

Wildlife Program

Week of September 1-7, 2014

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY DIVISION

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

South Puget Sound Grassland and Oak Woodland Conservation: Biologist Hays received news that the restoration proposal for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lands scored highest in the State Lands Restoration category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). This project, if funded, will help continue funding for grassland and oak woodland restoration on 5 sites on state land in south Puget Sound. Grassland restoration includes prescribed fire, seeding, planting, and weed control to benefit a number of WDFW species of greatest conservation need. Oak release and habitat enhancement for Oregon spotted frog are additional components of the 2015 – 2017 biennium proposal. We received news a week earlier that, in the Urban Habitat component of WWRP, our south Puget Sound proposal for acquisition of an addition to West Rocky Prairie (presented by Michelle Tirhi), scored highest in its category. The significance of the WWRP funding goes well beyond the dollar amount of the grants, as state funding is critical for the application of matching funds in federal acquisition and restoration programs.

Compiling State Wildlife Action Plan Revision Products: Assignments were transmitted to select Diversity Division staff and Regional/District wildlife staff for the preparation and review of products for inclusion in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) revision. These assignments focus on preparing species Fact Sheets and on compiling Threats and Actions information for more than 100 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Compilation is streamlined by working in draft Fact Sheets that follow a standard format and Threats/Actions information that can be readily entered in a spreadsheet with standardized drop-down choices. SWAP Coordinator Lynn Helbrecht and Biologist Chris Sato have played the primary roles in organizing these materials for staff use.

GOAL 3: USE SOUND BUSINESS PRACTICES, DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) Coordinator Meeting: Division Manager Eric Gardner and Habitat Program Biologist Lynn Helbrecht met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and SWAP coordinators from Idaho and Oregon to discuss each state's process for and progress in the review and revision of their SWAPs. Each state is taking different approaches to the process; however, all seem to be looking for ways to make the plan more relevant to their own agency as well as for their conservation partners.

Shrub-steppe Meeting: Division Manager Eric Gardner and Section Managers Cynthia Wilkerson, Penny Becker, and Bruce Thompson participated in a meeting with Wildlife Program's Deputy Assistant Director Greg Schirato and Lands Division staff to discuss the related pieces of wildlife and habitat conservation in shrub-steppe and the associated roles and responsibilities of WDFW staff. Linkages were made between such activities as the developing

CCAA for greater sage-grouse, Arid Land Initiative priorities, Wildlife Area plans, the developing multi-species general conservation plan, Farm Bill programs, SAFE and CRP priority areas, and the roles of other state and federal agencies and programs.

GOAL 4: MAINTAIN A HIGHLY SKILLED AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE

Promoting Diversity Information Sharing: Biologist Chris Sato assembled a team of Division staff who will meet later in September to develop concepts and a vision for use of the Diversity SharePoint site to best facilitate information access and sharing. This effort is intended to build staff capacity for information awareness and efficient creation and editing of Division species assessment and review documentation.

REGION 1

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

District 1 Pre-Season Deer Surveys: Last week district biological staff completed this year's August deer-classification counts. August surveys provide an index of pre-season population numbers and buck:doe ratios. A brief summary of the August results follows:

Total white-tail bucks & does surveyed on 15 standardized 15-mile long road transects within PMU 13 = 1,123

White-tail Buck Ratio = 28 bucks per 100 does

Total Mule Deer Surveyed (all 20 std. transects in August) = 87

Mule Deer Buck Ratio = 24 bucks per 100 does

As the table below summarizes, this year there was a substantial increase in the white-tailed deer density (i.e. number of deer observed per transect mile) on the 6 traditional transects as surveyed consistently since 2003.

Total Classified White-tailed Deer from August Surveys by Transect within PMU-13, 2003-2014

Transect Name :	Length, miles	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Mean*
Flat Creek	17.5	116	123	138	147	117	143	122	117	35	16	45	109	102
Douglas	11.0	231	288	198	304	190	177	131	103	92	80	79	122	170
Deep Creek	19.8	38	42	48	54	84	79	78	51	23	21	49	53	52
Clayton	7.2	95	58	51	83	97	61	48	38	38	82	50	81	64
Dunn Mountain	5.3	189	213	192	165	161	106	42	103	117	205	112	82	146
Daisy - Maud	12.3	48	43	33	51	45	75	50	50	59	93	59	88	55
Total Miles:	73.1													
Total White-tails:		717	767	660	804	694	641	471	462	364	497	394	535	588
Average Total:		120	128	110	134	116	107	79	77	61	83	66	89	98
Mean per mile:		9.8	10.5	9.0	11.0	9.5	8.8	6.4	6.3	5.0	6.8	5.4	7.3	8.0

District 2 Pre-hunt Deer Surveys: Biologist Lowe conducted two deer composition surveys in GMUs 136 and 139 and entered data from the August surveys. Biologist Atamian conducted one deer survey in GMU 124 (Greenbluff area), and 154 deer were observed (85 does, 45 fawns, & 24 bucks).



Mule deer in Rock Lake and Cherry Creek, GMU 139



Blue Mountains Golden Eagle Release: District Biologist Wik retrieved a rehabilitated golden eagle from the WSU Veterinary hospital on Tuesday for release following radio attachment. Research Biologist Watson travelled over to Clarkston that day to attach a solar powered satellite transmitter to the young male bird. After that, Wik travelled to the area

the bird was originally picked up to meet the neighboring landowners. The landowners and Wik then released the bird back into the wild.



GOAL 2: PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FISHING, HUNTING AND OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCES

Private Lands / Access

Young hunter successful with his bow on Hunting by Reservation Only property in Whitman County

GOAL 3: PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECONOMY, PROTECT COMMUNITY CHARACTER, MAINTAIN AN OVERALL HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Wildlife Areas

Revere Wildlife Area maintenance: Asst. Manager Finch and Natural Resources Worker Bauer traveled to

Revere WLA on Thursday to prepare the site before fall hunting seasons. They pulled and sprayed weeds in parking lots, replaced signs as needed, and repaired wires on fences.

