

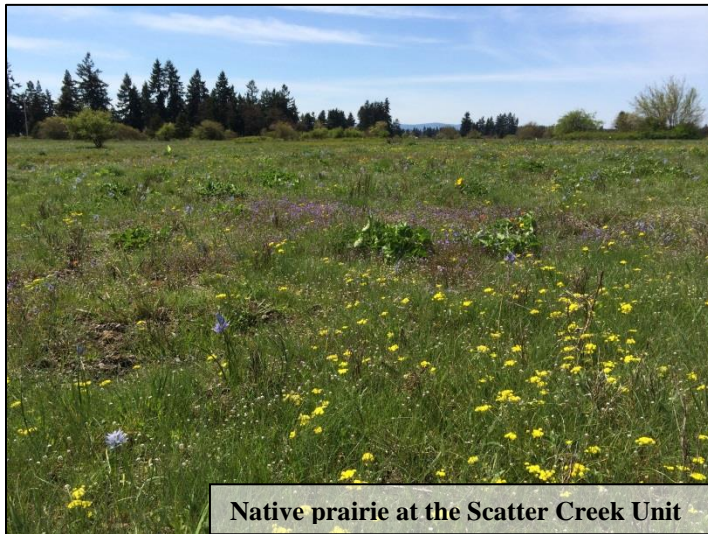


# SOUTH PUGET SOUND & NORTH OLYMPIC WILDLIFE AREAS 2014 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Land Management Summary

This is an update to the 2006 South Puget Sound Wildlife Area Management Plan and 2010 North Olympic Wildlife Area Management Plan ([http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife\\_areas/management\\_plans/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/)) that provides management direction for the South Puget Sound and North Olympic Wildlife Areas. Included herein, as part of the South Puget Sound Wildlife Area, is the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area.



Native prairie at the Scatter Creek Unit

Collectively, these wildlife areas consist of 26 units that are distributed across Thurston, Pierce, Grays Harbor, Mason, Kitsap, Jefferson, and Clallam counties. The plan identifies needs and guides activities on the 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 biennially 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 includes 2012-2013 accomplishments, new issues, new land management strategies, and performance measures for 2014-2015. Throughout this document, all references to years (2012, etc.) reflect calendar years.

## Updates/Changes

### *Staffing*

Wildlife Area staffing in Region 6 was reorganized in 2013 to facilitate increased operational efficiency and a more equitable assignment of management responsibilities. The South Puget Sound and North Olympic Wildlife Areas were assigned directly to a Fish & Wildlife Biologist 3 based at the

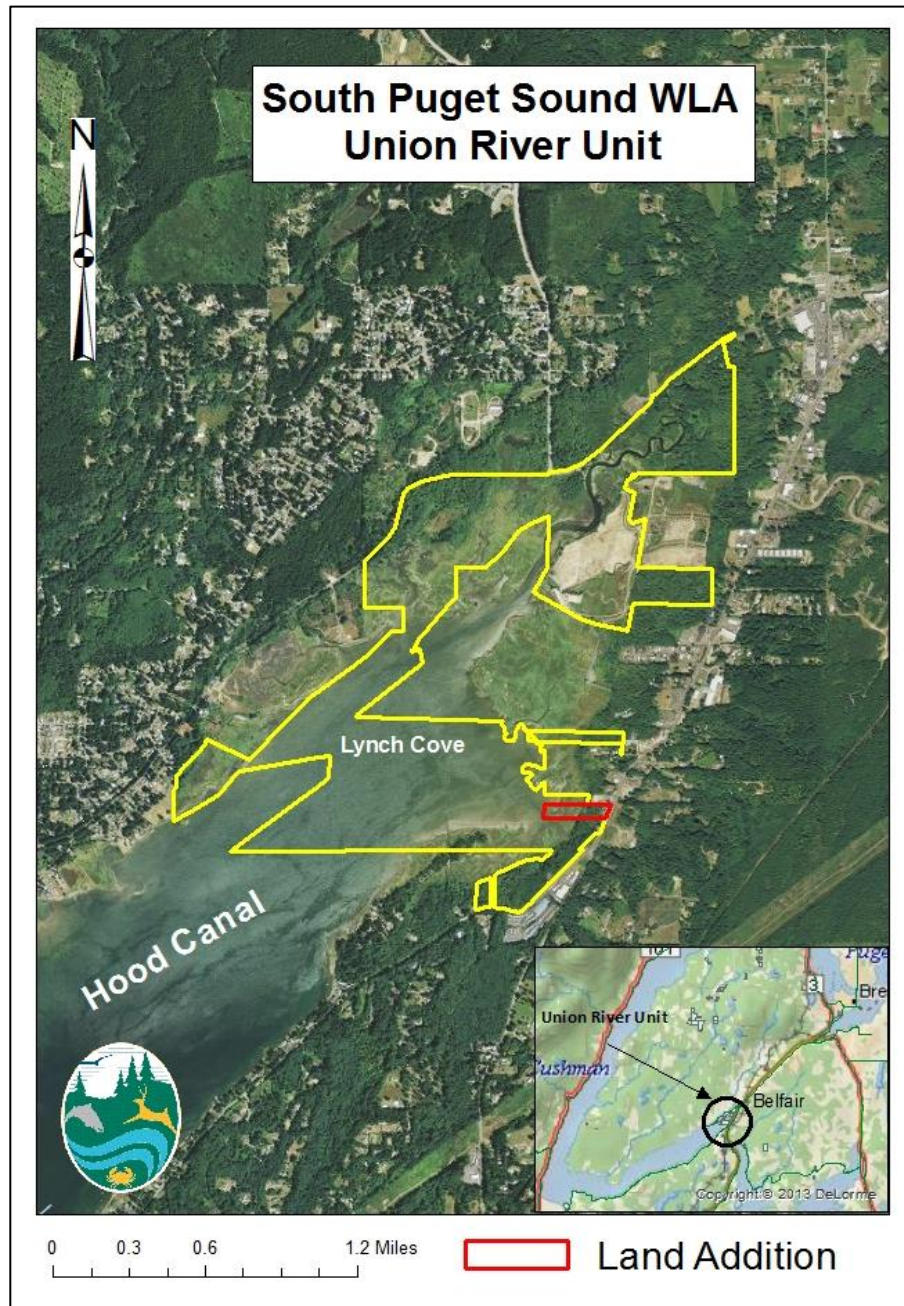
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regional office in Montesano.

