

Scotch Creek Wildlife Area

2020-21 Wildlife Area Management Plan Update



Twin Lakes on the Chesaw Unit of the Scotch Creek Wildlife Area.

This document is intended to highlight accomplishments as they relate to goals and objectives identified within the [2017 Scotch Creek Wildlife Area Management Plan](#). The plan addresses the status of wildlife species and their habitat, ongoing restoration efforts and public recreation opportunities at the Scotch Creek Wildlife Area. Every 10 years, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) develops a process for revising the 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

Noxious Weed Management (Goal #1, Objective B) – Wildlife area staff continue to work toward controlling and treating all Class A and B listed weed species found on the Scotch Creek Units. Musk thistle on the Chesaw Unit continues to be the focus, consuming a large portion of summer staff time.



Chad Peterson removing musk thistle seed heads.

Maintain Fences and Gates (Goal #1, Objective C) – Wildlife area staff installed two gates in 2022, one gate on the Chopaka Unit, and the other on the Tunk Unit. In both instances, gates were installed to keep the public from using closed access roads to enter the wildlife unit.



Staff installing a gate on the Chopaka Unit.

Restore Degraded Riparian Habitat Types (Goal #1, Objective I) – Wildlife area staff installed eight beaver dam analogs (BDA's) in a half-mile stretch of Scotch Creek to restore riparian function and improve ground water storage. Approximately 400 deciduous shrubs were planted in multiple high fence enclosures, within the eight BDA's to improve winter forage for sharp-tailed grouse and increase habitat diversity.



WDFW staff adding fir boughs to a BDA within the project area.



WDFW Staff gathering fir boughs on the Chopaka Unit for weave material.

Limebelt Forest Thinning (Goal #1, Objective J) – WDFW staff thinned 15 acres of forest on the Limebelt on the Scotch Creek Unit. The goals of the thinning are to eliminate conifer encroachment into aspen stands (WDFW priority habitat), restore historic stand densities and lessen or reconfigure fuels along the Limebelt and Albright Lake roads in an attempt to create suitable fuels break.



Conifer removal in and around an existing Aspen stand on the Limebelt thinning project area.

Sustain Individual Species through Habitat and Population Management Actions, Where Consistent with Site Purpose and Funding (Goal 2 Objectives A)

Scotch Creek Unit Wildlife Surveys

Sharp-tailed grouse - Staff conducted lek surveys. March-May

Mule Deer and White-tailed deer surveys. March-May.

Tunk Unit Wildlife Surveys.

Sharp-tailed grouse- Staff surveyed for lek and nesting activity. March-May

Chesaw Unit Wildlife Surveys

Sharp-tailed grouse - Staff conducted lek surveys. March-May

Great Grey owl - Staff conducted occupancy surveys on forested portions. March-July