Jim Bauer spraying weeds at Revere WLA parking lot



WT Wooten Wildlife Area – Fair: Asst. Manager Dingman set up the booth with State Parks and DNR at the Columbia County Fair. She worked the booth for the 3 days of the Fair and gave 3 one hour presentations about Wooten, WA. DNR had staff there for part of the time, and State Parks had staff taking shifts in the booth for part of the time. Smokey the Bear made an appearance Saturday and Sunday. Roughly 214 people visited the booth at this local fair. It was a good opportunity to visit with our neighbors.



Columbia County Fair Booth shared with State Parks, WDFW, and DNR

Private Lands/Access

Palouse Empire Fair: Biologist Lewis worked at the conservation booth during the Whitman County Fair. Lewis discussed fall hunting regulations, access programs, and wildlife management issues with fair attendees. Lewis also discussed potential habitat projects with 2 landowners.



Private Lands Access: Biologist Earl contacted a landowner in Garfield County with regards to his neighbor's prolonged concern with being in an access program. The landowner decided to remove that portion of his property from the Hunting by Reservation program, and he will continue to allow hunting through his own permission. Biologist Earl worked on removing this site from the State's system and will be updating the reservation hunts with the landowner on the property that will remain in the WDFW access program. Natural Resource Worker Wade removed all the signs this week.

REGION 2

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Post Carlton Fire Deer Management: In response to this summer's fires, Biologist Fitkin submitted a draft supplemental antlerless harvest plan to Olympia and Regional staff. The goal of the plan is to harvest several hundred additional antlerless animals using antlerless permit applicants that were not initially drawn for the affected units. Preliminary estimates suggest the fires consumed most of the winter shrub forage for about 35% of the deer in PMU 21, and this represents a significant decrease in the landscape level carrying capacity for this herd. The additional harvest is a step toward bringing the herd size in line with the available resources to avoid an excessive winter mortality event and avoid retarding anticipated range recovery.

Rabbit Husbandry: Biologist Wisniewski and Technician Somers assisted Wildlife Area staff Winegeart and Rios with the installation of the well pump and solar panel at the Beezley Hills breeding enclosure. During installation of the equipment, we learned just how large of an effect the tiniest amount of shadow over the solar panel has on water output. Due to this new information we will remove the fencing around the solar panel at the Sagebrush Flat site.

A Successful Pump Installation Crew

Rabbit Trapping: Trapping and releasing kits resumed the week of Aug. 24 at the Dormaier and Beezley Hills breeding enclosures with the assistance of Private Lands Biologists

Comstock, Dougherty, and Barg, as well as volunteers Lydia and Cara. On Thursday the 28th we trapped 29 rabbits at the Dormaier: 17 new kits, 4 recap kits, and 8 recap adults. Sixteen kits were released to the wild at Sagebrush Flats (SBF), and the remaining rabbits were returned to the breeding enclosure. On Friday the 29th we trapped 30 rabbits at the Beezley Hills enclosure: 14 new kits, 10 recap kits, and 6 recap adults. All new kits were released to the wild and the remaining rabbits were returned to the enclosure. We will continue trapping and releasing rabbits at all enclosures until populations in the enclosures are reduced to sustainable over winter levels.



Wildlife Areas

Columbia Basin Wetland Management Plan: Biologists Finger, E. Duvuvuei, and O. Duvuvuei met with Wildlife Area Manager Fitzgerald, Assistant Wildlife Area Managers Eidson and Cole, and Regional Program Manager Monda to discuss concerns and expectations for the Columbia Basin Wetland Management Plan. Once completed, this plan will provide a guideline and reference for moist soil management which will benefit all wetland obligate species using the Columbia Basin Wildlife Area. The Columbia Basin Wildlife Area provides critical habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wetland obligates, but faces many challenges to maintain these critical habitats, including but not limited to: invasive species, wetland succession and sedimentation, seasonal water availability, habitat loss, and human disturbance. This plan will address these challenges and strategies for dealing with them on a site specific basis.

GOAL 2: PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FISHING, HUNTING AND OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCES

Wildlife Management

Migratory Birds: Biologists E. Duvuvuei, Finger, and O. Duvuvuei continued trapping waterfowl at the Spud Field and picked up traps in preparation for the Youth waterfowl season

opening on September 20th. Banding data for Mourning Doves and waterfowl was submitted to Waterfowl Specialist Wilson. Mourning dove capture was a struggle this year with only 61 doves banded. One adult male recapture was banded by Warren Becker in 2011 as a hatch year bird. 279 waterfowl bands were put out, including 1 replacement band for a recaptured mallard. This total includes 269 mallards, 7 redheads, 5 wood ducks, & 2 teal. 2 additional

recaptured mallards were observed this season, but their initial capture information has not been confirmed yet.



Forty-four new mallards were banded on the evening of the 18th. 17 mallards were recently banded & back for more corn. The wood duck did not find its way into the trap through the funnel – Photo by E. Duvuvuei

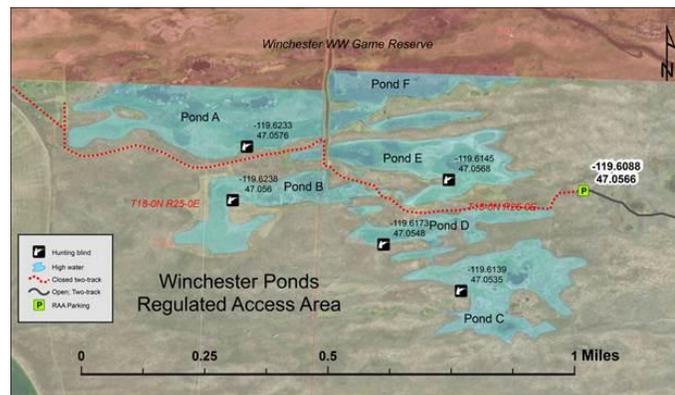
Mount Hull Bighorn Sheep Management: Biologist Heinlen pinned a California Bighorn ram harvested from the Mt Hull herd by the North-central Washington Big Game raffle

permit winner. With the longest total horn length at 39 inches and over all good symmetry, the permit winner was very happy with this ram. Since raffle hunts start two weeks earlier than traditional permit hunts there are still two permit hunters awaiting their chance to hunt Mt Hull this season.