***Land Additions and Deletions***

**South Puget Sound Wildlife Area**

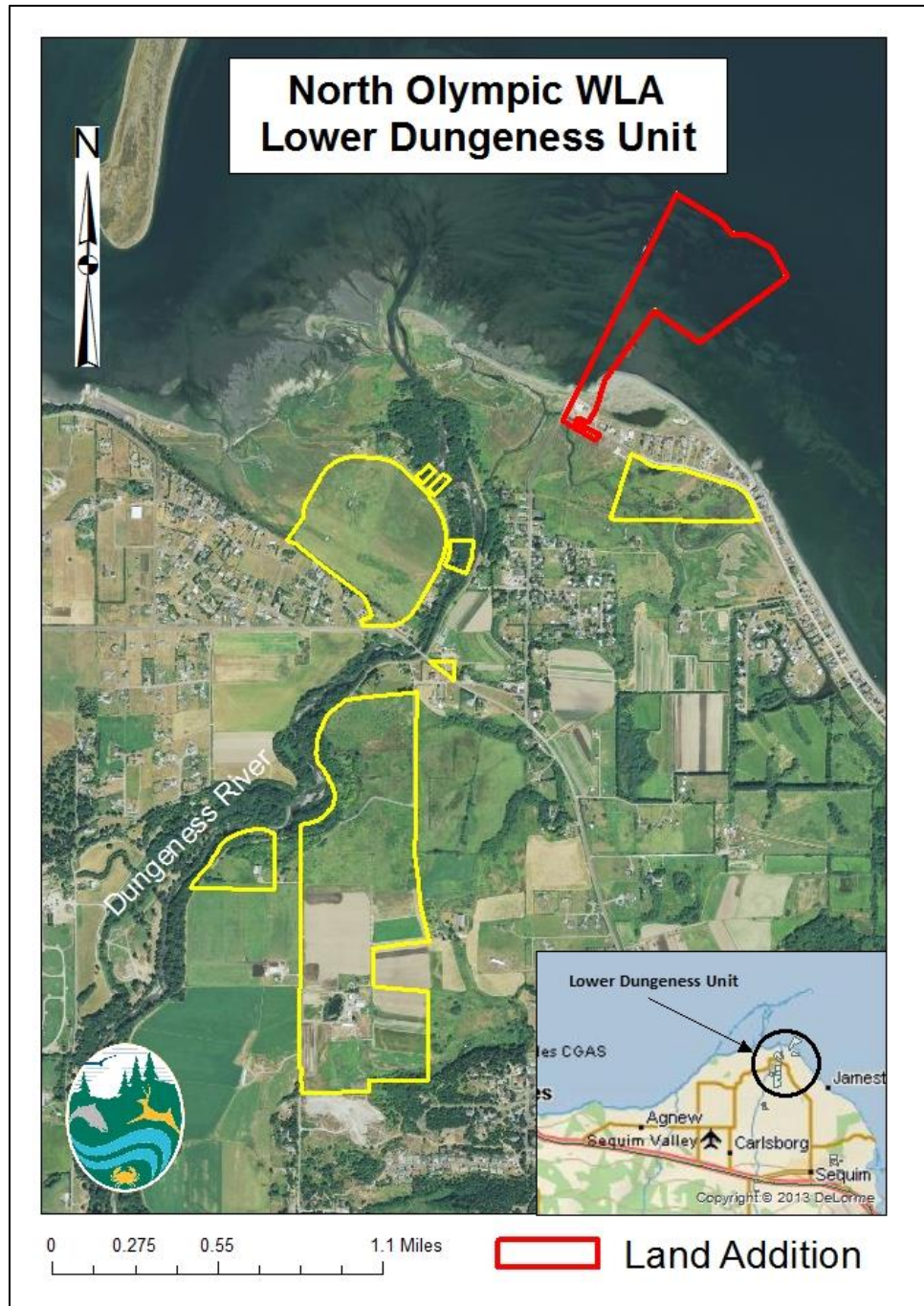
One 4-acre parcel of land/waterfront was acquired in 2013 and incorporated into the Union River Unit. The property, located at the south end of Belfair between SR 3 and Lynch Cove, was purchased through Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). This addition increases the total area of the unit to nearly 420 acres, expands protected estuarine habitats for summer chum and migratory waterfowl, and enhances recreational opportunities for the public.



