

L.T. Murray Wildlife Area

2017-18 Management Plan Update

This document is intended to highlight accomplishments as they relate to goals and objectives identified within the [L.T. Murray Wildlife Area Management Plan](#). The plan addresses the status of wildlife species and their habitat, ongoing restoration efforts, and public recreation opportunities at the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area. Every 10 years, WDFW revises management plans for each wildlife area to identify new management priorities and actions. In between plan revisions, the update focuses on recent accomplishments over the last two years.

Management Highlights

Large Wood Replenishment

In 2018, WDFW, Yakama Nation Fisheries Program, and Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group harvested 2,000 trees from overstocked stands in Robinson Canyon and placed them via helicopter into 7.5 miles of North Fork Manastash Creek. The goal of this project was to restore and protect the integrity of priority ecological systems and sites (2006 L.T. Murray Wildlife Area Management Plan Goal 2 – Improve and Maintain Fish Populations - Strategy E). This project aimed to aggrade the channel, reconnect it to its floodplain, and return it to historic condition. Log structures can reduce stream velocities at high flows, trap sediment, and correct channel incision. Yakama Nation will place an additional 1,000 logs in the summer of 2019 harvested from adjacent stands on the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area.



Figure 1: Helicopter flying in large woody debris



Figure 2: Pile of large woody debris in the North Fork Manastash

Forest Health

WDFW thinned overstocked upland timber stands to restore and protect the integrity of priority ecological systems and sites (2006 L.T. Murray Wildlife Area Management Plan - Goal 7 – Protect and Restore Forest Habitats - Strategy B). WDFW treated forests to restore stand structure, improve wildlife habitat, and create more fire resilient stands. WDFW commercially thinned 2,063 acres, pre-commercially thinned 181 acres, and performed a prescribed burn on 237 acres from 2017-2018. WDFW plans to pre-commercially thin 1,524 acres of overstocked small diameter trees and burn the remaining 250 acres in the Hutchins prescribed burn unit in 2019-2020.



Figure 3: Post thinning stand in Taneum

New Issues

Providing Recreational Opportunities consistent with species and habitat protection

WDFW will collaborate with Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and volunteers to construct nine interpretive kiosks on the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area, as well as produce interpretive panels for those kiosks that clearly outline the unique values, management goals, and use-guidelines for the landscapes. WDFW, partners, and local volunteers have installed five kiosks and four interpretive panels from 2017-2018. These actions are consistent with the Statewide Planning Goal 3. Each interpretive panel will provide a

summary of recreation activities associated with the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area and a description of the importance of balancing recreational activities with species and habitat protection.



Figure 4: Kiosk and interpretive panel built by WDFW, partners, and volunteers

Restoration on recent land acquisitions

WDFW, in partnership with Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group and Central Washington University, will work to restore 0.75 miles of in-channel habitat, and 82 acres of floodplain, riparian, and grassland/meadow habitats on the recently acquired Teanaway Valley Unit of the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area. The partnership will study ground water patterns in an old agricultural field to make restoration recommendations. This project will remove two fish passage barriers, install ten in-channel habitat structures, plant riparian and upland vegetation, and remove and control invasive species.