



SUNNYSIDE/SNAKE RIVER WILDLIFE AREA 2012 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Land Management Summary

This is an update to the 2006 Sunnyside/Snake River Wildlife Area (SSWA) Management Plan (http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/) that provides management direction for the Wildlife Area complex. The SSWA includes 22 sub-units, comprising 21,394 acres, which are scattered throughout Walla Walla, Franklin, Benton and Yakima counties. The majority of the sites lie along a 118-mile highway corridor between Lowden in Walla Walla County and Union Gap in Yakima County. The Franklin County sites lie approximately 35-40 miles north of this corridor.



Sunrise over the newly acquired Mesa Lake property

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 generally 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. Due to budget constraints, beginning in 2010, the Wildlife Area Planning process was changed from an annual reporting period to a two-year reporting period. This management plan update captures details of accomplishments from 2010 and 2011, and new issues and land management strategies for the period 2012 through 2013.

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Updates/Changes

Wildlife Area Manager, Rocky Ross, retired in July of 2009 and due to events following his retirement, the manager position has not been permanently refilled. During this interim period Robby Sak, Assistant Wildlife Area Manager, was assigned additional administrative duties to assure that key operations were maintained. A new manager is scheduled to be hired in the summer of 2012. Because of reduced staffing over the past 3 years, many routine Wildlife Area activities have been limited to a maintenance level only.

A part time, on-call position was created and filled to assist with weed control and other habitat enhancement/maintenance projects on the Wildlife Area. The primary focus for this position is Franklin and Walla Walla counties. This additional staffing did not fully compensate for the lack of a full time manager, but it allowed at least some of the basic operations to be maintained. Other Wildlife Area staff has remained stable during this reporting period.

The operating budget for the past two years has remained stable. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) portion of the operating budget was increased by 1.02%, beginning in the 2010 contract year. This increase partially funded the new part time, on-call position and allowed replacement of a project pickup. The new pickup was purchased with State Wildlife Area funds, and BPA agreed to pay an annual mileage fee.

Operation and maintenance costs on the project continue to increase due to the need to replace and repair antiquated equipment and infrastructure.

New Issues

1. Complete the cooperative wetland/wasteway enhancement project with the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District. This is not a new, but a continuing issue. The last phase of this project was delayed because the District staff was focused on other irrigation infrastructure repairs.

2. Acquisition was completed on the Mesa Lake property after a two-year, 5 phase effort. Preliminary work has already been conducted but major planning and implementation of wetland enhancement and capital improvement projects are on the horizon. This includes spraying and burning decadent emergent vegetation, installing a new center pivot to maintain food for wintering waterfowl, improving access, mainline repair and of course, increased noxious weed control.



Fire Chief Chris Shulte commands a controlled burn of decadent emergent vegetation in a Mesa Lake wetland.

3. Consider replacing one or more center pivot irrigation systems on the Windmill Ranch, if capital funding becomes available.

4. Continued working with Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) on the Johnson wetland project. Remaining stockpile of dirt should be gone by the spring of 2013. After the stockpile is gone, SVID will restore the staging area where the stockpile was located. Restoration should be completed by the fall of 2013.



Swinging a catwalk into place at the new water control structure on the Bailie Youth Ranch

5. Continued with a grass restoration project on the Byron Unit. This started as a multi-year project, beginning with initial control of Russian knapweed, a fallow period, seeding and follow up weed control. Starting in the spring of 2011 we continued the restoration work, but in a different manner after a new biological control, that is specific to the control of Russian knapweed, became available. So far, the areas where bugs were released in 2011 show good signs of knapweed control. Bugs were released again during spring of 2012. Plans are to inter-seed native grasses with a no till drill during the fall of 2012.

6. Begin Russian olive removal on the Bottom Rupley segment of the Headquarters unit as part of a long range goal of wetland and upland habitat enhancement.

7. Begin planning and implementation of habitat enhancement projects on the Mesa Lake property.

8. Make offer to purchase the McWhorter Ranch. If successful, begin management planning process as the property will probably become part of this Wildlife Area.

