



SOUTH PUGET SOUND & NORTH OLYMPIC WILDLIFE AREAS 2017 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](#). These two plans provides management direction for over 10,000 acres of wildlife area lands within the South Puget Sound and North Olympic region in Thurston, Pierce, Grays Harbor, Mason, Kitsap, Jefferson, and Clallam counties. These lands include a wide range of important fish and wildlife habitats including riparian, estuarine, freshwater wetland, mature forest, and prairie systems. The plan identifies needs and guides activities on the areas based on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Mission: “*Preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities*” and its underlying statewide goals and objectives as they apply to local conditions. Plans are updated every 2-3 years 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 2014 - 2016 accomplishments, new issues, new land management strategies, and performance measures for 2017-2018.



Scatter Creek Unit- Wet Prairie vernal pool habitat

Updates/Changes

Wildlife Area Staffing

New wildlife area managers for the South Puget Sound and North Olympic wildlife areas were hired in April 2014 and again in late December 2016. There was a 5-month vacancy in the position from July 2016 through December 2016.

Land Additions and Deletions

South Puget Sound Wildlife Area

One 2-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) Project #08-1512A (Lynch Cove Estuary). This addition increases the total

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area of the unit to nearly 452 acres, expands protected estuarine habitats for summer chum and migratory waterfowl, and enhances recreational opportunities for the public.

Major Stewardship Accomplishments

South Puget Sound Wildlife Area

Davis Creek Unit

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.

Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie Units

In 2014, 2015 and 2016 wildlife area staff continued to protect and enhance significant ecological features at Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie. The focus of these efforts center around the endangered Taylor's checkerspot and Mardon skipper butterflies at Scatter Creek, as well as the threatened Mazama pocket gopher occurring at both sites. A regime of restorative actions was carried out to accomplish this goal. Prescribed fire was conducted over 168 acres across both sites. Seeding of native prairie grasses and forbs was carried out over 175 acres in this time and was accompanied with the planting of over 130,000 native plant plugs. Exotic grasses and the invasive shrub Scotch broom are two major causes of prairie degradation. 540 acres have been treated

for exotic grasses between both sites since 2014 and a cumulative 1,100 acres of Scotch broom control was conducted mostly through mechanical means. Other invasive control measures have covered 320 acres in this time as well.



WDFW staff updated and enhanced informational kiosks at the Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie wildlife area units in 2016. Updated wildlife area rules/regulations, maps, hunting information, e-Bird

links, and other notices were posted on the new kiosks recently installed by an Eagle Scout at each of the three Scatter Creek Unit parking areas. The key elements of new postings relating to public use were also uploaded to the unit webpage. New prairie and oak woodland outreach and educational displays were installed at both units. These latter displays were funded through a multipurpose WDFW Wildlife Funds grant and are but a few of many similar displays that were posted by partner conservation organizations throughout the prairie regions of western Washington and Oregon.





Controlled burns were conducted at the Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie units during a few brief spells of favorable weather in 2014-2016. Most years required burn ban exemptions from the Commissioner of Public Lands to conduct the controlled burns. WDFW and the Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM) completed multiple burn units totaling roughly 186 acres in south Puget Sound prairie habitat. Contractual arrangements between WDFW and CNLM were coordinated by a WDFW biologist with funding support from RCO and the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program. Fire line and equipment preparation, day-of-burn operations, and mop-up were conducted by other WDFW

staff. Due to the close proximity of major roads and residential areas, DNR fire managers were onsite during the burns to assist with smoke monitoring. The burns were operationally successful and met habitat restoration objectives.

Scatter Creek Unit

In 2016, WDFW staff made improvements to the north parking area at the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area Unit - North Tract. The 1.5 acre parking area has long suffered chronic littering and dumping, especially in a half-acre portion that contains several hidden driveways and parking areas. Based on the types of litter present, it also serves as a convenient location for a variety of other illegal activities and provides a secluded overnight hideout. A 300-ft stretch of the parking area was barricaded using forty 4-ft ecology blocks that were delivered by a local manufacturer.



The project was funded primarily through an inter-agency agreement (#C1600181) with the Department of Ecology for litter and illegal dump cleanup and prevention.

