



# SHERMAN CREEK WILDLIFE AREA/ LECLERC CREEK WILDLIFE AREA 2010 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



## Land Management Summary

This is an update to the 2006 Sherman Creek Wildlife Area and LeClerc Creek Wildlife Area Management Plans

[http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife\\_areas/management\\_plans/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/). These plans provide

management direction for the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area (SCWA) located along the west side of Lake Roosevelt in the eastern foothills of the Kettle River Range, and the LeClerc Creek Wildlife Area (LCWA) located in Pend Oreille County

along the east side of the Pend Oreille River. The Sherman Creek Wildlife Area consists of five parcels totaling 8,782 acres. The LeClerc Creek Wildlife Area is located about 25 miles northwest of Newport and 65 miles northwest of Spokane. It consists of four land units totaling 614 acres which were purchased with Pitman-Robertson and State Wildlife funds in 1972. The majority of the area is forested and is managed for a variety of wildlife habitat improvements and public recreation opportunities.

The plan identifies needs and guides activities on the two areas based on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Mission of “Sound Stewardship of Fish and Wildlife” and its underlying statewide goals and objectives as they apply to local conditions. Plans are updated annually as habitat and species conditions change, as new regulations and scientific knowledge develop, as public issues and concerns evolve, and as administration of wildlife areas change. This management plan update also includes 2009 accomplishments, new issues, new land management strategies and performance measures for 2010.

## Updates/Changes

Plan Update Consolidation: For this 2010 update, management plan activities for the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area and the LeClerc Creek Wildlife Area have been combined into one document.

## New Issues

West Branch Little Spokane (WBLS)

Acquisition: WDFW has acquired the second of two parcels along the WBLS River, in Pend Oreille County. The second parcel was acquired

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before September 30, 2009. Parcels are contiguous and total 2,778 acres, consisting of mostly second-growth timber and braided wetlands. This entire property has been named the West Branch Little Spokane Wildlife Area (WBLS WLA), and will be managed as a satellite of SCWA. Formal planning for this property began in October 2009. The first Citizens Advisory Group meeting was held in Newport in February 2010.

**Major Stewardship Accomplishments**

The Sherman Creek/Oak Creek Perpetual Timber Rights Exchange Timber Sale continues to be active. Boise Cascade (BC) is still the owner of the timber and is completing the harvest. The WDFW state forester Doug Kuehn, Sherman Creek Natural Resources Technician Jerry Christensen, and BC field staff have been working together to monitor activities and resolve problems. Christensen was kept employed on an as-needed basis over the winter of 2009-2010, to help out with managing the sale.

The agricultural lease (hay flat) continued as in previous year. Technician Christensen has conducted annual weed control, field preparation and seeding of our wildlife food plots. He has also conducted annual roadside and wildland weed control.

Worked with WDFW Enforcement and Construction staff to have a new equipment shed built at the SCWA Headquarters complex, for Enforcement’s equipment storage needs. The shed was completed in June 2010.

**Status Report of 2009 Performance Measures**

Key performance measures are identified each year to monitor progress and identify any issues that might interfere with planned priority activities. This information will be used to delete, add or alter priority strategies for 2011.

<b>2010 Performance Measure</b>	<b>Status of Performance Measure</b>	<b>Explanation of Progress/ 2011 Related Activity/ Comments</b>
Continue to work with WDFW forester and wildlife program staff, to monitor and manager the ongoing timber harvest for habitat improvement. Performance goal: at least two field visits by the forester to the logging site.	Harvest activities continue through 2010. Forester has visited the logging site three times over the last year.	Harvest will continue through 2011 and beyond. WDFW forester will continue to monitor progress through visits to the site.
Monitor and maintain habitat manipulation projects, to provide annual improvements to deer winter range. Performance goal: maintain two food plots and one grass planting annually.	Maintained two food plots and one grass planting, to improve forage availability for wintering deer.	Continue in 2011. Consider using seeding & spot burning to promote sprouting of ceanothus on the uplands.