9. Make improvements to the recently developed wetlands on the Bailie Memorial Youth Ranch. This includes a beaver deceiver at the most recently installed water control structure (Warm Spring Pond), and a more formal control structure for the Stick Ponds.



Typical Russian olive removal project

Major Stewardship Accomplishments (2010-2011)

Bridgeman Pond Restoration: Removed of 5 acres of mature Russian olive trees along the shoreline of Bridgeman Pond on the Headquarters unit. This was a small portion of an otherwise monoculture of olives, which was removed to create an access road/fire line around the pond for future wetland management. The entire upper half of the pond is dense emergent vegetation, which requires periodic controlled burning to maximize habitat benefits.

Lower Rupley Restoration: Pulled and piled approximately 35 acres of mature Russian olive trees in the Lower Rupley unit. This area encompasses a series of natural depressions and swales. Future plans are to improve the wetland areas and restore riparian habitat to native vegetation.

Headquarter Unit Enhancement: Expanded an existing swale within the 90-Acre field (HQ unit) to allow the enhancement of both moist soil management and upland habitat within this sub-unit.

Duck Stamp Grants:

Six Duck Stamp grant proposals were submitted for funding to perform the following tasks:

1. Add an overflow pipe to new pond construction in Circle #8 on the Windmill Ranch.
2. Move an irrigation pump and suction pipe out of the Irrigation District's right-of-way on the Windmill Ranch so they can maintain the canal more efficiently.
3. Obtain an additional \$200,000 to help buy critical wetland habitat in Franklin County. This would be added to a similar grant that was awarded in the previous funding cycle.
4. Repair the lift pump intake on the Giffin Lake pump on the HQ Unit, which delivers water to the moist soil management cells.
5. Build water control structures on the Bailie Youth Ranch to create and enhance wetland habitat.
6. Install 800 linear feet of 12 inch PVC pipe and two extra flood valves in the Rice Paddy wetland. The purpose of the project was to give us more control of the water distribution in the wetland for better moist soil management.

All six of these grant proposals received funding and all have been accomplished as of this update. The Bailie Ranch project will require some follow up work that will hopefully be performed in 2012.

The State Duck Stamp project to create and enhance wetland habitat on the Bailie Youth Ranch was finally accomplished after being delayed by high water. A diversion was installed to route water from the PE16.4 Wasteway through a natural swale (Big Bend Pond) and then back into the drain. Due to water elevation changes, adjustments were made to the incoming ditch to assure water was available on a year around basis.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant:

A SRFB grant for \$123,000 was received for shoreline and floodplain restoration on the I-82 Unit. This project included riparian plantings and concrete removal from the floodplain. The concrete removal and levee breaching was completed in the spring of 2011.

North American Wetland Conservation Act Grant:

In 2009 an agreement was reached with the Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) to remove up to 80,000 cubic yards of soil from the Johnson Wetland site (NAWCA grant project) to enhance the original design of this project. SVID did not have the initial funds to accomplish the entire project. Rather than delay our wetland development, it was decided that SVID would remove the soil in 2010 and stockpile it on site for later removal. The remaining stockpile should be removed by the spring of 2013.

Windmill Ranch Update:

Temporary infrastructure was installed within Circle #8 on the Windmill Ranch to allow a portion of a cornfield to be flooded for waterfowl hunting. This project may be enhanced at a later time with more permanent water control and grade control within the field.

Rebuilt both pump intakes on the north pump station on the Windmill Ranch

Hope Valley Restoration:



A dryland grass restoration project was started on a portion of the Hope Valley unit but persistent annual weeds and extremely dry conditions have extended this effort.

Weed Control:

Weed control was performed on 620 acres on the Sunnyside units and 125 acres on the Snake River units over this reporting period.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Grant:

A second ALEA grant was awarded for a volunteer study to continue marsh bird response to wetland habitat manipulation. When this study ended in 2011, we had collected four seasons worth of data.

Spraying cocklebur in a future moist soil management unit on the Mesa Lake property.



Warm Springs Pond Update:

An existing dike and water control structure were improved at a second site (Warm Spring Pond) to enlarge a shallow pond that is fed by underground drain water. Beaver activity at the control structure has not allowed proper moist soil management so a beaver deceiver will have to be installed at this site.