WDFW staff coordinated with the Thurston County Historic Commission (TCHC) and Keith Phillips, a local stonecutter from Tenino, to install a new stone monument and interpretive sign describing the Miller-Brewer House and the pioneer history of the land that is now the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area Unit. The monument is a rebuild of the original structure that was erected at the historic Miller-Brewer House for the 1989 Washington Centennial. The Tenino stonecutter worked on the monument for over two years and included interpretive plaques to describe the site's pioneer history, unique architecture, and current status as public land.

A link to the interpretive sign has been added to this [link](#).



In 2015 and 2016, the historic Miller-Brewer House (foreground of adjacent picture) underwent remodeling and had significant repairs done. The work conducted was in concert with keeping the historical integrity while upgrading the functionality of the structure.

South Puget Sound Unit

In the hot summer of 2016, WDFW Master Hunters and volunteers from a local chapter of Safari Club International

dismantled a 2,000-ft stretch of dilapidated boundary fence at the South Puget Sound Wildlife Area in Lakewood. The 50+ year old boundary bird fence, a vestige of the former South Tacoma Game Farm, was in extreme disrepair and was highly visible to the public along Phillips Road. The boundary was subsequently posted with standard agency signage, including a prohibition of access by unauthorized vehicles.



This work was part of a larger effort to rehabilitate or remove old infrastructure in public areas. The WDFW Hunter Education and Volunteer Coordinator was instrumental in facilitating the initial contacts that led to this project.

Union River Unit

In late 2014 and early 2015, WDFW coordinated with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Creosote Removal Program and Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group to conduct the clean-up of large marine debris from the Union River Unit. Work was conducted in the saltmarshes of Lynch Cove, located at the terminus of Hood Canal at Belfair.

During cleanup efforts, crews from the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) Puget Sound Corps, which included the WCC Veteran Conservation Corps from the Department of Ecology, expended over 600 hours of crew labor. A total of 23,660 lbs. (122 cubic yds.) of creosote logs, Styrofoam, garbage, tires (about 70), and other miscellaneous debris, including one boat hull and 13 derelict dock and float structures were removed from the estuary.



Lynch Cove with derelict marine debris: floating dock (foreground) and boat hull (background).



In 2016, new informational signs were placed on two kiosks at the Union River Unit (Mason County) of the South Puget Sound Wildlife Area. One kiosk (installed in 2015) is located where a popular walking trail enters the wildlife area from the adjacent Theler Community Center, and the other is found along the paved roadway to The Salmon Center, home of the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group. Postings include wildlife area rules and conditions of use, site maps, estuary restoration interpretation, an eBird link (provided in collaboration with the Black Hills Audubon Society), and RCO recognition. Because of the high degree of public use and scrutiny, overlapping inter-organizational agreements, and complex conservation and public ownership

matrix, the signage received prior review by both internal and external partners to ensure that all information is accurate, consistent, and easy to understand.

Skookumchuck Unit

TransAlta and their natural resources contractors conducted a wide variety of habitat management activities. High quality forage was intensely managed year-round for elk and other wildlife. 185 acres of pasture was maintained with multiple applications of fertilizer and two harvests during the high-growth spring/summer season. Twelve small dispersed meadows totaling 25 acres, received a late summer mowing and fall application of fertilizer each year. Three dispersed small forest harvests, totaling 19 acres, were conducted creating diverse early seral habitat with snags, green recruitment trees, large down wood, and grass/legume ground cover. Two of these harvests included a unique alternate plan inside the riparian buffers where decadent alder stands will be

converted to permanent late-seral conifer riparian forests. Outflows at three small wetlands were excavated to halt beaver damage as well. Litter control along the Skookumchuck River and public parking areas was aided by the South Sound Chapter Puget Sound Anglers. The last unresolved chapter of the elk forage management standard operating procedure was formally accepted and adopted. Lastly, in 2014 and 2016, the barn owl nest boxes were occupied.

