agency to evaluate the potential for activities to both negatively and positively impact wildlife and rare plants. When the development of the Habitat Conservation Plan was initiated, public recreational activities were included in consideration of potential impacts to resources. However, due to financial constraints, the scope of the plan has been narrowed and recreation activities have been dropped from the list. Only activities occurring as a direct result of WDFW management are being reviewed. The Habitat Conservation Plan is projected for completion in 2011.

A forest habitat improvement project was initiated in spring 2009 on the Soda Springs Unit. The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and WDFW worked together to thin three patches of oak-dominated forest, with the intent of encouraging development of larger crowns and increased acorn production in the trees selected for retention. Turkeys utilize a variety of habitats and projects that benefit turkeys can also benefit other priority species in our area. The project was limited in extent to fit the parameters of a Class I Forest Practice, thereby simplifying the permitting process. The long-term strategy is to accomplish the work incrementally over a ten-year time span. This allows WDFW and NWTF to assess the results

and make adjustments if needed for the next season's work. It also limits the impacts of disturbance to a localized area each year, and for a shorter term, as opposed to completing the whole project in one year. The 2009 treatment seems to have turned out well. Staffing changes within NWTf precipitated a pause in the project in spring 2010, but the work will resume as soon as possible.

In spring 2009 the "Old Icehouse," a building on the Mineral Springs Unit, was observed for signs of use by Vaux's swifts. Citizen Advisory Group member Ramsey and Wildlife Area Manager Van Leuven conducted separate surveys and documented as many as 354 swifts entering the chimney of the building to roost overnight during spring migration. The purpose of the effort was to ascertain whether the chimney was still serving as important habitat for the birds, and therefore worth repairing. The number of birds using the structure has apparently dropped. Counts as recently as 2005 were in the thousands. Of additional significance was the discovery of the cause of the deterioration of the chimney. The loss of bricks from the structure was assumed to be due to years of exposure to weather. However, closer inspection revealed that many of the bricks in the damaged chimney are broken, probably a result of shooting. The stucco exterior of the building is also pockmarked by shots. This calls into question whether to invest in repairs when the building is being subjected to vandalism, considering the isolated location of the building makes it difficult to protect. The planned work on the chimney has been placed on hold.

### **New Issues**

WDFW has been reviewing water rights associated with lands owned by the agency so those water allotments can be dedicated to uses that benefit fish and wildlife. On the Klickitat Wildlife Area the most important water rights are associated with the Sondino Unit. This part of the Wildlife Area was acquired expressly for conservation of the western pond turtle, an endangered species in our state. The water levels in the ponds on this unit depend on spring-fed streams as well as surface water runoff. The trend in the last few years has been for one of the key ponds to dry up earlier in the summer than normal. While the turtles are able to cope with this to some extent, ponds are an essential feature of their habitat through the active season, which runs through late summer. Concern regarding the loss of this pond during the active season has prompted investigation into whether the water right is being infringed upon. Water level gauges will be placed in the most important ponds, so water levels can be more closely monitored, and if early drying of the ponds continues to be a problem WDFW will take steps to ensure that water delivery is restored.

One issue was identified in 2009 involving a change in the water flow in a ditch. Until a few years ago, water from a perennial stream flowed west along a county road, then south through a culvert down to the ponds on the Sondino Unit. After that time, about half of the ditch water flowed past the upper end of the culvert along the county road instead of going to the ponds. The Klickitat Public Works Department agreed to repair the culvert catchbasin, and the job was done late last summer. This is expected to alleviate at least part of the water shortage.

The volume of drift boat traffic on the Klickitat River has increased dramatically during summer steelhead season over the last two years. Strong runs of fish have generated a surge of interest among fishermen, and both private fishermen and commercial guides have been putting in at the

Stinson Flat boat ramp and drifting down to various take-out points below the confluence with the Little Klickitat River. Most of the reach between Stinson Flat and the Little Klickitat is within the Klickitat Wildlife Area.

Public enjoyment of this resource is to be encouraged, and the Klickitat Wildlife Area is contributing funds and staff time to the maintenance of Leidl Park, Stinson Flat, and Mineral Springs boating access sites. However, with the increase in use of the river, some problems have arisen. The most common complaints have been in relation to trash and human waste along the riverbanks and gravel bars, poor etiquette among boaters and between boaters and bank fishers, and people camping along the river outside of the campgrounds (sometimes for an extended period of time) and guides monopolizing certain camping spots within the campgrounds. In addition, people have been observed driving too fast towing trailers up and down the campground access roads and using unauthorized places for launching and taking out on the banks of the river. Driving on undeveloped sites along the riverbank degrades important riparian habitat and contributes to stream sedimentation. Abuse of the access roads makes them unnecessarily rough and increases the risk of conflict with other drivers. In order to address these problems, the Wildlife Area Manager plans to devote more time to public contacts along the river and monitoring activities there.

