

Wildlife Program

Week of February 29 – March 6, 2016

WOLF ACTIVITIES

Region 1 Wolf Activities

Wolf Advisory Group Conference Call: Supervisor McCanna, Wildlife Conflict Specialists Shepherd and Bennett, and Private Lands Biologist Earl participated in the call and discussed how Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is conducting internal training and public outreach.

Huckleberry Area: Biologist Shepherd discussed the cost share program and wolf issues with a prospective buyer of a ranch owned by livestock producers that used nonlethal measures and had a cost share contract.

Smackout Area: Biologist Shepherd discussed a livestock loss claim with a rancher and met with him to finalize the compensation packet. Biologist Shepherd discussed a calving operation and protective strategy with a contract range rider given a high level of wolf sign and presence.

US Forest Service: Biologist Shepherd discussed wolf issues and a course of action for the grazing season with the US Forest Service (USFS). A plan to meet before the upcoming grazing meeting was made.

Burnt Valley Wolf - Domestic Dog Incident: Biologist Shepherd emailed wolf locations and a request to discuss fencing with dog owners near Chewelah whose dogs were confronted and engaged by wolves.

Region 1 Contract Range Rider: Biologist Shepherd discussed wolf mitigation strategies with a contract range rider, as well as other miscellaneous issues.

Discussion with Producer from Huckleberry Area: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Bennett spoke with a cattle producer in the Huckleberry area of Stevens County about recent collaring efforts by the Carnivore Section. Information was shared on a replaced and new collar in the area, the upcoming annual report, and this year's calving activity.

Asotin Conservation District Annual Meeting: Supervisor McCanna presented a wolf PowerPoint presentation to 62 landowners attending the Asotin Conservation District meeting. Lots of good questions were asked regarding wolves in southeastern Washington. Biologist Earl explained the new carcass removal options for landowners. An account has been set up at the local landfill to dispose of carcasses and WDFW will pay the fee for producers.

Wolf Tracks: Biologist Earl received a call from a producer on the Grande Ronde River who has had wolves on his property in the past and has an active DCPA-L agreement. The producer located some fresh wolf tracks in his calving area and just above his feedlot.



Region 2 Wolf Activities

Wolves: Biologist Heinlen received a photo of a wolf taken in GMU 204 that circulated throughout social media this week. This wolf is in an area where WDFW has documented wolf activity since January. Wolf Biologists Becker and Rousin are aware of all observations. Biologist Heinlen had previously placed remote cameras in this area but has not checked them yet. This area will continue to be monitored.

Photo from social media

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY DIVISION

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Fish and Wildlife Commission: Division Manager Penny Becker gave a brief overview of agency recommendations relative to the status of greater sage grouse, snowy plover, spotted owl, and western gray squirrel. Staff biologists had made presentations on these species to the Commission in January 2016. The Commission formally adopted agency recommendations for each species, retaining the state listing status.

Nongame Technical Committee: Natural Resource Scientist Joe Buchanan represented WDFW at the annual March meeting of the Nongame Technical Committee, a technical support group for the Pacific Flyway Council. Agenda items, including joint activities with the (Game Bird) Study Committee, emphasized updates (e.g. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council), double-crested cormorant monitoring, assessment of the capacity of flyway wildlife agencies to manage and share data, Competitive State Wildlife Grant proposals (yellow-billed cuckoo and short-eared owl project proposals were recently submitted), communication with conservation partners, National Conservation Need (a product was recently submitted for this program), a Habitat Committee session on water management and wetland connectivity in western North America, flyway project prioritization for the Southern Wings program, waterfowl and wetland conservation questionnaire (Human Dimensions), allocation of peregrine falcons for falconry take, revision of a management plan for lesser sandhill cranes, and aspects of eagle management.

Sage Grouse Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances: Section Manager Cynthia Wilkerson led a working group meeting focused on the Sage Grouse Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances in Ellensburg on Wednesday, February 17. Wildlife Diversity Division planners Mark Teske and Mike Kuttel, Jr., Range Ecologist Jeff Burnham, and Private Lands Biologists Devon Comstock and John Cotton attended and were joined by staff members from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), as well as several livestock producers from within the range of the sage grouse. The discussion included the status of the

document, changes since the last meeting, the status of the National Environmental Policy Act work, and next steps. Key next steps include technical review to reconcile some past combined version and clarifying key concepts.

Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture: Section Manager Cynthia Wilkerson represented WDFW on the International Management Board of the Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture in Portland on February 9-10. The meeting agenda included topics such as internal board governance, fiscal status, the structure of committees, and conservation priorities. The current conservation priorities are coastal wetlands, oak and prairie habitats, Hawaii wetlands and waterbirds, and an ongoing discussion about additional priorities in Alaska. Wilkerson serves as the Treasurer for the International Board and volunteered to participate in the advocacy and the fiscal transition committees.

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

Voluntary Stewardship Program: Mike Kuttel, Jr. participated in a conference call with Habitat Program staff members regarding the Voluntary Stewardship Program. Twenty-seven counties have opted into this program, which is a voluntary approach under the Growth Management Act to protect and enhance critical areas on agricultural lands. The Washington State Conservation Commission is the lead state agency for the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

REGION 1

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

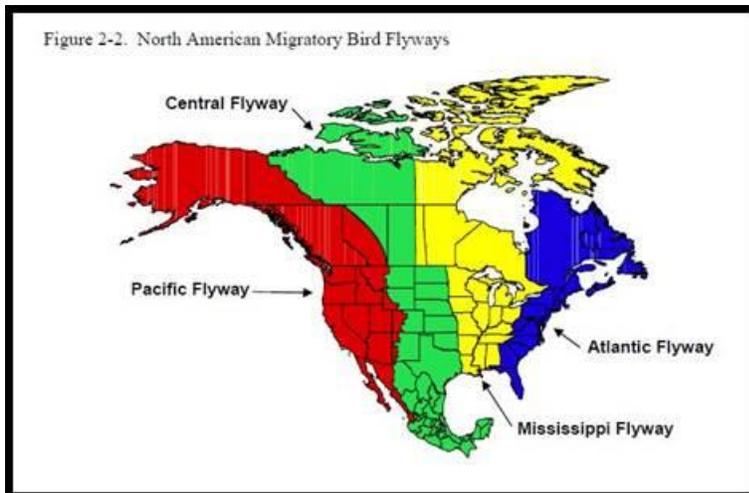
Lincoln County Prairie Grouse Project: Biologist Atamian checked on the locations of the two remaining GPS marked males. Both are alive and attending the lek. The new grouse technician, TC Walker, started this week. Atamian went through paperwork and policies with Walker the first day and went over the work rig. The next day, we were out an hour before dawn at the sage grouse windmill lek, where 16 males were dancing on the lek proper and one male was a short ways off in the sage dancing on his own. After the dancing was done, we did some radio tracking training and then headed into the office for lunch and computer work. That afternoon, Walker went out with Thorburn for more radio tracking training and an introduction to all the best tracking sites. On Thursday night, Atamian, Walker, Schroeder, Anderson, and Doloughan conducted a spotlight capture on the Windmill lek, focusing on deploying bands on males for resight and morphological measurements. The capture went well, with six males of 14-15 seen captured and one female of two seen captured. The female was a translocated hen from 2014, band number 1099. She slipped her radio (164.196) soon after release. She was an adult when captured, so is now at least four years old. Good to know she is still around. Of the six males, five were non-banded local recruits, and of these, four were adults (at least two years old) and one was a yearling. All of these local production males still show the morphological traits of the southern Oregon population, indicating that the larger morphology of the WA birds in Douglas and YTC is potentially a genetic trait. The one recaptured male was band number 2034, translocated as a yearling in 2014 with a GPS backpack. We thought a raptor took him on

March 3, 2015, just after he returned to the lek, but instead he just slipped the unit and is still contributing to the population.

Deer Clover Trapping: Biologists Atamian, Lowe, and volunteers assisted Biologist Myers and Kujala with processing a yearling buck captured in a clover trap in Greenbluff.