Discovery Bay at Snow/Salmon creeks post restoration



North Olympic Wildlife Area

Salmon-Snow/ Discovery Bay Unit

The Lower Discovery Bay Estuary Restoration Project (Summer 2015)

The Lower Discovery Bay Estuary Restoration project, led by the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC), included removal and modification of an abandoned railroad grade and side cast material. This project restored nearly 11 acres of saltmarsh and tidal channels near the mouths of Salmon and Snow Creek in Jefferson County. As stated by NOSC, this area is critical habitat for ESA-listed Hood Canal summer chum. Additionally, project blog can be visited for updates <http://discoverybayrestoration.blogspot.com/>, photographs, and videos. An interactive story map <http://hoodcanal.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=231b2584312443399164fe0f531a4c9a> created by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council is another way to learn about the greater Discovery Bay Restoration efforts.

Lower Dungeness Unit

3 Crabs Estuarine and Nearshore Restoration (Summer 2016)

In the summer of 2016, construction on the 3 Crabs Restoration site finally took place. This project was a complex and challenging project where numerous organizations, landowners, and community members came together to pull off a vital estuarine and nearshore restoration project. The effort to enact this vision has been in the works for over a decade and involved countless hours of development, negotiations, and implementation.



As described by the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC); *“The 3 Crabs Nearshore and Estuarine Restoration Project removed infrastructure, fill and armoring at the site of the former 3 Crabs Restaurant. This project restored historic landforms and improved public access at a newly established WDFW wildlife area*



along Dungeness Bay and Meadowbrook Creek. Meadowbrook Creek is the last freshwater tributary to the Dungeness River and provides essential rearing habitat for out-migrating Dungeness River salmon. The Dungeness Estuary and Dungeness Bay is categorized as a site that supports an average of 7,500 waterfowl (up to 13,000) during migration and winter. This estuarine and wetland habitat restoration project benefits high concentrations of waterfowl and salmonids by improving access to a variety of habitat types. This project improved the ecological function of over 40 acres of coastal wetlands and restored half mile of stream channel.” A project

blog (<http://3crabsrestoration.blogspot.com/>) is available at the NOSC website and has updates, photographs, videos, and other related item.

In addition, the 3 Crabs Restoration became the pilot project for the recently established WDFW Region 6 Restoration Pathways process. The process is intended to ensure that the necessary staff at WDFW are involved in the planning, development, and approval of restoration work to be carried out on WDFW land while considering all associated interests and values. Substantial coordination was conducted both within WDFW and externally. Adaptive management and stewardship will become an essential component of ensuring the project continues as a success.

Status Report of 2014-2016 Performance Measures

Key performance measures are identified 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 2017-2018.

2014-16 Performance Measure	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/Related Activity/Comments
South Puget Sound Wildlife Area		
Provide pheasant hunting opportunities at the Scatter Creek and Skookumchuck units during the regular Western Washington season.	200 hunting days; 17,655 Pheasants released	Approximately 4,000 pheasants released per year at Scatter Creek and 1,900 per year released at Skookumchuck Unit; 100 plus volunteer hours contributed each year.
Maintain Oregon white oaks at the South Puget Sound Unit.	225 oak trees maintained	Due to trees maturing, protective enclosures were removed in 2015.

