

# Wooten CAG Meeting

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Last Resort KOA

2PM - 4:00PM

Kari Dingman, Assistant Wildlife Area Manager, had mailed out the 2010 Management Plan updates to the CAG members she had addresses for prior to the meeting. She asked for input from the CAG members on the updates, as well as answering questions pertaining to management of the Wooten Wildlife Area.

The lakes were discussed, and the fact that funding still has not been found and the lakes are still in need of repair. Rainbow Lake is on the WDFW Capital Projects list, but it has been on the list 3 times already and not been fixed. Spring Lake is also on the list for the 2011- 2013 biennium. The river is still threatening to take Big 4 Lake, and the importance of Big 4 Lake will need to be seriously considered in the future. If the river takes Big 4 Lake, is there another lake that we could make fly-fishing only? Perhaps Deer Lake??

The elk fence is finally completed and there is a continuous fence from the Wooten WA to Tam-Tam Ridge on the East side. There are currently 200+ elk on the outside of the elk fence and WDFW is hoping to do a big push in April to move the elk back inside the elk fence. The management plan states that WDFW will investigate ways to prevent the elk fence from burning again. The issue was discussed, and feelings were that Mother Nature will be the one who dictates if the fence burns again.

Kari discussed the recent grant work that has taken place on the Wooten WA, including Mule Deer Foundation projects, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Projects, and Umatilla Tribe projects.

Future meetings were discussed. It was agreed that afternoons are okay for meeting times. The CAG is comfortable with one meeting per year unless something big comes up. It was suggested that Kari invite all of the Columbia County Commissioners to future meetings so that hopefully one of them will show up. It was also suggested that Kari ask for RSVPs from CAG members so that others can be invited if people are not going to attend.

Questions/Comments on the 2010 Management Plan Updates:

- What is the status of burying the power line from the hatchery to Camp Wooten?
- Why are the otter being allowed to populate the Wooten WLA and eat all the fish being stocked in the lakes? What can be done about that?
- Can WDFW bypass the engineers and find ways to fix the lakes? It can be done for cheaper than the engineers' estimates.
- Where did all the salvage money from the logging after the School Fire go? Why didn't it stay on the Wooten Wildlife Area? Why wasn't it used to fix the lakes? Why wasn't more of it spent to replant the Wooten WA after the fire?

- Who paid for the stream work and log jam construction on the Russell Section?
- What are the bird surveys discussed in the Management Plan Update? Are they being done?

The meeting came to a close at 4:00 PM. Any further comments or questions can be passed on to Kari Dingman through email ([kari.dingman@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:kari.dingman@dfw.wa.gov)) or over the phone (843-1530).