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

Pacific Flyway Waterfowl Wingbee: District Wildlife Biologist Dana Base participated in the annual Pacific Flyway Waterfowl “Wingbee,” which was held this year once again at the Coleman National Fish Hatchery near Redding, California. This effort involved classifying over 28,000 duck & goose wings/tails collected in the hunter harvest in the fall & early winter throughout the pacific states. The Wingbee is sponsored every year by USFWS for each of the four waterfowl flyways in the United States. The Pacific Flyway includes partnerships with a consortium of western fish & wildlife agencies. Some 35 personnel assisted in the Wingbee this week, traveling from Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Agencies represented included USFWS, Alaska Game & Fish Department, Arizona Game & Fish Department, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Nevada Department of Fish & Game, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW). The three representatives participating this year from WDFW were Matt Wilson (Migratory Bird Section), Tyler Hand (Region 5), and Dana Base (Region 1).



Map of the four North American migratory bird flyways and the entrance sign to the Coleman National Fish Hatchery where the annual Wingbee is held for the Pacific Waterfowl Flyway



Wings from adult ring-necked ducks (on left) and an American wigeon (on right) at the Pacific Flyway Wingbee, February 22-26, 2016

Waterfowl wing identification tables at the recent Pacific Flyway Wingbee

Sacheen: Manager Dziekan dismantled a float dock that was washed up on the boat ramp at Sacheen Lake. The metal frame was recycled and the rotten boards were dumped at the landfill. While onsite he cleared up some trees that had fallen on the fence. He also took down a dead tree that was tangled up and hanging precariously along the fence where people tend to park.



TrafX – Manager Dziekan downloaded the traffic counter data at Silver Lake and uploaded it onto the TrafX website

W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area – Lakes: Wildlife Area Assistant Manager Dingman or Natural Resource Worker 2 Christian checked the lakes daily. The lakes have all been stocked, with the exception of Big 4 Lake. Dingman and Christian used the tractor to remove logs from the outlets of Deer Lake and Watson Lake before the opening day of fishing season. The lakes opened to fishing on Tuesday, March 1, with lots of people participating. Christian used the back blade on the tractor to grade the road between Rainbow Lake and Watson Lake. The “Dam Crew” from



the Yakima Shop stopped by and will return next week to work on clearing the vegetation off the dams around the lakes.

Public enjoying opening week of fishing and sunshine at Blue Lake on the W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area

GOAL 3: PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECONOMY, PROTECT COMMUNITY

CHARACTER, MAINTAIN AN OVERALL HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Edits to a Revised Living with Wildlife Moose Document: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Bennett coordinated with Special Species Specialist Oyster, Assistant District Biologist Lowe, WDFW Enforcement Detachment 22, and Special Species Section Manager Harris on an updated version of the Living with Wildlife series on moose. After a few more reviews, the product will be given to Communications Consultant Luers for publication on our webpage.

Cougar Depredation: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Rasley received a call about a cougar that killed some sheep near Lower Granite Dam along the Snake River in Garfield County. Enforcement staff deployed hound hunters and were able to harvest a large mail cougar.



Rasley received a second call about a cougar that was seen just east of Starbuck along the Tucannon River near a sheep ranch. Enforcement responded. The owner of the sheep, a 78-year-old lady, was recently put out of business due to too many sheep being killed by cougars over the last two years. A cougar was struck and killed by a vehicle on the highway as it was leaving the lady's driveway this week. This ranch is located in northern Columbia County.

Two problem cougars

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

National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee (NWPTC) Annual Report: Supervisor McCanna completed the NWPTC report and emailed it to 23 different state representatives and a Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies representative. McCanna will work on getting the report on WDFW's web site.

REGION 2

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Multi Carnivore Survey: Diversity Technician Jordan monitored cameras for the multiple carnivore survey this period. Of note was a Canada lynx in the Goat Mountain area displaying typical cat rubbing behavior.

Canada lynx in the Goat Mountain area – Photo by WDFW remote camera



Wildlife Areas

Scotch Creek Weed Control: Bryan started the weed control for this year by spraying sterilant herbicides on parking lots and storage areas to keep them vegetation free for the season. He also sprayed Glyphosphate and Buctril on a grass seeding that was seeded last year and has emerged with a carpet of mustards and Bulbous bluegrass. These weeds cause problems by forcing out the perennial seedlings that will emerge a little later. Jim started searching the lower elevations of the Scotch Creek Unit to detect noxious weed infestations. This area was burned in last year's fires and could be a source of increased weed problems. The survey revealed no noxious weeds emerging yet, which means either we are really weed free, or it's too early to tell. It is most likely too early to tell.