Wildlife Areas

Columbia Basin Regulated Access Areas: Biologists Finger and O. Duvuvuei created the online hunt reservations for the Winchester Ponds Regulated Access Area from opening day through November. Biologist Finger coordinated with Section Manager Calkins on the development of the online reservation system for the Winchester Regulated Access Area and website additions to describe both the Winchester Ponds and Frenchmen Ponds Regulated Access Areas. Reservations will be required to hunt the Winchester Ponds Regulated Access Area from opening weekend through November. Drop-ins will be allowed to use vacant parking spaces after 9 am. Frenchmen Ponds Regulated Access Area will remain a first come, first served opportunity as we evaluate the reservation system change for Winchester Ponds. Biologist Finger edited signs to prepare for the changes taking place at Winchester Ponds and sent edits out for review.

Winchester Ponds Regulated Access Area layout showing approximate location of new parking area – Photo by R. Finger





Frenchmen Ponds Regulated Access Area – Photo by R. Finger

GOAL 3: PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECONOMY, PROTECT COMMUNITY CHARACTER, MAINTAIN AN OVERALL HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Wildlife Areas

Sinlahekin 75th Anniversary Summer Series Event: Manager Haug and Okanogan Lands Operations Manager Swedberg hosted the final summer series event this past weekend. Festivities included a birding tour with Penny Rose, president of the Washington Ornithological Society and local birder Scott Hoskins, a photography seminar by resident photo enthusiast Justin Haug, a photo-history tour with Dale Swedberg, native American stories and history by author Arnie Marchand, a history of early endeavors by settlers into the Sinlahekin Valley by Karen Beaudette, and a biological-themed sing-a-long by former WDFW employee and current DNR wildlife biologist Ken Bevis (see pictures below). It was a good turnout with very entertaining subjects and presenters.



Wildlife Areas

Wanapum Weeds: Assistant Managers Eidson and Cole attended a Washington State Weed Board tour stop at Vantage to observe vegetation response to the extremely low operating level of the Wanapum Pool. The area has been inundated for a half century, more or less, and as the operating level stabilized the bare mudflat developed a vegetation band that included flowering purple loosestrife (a biennial), smartweed, reed canarygrass, sweet clover, coyote willow, lambsquarter, and Russian thistle, among other less frequently occurring plants. While interesting, the reservoir is scheduled to be brought back to normal operating levels this fall,

hopefully not too late for the stressed established riparian vegetation to recover. Attendees included members of the WA State Weed Board, Grant Co. Weed Board, Grant Co. Weed District 3, Grant Co. PUD, and DFW.

CARLTON FIRE

Update for the Pateros Unit: A great deal of change on the landscape of the Pateros Unit of the Chelan Wildlife Area has occurred since the Carlton Complex fire swept over the area on July 17.



Pateros Unit on July 20 – Photo by D. Peterson

During mid-August the area received moisture from several thunder storms that fortunately did not cause any flood damage but did provide some moisture to allow plant regrowth to begin. Most areas that had good stands of perennial grasses are seeing a flush of new growth with some plants exceeding six inches in height.

Grass regrowth on the Pateros Unit forty nine days after the fire

However, not all areas are experiencing this level of grass regrowth, and only two bitterbrush and no sagebrush have been observed re-sprouting. To reestablish shrubs on the area, especially bitterbrush, seeding should occur this fall.



Area of burned sage and bitterbrush skeletons with a complete lack of grass regrowth on the Pateros Unit



A rare occurrence: re-sprouting bitterbrush on the Pateros Unit

Regrowth is also occurring in the riparian areas and they are quickly becoming very small islands of green vegetation on the landscape. Aspen, Wood's rose, tall Oregon grape, blue elderberry, water birch, mountain alder, and chokecherry were all observed re-sprouting from roots.

Re-sprouting riparian vegetation on the Pateros Unit forty nine days after fire.

Not all of the vegetation regrowth has been desirable. Weeds have also re-sprouted as vigorously as other plants. On the Pateros Unit, two weeds are especially problematic. In riparian areas, Russian knapweed has re-sprouted and is nearly ready to flower. There is a small window of opportunity for chemical control of this deep rooted perennial weed as it is flowering. Chemical control in the future will be more difficult as this knapweed becomes mixed in with desirable riparian trees and shrubs and no effective bio-control agent exists to treat it.



In the upland areas, Dalmatian toadflax is the weed of primary concern. It is another deep rooted perennial that also produces thousands of seeds. Toadflax can exist under a wide array of environmental conditions and can become established in disturbed soils, as well as areas without any disturbance. Based on observations after the Swakane Canyon fire of 2010, toadflax will thrive after this fire. Chemical control of toadflax is possible for small patches that are accessible (e.g., along roads), but because it will be present at variable densities across the whole area, the best overall approach for control is with bio-control agents. Fortunately, an effective bio-control agent is available for Dalmatian and multiple releases will be needed for this weed.



Russian knapweed resprouting on the Pateros Unit

Emergency Grazing Evaluations on Methow/Sinlahekin Complex: Assistant manager Wehmeyer traveled to the Methow Wildlife Area to meet with grazing permittees and discussed the placement of fencing in the Big Valley Unit of the Wildlife Area. Wehmeyer will work with



the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in the following days to complete the fence alongside the operator. Preparations are ongoing complex wide in the Okanogan to provide additional grazing opportunities for livestock owners affected by the Carlton Complex Fire.

Water as a result of recent flashflood in Chiliwist Wildlife Area – Photo by J.Haug



***Top** – Grass regrowth below severely burned slope on Chiliwist. **Right** – Vigorous regrowth of shrub layer with wood draw on Chiliwist Wildlife Area – Photos by J. Haug*

Carlton Complex Fire – Indian Dan Canyon Unit: Over the past couple of weeks Wildlife Area staff completed a variety of needed tasks on this unit.

Weed control: Assistant Manager Noel Winegeart and Maintenance Mechanic Fidel Rios treated Russian knapweed and Canada thistle that's regrowing with a vengeance in the riparian and meadow areas of the unit. The Canada thistle appears relatively even-aged while the Russian knapweed varies from the rosette to flowering stages. Over the course of 2 days using ATV's, plus our Kubota tractor and 3-point sprayer, Noel and Fidel treated approximately 43 acres. Other noxious weeds beginning to regrow are diffuse knapweed and, to a lesser extent, Dalmatian toadflax. We'll be treating these in the near future.