Maintain/develop one spring or other water source every two years, as staffing allows.	Maintained two springs on the WLA. Did not develop any new springs this year. Found one fish bypass mechanism with problems, and had Yakima Screen Shop staff come out and repair it.	Continue maintenance in 2011; develop spring or water sources as staffing/funding allows.
Per agreement with Kettle Falls High School, the school's Wildlife Management teacher and students will maintain 100 bluebird boxes that they built and installed.	100 bird boxes were maintained by Kettle Falls High School students. This includes replacement of boxes beyond repair.	We would like to continue this cooperative bird box management program with the Kettle Falls High School Wildlife Management teacher and his class.
Appropriate weed control as outlined in the weed management plan.	Sprayed herbicides on approximately 20 acres of weeds. This includes approximately 10 acres of St. John's wort, 5 acres of diffuse knapweed, and 5 acres of various weeds including common mullein, yellow toadflax, and Dalmatian toadflax. Also treated less than one acre of leafy spurge at LeClerc Creek unit in early September 2009.	No change in weed control priorities from 2010. Continue in 2011. Work with Pend Oreille County Weed board for weed control activities at LeClerc Creek WLA and WBLS WLA, and with Backcountry Horsemen of Washington at WBLS.
Conduct at least one project using volunteer or school groups for outreach and education.	Participated in the annual Water Festival outdoor education program for 4 <sup>th</sup> grade students. Also in fall 2009, Kettle Falls High School students maintained bluebird boxes on the WLA.	Continue in 2011.
Ensure proper precautions are taken around a goshawk nesting site before timber harvest in that area begins in summer 2010. Performance measure: proper "no-logging" zone is determined and instituted.	Harvest of this area has been delayed until at least late 2011. The 90-acre exclusion zone around the site has yet to be drawn up and marked on the ground. This will require staff coordination with DFW forester Doug Kuehn and district biologist Dana Base.	Ensure the goshawk logging exclusion zone is delineated on maps and on the ground before loggers move into this general area in 2011.

### **New Strategies**

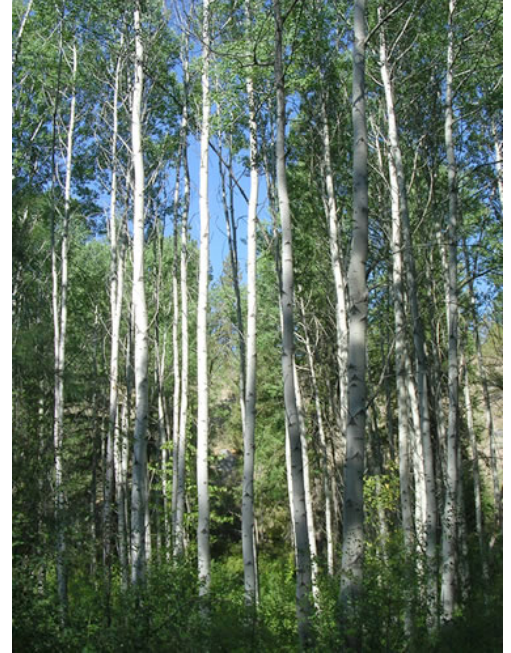
The wildlife area plan identifies many strategies or activities to address the agencies strategic plan goals and objectives, why the area was purchased, habitat conditions, species presence, and public issues and concerns. The following updated strategies have been added to respond to previously unaddressed or new issues or changes on the wildlife area. New strategies may also be in response to adaptive management as staff evaluate the impacts of past management activities.

No new strategies were identified for 2010.

### **2011 Performance Measures**

Performance measures for Sherman Creek and LeClerc Creek Wildlife Areas are listed below. Accomplishments and progress toward desired outcomes will be monitored and evaluated annually.

- 1) Monitor the progress of the ongoing timber sales to protect Priority Habitats and Species and other management objectives specific to the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area.
- 2) Maintain existing water developments including the upland developments, the hayfield pond and the irrigation diversion system.
- 3) Expand open meadows by 2 acres and install 10 nest boxes for bluebirds, as time and funding allow.
- 4) Appropriate weed control on the wildlife area, focusing on areas adjacent to roads. Meet goals for 2009, outlined in the weed management plan. Concentrate control efforts on diffuse knapweed and Dalmatian toadflax.
- 5) Seed and maintain 5 acres of food plots.
- 6) Conduct at least one project using volunteer or school groups for outreach and education. At least one of these projects may be completed under 2010 Performance Measure #3, above, in the case of bluebird nest box installation, by the Kettle Falls High School Wildlife Management class.



### **Citizens Advisory Group**

The last Citizens Advisory Group was held on February 18, 2010, in Newport. This meeting focused on WBLS WLA, and group discussed planning efforts and field activities.

- Several neighbors and user groups are interested in cooperative projects where they can volunteer, on the ground. One major user group is the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington (BCHW).

- Fencing: cultural and boundary surveys need completion, before fencing can be started. WLA manager has identified portions of the WBLS boundary that need fencing, excluding steep grades, lakes, etc.

- Consider outreach to additional user groups. This could include kayakers, rock climbers, etc.

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Go to –

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