A new fish capture and research facility is being constructed on the Fisher Hill Unit, at the location of the Lyle Falls Fishway. The primary purpose of the facility is to capture more fish to be used in the artificial production of spring Chinook salmon and steelhead at the Klickitat Fish Hatchery. This facility will require more electric power than the existing powerline can supply. Therefore, part of the project involves adding a wire and changing from one-pole to two-pole structures to support the wires. WDFW has placed conditions on the permit to enter the property to protect the resources there for wildlife, as well as to avoid introduction of weeds, disturbance of cultural resources, or undue aesthetic impacts. The work in the most sensitive area is expected to commence this summer.

During the past few years, the seasonal burn ban has been lifted on the Wildlife Area so that visitors may have campfires during the general modern firearm deer hunting season. The policy has been that campers may bring their own firewood, or collect dead and down material on the Wildlife Area for campfire fuel. Over time, it has become somewhat more difficult to find fuel wood conveniently located to the favored campsites. Many standing dead trees have been cut down to supply firewood, as well as at least one green tree. Additionally, there have been a number of instances where fires were left unattended in camp, or simply abandoned. Therefore, the Wildlife Area will return to a prohibition on open fires until further notice to prevent further damage to habitat and for public safety.

### **Major Stewardship Accomplishments**

The annual maintenance and repair of roads on the Klickitat Wildlife Area occurred in June for 2009. This is later in the season than normal and afforded an unusual opportunity to make improvements to a problem road on the Soda Springs Unit. This road is usually too wet to grade when the other roads are ready for maintenance. As a result, it was in extremely poor condition, creating a seasonal access issue. In June 2009, the road was dry enough to repair and improve the surface. Ruts were bladed out, water bars were created to improve drainage, turnouts were

added, and crushed rock was applied to increase durability of the driving surface. The road going into the Canyon Creek Campground was also graded and rocked to improve public access to this popular spot, and rock was added to sections of the Sheep Canyon Road as well.

Road maintenance and improvements were done in May this year. Most of the roads on the Soda Springs Unit were graded, and rock was added to more segments of the Sheep Canyon Road. The roads that provide access to campgrounds along the Klickitat River were graded. A nearby landowner offered to donate boulders to the Wildlife Area, so the WDFW road crew hauled the rocks and placed most of them along the Sheep Canyon Road in an area where drivers sometimes stray off the road. The extra rocks were stockpiled for future use in other projects.

Department of Fish and Wildlife has fulfilled its obligations to bring the roads on the Klickitat Wildlife Area up to standards under the Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan approved by Department of Natural Resources. WDFW still plans to abandon selected old roads that no longer serve a purpose in order to reduce the inventory of roads that require maintenance. This work is expected to occur in 2011.

A new unit of the Wildlife Area was established in 2007 with the purchase of approximately 516 acres along Swale Creek. The creek and the Klickitat Trail pass through the property from east to west, and the Centerville Highway borders the south edge. Riparian habitat will be maintained along the creek to benefit fish and wildlife and upland habitat is expected to furnish bird hunting opportunities. This unit was impacted by unpermitted livestock grazing in 2008 and 2009, particularly along Swale Creek. Construction of new property line fences was completed in June this year. Besides excluding livestock, the fences will have the additional benefit of defining the limits of public ownership, thereby averting accidental trespass by visitors onto neighboring private property.

A new property line fence was also built on the Sondino Unit in spring 2009. Although the department purchased the 4.26 acre property in 1996, there was no fence to prevent livestock trespass or other encroachment. Because this area is within the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area, the project was subject to approval by the Gorge Commission. Special design features were incorporated into the fence to protect resources on the property and the fence was built by a crew from the Larch Correctional facility after the construction plan was approved.

Control of noxious weeds continued to be a priority for 2009. Target species and locations were:

- Canada thistle – Goldendale Hatchery Unit
- Himalayan blackberry – Mineral Springs Unit
- Reed canarygrass - Soda Springs Unit

Carefully selected herbicides were employed in this effort, and so far, the results appear to be good. Some infestations will require more applications. In the course of other duties, additional weed patches have been discovered. These have been added to the treatment plan for 2011. The Goldendale Hatchery Unit hosts extensive infestations of reed canarygrass and bachelor buttons. An intensive effort will be required to eradicate these weeds. Returning the best fields to cultivation will address most of the bachelor button infestation. The canarygrass is primarily

along Spring Creek, which is managed by WDFW Fish Program. Time and budget constraints have forced a postponement of intensive canarygrass control efforts there.