Private Lands/Access

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE): Biologist Comstock met with a landowner who is enrolling 637 acres of expired CRP ground into the shrub steppe SAFE program in Grant County. This landowner also owns parcels where historic ferruginous hawk territories are located, so we also discussed getting access to those properties for our upcoming surveys. Biologist Comstock contacted two other landowners with SAFE fields to discuss their plans for site preparation and seeding. Biologist Comstock is currently working on new SAFE plans for five different operators in Grant County.

Private Lands Biologist Braaten worked with Douglas County landowner regarding his forb substitutions and correcting the timing on his SAFE plans.

Sage Grouse: Biologist Comstock began coordination and recon in preparation for the sage grouse lek survey season. As reflected in other reports, snow levels on roads are greatly impeding access to survey sites. Comstock found one southern lek in Douglas County open and plans to conduct a count there next week. Private Lands Biologist Braaten visited two sage grouse leks this week. Grouse are on some of the leks now and numbers seem to be building

after a long winter. Some county roads are still soft and unreliable. One of the conservation partners was out monitoring a site in Douglas County and got his vehicle stuck this week. The tow truck also got stuck. Luckily a farmer brought out a tractor to assist. It was a very long day.

Sage grouse in Douglas County – Photo by Eric Braaten, WDFW



Winter Conditions, District 6: Conditions continue to ease, with spring beginning to dominate in both the Okanogan and Methow valleys.



Mule deer foraging in the upper Methow Valley



Ballooners are gearing up for the Winthrop Balloon Roundup (March 4-6) – Photo by Sherry Furnari

Mule Deer returning to the Scotch Creek Unit – Photo by Jim Olson



REGION 3

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Areas

LT Murray Wildlife Area: Manager Winegeart and Assistant Manager Hunt participated in a phone conference Monday morning with other Tapash members. We discussed the possible revival of the Robinson Thinning/Habitat Improvement Project, and submitted a letter of intent to seek funding through the DNR Landscape Scale Restoration pot of money. Winegeart coordinated later in the week with The Nature Conservancy's Reese Lolley regarding the need to pursue a WWRP grant to add project components that were dropped from the original project.

Elk Feeding/ Winter Conditions: Elk numbers stayed steady for most of the week, with 650 to 700 head in each lot, but by Friday 300 elk had moved north from Robinson to Watt. Temperatures ranged in the low 50s for most of the week, with lows around freezing. Rain came and went throughout the week. Weather next week is very similar, with highs in the low 50s and lows in the lower 30s. Rain is forecast through the week, with possible snow mid-week.

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Feeding operations continued at the Cowiche and HQ feed sites. Elk numbers came back up to high levels and are holding steady. Bulls have begun to shed their antlers, with several antlers collected off the feed sites. Two calves died at the HQ feed site during the week. The visitor's center continues to be open, with volunteers operating tour trucks. The number of visitor's has declined some. Funding for State Parks to sell Discover Passes was used up, so they have completed work for the season.

While using the tractor to move a dead calf from the HQ feed site. Manager Huffman observed a bull bucking, kicking, and shaking his head until both antlers fell off.



Winter Feeding

Mellotte Feed Site elk numbers: ~400 animals

Assistant Manager Taylor hauled a load of hay over to Cowiche to clean out the last of the hay in the Mellotte barn, thinking that feeding was done for the year (since all the elk had left). That lasted for about two days before ~400 head, apparently not finding enough green up, showed back up on the feed site. Staff members moved a tractor back to Mount Vale and will load out of tarped hay stacks there until feeding ends.

Winter Weather: Weather temperatures were normal to above normal for the week, with highs in the 50s and 60s. The weather for the coming week is expected to be cooler, with temperatures a bit below normal. Highs will be in the 40s to low 50s and lows will be in the 30s. Precipitation is expected on and off throughout the week.