Diversion into a newly constructed wetland on the Bailie Youth Ranch

Status Report of 2010-2011 Performance Measures

Key performance measures are generally 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 2012-13.

| 2010-11 Performance Measure | Status of Performance Measure | Explanation of Progress/ Related Activity/ Comments |
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| Maintain 50 acres of new grass seeding on Byron | Ongoing | Russian knapweed control needs several years of follow up to eradicate the weed |
| Maintain 170 acres of new grass seeding on the HQ unit | Ongoing | Kochia is the primary weed in these areas, which needs periodic herbicide treatment |
| Maintain 16 acres of new, warm season grasses on the Windmill Ranch, which were planted to provide competition for the noxious bristly foxtail. | Wide range of success, from poor to excellent | Areas under overhead irrigation develop heavy weed competition, which requires multiple herbicide treatments & mowing. Final results of this treatment are still pending. Reduced staff has delayed this work. |

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| Continue coordination with multiple partners to complete the final stages of the NAWCA grant. | On track | Final coordination will occur between 2011 & 2013 when the last of the soil is removed from the Johnson segment by SVID. Final details and cost share will be provided to Yakama Nation for the final NAWCA report. |
| Assist with the completion of a Columbia Basin NAWCA grant and other grant options to purchase the Mesa Lake property. | Entire property has been acquired, after 2 years, 5 phases, and with multiple sources of funding. The NAWCA grant will be pursued in 2012 and 2013. | Funding provided by two State Duck Stamp grants, the sale of surplus property and other Pittman-Robertson funds. |
| Control a minimum of 300 acres of noxious weeds annually across all segments of the SSWA. | Actual area treated was 1,248.5 acres during 2010; and 711 during 2011 | Part of the reason for the acreage increase is the new on-call position which allowed increased focus on weed control. The other reason is the addition of the Mesa Lake Unit, where little or no weed control has been performed for the past 20 years. |
| Implement Duck Stamp grant to extend existing pipe, and install control valves in the Rice Paddy wetland. | Complete | WDFW staff and volunteers completed this work |
| Implement Duck Stamp grant, install an overflow pipe in the Circle #8 ponds on Windmill | Complete | Ponds can be filled without incidental flooding of lessee's corn field |
| Implement Duck Stamp grant, repair the Giffen Lake lift pump intake | Complete | Invert elevation is lower than the previous intake so water can be pumped during low water periods. |
| Continue coordinating with a volunteer's survey of reclusive wetland species on Byron, HQ & Windmill wetlands. | Complete | This study was extended for two more years with a second ALEA grant. |

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| Control of Russian olive trees on the Byron and HQ units | Ongoing. As new areas are being eradicated, older sites have to be monitored so that restoration efforts continue to be successful. | Controlling Russian olive is on going for many years. Even though large areas on the Byron and HQ units have been eradicated, new sprouts pop up so continued control by herbicide and or mechanical methods are needed each year. |
| Control Russian knapweed on 50 acres of moist swales on Byron and reseed to native grasses | Ongoing | New bio control was introduced in the spring of 2011. So far the bio control seems to be working. Plans are to inter-seed native grasses in some areas this fall. |
| Remove Russian olive trees on the HQ units to prepare for habitat enhancement projects. | Removed about 30 acres on the HQ unit. The trees are in the floodplain and will be burned to make room for wetland development. | Future enhancement site for wetland habitat mixed with existing upland and riparian habitats. |
| Maintain 162 acres of moist soil management areas | Ongoing | Another 55 acres of moist soil habitat could come on line in the next two years on the Mesa Lake unit. Challenges to this activity are water availability, beaver activity at water control structures and reliability of pumps. |
| Maintain shop, office, storage buildings | Coordinated with engineers & contractor on the construction of a new 24 ft X 60 ft shop | Moved some shop equipment & tools to the new shop. Will use the old shop for storage. |
| Maintain signs, kiosks, boundary fences, etc. | <p>Replace signs as needed due to weathering or vandalism.</p> <p>The Register to Hunt boxes for the Bailie Ranch and Windmill Ranch were all replaced with new ones, which survived the first hunting season unscathed. All boxes are now being removed at the end of the general hunting season to avoid off-season damage.</p> | Kiosks and parking lot signs are vandalized weekly. Without additional Enforcement, it is time and cost prohibitive to stay ahead of the vandals. Many boundary fences are in need of repair or replacement, but this work continues to be put off due to lack of staff, funding and the fact that cattle trespass is minimal on most areas. |