Substantial improvements in campground appearance and safety were made in 2009. Dead standing trees were cut down when and where they were identified as a threat to visitor safety. Standing snags that pose little danger to the public are left in place to provide habitat for wildlife. Large live conifers at Stinson Flats Campground were limbed up to provide better clearance for vehicles and sight distance, and small trees and selected shrubs were thinned to reduce the fire hazard. Thinning of small trees and shrubs was also completed at Leidl Park Campground. Slash generated by this effort was piled and then chipped. The Wildlife Area manager worked in the field with Department of Natural Resources fire crews and the Washington Conservation Corps crew to accomplish this project. Department of Natural Resources graciously provided assistance with campground improvements for the third season in a row, and their contribution is appreciated by the public as well as WDFW.

In June 2009, the Coordinated Resource Management Program and WDFW pooled resources to conduct a survey of six range vegetation transects located on or near the Klickitat Wildlife Area. The transects were sampled for vegetation type and abundance. These transects were established in 1952, and have been sampled five times (1952, 1955, 1960, 1968, and 1979) prior to 2009. The work was performed by Central Klickitat Conservation District and WDFW staff. The value of surveying the same site periodically over a long interval of time is that we can learn how plant communities respond to various range management practices given local conditions and species potential. Most studies must be completed in a few years. Yet, that is often too short a timeframe to evaluate changes in plant communities and link them to events on the range. The results of these surveys showed the effects of mostly gradual changes that observers would not detect in a short-term study. However, there were at least two instances where a major change in range use was indicated by a large difference in the plant community at the time of the next survey. A summary of the results of the 2009 transect surveys are available upon request by contacting the Klickitat Wildlife Area Headquarters.

### **Status Report of 2010 Performance Measures**

A list of performance measures is reviewed each year for purposes of evaluating and reporting progress on the management plan. Many of the performance measures will be on the list for several years because they require a long-term effort to achieve the desired result. A report on each calendar year's accomplishments will be included in the annual management plan update. Issues that interfere with accomplishment of these goals will be noted and may necessitate adjustment of the performance measures for the following year.

<b>2010 Performance Measure</b>	<b>Status of Performance Measure</b>	<b>Explanation of Progress/ 2011 Related Activity/ Comments</b>
Continue to work on forest habitat project to improve habitat for priority species, improve forest health, and reduce fire hazard.	Accomplished	Three small patches of oaks ranging from 1.9 to 2.9 acres were thinned to reduce competition among trees and encourage development of larger trees that will be better mast producers. This small project was a “test run” for larger scope project work planned for coming years.
Establish a new agricultural lease on the Goldendale Hatchery Unit to furnish habitat for pheasants.	Incomplete	District team members have visited the site and support the proposal. An environmental assessment has been completed. A lease agreement that would be economically viable is still in early planning stages.
Construct new fence on Sondino Unit to exclude livestock.	Accomplished	
Construct new fencing on the Swale Creek Unit to exclude livestock and define public property lines.	Accomplished	
Implement weed control treatment in areas of known infestations.	Accomplished	
Restore native shrubs along Spring Creek.	In progress	Shrubs were planted with help of volunteers in December. Late fall planting time should increase shrub survival. If the rate of survival improves, annual plantings will be scheduled for December in future years.

<b>2010 Performance Measure</b>	<b>Status of Performance Measure</b>	<b>Explanation of Progress/ 2011 Related Activity/ Comments</b>
Address livestock trespass issues on the Wildlife Area. Work with neighbors to develop ways to control movement of livestock as needed.	Accomplished	Several property line fences on the Soda Springs Unit were repaired in spring 2009 and 2010. The Klickitat Wildlife Area contributed materials for a new section of fence built in 2009 on neighboring property to solve a problem with cattle escaping through gates being left open by the public. An issue with repeated, prolonged trespass was addressed by Manager Van Leuven and the Klickitat County Sheriff's Department.
Maintain and repair upland water sources. Clean all guzzler reservoirs at least once during the year.	Most maintenance (including cleaning) was accomplished. Repair of roof structures not done.	Decrepit fences around some of the guzzlers were repaired by volunteers.
Monitor range and water sources in association with grazing permit.	Accomplished	
Conduct surveys of black-tailed deer, and monitor western pond turtle populations at Sondino Unit. Conduct mourning dove survey for nationwide survey effort in May. Survey for western gray squirrels as needed in relation to forest thinning project. Survey for bighorn sheep and elk during deer survey effort, if opportunity arises.	Accomplished	No elk or bighorns observed on the Wildlife Area during the winter deer survey.

