2019 WAAC Meeting

April 25, 2019
Last Resort KOA
Meeting Ground Rules

• Everyone in the group is valuable and is treated with respect

• One person’s concern is the group’s concern

• Confine discussion to the meeting topic

• Listen to understand

• Do not interrupt

• No personal attacks
Management Plan Updates

• Blue Mountains Wildlife Area Complex Management Plan
  – Completed and posted on WDFW website summer 2019

• Updates Format
  – May change based on new management plan
Floodplain Management Plan

- Submitted for Capitol Projects for 2019-21
- Asked for $5M, Received $1M
  - FMP Team will meet again in May
Floodplain Management Plan

• Rainbow Lake Project
  – Major construction completed fall 2018
Floodplain Management Plan

• Rainbow Lake Project
  – Minor issues in process
    • Gravel on west dam
    • Informational signs installation
    • Hatchery pipeline issues
    • Planting wetlands continued
  – Free Fishing Weekend Event
    • In conjunction with Kid’s Fishing Derby put on by USFS and Asotin County Sportsmen
Update on Grant Work

• 2018 Weed Spraying
  – 185 acres were aerially sprayed using RMEF funds
  – 119 acres were aerially sprayed using WSDA funds
Large Wood Projects

• 1 project occurring in summers 2020 & 2021
  – Rainbow Inlet to Hatchery Bridge
    • Engineered log jams

• All BPA funded for habitat restoration for spring Chinook and steelhead
Large Wood Projects

• Future Projects
  – Camp Wooten to Tucannon CG Bridge
    • Designs have not been started yet

  – USFS lands near Guard Station
    • Designs have not been started yet
Outhouse Replacement

- Fiberglass outhouses were replaced fall 2018!!!!!
Bighorn Sheep Update

• Currently have 18 sheep in the herd
  – 4 lambs survived from last year (out of 9 born)

• Majority of the herd spent the winter north of the elk fence near Blind Grade & Last Resort

• Will continue to try to ground dart and collar the sheep as opportunities present themselves
Wolf Update

• Tucannon Pack – 2 wolves; no working collars
• Touchet Pack – 4 wolves; no working collars
  – Original wolves left and new wolves moved in
• Butte Creek Pack – 2 wolves; 1 working collar
  – Originally made up Touchet Pack
  – Collared juvenile went to McCall, ID
• Grouse Flats Pack – 8 wolves; no working collars
  – Began trapping again this week

• Still have wolves from Oregon coming up, wandering around, and going back to Oregon
SE WA Black Bear Study

• Study starting this summer
  – Hair snare sets
    • Barbed wire corrals constructed around a bait station
    • Collect hair follicles for DNA testing
    • Multiple set visits per year
  – Identify individual bears
    • Mark/recapture to get population density estimate
Walla Walla Property Update

• Swegle Road Unit
  – Plan to continue to treat noxious weed issue

• McDonald Bridge Unit
  – Severe weed issues along dike removal project
  – Plan to continue to treat noxious weed issue
Donahue Property

- RMEF purchased 58 acre Donahue parcel
  - WDFW purchased from RMEF fall 2018
WAAC Communication

• Biennial newsletter

• New WDFW website launched March 24, 2019
  – Wooten WAAC page on the website
    • Meeting notes and handouts
Questions??