Infrastructure losses: The Prescribed Burn Team completed their work on the unit inventorying perimeter and interior fences. They also found time to roll up nearly 4.5 miles of interior fences. Prior to the fire, we had planned to remove all the interior fences, as they served no useful purpose since cattle grazing does not and will not occur on the unit. They were in an extreme state of disrepair and as such were a hazard to wildlife and the recreating public. With no intention to repair or replace the interior fences and with the additional help afforded us by the



Assistant manager Nathan Wehmeyer assesses damage to wooded draw post-Carlton Complex Fire

Burn Team we used the opportunity remove as much of the fence wreckage as possible. The Burn Team was a great help in moving this project forward and we hope they're able to return and assist us with more projects.



Interior fence wreckage since removed by Burn Team



Aspen grove, July 28 and September 6

Habitat recovery: Nearly two months after the fire, regrowth of riparian tree and shrub species is progressing much as anticipated. Aspen regrowth in some of the stands, for example, has

reached nearly 4-feet in height. In the uplands, current, serviceberry, and woods rose are found to be re-growing as well. Native bunchgrasses are beginning to send up new growth, although



at this point not uniformly across the area. On the other hand, the most critical habitat component from the perspective of deer, bitterbrush, is completely decimated. We have yet to find a single bitterbrush plant that survived the fire. Across the area one can find multiple examples of plants that had been 6-7 inches in diameter at the base burned right to the ground. All that remains of those not totally incinerated are charred skeletons. Recovery of this species, so critical for wintering mule deer in this part of Okanogan county, will be decades long, if at all.

Mule deer winter range, September 6.

REGION 3

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Areas

LT Murray Area: Manager Winegeart filled out a Fire Reporting form for the Corrals fire that burned on the Whiskey Dick in June. He submitted the form to Olympia. He also filled out an invasive species control survey regarding weed treatment measures used in sage grouse habitat.

Manager Winegeart worked with Mule Deer Foundation members on the upcoming bitterbrush restoration project, and mailed out Temporary Use Permits to the three landowners whose property will be restored.

Wenas Wildlife Area: Manager Confer Morris, along with Amy Windrope, Habitat Program BPA liaison, participated in a BPA conference call Wednesday regarding the Wenas WLA BOG request for habitat restoration and fence rebuild/repair related to the Cottonwood #2 fire. They received a very favorable response from the group, and after providing some additional information, the \$492,000 emergency request was approved. Wildlife area staff spent the rest of the week lining up contractors, verifying material costs, and submitting paperwork for non-contract purchases over \$10,000. Thanks to Amy Windrope for all her work to get this approved.

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Manager Huffman and Assistant Manager Berry coordinated hay delivery most of the week. Huffman and Berry used the tractor to haul pallets and Berry patched another older tarp for use. Hay was left uncovered due to some wet bales and a lack of rain in the forecast. The storage area is about full, and it is unlikely that we can hold all the remaining hay to be delivered.

Sunnyside Wildlife Area: Assistant Manager Buser cleared a downed tree from the trail to Windmill Lake, continued adding water to wildlife area wetlands before waterfowl season gets underway, treated noxious weeds at every turn, and has begun to monitor hunter registration boxes at wildlife area access points.

Wildlife Management

Ducks – Biologists Gregory and Stutzman and Technician Kaelber continued trapping efforts in Franklin County. Capture success was lower presumably due to the opening of dove season and increased human presence around the traps. Forty mallards were banded between the two capture sites. One more day of banding is planned. So far, a total of 381 ducks have been banded—363 mallards, 9 pintail, and 9 wood ducks.

Biologist Gregory met with an individual who visited the Pasco office with a snake that he had killed in his garage. Having only moved to the Tri-Cities from Alaska a year ago, this individual was unfamiliar with locally occurring reptiles. He thought the snake might be a young rattlesnake. Upon examining the carcass, Biologist Gregory determined that the snake was actually a young gopher snake. She gave him advice on how to distinguish between rattlesnakes and other nonvenomous snakes and how to reduce the chances of having a negative encounter with a rattlesnake.



Biologist Gregory coordinated the retrieval of a young screech owl from a residence in Grandview. The owl had apparently fallen down the chimney and was staring out through the glass doors in the fireplace. Technician Kaelber was available to capture the owl and deliver it to a rehabilitation facility. By all accounts, the owl is expected to make a full recovery and will be released after he is big enough to fly.

A young screech owl rescued from a fireplace after falling down a chimney.

District 4 Wildlife Conflict Specialist: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand responded to a location near the WDFW District 4 Office to assist Enforcement Program with hazing a young bull moose out of

Pasco. The moose was successfully hazed through several industrial businesses, across a busy HWY 395, and moved east into a more hospitable area.

***GOAL 2: PROVIDE
SUSTAINABLE FISHING,
HUNTING AND OTHER
WILDLIFE-RELATED
RECREATIONAL AND
COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCES***

Wildlife Areas

Oak Creek Wildlife Area:

Manager Huffman talked with several hunters who were selected for ADA road entry permits on the wildlife area. Huffman provided information over the phone. Later in the week Huffman drafted a letter with details of the hunt along with a map and mailed it out to all the hunters who have contacted the wildlife area. In addition, Huffman answered questions from several walk in archery hunters who needed help with unit boundaries, etc.



Wenas Wildlife Area: Manager Confer Morris coordinated with landowners and user groups to get letters of support for the Manastash Ridge Trails RCO Planning NOVA grant. Greg Parker, President of the Ellensburg Mountain Bike Alliance, has been extremely helpful with getting constituents motivated to provide letters of support, and his group has also committed to assisting with preparation of the power point presentation.

Regional Access Program: Access Manager Garcia and NRW Barbosa cleared the trees that were topped and removed a hazard tree at the Snively access. They will continue to keep a close eye on the remaining trees, with the expectation that they will have to remove more in the future.



They spread 3 loads of gravel on the Rowe access and added barrier rock to protect the new reader board. They also placed barrier rock at King Horn Slough to minimize dumping.