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| Outreach, education, coordination | Continued working with Yakama Nation on details of implementing NAWCA grant. Continued working with local schools on field trip studies involving wetlands, bird nest boxes and riparian plantings. | Substantial coordination began on a project to remove fill material from the new NAWCA wetland before water is diverted into it. SVID removed all soil from the wetland footprint and stockpiled all material on site for future use. Local school projects added additional shrub cover to the HQ unit. |
| HCP Process | Ongoing | Worked with Olympia staff to develop HCP database for the entire wildlife area. |
| Coordinate with research staff to collect HEP, and species population data. | Did not perform this support work, but expect to in the future. | Continued coordinating with Science staff so we can develop a program to adequately track mitigation progress on BPA-funded wildlife areas. |
| Monitor public use and Register to Hunt programs where they have been implemented | Some work performed, mostly during hunting season, but coverage was site-specific | There is not enough staff time available to adequately monitor public use. Register to Hunt booths in Franklin County help collect user data. BPA will not fund this type of data collection on Sunnyside units. |
| Monitor for trespass | Periodic vehicle trespass on Thorton seems to be diminishing with increased monitoring by Enforcement. It is still very difficult to keep signs in place due to vandalism. | Limited staff time to monitor these areas adequately, and no authority to deal with the issues as they occur. |
| Monitor and maintain assigned access areas | Ongoing, although littering and dumping is rampant at Yakima County sites | This activity takes a lot of time away from habitat enhancement projects. |
| Monitor grazing permits | Grazing on cornstalk residue on the Windmill Ranch and HQ Units requires minimal effort. The experimental grazing permit for cheatgrass control under the powerlines on Windmill ran its 3-year course with a noticeable improvement in range condition. | This was a 3 year agreement to see if grazing cheatgrass to reduce annual seed production can reduce the plant population and release native bunchgrasses for habitat enhancement and fire control under BPA powerlines. After 2 years of monitoring, it was determined a third year was not necessary due to the decreased incidence in |

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| | | cheatgrass. |
| Plant and/or maintain 7 food plots across the wildlife area | Completed, but some of this activity has been put on hold due to limited staff time | It is unlikely this activity will continue until additional staff is hired for the Wildlife Area. The plots on the HQ unit are rotated so half are planted each year and left undisturbed for 2 years before they are planted again. |
| Pursue 50% funding from the Bureau of Reclamation for a new staff person to help manage BOR lands within Franklin Co. | Did not pursue during this reporting period | A proposal, submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation to fund ½ of an FTE, came at the beginning of their 3-year funding cycle. The next window of opportunity came in 2010 and no action was taken due to staff reduction. This proposal will only reach fruition with sustained effort by both agencies. |
| Coordinate with ADA representatives to discuss options for additional disabled use on the SSWA | Ongoing, but limited by available staff time | These programs require sustained attention, which is not always possible with existing workload and available staff. |
| Monitor closed roads monthly on all units. More often if time permits. | Generally, this schedule is maintained, but it is inadequate. | Not enough time to get around to all the sites on a more frequent basis. |
| Coordinate with Benton and Franklin Mosquito Control Districts | Mosquito control limitations on the wildlife area have been provided to the Mosquito Control Districts. | Generally, mosquito control measures are limited to the use of Larvicides, but substantial outbreaks of adults, or West Nile Virus hits require Adulticides. The latter have a more broad spectrum of insect control, which have higher impacts on wildlife. |
| Produce quarterly and annual BPA reports. Submit work plans and associated budgets | Done and accepted for each subsequent contract period | |

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| Coordinate with local fire districts | Ongoing. Benton County continues to disc fire line on Rattlesnake Slope. | This augments our weed-free access road/fire line. However, the fire district has not been performing this work at the right time of year, which is counter-productive for fire abatement and control. Met with them to discuss the issue and their timing improved. |
| Continue to coordinate for cultural resource surveys | As needed for ground disturbing activities | BPA has their own staff to complete the surveys. |
| Attend training to maintain licenses | Red card, first aid and pesticide classes were attended by appropriate staff. Oscar Medina received training for a commercial driver's license. | |

New Strategies for 2012 - 2013

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 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.