Animal Conditions: Elk are in seasonally good condition.

Wildlife Management

Ferruginous Hawk Survey: District Biologist Fidorra worked on landowner access and volunteer coordination for the Ferruginous Hawk Survey. Fidorra prepared materials for volunteer training next week.

Beaver Carcass: District Biologist Fidorra received a beaver carcass in perfect condition and is looking for anyone interested in a display specimen/skin.

Sage Grouse: Biologist Stutzman visited a sage grouse lek in Yakima County as he prepared to survey the location over the next few weeks. No birds were seen, but that could be because it was a little later in the morning. The Yakama Nation will once again take the lead on surveys and WDFW staff members will support with additional surveys as needed.

Deer Study: Biologist Bernatowicz hiked into five radioed deer mortalities this week. Green-up is well underway, but deer were dying fast. Three of the mortalities were malnutrition, one was possibly old/malnutrition, and one was related to fencing. Survival for the biological year (May 15-May 14) is now 74 percent, with more mortality to come. Bernatowicz also met with Rachel Voss, State Chairman of the Mule Deer Foundation, to discuss the study. Voss accompanied Bernatowicz into one of the mortalities with the help of Officer Watts and the Enforcement UTV.



One of three radioed deer that died from malnutrition this week



A live radioed deer

Bighorn Sheep: Biologist Bernatowicz coordinated with a volunteer who went looking for sheep in the Tieton. None were seen. Volunteers have been out weekly with no sheep seen. If present, the sheep will likely start visiting roads for salt in the next few weeks.

Bernatowicz noticed a bighorn sheep mortality on Cleman Mountain while hiking into a dead deer. The bighorn was a full curl ram that died earlier this winter. The skull/horn was carried off the mountain.



Cleman Mountain ram carcass

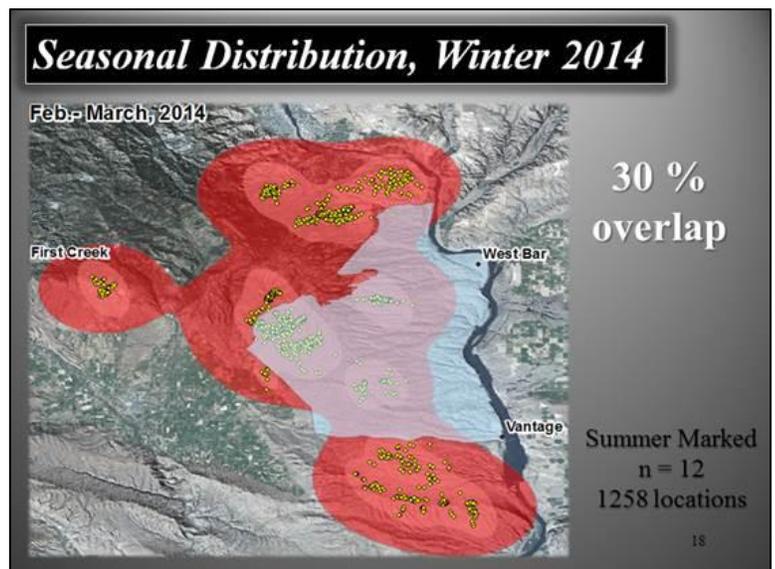
Bernatowicz also reviewed the latest decision from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The court upheld a previous decision in Idaho to eliminate domestic sheep grazing on about 70% of USFS allotments to protect bighorn sheep from disease transmission. The court affirmed that domestics are a great threat to bighorn sheep and the current “Risk of Contact” model is a valid way to assess which domestic allotments should be terminated.

Western Gray Squirrel: Bernatowicz attended a Webex meeting to discuss 2016 western gray squirrel surveys. There probably aren’t going to be any changes for District 8.

Fisher CCAA: Bernatowicz reviewed the list of landowners who may be interested/priorities for entering into a conservation agreement in District 8 and discussed the list with Habitat Biologist Downes.

Colockum Bull Study: Moore presented a progress update to the Game Management Advisory Council (GMAC) this week. Regional Program Manager McCorquodale assisted with the presentation and questions from the group. All went well and we had a good discussion with multiple GMAC members being involved.