2014-16 Performance Measure	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/Related Activity/Comments
Collect native prairie plant seeds for the Regional Prairie Native Seed Project, and/or sowing for habitat restoration.	33 species collected; 38 seed collection events	Common, uncommon and rare native prairie grass and forb species were collected in 2014-2016.
Manage weeds	1,000 acres; 8 Species	Control was conducted on over 1,000 acres in 2014-16, including 800 acres of Scotch broom and 542 acres of tall oatgrass. Other species managed were mouse-ear hawkweed, burrowing clover, tansy ragwort, spotted knapweed, sulfur-cinquefoil, and Himalayan blackberry among others.
Manage western pond turtles at the South Puget Sound Unit in accordance with the “Washington State Recovery Plan for the Western Pond Turtle” and current adaptive management practices.	12 acres managed, 8 acres enhanced; minimum population estimate of 154 turtles (2014), 245 turtles (2015), and 210 turtles (2016) in onsite population.	Mowing on the nesting hill and invasive vegetation management is conducted each year. In 2015 major fence repair and replacement was conducted to reduce predation and escapement. With the growing turtle population, additional basking structures were installed in the spring of 2016.
Monitor Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) butterfly species.	Nine SGCN monitored	Results reported in “Monitoring Imperiled Butterflies of Western Washington and Oregon Prairies and Oak Woodlands” Prepared by: Ann E. Potter, WDFW, December 2016.
Install “Pets Must Be Leashed” signs at the South Puget Sound Unit.	One sign installed	Initiated, but more will need to be installed.
Pursue acquisition of prairie habitat adjacent to the West Rocky Prairie Unit.	Accepted into WDFW Lands 20/20 program	USFWS Section 6 and RCO WWRP funds received, actively pursuing acquisition.
Monitor compliance of field trial temporary use permits.	Three site inspections conducted	Informal inspections, no major violations reported.
Provide field trial and dog event opportunities at the Davis Creek Unit.	10 permits issued for field trial events	Three events in 2014, 4 events 2015, and 3 events in 2016.
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”.	900 + Taylor’s checkerspot butterflies released and 99 acres restored/enhanced.	Approximately 30 acres restored/enhanced each year. 300+ Taylor’s checkerspot released each year. Re-introductions on the Scatter Creek Unit south are near complete and the population is on track to become “established”.
Manage Mazama pocket gophers at the Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie units through an integrated inter-divisional approach.	430 days worked and 3 inter-divisional projects implemented	One project 2014 West Rocky Prairie Unit- 265 days, 1 project 2015 WRP and Scatter Creek units- 65 days, and 1 project in 2016 at West Rocky Prairie Unit- 100 days.

2014-16 Performance Measure	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/Related Activity/Comments
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 reseeded.	1,962 acres treated and enhanced 2014-2016, with 6 imperiled plant species populations enhanced.	Prescribed fires have been conducted each summer/fall of 2014-16, totaling 86 acres between the two sites. Oak release has been conducted over 10 acres at West Rocky. In years 2014-2016, native seed has been sowed over 175 acres; 1,670 acres of weed treatment mainly by mechanical means covered; and 130,594 plugs of native plants have been planted. Plans were developed and approved for an oak release project on the Scatter Creek Unit north.
Maintain current “Sensitive Area” map for use with field trial permits issued at the Scatter Creek Unit.	Three updates completed	Done; 1 per year
Maintain “Special Management Zone” signs at the Scatter Creek Unit to reduce recreational impacts on prairie habitats.	Five signs maintained	More signage will be installed and maintained as needed to account for ongoing management considerations. Potential for a new Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly management zone in Block B dependent on monitoring observations.
Maintain and develop partnerships with organizations engaged in South Sound prairie management and restoration.	Nine active partnerships	The Center for Natural Lands Management, Wolf Haven, DNR, Joint Base Lewis McCord, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Capitol Land Trust, South of the Sound Community Farmland Trust, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Thurston County are actively involved.
Manage Oregon spotted frogs at the West Rocky Prairie Unit in accordance with the “Draft State of Washington - Oregon Spotted Frog Recovery Plan”.	Three acres restored/enhanced	Adaptive management actively applied which includes mowing, control of Reed canary grass, and brush cutting to increase sunlight to breeding areas.
Update kiosk displays at high-use Units.	Eight kiosks updated	Displays updated at Scatter Creek, Davis Creek, Union River, and West Rocky Prairie units.
Renew the land lease at the Scatter Creek Unit and the agriculture lease at Davis Creek.	Two leases renewed	Scatter Creek Land lease renewed in October 2014, and expires September 2017. Davis Creek agriculture lease renewed in 2016.
Establish field office at the Scatter Creek Unit for all management operations at the Scatter Creek and North Olympic Wildlife Areas.	One field office established	Completed in 2015
Implement Ecological Integrity Monitoring at the Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie Units.	Two units with established EIM	Completed for both units