<b>2010 Performance Measure</b>	<b>Status of Performance Measure</b>	<b>Explanation of Progress/ 2011 Related Activity/ Comments</b>
Determine whether Vaux's swifts still roost in the Icehouse chimney and research feasibility of repair of the structure.	Accomplished	
Improve public safety and reduce soil erosion and other impacts of inappropriate road use by closing a section of the Sheep Canyon Road and short spur road off the Sheep Canyon Road.	In progress	Boulders were placed along the Sheep Canyon Road to discourage driving off road to get around gates once those are in place. The formal environmental review for the proposed closures is planned to be complete by fall 2010.
Reduce disturbance to wildlife in sensitive areas and times by continuing seasonal road closures.	Accomplished	
Design and implement a plan for limiting the sprawl of camping activity along the Grayback and Sheep Canyon Roads. This is necessary to stop the spread of soil compaction and damage to range plants.	In planning stages	Proposal is to limit distance between road and camp to 50 feet, except in designated camping areas. In designated areas that are already impacted by past camping activity, camps may be more than 50 feet from the road.
Write new sections for the management plan describing special management strategies for the satellite units.	Not done	
Scan current maps showing the boundaries of the Soda Springs Unit, Mineral Springs Unit, Goldendale Hatchery Unit, Dillacort Unit, and Fisher Hill Unit, and post them on the internet as pdf files suitable for downloading.	Not done	

## **New Strategies**

The Wildlife Area plan identifies many strategies or activities to address the agency's strategic plan goals and objectives, why the area was purchased, habitat conditions, species presence, 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 effects of past management activities.

New strategies for 2010 address the new issues identified earlier as well as action items in the Performance Measures, and they include:

### **Agency Objective: Provide sound operational management of WDFW lands, facilities and access sites.**

Strategy: Protect and apply water rights for best use.

- Finish installation of water level gauges in the Sondino Ponds and initiate regular recording of water levels.

### **Agency Objective: Provide Sustainable Fish and Wildlife-Related Recreational and Commercial Opportunities Compatible with Maintaining Healthy Fish and Wildlife Populations and Habitats. Improve the Economic Well-Being of Washington by Providing Diverse, High- Quality Recreational and Commercial Opportunities.**

#### **1. Provide public access compatible with fish, wildlife and habitat protection**

Strategy: Conduct more public outreach to improve visitor behavior on the Klickitat River.

Strategy: Extend the prohibition on open fires on the Wildlife Area to all seasons, except by special permit.

1.D. Strategy: Provide limited camping where no resource issues exist.

Strategy: Institute new rules to limit camping activity to areas already impacted by such use.

## **2011 Performance Measures**

1. Renew the agricultural lease on the Soda Springs Unit.
2. Establish a new agricultural lease on the Goldendale Hatchery Unit to furnish habitat for pheasants.
3. Design and implement a plan for limiting the sprawl of camping activity along the Grayback and Sheep Canyon Roads. This is necessary to stop the spread of soil compaction and damage to range plants.
4. Improve public safety and reduce soil erosion and other impacts of inappropriate road use by closing a section of the Sheep Canyon Road and short spur road off the Sheep Canyon Road.
5. Address livestock trespass issues on the Wildlife Area. Continue to work with neighbors to develop ways to control movement of livestock as needed.

6. Continue to work on forest habitat projects to improve habitat for priority species, improve forest health, and reduce fire hazard.
7. Maintain and repair upland water sources. Clean all guzzler reservoirs at least once during the year.
8. Work to develop a larger parking area along Harms Road, to serve hikers and hunters using the Klickitat Trail to access the Swale Creek Unit.
9. Conduct more public outreach to improve visitor behavior on the Klickitat River.
10. Finish installation of water level gauges in the Sondino Ponds and initiate regular recording of water levels.
11. Conduct surveys of black-tailed deer on and around the Soda Springs Unit. Monitor western pond turtle population at Sondino Unit. Conduct mourning dove survey for nationwide survey effort in May. Survey for western gray squirrels, as needed, in relation to forest habitat enhancement projects. If opportunity arises, survey for bighorn sheep and elk during deer survey effort.
12. Implement weed control treatment in areas of known infestations.
13. Restore native shrubs and trees along Spring Creek. This will occur incrementally over several years with help from volunteers.
14. Monitor range and water sources in association with grazing permit.
15. Reduce disturbance to wildlife in sensitive areas and times by continuing seasonal road closures.
16. Write new sections for the management plan describing special management strategies for the satellite units.
17. Scan current maps showing the boundaries of the Soda Springs Unit, Mineral Springs Unit, Goldendale Hatchery Unit, Dillacort Unit, and Fisher Hill Unit, and post them on the internet as pdf files available for downloading.
18. Address increased facilities maintenance and repair needs.