Snively access - The tree marked in the picture was diseased and rotting

Wildlife Management

Biologist Stutzman met with two Franklin County landowners about the Corn Stubble program to discuss the changes to the program. The first landowner showed only mild interest but it's very likely that the other will choose to enroll.

On Friday, Stutzman baited the Franklin County duck trapping sites and posted FFTH properties in Benton County.



Snively access – During cleanup

Stutzman checked on a Register to Hunt box, replaced the registration slips, and replaced a few signs on the property. The hunter calls keep coming in with a few seasons already open and others approaching. Stutzman answered calls from 3 hunters, primarily regarding access and the private lands database.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECONOMY, PROTECT COMMUNITY CHARACTER, MAINTAIN AN OVERALL HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Wildlife Areas

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Manager Huffman prepared for the Oak Creek WAAC meeting, getting the agenda and handouts organized, and cleaning up the visitor's center. Thursday evening Huffman and Assistant Manager Berry held a very good WAAC meeting with 8 of the 13 WAAC members present, (not bad considering the Seahawks were playing). The WAAC reviewed the management plan update and discussed performance measures for the next 2 years.

LT Murray Wildlife Area: Manager Winegeart and Assistant Manager Hunt met with volunteer Darrel Eason to discuss tasks and equipment needs for next week's Manastash cabin project. Winegeart coordinated with Kittitas Field and Stream members regarding timing and equipment.

Sunnyside Wildlife Area: NRT2 Medina spent two days helping Jeff Knutson, with the Yakima County Weed Board, spray Purple Loosestrife along the Yakima River on the I-82 unit. Using canoes to access the areas they were able to spray infestations that would otherwise be inaccessible for treatment.

Wildlife Management

Biologist Gregory gave a talk to ~40 members of the Richland Rod and Gun Club outlining hunting prospects for the upcoming seasons in Region 3 as well as updates on WDFW regulations. There were several questions regarding the Rattlesnake elk herd, the effects of recent fires on wildlife, and the Access program's new Hunt by Reservation system.

Biologist Gregory gave two interviews to the media regarding a recent cougar sighting in the Tri-Cities area, one to KONA radio and another to a reporter from the Tri-City Herald. She also gave a third interview to another newspaper reporter writing an article for the Tri-City Herald about upcoming deer seasons.

District 4 Wildlife Conflict Specialist: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand received and investigated another report of elk raiding Fewel Farms near Prosser. A fairly new planting of high value honey crisp apple trees have now become the target for a group of elk that have become difficult to keep away. Two additional DPP permits were prepared and delivered and additional non-lethal strategies have been implemented.

District 8 Wildlife Conflict Specialist: Elk were reported using hayfields in the Cle Elum area by several landowners. Permits, Master Hunters, and hazing were used to move the elk. Additionally, bow hunters have put pressure on the elk but mostly in public land areas.

A vineyard owner called about deer damaging ripe grapes in the Yakima Canyon area. Specialist Wetzell hazed deer early Friday morning and met with other vineyard owners and workers to discuss non-lethal hazing options. Several deer have learned to jump through electric fences or burrow under deer fencing. Lethal removal may be considered this week if the non-lethal deterrents don't stop the damage.



GOAL 4: BUILD AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION BY SUPPORTING OUR WORKFORCE, IMPROVING BUSINESS PROCESSES, AND INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY

Wildlife Areas

Colockum Wildlife Area: Colockum staff ordered and had delivered a storage shed this week to provide a place for storage of herbicides and chemicals. This shed replaces the chemical storage building that burned during the Colockum-Tarps Fire. Staff spent a day insulating and sheeting the inside and building shelves. Manager Lopushinsky contacted David Miller in Engineering about getting the shed wired for lights and heat.

Manager Lopushinsky communicated with forester Dough Kehun and Richard Tveten on the progress of the hazard tree and salvage project. Richard is moving forward with contracting the removal of the hazard trees. The green tree thinning project will be done separately next year.

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Manager Huffman contacted the thinning contractor and The Nature Conservancy Forester Dahlgreen when the IFPL level for zone 675 dropped to a Level 2. The thinning crew was finishing up a job in Idaho and moved in over Labor Day, starting work on Tuesday. Dahlgreen met with the crew, directed them on where to start, and checked in on them during the week.

Manager Huffman and Assistant Manager Berry worked on the irrigation system after it lost its prime. When the Tieton River is at high flows due to the flip flop, the large amount of sediment in the water does not allow the check valve to shut correctly draining the system when the pump is shut off. The hose was removed from the river and Berry replaced the check valve and cleaned the screen. Huffman re-primed the system and it seems to be working fine.

At the request of Conflict Specialist Novak in Region 6, Assistant Manager Berry checked out the elk trap panel trailer stored at Oak Creek for road worthiness. Berry repaired the trailer lights, which were malfunctioning, and the trailer is now ready to go.

Sunnyside Wildlife Area: Manager Bjornstrom drove up to the Windmill Ranch Unit to inspect the completed utilities upgrade. Having electricity will allow for a more hospitable working environment in which to perform essential functions related to wildlife area management. The project turned out nicely. Staff will now begin organizing a functional shop and barn.

Assistant Manager Buser continued to work with CAMP's Dave Miller and Brashear Electric to finish the utilities upgrade in the



Lights are on at the Windmill Ranch facility!

storage barn and shop at the Windmill Ranch Unit. Lights and outlets are in both the storage barn and the shop, a heater is in the shop, everything passed inspection from L & I, and CAMP's inspection will be this week.

REGION 4

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Common Loon Breeding in District 12: Biologist Anderson visited 5 area lakes and one municipal reservoir to conduct a season-end survey for loon presence and breeding outcome. A male loon, part of a pair that had been monitored all season, and a 10 week chick were observed. The chick was doing a lot of stretching of wings, diving, feeding, and begging from the male (harassing). The male mostly conducted simultaneous forage bouts with the young one – often leaving it alone for periods. However, in monitoring the chick did receive one gift of a fish from the male. The female was not seen. At this time of year, it is likely the female has started moving off of breeding territory and on to wintering areas. The male will most likely be on territory another week or two and leave the chick to fend at that time. The chick works toward flight attempts during this same period. All flight feathers are now in. The chick will stay on for another month or so and should then move along to wintering areas as well. Other lakes all continued to show no use, or in one case continued to show abandonment over the past month due to a failed second nesting attempt. Looks like at least three chicks are successful this year from District 12. Overall, our few territories were productive this season in comparison to the average year.