2014-16 Performance Measure	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/Related Activity/Comments
Conduct monthly monitoring and adaptive management, as needed, for the Union River Estuary Restoration project.	Five monitoring events; 4 management actions taken	In 2014, danger trees were removed and placed into the restored estuary for fish habitat; Lynch Cove marine debris clean up in 2014 and 2015.
Coordinate management of the Skookumchuck Unit with TransAlta per the 2011 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), including emerging issues relating to forest management, safety zones, elk management, and weed control.	Three coordination events	One per year; Elk forage issues resolved and SOP update completed in 2014.
North Olympic Wildlife Area		
Maintain Oregon white oaks at the Bell Creek Unit through the volunteer-based "Sequim Prairie Savanna Oak Woodland Restoration Project".	20 acres with over 1,600 Garry oak trees maintained	Volunteer hours: 157 hours in 2014, 172.5 hours in 2015, and 29 hours in 2016. On average, the oak trees are growing 3 inches in height per year.
Maintain riparian plantings at the Morse Creek Unit through a partnership with the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC).	2,000 native trees maintained	NOSC maintained native plants and managed invasive vegetation on 5 acres of enhanced land.
Develop a strategy for removing unneeded structures at the Morse Creek and Bell Creek units.	Four structures removed and 1 removal plan initiated.	One mobile home was removed from the Bell Creek Unit in 2016. 3 structures removed at Morse Creek per 2016 plans.
Continue acquisition and restoration efforts associated with the Lower Dungeness River Basin restoration project at the Lower Dungeness Unit.	No parcels in negotiations or acquired; 10 acres restored	No productive activity. A few attempts were made to start negotiation, but none accepted.
Coordinate with the North Olympic Salmon Coalition and other partners to conduct habitat restoration at the Snow/Salmon Unit.	26 acres restored	In 2014-2015, 8,500 native plants were installed by over 70 volunteers. 2,700 feet of shoreline armoring was removed and over 300 feet of creosote railway trestle removed resulting in 4 acres of nearshore restored by NOSC. In 2015-2016, 22 acres were restored with 1,465 linear feet of railroad grade removed, several pocket estuaries and tidal marshes restored by NOSC.
Determine use potential, or removal of, the log cabin at the Morse Creek Unit.	One use determination completed	Currently under evaluation
Submit RCO grant proposal for a public use facility development project at the Lower Dungeness Unit (3 Crabs site).	One application completed	North Olympic Wildlife Area Public Access Site (#14-1589) grant request not funded.

2014-16 Performance Measure	Status of Performance Measure	Explanation of Progress/Related Activity/Comments
Coordinate with the Department of Ecology to convert the 3 Crabs Restaurant well to a trust water right.	One trust water rights established	Completed in 2016
Abandon the 3 Crabs Restaurant water well access easement on the Dungeness Farms property.	One easement abandoned	Completed in 2016
Update kiosk displays at high-use Units.	Three Kiosks updated	Chimacum Creek, and Lower Dungeness units.
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.	A few program options identified and 1 option implemented	5 designated hunt blinds/spots established.
Work with the Northwest Watershed Institute to control English ivy and Japanese knotweed at the mouth of Tarboo Creek.	Not completed	This item will be addressed in the future.

2017-18 Performance Measures

Performance measures for the South Puget Sound and North Olympic wildlife areas are listed below. Accomplishments and progress toward desired outcomes will be monitored and evaluated annually.

South Puget Sound Wildlife Area

- 1) Manage invasive vegetation and noxious weeds on all units.
- 2) Update kiosk displays at high-use units.
- 3) Support monitoring, research, and recovery efforts for rare and endangered species.
- 4) Provide pheasant hunting opportunities at the Scatter Creek and Skookumchuck units during the Western Washington season.
- 5) Maintain Oregon white oaks and western pond turtle habitat on the South Puget Sound site to support population management.
- 6) Provide and manage field trial and dog event opportunities at the Davis Creek and Scatter Creek units.
- 7) Monitor compliance of field trial temporary use permits.
- 8) Pursue acquisition of prairie and riparian habitat with an emphasis on sites adjacent to existing units to support recovery of listed species and support public fish and wildlife recreation.
- 9) Renew the land lease at the Scatter Creek Unit and the agriculture lease at Davis Creek.
- 10) Collect native prairie plant seeds for the Regional Prairie Native Seed Project, and/or sowing for habitat restoration.
- 11) 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.
- 12) Maintain and enforce "Special Management Zones" at the Scatter Creek Unit to reduce recreational impacts on sensitive prairie habitats.
- 13) Conduct Ecological Integrity Monitoring at the Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie units.