North Olympic  
Wildlife Area

At the Lower Dungeness Unit, thirteen shoreline/nearshore parcels totaling nearly 20 acres were acquired in 2012 with funds from a National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant (NCWCG). These acquisitions were completed as part of an ongoing multi-phase lower Dungeness River basin acquisition and restoration effort that is being undertaken in partnership with the North Olympic Salmon Coalition, Clallam County, and other local organizations. The lower Dungeness River basin, historical channels, floodplain, and associated coastal wetlands are significant habitat areas for a wide diversity of wildlife

and fish populations, including marine mammals, seabirds, migratory shorebirds, migratory and breeding waterfowl, neotropical migrants, raptors, salmon, shellfish, and Dungeness crab. Major project elements will involve removing fill and shoreline/bank armoring; re-contouring ground elevations to historic salt marsh, dune, and intertidal elevations; rerouting Sequim-Dungeness Way, Three Crabs Road, and local utilities; eliminating tidal channel restrictions; and removing creosote pilings.



The WDFW Dungeness Unit lease on the 216-acre Dungeness Recreation Area, owned and operated by Clallam County, ended following the winter 2012-2013 hunting season. Changes in local population, demographics, land use, social interest, and other factors culminated in the county electing to not renew the co-management agreement with WDFW.

### **New Issues**

Several new issues were identified during the development of this update, including the need for increased management of rare plants, greater public access to WDFW-owned land, continuation of wetland restoration projects, and greater management focus on the Tarboo Unit. These items are described in more detail below in the *Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and District Team Input* section.

