



LECLERC CREEK WILDLIFE AREA 2008 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Land Management Summary

This is an update to the 2006 LeClerc Creek Wildlife Area Management Plan (http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/) that provides management direction for the LeClerc Creek Wildlife Area located in Pend Oreille County along the east side of the Pend Oreille River; about 25 miles northwest of Newport and 65 miles northwest of Spokane. The four land units totaling 614 owned acres were purchased with Pitman-Robertson and State Wildlife funds in 1972. The majority of the area is forested and is managed for a variety of wildlife habitat improvements and public recreation

opportunities. 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

Two performance measures were dropped, for the 2007 plan. These were:

1. Expand open meadows by 1 acre and install 10 nest boxes for bluebirds.
2. Develop/implement Grizzly Bear management guidelines in 2007.

There was not enough Wildlife Area staff time available to accomplish these tasks.

Inside	
Land Management Summary	1
Update/Changes	1
New Issues	2
Major Stewardship Accomplishments	2
Status Report of 2007 Performance Measures	2
New Strategies	3
2008 Performance Measures	3
Citizens Advisory Group Input	3

New Issues

No additional new issues were identified in 2007.

One issue was identified in summer 2008. The U.S. Forest Service has notified WDFW that USFS would be interested in purchasing a roughly 320 acre upland unit of the Wildlife Area. In the September 2008 WDFW District 1 Team meeting, WDFW met with the Colville Forest Service representative for this proposal, and discussed with him the possibility of a trade, instead of a purchase. The District Team agrees that this LeClerc Creek WLA parcel should go to the USFS, but we believe a better deal would be made to swap for land currently owned by USFS, surrounding two large satellite parcels at Sherman Creek WLA (SCWA). A trade would allow these SCWA parcels to be “consolidated” into one larger parcel, and easier to manage. Subsequent action regarding this issue will be noted in next year’s WLA Update.

Major Stewardship Accomplishments

Noxious weed management goals were met in 2007. Populations of Leafy Spurge, Diffuse Knapweed and Dalmatian Toadflax were reduced.

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
Work with WDFW forester and local biologists to develop forest management practices that accomplish PHS objectives for the wildlife area.	Discussed possible forest management options with WDFW forester and the district biologist. WDFW’s John Andrews conducted forest inventory on part of the WLA in 2007, with recommendations for management.	Continue to develop in 2008. Implement appropriate management if budget allows.
Meet the goals in the weed management plan for 2006 (listed in original plan).	Accomplished in 2007.	Continue in 2008.
Mow 2 acres of forest openings to increase succulent forage.	Not accomplished. Staff on other projects.	Identify new areas and continue in 2008, if staff time and budget allow.

New Strategies

No new strategies were identified for 2008.

2008 Performance Measures

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

- 1) Plan management of LeClerc and Sherman Creek Wildlife Areas so that performance measures are adequately addressed. Include update on possible sale/trade of one parcel to USFS.
- 2) Develop a list of forest management options, to be implemented if funding becomes available.
- 3) Appropriate weed control on the wildlife area, with focus on areas adjacent to roads. Meet the goals for 2008 outlined in the weed management plan. Concentrate control efforts on Leafy spurge, Diffuse Knapweed, and Dalmatian Toadflax populations.
- 4) Close road access where road conditions are not safe or where conditions have a significant negative impact on fish and wildlife.
- 5) As habitat surveys are conducted and analyzed, determine general trend of habitat quality. If quality is declining, attempt to determine cause of decline and develop/implement strategies to improve habitat quality.
- 6) Update plans as appropriate, including WA plan and all listed appendices.
- 7) Maintain all signs, parking areas and access sites.
- 8) Maintain current licenses and certifications required for staff.
- 9) Identify any capital project needs for the wildlife area.
- 10) Maintain current fire protection contracts

Citizens Advisory Group Input

No CAG meeting was scheduled for 2008. In the future, the CAG will become part of the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area's (SCWA) CAG, and management of LeClerc Creek Wildlife Area will be discussed during the SCWA CAG meetings.

Want to see the full plan?

Go to -

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

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