Biologist Anderson visited 5 area lakes and one municipal reservoir to conduct a season-end survey for loon presence and breeding outcome. A male with chick is shown here.



Bats Northwest – Woodland Park Zoo – WDFW Bat Ambassador

Training: Biologist Anderson coordinated with members of Bats Northwest and education staff at Woodland Park Zoo to assist in providing “Bat Ambassador Training”. This day long training event is held annually by Bats Northwest. The training provides participants with a solid background in outreach regarding bats, resources to use for outreach and education, how to collaborate with ongoing outreach groups (e.g. Bats Northwest, Woodland Park Zoo, WDFW) to provide for broader outreach capability in western Washington, etc. The class is certified to provide for continuing education credit for teachers.

WDFW participates in the legalities, conflict reduction, and urban bat ecology portion annually. Anderson also handled an overview of “Washington’s Bats” this year. The collaborative group also worked with Woodland Park Zoo to host the event at the zoo education center. The group handles general bat ecology, bats of Washington, bat diseases, and major issues (for example rabies, White Nose Syndrome), as well as how to present to an adult audience, how to present to children, how to encourage bats via bat houses, how to encourage bats via habitat enhancement, value of bats for humans and ecosystem function/diversity, legal status of bats, how to avoid or deal with a conflict situation with bats, and any other topic the audience may bring up.

That evening members of the training were invited to Green Lake to observe the last Bats Northwest “bat watch” program for the season. Members provide outreach to the public at the park going over bat ecology and setting out bat detectors to show the public that bats are in the area. It’s perfect for the newly training “outreach bat stewards” to get some in-situation experience.



Biologist Anderson coordinated with members of Bats Northwest and education staff at Woodland Park Zoo to assist in providing “Bat Ambassador Training”

Waterfowl Trapping: Biologist DeBruyn removed and stored two of three duck traps used during August to capture and band mallards. Bait was cleaned up and all will be gone

before hunting begins this month. The third trap is on private property in a no shooting zone in Whatcom County (Wiser Lake) and will be maintained a little longer as it is just now starting to produce results.

Point Elliot/WDFW Technical Committee Elk Damage Meeting: Manager Link, Biologists DeBruyn and Smith, and Tech Cogdal met with biologists from the tribes to discuss ongoing issues regarding elk damage and research priorities.

Wildlife Areas

Lummi Island Heritage Trust: Manager Kessler coordinated with the Lummi Island Heritage Trust managers on the possible purchase of the Lummi Island quarry property. Manager Kessler wrote two letters of support for the project for two different grant funding sources.

Leque Island Groundwater Monitoring Plan: The project team secured an agreement from an adjacent landowner to install groundwater testing wells on private property. A consultant is currently drafting a groundwater monitoring plan to track changes in the area over the next several years, and the plan will likely include monitoring at the locations on the private property.

Leque Island Acquisition Grant Coordination: Projects Coordinator Brokaw sent a briefing paper to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to describe the Alternatives Analysis and Design project that is currently underway. USFWS grant funding was involved with purchasing a portion of the island. WDFW will be working with USFWS to understand how terms of the original grant contracts can be met with each of the 6 project design alternatives currently being evaluated.

Crescent Lake Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm coordinated local volunteers to drag parking areas and service roads in preparation for the hunting season.

Ebey Island Unit: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm met with grazing lessee Alexander to discuss the exit plan for the cattle that have been grazing all summer. Plans are in place to have the cattle removed by 9/14/2014 to end the grazing contract on Ebey Island Unit. Additionally, Manager Boehm met with Sno-Valley Farms to discuss harvest plans for the east lobe of the Unit. Manager Boehm has also assembled an “Ebey Island Team” for the pheasant release program that will coordinate release efforts at Ebey Island.

GOAL 2: PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FISHING, HUNTING AND OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCES

Wildlife Management

Mt.Baker Mountain Goat Hunt: Biologist DeBruyn communicated with the winners of the mountain goat raffle and auction tags who are planning to hunt in the Mt.Baker Unit. Arrangements were made to sample the animals when harvested.

Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary efforts: Biologist Anderson worked with Customer Service Specialist Wilson to provide for National Wildlife Federation-WDFW joint Backyard Wildlife Certification requests. A big thanks to CS Wilson for one last examination of past data versus what we have now to ensure all requests are met! Anderson was notified by an area community Backyard Wildlife steward that has collaborated with Anderson in the past regarding a news piece on local Western Bumblebee conservation and monitoring related to her backyard efforts and citizen science monitoring through a previous University of Washington study. The article provides reference to the state’s Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary. The piece can be found here:

http://seattletimes.com/html/opinion/2024473928_julieodonaldopedwesternbumblebee06.xml.html

Wildlife Areas

WA Waterfowl Association Hunting Blind Preparations: The Whatcom County chapter of the WA Waterfowl Association worked to finish brushing up the hunting blinds at Lake Terrell for the upcoming waterfowl hunting season.

Whatcom Pheasant Program: Manager Kessler finished repairs to the pheasant watering system in the pheasant pens. He also ordered in a pallet of poultry feed for when the first birds

arrive on the 18th of September. Manager Kessler began contacting volunteers for the upcoming pheasant release season.

British Petroleum & Intalco Hunting Access: Manager Kessler coordinated with the land managers and facility security at the British Petroleum and Intalco hunting sites. He provided them with the current pheasant and waterfowl hunting season information for this year.

Samish River Unit (Welts) Wetland Enhancement Project: Projects Coordinator Brokaw worked on modifying the JARPA permit application materials to reflect recent changes made to the project design. These changes involve the volumes and locations of disposal of the spoils materials generated from the project.

Skagit ESA Restoration and Waterfowl Management: Projects Coordinator Brokaw sent information to Lands Division staff to update the Lands 20/20 project approved last year that involved securing additional waterfowl hunting and forage area in the Skagit delta. The update included progress made over the past year that involved evaluating different tools that can be used to achieve the project objectives. The WDFW team working on this project is meeting this week to continue this progress.