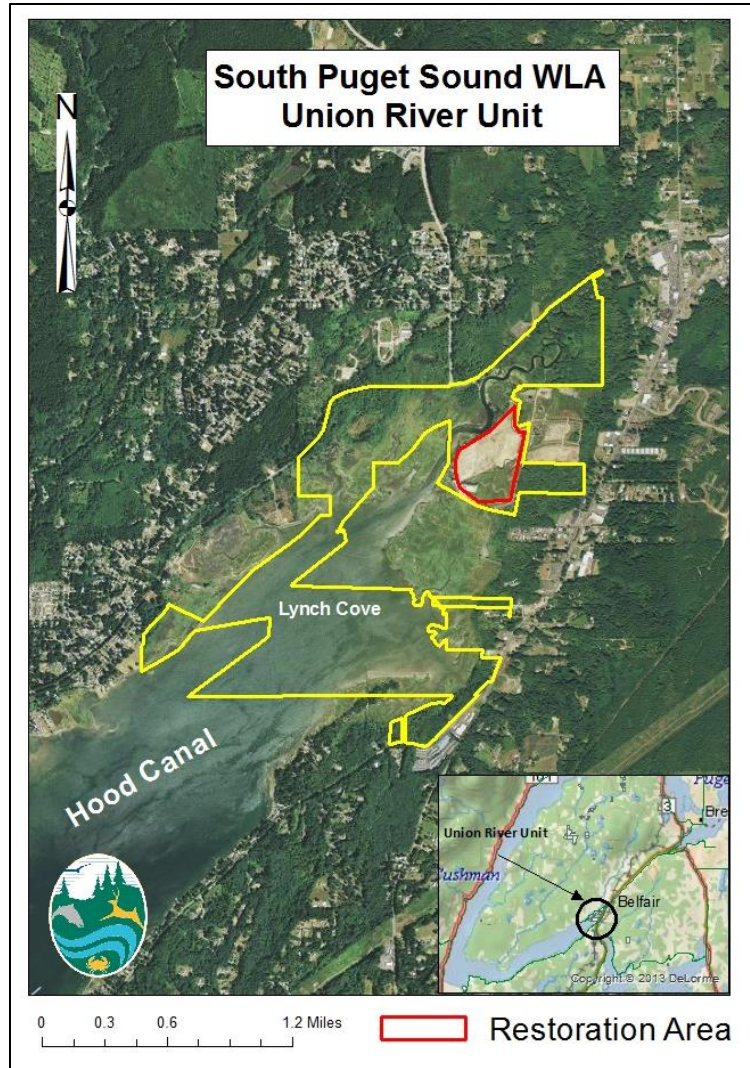


### **Major Stewardship Accomplishments**

#### **South Puget Sound Wildlife Area**

At the Union River Unit, tidal influence was restored to 32 acres of former tidelands at the mouth of the Union River. The Union River Estuary Restoration project was undertaken in partnership with the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group and with funding from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and RCO. Project elements included breaching an existing dike, regrading marsh elevations to natural grade, creating tidal channels, and accommodating public recreational uses. Extensive community/stakeholder outreach was conducted throughout project planning and implementation. Additional information is available at <http://pnwsalmoncenter.org/project/union-river-estuary-restoration/>.

A new agricultural lease agreement at the Davis Creek Unit was entered into between WDFW and a local farming operation. The 3-year lease consists of 280 acres that are managed for silage and hay production and 25 acres of facilities and upper pastures. The specific purpose of the lease is to produce food and cover for wildlife while managing the land for multi-purpose recreation. The lessee is required to maintain/establish Natural Resources Conservation Service-certified cover, engage in good soil conservation practices, control noxious weeds, maintain existing fences, and operate in a manner that is compatible with public recreational activities. WDFW facilitates communication between the lessee and organized recreational groups to help ensure that the timing of agricultural operations and scheduled recreational events are compatible.



**Status Report of 2012-2013 Performance Measures**

Key performance measures are identified to monitor progress and identify any issues that might interfere with planned priority activities.

| 2012-2013 Performance Measure  | Status of Performance Measure   | Explanation of Progress/ 2014-2015 Related Activity/ Comments                                  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>South Puget Sound Wildlife Area</b>                               |   |  |
| Release 1,500 pheasants at the Scatter Creek and Skookumchuck Units. | Completed. Annual pheasant releases at these units totaled approximately 4,000 and 2,000, respectively. | Similar releases will be conducted during 2014-2015.   |
| Maintain 300 Oregon white oak trees at the South Puget Sound Unit.   | Completed   | Competitive vegetation around planted trees was controlled by mowing.                          |
| Collect native prairie plant, grass, and forb seeds for propagation. | Completed. Common and uncommon native prairie plant, grass, and forb seeds were                         | Seed collection will continue in 2014-2015 as part of the multi-agency Regional Prairie Native |