#### **Citizens Advisory Group and District Team Input**

A meeting with the Citizen Advisory Group was held August 26, 2010 to review progress on the 2010 Performance Measures and discuss new ideas. These ideas and suggestions are presented below. Input from the Wildlife Area manager and District Team is included in italics. Only the Performance Measures that generated discussion are listed.

CAG Membership includes the following organizations/individuals:

- Cattlemens Association/participant in the Simcoe-Grayback Coordinate Resource Management Program
- Local landowner on Klickitat River/Fisherman
- Native Plant Society
- Klickitat County Weed Board
- Hay and wheat grower/local landowner near Soda Springs Unit

**Input on the 2010 Performance Measures:**

1. A member of the CAG inquired about the status of the two agricultural leases, which are both due for renewal. The Soda Springs Unit lease is of special concern. The group desires to have this lease in effect soon, so the fields may be prepared for planting this fall.

*A farmer who lives near the Soda Springs Unit has indicated interest in farming the WDFW property and a farming plan has been drafted. Details of the agreement remain to be worked out but should be completed soon. The documents will be submitted for approval by WDFW management staff. Manager Van Leuven hopes to have an agreement drafted for the Goldendale Hatchery Unit this fall as well, although it may not be ready for submittal until winter.*

2. Progress on weed control was viewed as fairly satisfactory, although recent discovery of additional infestations shows that the problem is more extensive than previously recognized by WDFW staff. A carefully planned approach will be necessary to mount an effective control effort, given limited funding and staff time and sensitivity of some nearby resources.

3. The CAG asked about progress on the livestock trespass problem. WDFW's handling of specific incidents were discussed. One group member shared information about the grazing permit history in an area where trespass seems to occur fairly frequently. The CAG recommends that when stray livestock are found on the Wildlife Area, that the owner be given a courtesy call as has been past practice, even if their animals are "repeat offenders." However in that case, the group feels that a call to the sheriff's office on the same day is warranted as well.

4. The need for Wildlife Area manager participation in the mourning dove survey was questioned by the CAG.

*Wildlife Program Manager Jonker explained that all the biologists in Region 5 participate in this nationwide survey effort in order to monitor the health of the population. Mourning doves are a popular game species in many parts of the United States.*

5. The Vaux's swift survey results and apparent damage to the Old Icehouse building were discussed. The group agrees that repairing this structure is not a priority given that we will not be able to protect the building from vandalism.

6. The group asked about public acceptance of seasonal road closures.

*Manager Van Leuven and Program Manager Jonker related that public input has been mostly positive, but that the question of access for disabled hunters during the time when roads are closed to everyone else has been raised.*

The group feels strongly that the road should continue to be closed in order to prevent undue disturbance to stressed wildlife in winter, as well as protect the road surfaces when they are most susceptible to damage. Opening the gates for disabled hunters would create a significant negative impact for other hunters as well as compromise the stated objectives of the closures. The CAG favors continuing the seasonal road closures, without exception.

7. One member of the CAG feels that it is important to write the sections of the management plan that pertain to the satellite units and urged that it be a priority.

*Manager Van Leuven agrees.*

**New concerns and action items:**

- The Klickitat County Weed Board Coordinator has offered help in identifying weeds on the Sondino Unit. He can also suggest appropriate control measures for these species, including proper permitting for herbicide application in sensitive habitats, once the species identities are known.
- *Open campfires will not be permitted on the Wildlife Area this fall. Should the ban on open campfires include the boating access sites along the Klickitat River? (These are the Leidl Park, Stinson Flat, and Mineral Springs Campgrounds.)*

The CAG recommends that campfires be allowed in these campgrounds, provided that the local fire control organizations have lifted the seasonal ban on open fires.

- *A plan for managing camping sprawl in the upland areas is proposed as follows: Camps are to be within 50 feet of the road, unless they are located in a designated camping area, which will be marked by WDFW.*

The CAG thinks the best results will be achieved if a map is created and distributed that clearly identifies where camping is allowed.

- The Citizen Advisory Group wants WDFW to actively pursue creation of better parking space along Harms Road, near its crossing with the Klickitat Trail.

*This has been added as a performance measure for 2011.*

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**Want to see the full plan?**

Go to:

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