



Campground Relocation Project

The Campground Relocation Project that is part of the Wooten Floodplain Management Plan is finally progressing!! Campgrounds 6 & 9 have been closed and the vault toilets have been removed. Construction has begun on the New Campgrounds 6, 9, & 10.

The New Campground 6 will be located on the bench across the road from where the Old Campground 6 was located.

The New Campground 9 will be located in the log landing north of the Patrick Grade, and the New Campground 10 will be located just south of the Old Campground 9. The Old Campground 10 will be re-named Campground 11.

The driveways for all 3 new campgrounds have been constructed, and the brand new ADA approved vault toilets have been installed in Campgrounds 9 & 10. The campsites are still being constructed and leveled out. The gravel from the old campgrounds will be scrapped up and reused on the driveways of the new campgrounds as part of the decommissioning process.

The new campgrounds will be open and ready for campers by the spring fishing opener. The old campgrounds will be decommissioned, seeded, and turned back into floodplain habitat.



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Large Wood Projects

The Large Wood projects were successfully completed by the end of August. PA 14 (hatchery bridge to Headquarters) was completed and the disturbed areas have all been seeded with grass seed. The old road approaches were removed to reduce the public driving into the riparian areas.

The project in PA 1 & 3 (Panjab and Camp Wooten) was completed using both the helicopter and the engineered log jams. The disturbed areas have been seeded with grass seed and the access roads have been blocked with logs and

debris. The grass is beginning to come up and the areas look great.

The project in PA 15 (Russell Unit) was partially completed. The contractors were not able to complete the entire project during the in-stream work window so the remainder of the project will be completed next summer. The areas that were disturbed this year were seeded with grass seed.

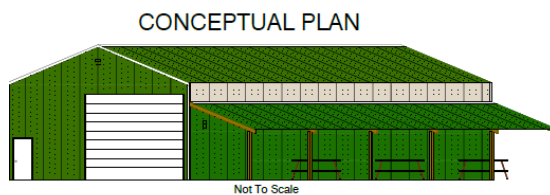
All of the project areas will be treated for noxious weed infestations in the future.

TO PRESERVE,
PROTECT AND
PERPETUATE FISH,
WILDLIFE AND
ECOSYSTEMS WHILE
PROVIDING
SUSTAINABLE FISH AND
WILDLIFE
RECREATIONAL AND
COMMERCIAL
OPPORTUNITIES.

Mountain Road Project Update

Garfield County, in cooperation with USFS and WDFW, is constructing a shop at Baker's Pond near the USFS boundary.

Construction was scheduled to begin summer 2014, but has been pushed back to probably spring 2015.



Weed Spraying

Weed control continued this summer on the Wooten Wildlife Area. Yellow starthistle, houndstongue, rush skeletonweed, knapweed species, and thistle species were the target species this year. The field across the river on the Russell Unit was sprayed this fall with the Humvee outfitted with a 30-foot boom sprayer and 100-gallon tank.

The Blue Mountains Elk Initiative grant application has been completed and will be submitted this month for funds to aerially spray yellow starthistle next year.

Floodplain Management Plan

The W.T. Wooten Floodplain Management Plan projects are being submitted again for Capital Projects. Hopefully we can keep our momentum and get more money to do some work on the lakes. The money that was leftover from the Campground Relocation project will be used to begin a feasibility study to determine what we can do to improve the lakes. WDFW conducted interviews of environmental consulting firms and hired Anchor LLC. They will begin the feasibility study this fall.

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The W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area consists of 16,000 acres in the foothills of the Blue Mountains. The main valley contains the Tucannon River, along which are located 8 man-made lakes which were constructed in the 1950s. The lakes are stocked with hatchery raised rainbow trout for a put-and-take fishery. There are 10 campgrounds located on the Wildlife Area.

The area was historically a major big game wintering location and lies adjacent to National Forest lands. The bulk of the land purchases occurred from 1941-1944. The elk fence was constructed in the 1960s.

Current management objectives and problems are similar to past goals and problems which include providing maximum winter-range forage conditions while meeting recreational use demands. At the present time there is a harvest season of some type taking place 12 months of the year within the boundaries of the wildlife area.



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