Snoqualmie Wildlife Pheasant Program: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm worked with a private landowner near the Corson Unit to provide a temporary net-pen for holding pheasants for this coming pheasant season. Birds for Ebey Island will now be held near the Corson Unit, relieving the Skagit Wildlife Area staff from delivering birds to the Ebey Unit. Manager Boehm has a number of Lake Stevens area volunteers who are interested in joining the Snoqualmie Pheasant Release Program. Additionally, Manager Boehm and a number of volunteers are working to upgrade the sign boards and kiosks on four of the Units. New educational, informative, and instructional signs will soon be installed on “bill-boards” at entrance points providing a single source of information for users to see. This will eliminate the many signs posted on individual posts, trees, and poles throughout many of the Units.

Private Lands/Access Management

Whidbey Island Diversity Site and Pheasant Release Program: Biologist Caldwell and Tech Otto completed trail maintenance at the Langley Diversity site. They found a large alder tree down across the trail which was cut up and removed. They also completed some weed cutting along the trail. This site has received much use over the last month with 63 visitors from four different counties and four different states. Biologist Caldwell and Technician Otto met with pheasant release volunteer Burke to exchange additional boundary, safety, and parking lot signs per a landowner request. These signs will be posted around all enrolled properties to better ensure hunter success and safety.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECONOMY, PROTECT COMMUNITY CHARACTER, MAINTAIN AN OVERALL HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Wildlife Management

Skagit Elk Damage Fencing: Biologist DeBruyn and Tech Cogdal loaded and delivered fencing materials that were left over on a project at a vineyard. The material was delivered to another vineyard experiencing elk damage issues.

Elk fencing material heading to next fencing project

District 12 Administrative: Anderson worked on general administrative needs and monthly reports. He also initiated conversations with potential conservation collaborators (Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust) to discuss future potential efforts, returned around 40 phone calls on various topics such as hunting in the District, and started working with WDFW data management to examine what data has been entered thus far for the WDFW-WPZ Citizen Science Amphibian Monitoring Project in hopes of providing a rough summary at the upcoming season end celebration for volunteers.



Private Lands/Access

GMU 418 and Elk Area 4941 Nooksack Bull Elk Special Permit Hunt Coordination and Patrol: Biologist Caldwell re-sent updated hunter contact information to WDFW Law Enforcement. Biologist Caldwell also spoke with and established several meetings with special permit hunters to exchange access keys and information. Technician Otto surveyed the 418 and 4941 units for use and sign needs.

GOAL 4: SUPPORTING OUR WORKFORCE, IMPROVING BUSINESS PROCESSES, AND INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY

Wildlife Management

Washington Laws and Pesticide Use Training: Biologist Caldwell continued studying the Washington Laws and Pesticide Use training manual and Rights of Way training manual.

Snoqualmie Wildlife Areas: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm continues to coordinate with WDFW Master Hunters to provide net pen repairs to the aging structure. With Ebey Island pheasants coming to the net pen, additional capacity was required. Twelve volunteers teamed up on short notice to provide the labor for net pen repairs, plumbing repairs,

and the construction of three signboards for the Snoqualmie Units. Three additional signboards will be constructed this week to provide new signboards for each parking area. Additional volunteers are working to improve signboards at the Ebey Island Unit as well. Manager Boehm reports that the temporary net pen near Lake Stevens is nearly ready to receive Ebey Island birds. Minor construction improvements for loading birds are completed, two new loading chutes are completed, and lighting is in place. Manager Boehm wishes to thank the many individuals who provided the manpower to prepare the Units for the pheasant season opener. Manager Boehm states that coordinating efforts with Steve Dazey, the Region 4 Hunter Education and Volunteer Coordinator, has been a huge success, by directing people who want to volunteer to Manager Boehm, who has many tasks and projects lined up.

REGION 5

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Cascades Carnivore Project: Biologist Anderson met with Project Coordinator Akins to discuss sampling and field assistance with trail transect surveys to look for and collect wolverine, red fox, and gray wolf scats in the Indian Heaven Wilderness Area of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Akins is in the final (5th) season of data collection for her Ph.D. research project through UC Davis. The primary objective of the scat collection this fall is to determine mountain red fox habitat associations, connectivity, and distributional responses in the South Cascades of Washington.

Wildlife Areas

Mt St Helens Wildlife Area Cedar Creek Unit Field Mowing: Natural Resource Technician Sample completed mowing a 5 acre field on the Cedar Creek Unit of Mt St Helens Wildlife Area. The field has not been mowed in the past several years. Reducing the dead plant biomass will encourage new growth of favorable vegetation. A variety of insects and arachnids were observed.



Cedar Creek, field after mowing

GOAL 2: PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FISHING, HUNTING AND OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES.

Wildlife Areas

Klickitat Wildlife Area Cycle Oregon Event: On September 7th, organizers of the Cycle Oregon annual event set up a lunch stop at the Klickitat Wildlife Area Headquarters. Cyclists started the days' ride at The Dalles and rode about 45 miles up the Klickitat River Canyon to the lunch stop. The first riders arrived at about 9:30am. Technician Davis and Volunteer Davis directed traffic at the entrance to the area, and Manager Van Leuven monitored activity elsewhere in the compound to make sure no safety issues developed. Officer Bolton came to see if his help was needed during the peak of the activity. The total count of cyclists was about 1,900; with most of them arriving between 11:00 and 1:00. Organizers anticipated the needs of the riders well and had bicycle mechanics, a First Aid truck, at least 24 portable toilets, lunches all made in advance, a handwashing station, portable water for refilling water bottles, and even entertainment (a singer accompanying himself on guitar and harmonica). Technician Davis and Volunteer Davis did an informal survey of the riders, finding that people had come from Germany, Israel, China, Switzerland, and Canada, as well as at least 35 of the US states. By



Cycle Oregon Event at the Klickitat Wildlife Area Headquarters

2:00pm most of the cyclists were back on the road, heading for the overnight camping spot at Glenwood. All the lunch tents were broken down, toilets cleaned and picked up, and litter collected by 4:00p.m. For such a large-scale operation, it ran very smoothly. Many thanks to Volunteer Julie Davis for her able assistance in making sure WDFW's requirements were met while keeping the traffic flow going smoothly for the event.