The CAG Team was largely unresponsive to solicitation for comments on the final draft of the Wildlife Area Plan in 2006. One member had no comments and the others provided several comments but many were requesting clarity on existing issues. Since that time, the WA Manager has conducted business with only District Team oversight. No new strategies will be implemented in 2012 that resulted from the CAG Team, District Team, or public comments received.

Agency Objective: Protect, restore and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.

1. Implement habitat improvement projects on the recently acquired Mesa Lake property in Franklin County

- A. *Strategy:* Pursue all sources of available funds to pay for enhancement projects.
- B. *Strategy:* Begin preliminary planning of upland and wetland habitat enhancements.
- C. *Strategy:* Install new center pivot system to assure continued production of field corn for wintering waterfowl.
- D. *Strategy:* Replace a section of existing mainline and install a water delivery system for moist soil management at the Serpent Wetland.

- E. *Strategy:* Coordinate with the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District on drain water management. Install water control structures for moist soil management.
- 2. Continue negotiations for the acquisition of the McWhorter Ranch in Benton County, which will become part of the Wildlife Area.**
- A. *Strategy:* Continue building public support to acquire this property for public use instead of further housing and vineyard development.
 - B. *Strategy:* Pursue all available sources of funding to help meet the asking price of the land.
 - C. *Strategy:* Begin management planning if the property is acquired.

Agency Objective: Provide sound operational management of WDFW lands, facilities & access sites.

1. Perform O&M on all facilities in the face of unexpected circumstances

- A. *Strategy:* Repair the mainline that serves Pivot #8 on the Windmill Ranch.
- B. *Strategy:* Repair the pump panel structure for Pivots 7&8 on the Windmill Ranch.
- C. *Strategy:* Replace the corroded and perforated siphon pipe and valve that provides irrigation water to the north end of the Windmill Ranch.
- D. *Strategy:* Continue monitoring and control of noxious weeds on all management units, including new acquisitions.
- E. *Strategy:* Develop a regulated hunting program for the Mesa Lake property and public access areas.
- F. *Strategy:* Surplus the Mesa Lake cabin and begin upland restoration activity at the disturbed site.
- G. *Strategy:* Replace 1-3 old center pivot systems on the Windmill Ranch, as capital funding allows.
- H. *Strategy:* Install new submersible pump in existing well at the Upper Rupley unit for access to water for herbicide spraying, fire suppression and maintain water right on well.
- I. *Strategy:* Replace 900 feet of domestic water line that provides potable water to the Windmill Ranch
- J. *Strategy:* Move existing irrigation pump and pivot panel on the HQ unit from the bank of the Yakima River to a nearby irrigation return drain.

2. Determine the level of multiple use recreation on the Mesa Lake unit.

- A. *Strategy:* Coordinate with Fish Management Program to determine the priority use for an apparent permanent pond, i.e. spiny ray fishery or moist soil management.

2012-13 Performance Measures

Performance measures for the Sunnyside/Snake River Wildlife Area are listed below.

Accomplishments and progress toward desired outcomes will be monitored and evaluated every two years.