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|   | collected during 2012-2013.   | Seed Project.   |
| Control weeds on 1,000+ acres on all sites.   | Completed. Control was completed on 1,000+ acres during 2012-2013, including 715 acres of Scotch broom and 290 acres of tall oak grass at the Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie Units.   | In addition to routine weed control throughout the wildlife areas, Scotch broom and tall oat grass will continue to be targeted as part of south Sound prairie restoration at the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area.  |
| Continue with development of new wetland pond for western pond turtles at the South Puget Sound Unit. | Not completed   | WDFW contacted Pierce County Public Works & Utilities and the Washington State Department of Transportation regarding potential mitigation opportunities. No projects were identified; however, Pierce County indicated a possible future need for use of the site for mitigation.  |
| Identify, survey, and monitor endangered/threatened/sensitive species of butterflies.                 | Completed. Surveys conducted at the Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairies Units during 2012-2013 included: hoary elfin, mardon skipper, sonora skipper, Puget blue, valley silverspot, great-spangled fritillary, and Oregon branded skipper. | Species of Greatest Conservation Need butterfly monitoring will continue as part of the State Wildlife Grant "Conserving Species in Pacific Northwest Prairie and Oak Habitats" project.  |
| Monitor "Dogs On Leash Only" use on South Puget Sound Unit.   | In progress. Pet owner behavior was informally monitored during 2012-2013 by WDFW staff based at the Unit. Despite clear signage requiring the use of leashes on dogs, noncompliance by the public was common.                                | Pet leash compliance will be informally monitored during 2014-2015. Newly designed signs and other means of informing the public of wildlife area rules will be developed. Also, WDFW will explore potential interagency arrangements with the City of Lakewood regarding enforcement of city ordinances and/or wildlife area regulations.                            |
| Work with regional staff on potential acquisitions adjacent to the West Rocky Prairie Unit.           | In progress. WDFW initiated contact with Port of Tacoma regarding potential acquisition (Phase II) of their 745-acre property located north of and adjacent to the West Rocky Prairie Unit.   | WDFW intends to submit to RCO a \$3M land acquisition grant proposal in the 2014 Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program / Urban Habitat Category to purchase the Port of Tacoma tract. If RCO funding is secured, matching funds may be sought through USFWS / Section 6, Joint Base Lewis-McChord / Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB), and other sources to help |

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|  |   | facilitate the acquisition.  |
| Monitor compliance of field trial temporary use permits.   | Completed   | No significant violations were observed.   |
| Work with field trial groups and Koopman [Davis Creek Unit] lessee to provide a quality location for this recreational activity.   | Completed. Two separate agricultural leases operated at the Davis Creek Unit during 2012-2013. During the same period, field trial groups continued to use the area for compatible recreational activities. Four permitted field trial events were held in 2012 and three in 2013.  | Management of compatible agricultural and recreational activities will continue during 2014-2015.  |
| Continue release of Taylor's checkerspot butterfly at the Scatter Creek Unit.  | Completed. Taylor's checkerspot butterflies were released at the Scatter Creek (South) Unit in both 2012 and 2013 as part of ongoing management and monitoring of this reintroduced (2007) population.  | Management (including potential releases) and monitoring will continue during 2014-2015 as part of a multi-agency effort to establish a self-sustaining population at this location. |
| Continue release of Mazama pocket gopher at the West Rocky Prairie Unit.   | Cancelled. Pocket gophers were not released during 2012-2013, but monitoring of the established population was conducted using spring live-trapping and mark-recapture methodologies. The 2012 and 2013 populations were estimated to be 300 individuals and 400 individuals, respectively. Also, mound surveys were conducted to monitor distribution. | Population management and monitoring will continue during 2014-2015.   |
| Continue habitat restoration efforts as defined by ACUB and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) contracts at Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie Units. (Oregon white oak release, Scotch broom control, exotic grass and shrub control, seeding of native grasses and forbs, etc.) | Completed. Prairie habitat restoration continued at the Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie Units through controlled burning, direct seeding of herbaceous species, placement of plugs, exotic plant control, and other management techniques.   | Restoration work was completed through ACUB and RCO grants (not WHIP) and will continue during 2014-2015.  |
| Create a user friendly map product that can be utilized for distribution with temporary use permits that clearly marks sensitive areas located throughout Scatter Creek.   | This measure was completed during the prior reporting period (2010-2011). The map continued to be used during 2012-2013.  | The map will be updated as needed during 2014-2015 to account for ongoing management considerations.   |
| Post signs at sensitive areas at the Scatter Creek Unit, closing these areas to recreational impact.   | This measure was completed during the prior reporting period (2010-2011). Signage was maintained at the Scatter Creek   | Signage and temporary fencing will be installed and/or maintained as needed to account for ongoing management  |