Private Lands/Access

Public Access: Conflict Specialist McDonald replaced damaged signs at a parking area on Columbia Land Trust property in Klickitat County. WDFW thanks the Columbia Land Trust for continuing to allow “hunt by written permission” on their land. In addition, Conflict Specialist



McDonald met with a Hunt by Written Permission agreement landowner in Klickitat County. The landowner allows approximately 80 hunters on his land every year. He is very happy with the program and reported that everyone has been respectful of the land.

Columbia Land Trust property in Klickitat County

Access

Access: Access staff Spangler and Rhodes picked up and hauled 150 pounds of trash with the help of the SW Washington Ecology Crew. In addition, Discovery Pass surveys were completed at Langsdorf landing and Shillapoo North Access sites.

Vancouver Lake



REGION 6

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Bat Exit Count: On September 3rd, a second bat exit count for the 2014 season was conducted at one of several World War II bunkers located west of Port Angeles in Clallam County. This particular bunker has been known to host a colony of bats for the past several years. Survey efforts are part of an ongoing search to locate roost sites, maternity colonies, and hibernacula of Townsend big-eared bats, listed as a candidate Threatened or Endangered Species in Washington State. This particular bunker is located in a forested area. Bat gates with horizontal metal bars have been installed across all openings. There are three openings in the front, one in the back and one on top of the bunker. This bunker contains several rooms inside. Surveyors included District Biologist McMillan, Biologist Ament, and volunteers Bob Davies and Bruce Selleg. There were excellent weather conditions for the survey. The first bat exited the bunker at 1956 and the survey was ended at 2200. The total number of bats counted was 288. This was a decrease from the total of 365 bats that were counted during the exit count on August 21st. The count last year (highest ever documented) was 503. Townsend's big-eared bats were identified as one of the species exiting the bunker. Biologist Ament was hoping to conduct multiple surveys in July and August this season but was unable to fit this in her schedule. No more surveys will be completed this season. Hopefully surveys can be initiated in mid-July next season. She will provide a summary report of the surveys to Data Systems staff. See photos below.

Biologist McMillan compiled the available records for counts at this site since 1995. Some years where the count is <5 was due to human disturbance.

Clallam County Townsend's Bat Site		
Year	Date	Count
1995	1-Jul	80
1996	22-Feb	1
1996	Aug	4
1997	Aug	35
1999	Aug	101
2001	Aug	4
2002	2-Jul	200
2010	31-Jul	133
2011	31-Jul	90
2012	23-Aug	322
2013	28-Aug	503
2014	14-Aug	365
2014	3-Sep	288



The west side of gated bunker located west of Port Angeles



Townsend's big-eared bat located in old shed structure in Clallam County

Snowy Plover Update: Biologists Hahn and Doorly continued to monitor and survey for active broods, as well as resight banded adults and juveniles at Leadbetter this week. Surveys were fruitful due to the absence of fog on the beach. After surveying the outer beach and partway into the dune/swale area from MP77 (north end of

Leadbetter) through MP22 this week without seeing any broods or signs of broods, biologists are reasonably confident that broods LBNX004 and LBN024 have failed. The active broods and groups of Snowy Plover adults and juveniles are located on the southern portion of the beach in state park lands as well as in the southern part of the Refuge. Only one SNPL (a juvenile) was sighted this week on the northern section of the Refuge.

This week, the greatest numbers of SNPLs were observed on Thursday, September 4th with 32 adult individuals (13 females, 15 males, and 4 unknown), 7 fledglings/juveniles, and 3 chicks. The lowest numbers of SNPLs were observed on Friday, September 5th with 2 adult individuals (0 females, 2 males, and 0 unknown) and 2 chicks seen.

There are currently no active nests.

New nests found this week: 0

Of the 3 active broods reported last week, 1 is still active and 2 have fledged.

Total Active SNPL Nests at Leadbetter: 0

Total Active SNPL Broods at Leadbetter: 1



***Group of Snowy Plovers at Leadbetter.
Photo Credit: Stephanie Doorly***

Juvenile from LBN025 on September 4th, 2014. Photo Credit: Stephanie Doorly



Table 1. Summary of total SNPL nests and broods at Leadbetter.

Leadbetter											
# Nests Found	# Nests Currently Active	# Nests Hatched	# Broods Found	# Chicks hatched	# Chicks currently Alive	# Fledglings	# Nests Failed				
							Pred	Sand Burial	Abandoned	Human Caused	Unknown Cause
28	0	19	22	57	1*	23	1		5		3

*This number represents pre-fledged chicks currently alive.

Taylor’s Checkerspot Butterfly Habitat Improvements: Biologist Ament and Regina Johnson worked together on August 28th to complete work to treat a major infestation of spotted knapweed at a TCB site west of Port Angeles. They had previously worked at the site on August 18th and 19th. The noxious weed had significantly expanded its distribution at a landing site in recent years. Efforts were made to pull the weeds the past few seasons. This year the plan was to remove the seed heads and spray the plants. Biologist Ament cut every seed head off each plant. Regina followed closely behind and sprayed each plant with Milestone chemical. They were very productive and completed the following work: 1) Completed treatment of all the spotted knapweed at the main landing area. 2) Completed cutting and spraying of two other patches of meadow knapweed located along the road. They even made a second pass over the area to make sure all plants were treated. 3) Completed cutting and spraying of new infestation patches of spotted knapweed along both sides of the lower portion of the road. 4) Completed cutting and spraying of some stems and small plants of scotch broom along the lower portion of the road. This area was treated earlier in the month but there was limited time to thoroughly cut and spray the plants. Another task that was accomplished during the day was the collection of Plantago seed heads. Biologist Hays had requested that both Plantago and Castilleja seed be collected from this site. The seed will be used in the future to be dispersed at the site in areas that will be burned. A large envelop of Plantago seed was collected. Biologist Ament will return to collect more seed this month.



A Pine White nectaring on spotted knapweed with the Olympics in the background



Plantago seed heads. Seeds will be used to re-establish Plantago at TCB site