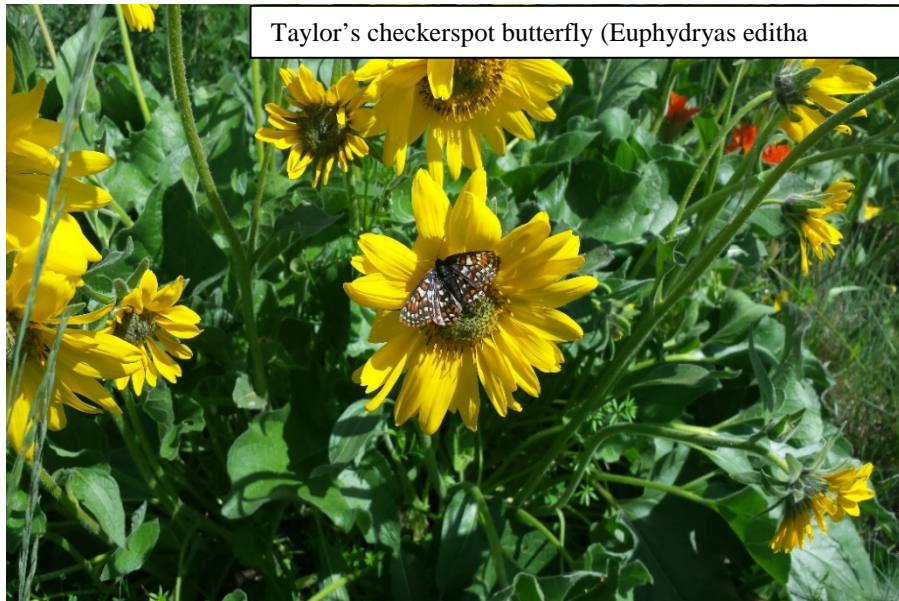
- 14) Manage habitat for Oregon spotted frogs at the West Rocky Prairie Unit.
- 15) Enhance field office capacity at the Scatter Creek Unit for all management operations at the Scatter Creek and North Olympic wildlife areas.
- 16) Coordinate management of the Skookumchuck Unit with TransAlta per the 2011 Standard Operating Procedures, including emerging issues relating to forest management, safety zones, elk management, and weed control.
- 17) Address access site deficiencies, facility needs, and renew lease at the Nisqually Unit.
- 18) Assess and manage vehicle trespass related issues on the Big Beef Unit.
- 19) Coordinate habitat and species restoration or conservation opportunities on the McNeil Island Unit.

North Olympic Wildlife Area

- 1) Manage invasive vegetation and noxious weeds on all units.
- 2) Maintain and update kiosk displays as needed at high-use units.
- 3) Include fish, wildlife, recreation values, and other diverse interests into restoration plans at lower Dungeness and Duckabush units.
- 4) Maintain Oregon white oaks at the Bell Creek Unit through the volunteer-based “Sequim Prairie Savanna Oak Woodland Restoration Project”.
- 5) Maintain riparian plantings at the Morse Creek Unit through a partnership with the North Olympic Salmon Coalition and volunteers.
- 6) Develop and implement strategy for facility improvements at the Bell Creek Unit.
- 7) Coordinate with the North Olympic Salmon Coalition and other partners to conduct habitat restoration at the Snow/Salmon Unit.
- 8) Carry out the usage and/or removal plan for the cabin at the Morse Creek Unit.
- 9) Submit at least one RCO grant proposal for public use facility development project at the Lower Dungeness Unit.
- 10) Maintain waterfowl hunting opportunities on appropriate units. Evaluate conditions, hunter opinions, and safety issues and enact changes, as needed, to address identified needs.
- 11) Improve forest health on the Tarboo Unit and assess forest health on the Bell Creek Unit.
- 12) Evaluate potential for agriculture lease and waterfowl habitat enhancement at the Snow Creek-Salmon Creek Unit.

Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and District Team Input

A new wildlife area manager was hired in January 2017 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) or district team meetings. An alternative strategy to solicit input from former and new WAAC members, as well as district team members, was employed using email, telephone calls, and in person meetings. Some of the former WAAC members and/or organizations identified in the current management plans were contacted and asked to participate in this update process. The new manager, Darric Lowery, will be hosting both WAAC and District Team meetings in 2017-2018 for each wildlife area.



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Want to see the full plan?

Go to –

http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/