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|  | (North) Unit. Temporary fencing and signage were maintained at the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly management zone at the Scatter Creek (South) Unit to reduce impacts from recreational activities.                 | considerations.   |
| Evaluate habitat suitability for western gray squirrels at the West Rocky Prairie Unit.  | This measure was completed during the prior reporting period (2010-2011).   | This measure was inadvertently included in the 2012 management plan update for completion during 2012-2013.   |
| Continue prescribed fire activities at Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie Units.   | Completed. During 2012, 15 acres of prairie habitat were burned at the Scatter Creek (North) Unit. In 2013, 20 acres were burned at the Scatter Creek Unit and 16 acres were burned at the West Rocky Prairie Unit. | Extreme fire danger during 2012 precluded burning at any of the other Units. In 2013, an additional 26 acres were prepared for burning, but were not completed.   |
| Attend/host annual meetings and planning sessions with internal/external partnerships on prairie research and restoration efforts. | Completed. Wildlife Area, Regional, or Program staff participated in various inter-organizational meetings and planning efforts focusing on south Sound prairie management, restoration, and research.              | Participation in regional prairie partnerships will continue during 2014-2015.  |
| <b>North Olympic Wildlife Area</b>   |   |   |
| Maintain 2,000 Oregon white oak plants at the Bell Creek Unit  | Completed. The Sequim Prairie Savanna Oak Woodland Restoration Project continued during 2012-2013 with irrigation, weeding, and maintenance of browse protectors. The project is driven by volunteers.              | Focus for the 2014 season will be on the larger trees to ensure optimal growing conditions. Maintenance of the smaller trees will be scaled back and they will be left to contribute to a uneven-aged stand of trees.   |
| Deconstruct the Schneider Barn on the Lower Dungeness Unit   | Completed. This project was completed in 2013 through a cooperative arrangement with Clallam County.  | The deconstruction was subject to a National Historic Preservation Act - Section 106 review and was agreed to by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, WDFW, USFWS, RCO, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, Clallam County, and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe through a Memorandum of Agreement regarding mitigation of adverse effects. |
| Maintain riparian plantings at the   | Completed. Plantings were   | Work consisted of weed control,   |



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|---|---|---|
| Morse Creek Unit  | maintained during 2012-2013 through an ongoing partnership with the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC).  | blue tube replacement, and replantings.   |
| Develop a strategy for removing two houses on the Morse Creek Unit and one house at the Bell Creek Unit.                                | Not completed   | Project will be forwarded to 2014-2015 for completion.  |
| Explore Dungeness acquisition potential including the Three Crabs site.   | Completed. In 2012, 20 acres of Dungeness estuary shoreline and tidelands were acquired at the Three Crabs restaurant site with funding from the N. In 2013, NCWCG funding was secured for an additional 28 acres within the Lower Dungeness floodplain and estuarine basin project area. | These sites will be part of an ongoing multi-phase lower Dungeness River basin acquisition and restoration effort (RCO) in partnership with NOSC and other organizations. |
| Work with partners to complete the Maynard Nearshore restoration project on the Snow/Salmon Unit on Discovery Bay.                      | In progress. Cooperation with NOSC, USFWS, Jefferson County, and other partners continued through 2012-2013.  | The project sponsor is NOSC. Earthwork associated with RCO is expected to occur during 2014-2015.   |
| Evaluate the hunting pressure at the Lower Dungeness Unit to determine if additional hunting days are needed at this limited hunt site. | Completed. No changes were made.  | Waterfowl hunting is permitted on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays only.  |
| Develop a strategy for the log cabin at Morse Creek   | Not completed   | Potential uses of the log cabin will be evaluated during 2014-2015.   |

### **New Strategies**

The Wildlife Area plan identifies many strategies or activities to address the agency's strategic plan goals and objectives, why the area was purchased, habitat conditions, species present, and public issues and concerns. No new or updated strategies are being proposed at this time.

### **2014-2015 Performance Measures**

Performance measures for the South Puget Sound and North Olympic Wildlife Areas are listed below. Accomplishments and progress toward desired outcomes (shown below in parentheses) will be monitored and evaluated biennially.

#### ***South Puget Sound Wildlife Area***

- 1) Provide pheasant hunting opportunities at the Scatter Creek and Skookumchuck Units during the western Washington regular season.
- 2) Maintain Oregon white oaks at the South Puget Sound Unit.
- 3) Collect native prairie plant seeds for the Regional Prairie Native Seed Project, and/or sowing for habitat restoration.
- 4) Manage weeds on all units.