- Complete a cooperative wetland/wasteway enhancement project with the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District.
- Apply for State Duck Stamp funding to improve water control structures and other wetland enhancement projects.
- Conduct a controlled burn on four wetland segments on the Mesa Lake unit to remove decadent emergent vegetation. This will restart plant succession and allow more precise wetland enhancement planning.
- Coordinate with Ducks Unlimited, the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District and other partners to develop topographic maps and plan for wetland enhancement projects on the Mesa Lake unit.
- Replace a very old center pivot irrigation system and upgrade the pump station on the Mesa Lake unit to better maintain winter food production for waterfowl and migrating sandhill cranes.
- Replace a section of perforated mainline that will allow better water delivery into a moist soil management unit on the Mesa Lake unit.
- Continue with the Russian olive removal project in the Lower Rupley segment of the HQ unit.
- Continue with enhancing and restoring wetland areas on the HQ and Byron units to provide more waterfowl and shore bird habitat.
- Continue restoration on approximately 3.5 acres of native grasses on Hope Valley, where annual weeds and extremely dry conditions have hampered success.
- Continue restoration efforts of approx 80 acres of native grasses in the Lower Rupley segment of the HQ unit. These fields have been periodically flooded for the last two years. The fields now are completely infested with noxious weeds and have compacted soil conditions, reducing the chances for native grass restoration.
- Begin restoration, of native grasses, on a 10-acre sub-irrigated weedy area near Windmill Lake.
- Fulfill the cost share commitments agreed upon by Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District as the trade off for topsoil from the Johnson Wetland project (new highway entrance ramp, improved access road, new gates, surveyed pond bottom, etc.).
- If the McWhorter Ranch is acquired, we will begin working in cooperation with Benton County to develop a management plan for the property.

Citizens Advisory Group Input

Due to the permanent manager's retirement in 2009 and the intermittent nature of the manager position since that time, a full and effective CAG has not been maintained for several years. Re-establishing a CAG, with active participation from the agency and the volunteers will be a priority for the new manager.

BPA's Wildlife Mitigation Program

The Sunnyside Wildlife Area was selected to provide mitigation benefits for habitat losses incurred through the construction of three Columbia River dams (Grand Coulee, McNary and John Day). The Sunnyside Wildlife Area is a complex of five separate management units located in Benton and Yakima counties. The size of the wildlife area under BPA mitigation is 10,705 acres. Three of the units, I-82, Byron, and Headquarters are all located within the Yakima River floodplain. Typical habitat ranges from upland shrub steppe to mature riparian forest. The remaining two units, Thornton and Rattlesnake Slope, are located near the western end of Rattlesnake Hills in Benton County. Shrub steppe and grassland are the primary habitat types for Thornton and Rattlesnake Slope. Work performed on these five units is centered on enhancing and restoring native habitat to meet needs of indicator species that were selected to represent these habitat types. These species include: mallard, western meadowlark, yellow warbler, downy woodpecker, mink, California quail, black-capped chickadee, great blue heron, mule deer and sage grouse.

The wildlife area also serves as an important public hunting area and is managed for production of upland wildlife and waterfowl. Wildlife area staff consists of a manager, assistant manager, and a 9-month career seasonal technician. The assistant manager's salary and the 9-month seasonal technician's salary is 100% funded under the BPA budget. Sixty percent of the manager salary is covered under the BPA contract due to BPA-funded Sunnyside Wildlife Area merging in 2001 with select state-funded lands that are associated with Snake River Mitigation. BPA funds are only used to accomplish tasks on the original five units of the Sunnyside Wildlife Area. State funding is used to accommodate shortfalls in order to assure full time staffing and management objectives are maintained for all lands under the Sunnyside/Snake River Wildlife Area.

Most of the management strategies relating to habitat management identified in the Sunnyside Wildlife Area Management Plan are funded through BPA's mitigation program. A summary of these activities can be found in our most recent project review and funding proposal to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council who provides oversight of BPA's mitigation programs. The Sunnyside Wildlife Area Proposal (Project #200201400) is located at: <http://www.nwcouncil.org/Fw/budget/2010/proposal.asp?id=1007#3> . This document includes a summary of activities (work elements), a link to the project narrative, an itemized budget request for 2010-2012, and estimated budgets through 2018.

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Want to see the full plan?

Go to -
http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/



Clockwise from upper left: ducks on the partially frozen Horseshoe Pond Reserve, HQ Unit; White Pelicans on the Byron Ponds Unit during a drawdown; Mariposa Lilly with native bee, taken on the Mesa Lake Unit; a turtle escaping the drawdown on Byron and moving to wetter pastures.