- 5) Manage western pond turtles at the South Puget Sound in accordance with the “Washington State Recovery Plan for the Western Pond Turtle” and current adaptive management practices.
- 6) Monitor Species of Greatest Conservation Need butterfly species.
- 7) Install “Pets Must Be Leashed” signs at the South Puget Sound Unit.
- 8) Pursue acquisition of prairie habitat adjacent to the West Rocky Prairie Unit.
- 9) Monitor compliance of field trial temporary use permits.
- 10) Provide field trial and dog event opportunities at the Davis Creek Unit.
- 11) Manage Taylor’s checkerspot butterflies at the Scatter Creek Unit in accordance with the “WDFW 2-Year Action Plan – Conservation of Taylor’s Checkerspot: September 2014 – September 2016”.
- 12) Manage Mazama pocket gophers at the Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie Units through an integrated inter-Divisional approach.
- 13) Restore/enhance prairie and oak woodland habitats at the Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie Units using prescribed fire, oak release, herbicide applications, plug planting, and reseeding.
- 14) Maintain current “Sensitive Area” map for use with field trial permits issued at the Scatter Creek Unit.
- 15) Maintain ”Sensitive Area” signs at the Scatter Creek Unit to reduce recreational impacts on prairie habitats.
- 16) Maintain and develop partnerships with organizations engaged in South Sound prairie management and restoration.
- 17) Manage Oregon spotted frogs at the West Rocky Prairie Unit in accordance with the “Draft State of Washington - Oregon Spotted Frog Recovery Plan”.
- 18) Update kiosk displays at high-use Units.
- 19) Renew the Sheatsley lease at the Scatter Creek Unit.
- 20) Establish field office at the Scatter Creek Unit for all management operations at the Scatter Creek and North Olympic Wildlife Areas.
- 21) Implement Ecological Integrity Monitoring at the Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie Units.
- 22) Conduct monthly monitoring and adaptive management, as needed, for the Union River Estuary Restoration project.
- 23) Coordinate management of the Skookumchuck Unit with TransAlta per the 2011 Standard Operating Procedures, including emerging issues relating to forest management, safety zones, elk management, and weed control.

### ***North Olympic Wildlife Area***

- 1) Maintain Oregon white oaks at the Bell Creek Unit through the volunteer-based “Sequim Prairie Savanna Oak Woodland Restoration Project”.
- 2) Maintain riparian plantings at the Morse Creek Unit through a partnership with the North Olympic Salmon Coalition.
- 3) Develop a strategy for removing unneeded structures at the Morse Creek and Bell Creek Units.
- 4) Continue acquisition efforts associated with the lower Dungeness River basin restoration project at the Lower Dungeness Unit.
- 5) Coordinate with the North Olympic Salmon Coalition and other partners to conduct habitat restoration at the Snow/Salmon Unit.
- 6) Determine use potential, or removal of, the log cabin at the Morse Creek Unit.

- 7) Submit RCO grant proposal for a public use facility development project at the Lower Dungeness Unit (3 Crabs site).
- 8) Coordinate with the Department of Ecology to convert the 3 Crabs Restaurant well to a trust water right.
- 9) Abandon the 3 Crabs Restaurant water well access easement on the Dungeness Farms property.
- 10) Update kiosk displays at high-use Units.
- 11) By 2015, evaluate the Lower Dungeness Unit waterfowl hunting program and determine how to best manage hunting opportunities on the site, up to and including the use of the new WDFW Hunt by Reservation program.
- 12) Work with the Northwest Watershed Institute to control English ivy and Japanese knotweed at the mouth of Tarboo Creek.

**Wildlife Area Advisory Committee**

A new Wildlife Area Manager was hired in April 2014 for the South Puget Sound and North Olympic Wildlife Areas. This change in staffing was concurrent with the management plan update schedule and precluded the opportunity to hold in-person Wildlife Area Advisory Committee (WAAC) meetings. An alternative strategy to solicit input from former and new WAAC members was employed using email and telephone calls. All former WAAC members and/or organizations identified in the current management plans were contacted and asked to confirm interest in participating in this update process. Invitations were sent to 33 organizations and individuals; positive responses were received from 11 (33%) parties who were subsequently sent the draft update for review and comment. Five parties (15% of original invitees) provided substantive written feedback.

**South Puget Sound Wildlife Area – WAAC Invitees**

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Black Hills Audubon Society            | The Salmon Center                   |
| Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)       | North Mason School District         |
| Department of Corrections              | North Mason Chamber of Commerce     |
| Back Country Horsemen of Washington    | Center for Natural Lands Management |
| Native Plant Society – S Sound Chapter | Cal Palmer                          |
| TransAlta                              |                                     |

**North Olympic Wildlife Area – WAAC Invitees**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Admiralty Audubon Society         | Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation              |
| Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society | North Olympic Salmon Coalition             |
| North Olympic Land Trust          | Clallam Conservation District              |
| Clallam County BOCC               | Point No Point Treaty Council              |
| Jefferson Land Trust              | Peninsula College                          |
| Trout Unlimited                   | Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board  |
| Ducks Unlimited                   | Northwest Watershed Institute              |
| WSU Beach Watchers                | Peninsula Trails Coalition                 |
| Puget Sound Anglers               | Jefferson County Dept. of Community Dvpmt. |
| Wapiti Bowmen                     | Ed McNulty                                 |
| Eyes In The Woods                 | Walt Livingston                            |

The issues below were raised by the WAACs:

**Issue:** Rare plants should be more overtly called out in the Management Objectives, Issues, and Strategies section. Although fish and wildlife are of primary importance for Wildlife Area management, rare plants as defined by the Washington Natural Heritage Program (WNHP) are an important component of biodiversity and occur as significant populations on a number of Wildlife Areas. A few rare plants are identified for management actions in the South Puget Sound Wildlife Area Management Plan, but this could be drawn out at a higher level in the plan and be more comprehensive to address the several rare plants that occur there, particularly at the Scatter Creek Unit. There is no mention of rare plants in the North Olympic Wildlife Area Management Plan. For units with no known occurrences of rare plants but with habitats that may support them, periodic surveys should be incorporated into management plans. Additionally, the plans should include reference to coordinating rare plant management and rare plant information with the WNHP.

**Response:** The WDFW recognizes the importance of rare plants on Wildlife Areas. Habitat management and restoration, particularly in South Sound prairie and oak woodland habitats at the Scatter Creek and Davis Creek Units, have evolved since the development of the 2006 South Puget Sound Wildlife Area Management Plan. The next rendition of the management plan will reflect current knowledge and best management practices for habitat management and restoration, including the role of rare plants, in the context of the WDFW's mission. In addition, the WDFW will work with the WNHP, academic institutions, volunteers, and other partners when possible to more thoroughly assess rare plant populations on under-represented units of these Wildlife Areas.

**Issue:** Currently, the largest section of the North Olympic Wildlife Area / Bell Creek Unit, much of which is heavily wooded, is largely inaccessible. The Oak Tree subdivision borders the Unit to the west, but there is no access to the Unit from the subdivision due to fences and "No Trespassing" signs. There is an access to the Unit from the south near the Sequim Water Reuse Demonstration Park. However, this access is via an old road that is heavily overgrown and difficult to traverse. The Bell Creek Unit has considerable recreational potential. The area is home to many species of birds, including raptors, as well as deer and small mammals. It would be a wonderful place for the citizens of the area to enjoy a hike in the woods. I propose that the WDFW improve access to this area and build or clear hiking trails. The access could be from the west via E Hendrickson Road, or from the south, or (preferably) both. Trails could wind and loop through the area.

**Response:** The WDFW agrees that there is considerable recreational potential at the Bell Creek Unit due to its location in an area of increasing urbanization and population growth. The WDFW will evaluate options to enhance multiple-use recreational access that is compatible with wildlife management, habitat enhancement, and adjacent land uses. This assessment may include short-term and long-term strategies; infrastructure and funding needs; potential partnerships with local governments, non-governmental organizations, and volunteers; law enforcement needs; and other considerations.

**Issue:** 1) NOSC has made numerous improvements to Snow and Salmon Creeks at the south end of Discovery Bay over the past several years. Future efforts for fish and wildlife in the Snow Creek - Salmon Creek Unit could include additional restoration of the lower reaches of these streams, both of which would benefit from more native plant installation and removal of non-native, invasive species; 2) Restoration was recently completed at the Chemicum Unit near

the mouth of Chimacum Creek. Future efforts in this unit for fish and wildlife could include the installation of more native riparian plants and interpretative signs.

**Response:** The WDFW will continue to assess potential habitat enhancement projects as they are identified internally or by partners. Those proposed by partners will be evaluated through the WDFW Restoration Pathways review process. Large projects will require dedicated funding through RCO or other sources. The WDFW will work with local partners to accomplish those conservation actions that can be implemented on a smaller scale.

**Issue:** 1) There is a natural area at the Tarboo Unit. If it is possible to acquire more land to add to this natural area, then this should be considered to protect existing quality habitats in the area; 2) Regarding a transfer of the Tarboo Unit to the DNR Natural Areas Program, it may be better to keep some diversity of ownership in the Dabob Bay area as a check-and-balance and so that WDFW continues to have a stake there.

**Response:** The Tarboo Unit lies within a larger matrix of public and private conservation lands. The WDFW will continue to evaluate the conservation and recreational values of retaining the Tarboo Unit versus transferring it to DNR. Considerations include acquisition intent and constraints; agency missions; management logistics and cost; public access; wildlife management issues; and community input.

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**Want to see the full plan?**  
Go to -  
[http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife\\_areas/management\\_plans/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/)