GMAC presentation slide illustrating the overlap of the defined colockum survey area (in blue) and home range estimates generated from collared bull data collected during the winter 2014 survey window



Colockum Bull: Three apparent Colockum bull mortalities came up during the week stemming from collar data. Graduate Student Lewis Meyers checked one near Wildhorse Windfarm, while Biologist Moore and Wildlife Area Manager Lopushinsky checked on another located approximately two thirds up Tekison Creek. Meyers was able to observe the Windfarm bull alive and well. Moore and Lopushinsky's bull was out of the area by the time they arrived. The third bull was not checked, but significant movements were observed from the collar downloads. False mortalities are a problem we have been dealing with sporadically during this study.

Western Gray Squirrel: Biologist Moore attended a Webex meeting to discuss updates for the western gray squirrel protocols.

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

Wildlife Areas

Wenas Wildlife Area: Manager Confer Morris met with Environmental Planner Posner to discuss next steps towards finalizing the Wenas target shooting proposal. They plan to meet with Archaeologist Kelly and the internal Wenas Target Shooting group in the next two weeks

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Manager Huffman filled out information for a cooperative agreement with USFS so RCO NOVA funding awarded to WDFW for a motorcycle trail can be used on USFS land adjacent to the Rock Creek Unit.

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 coordinated with the steer owner who has been on the Cowiche feed site all winter. The owner rode in the feed truck one day with Assistant Manager Berry. He was happy to see the steer look so healthy. Huffman coordinated with Sunnyside Assistant Manager Sak to provide some volunteers to help round up and load the steer. The rodeo is scheduled to happen next weekend.

L.T. Murray Wildlife Area: Technician Leuck took Keara Comella, a digital photography student at the Art Institute of Seattle, on a feed truck ride along last Saturday. She was very grateful for the opportunity and sent a letter of appreciation and several of her photos.



Keara Comella photo taken on the Robinson feed site

Johnson Drain Site: Manager Winegeart and Assistant Manager Hunt visited the Johnson drain site with Habitat Biologist Brent Renfrow and adjoining property owners Wes and Neil Johnson. This is an old Upland Restoration parcel in Badger Pocket owned by WDFW but not under any management. A new beaver dam has been constructed, bigger than any before, which is causing water to inundate one neighboring farmer's hay field and another neighbor's bull pasture. We discussed options to again try and trap the beaver, remove dam materials, and remove some low-hanging limbs that catch debris. If the beaver trapping is not successful in the next two weeks, we will need to take a more drastic approach to address the financial impact to these landowners.



Rebuilt beaver dam in the Johnson drain

Sunnyside Wildlife Area: Assistant Manager Sak Contacted Newhouse Farms about the road abandonment for the south end of South Emerald Road. The county is still working on getting it abandoned, and we are working on getting an agreement put together between WDFW and Newhouse Farms for public and administrative access.

Wildlife Management

Nuisance Turkey: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand followed up with monitoring a nuisance turkey complaint at the Kahlotus School. A small flock (six or seven) of tom turkeys continues to reside at the public school and on neighboring properties within the city limits of Kahlotus. While the school has concerns the turkeys are a distraction to the students, almost everyone in the small community enjoys having the birds around.

Rattlesnake Mountain: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand provided maintenance to a LP gas cannon in use at a tree fruit operation near Rattlesnake Mountain.

Hazing Efforts: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand received a request from the manager of a wine grape operation in the Paterson area to schedule a couple of permitted Master Hunters to hunt the property and aid in his hazing effort. Hunt organization and scheduling are to be planned out this week.

I-90 Fence: Conflict Specialist Wetzel directed Master Hunter volunteers to remove the temporary 3D fence along I-90. Elk seem to be moving away from the area.

Elk Removals: Conflict Specialist Wetzel contacted several landowners in Thorp and at Weaver Road this week to acquire access for elk removals. Several landowners have agreed, while the owners of the larger area near Weaver Road remain undecided.

Deer Hazing: Conflict Specialist Wetzel made several field visits to a hay field in Thorp to haze deer, and a Master Hunter volunteer hazed in the evenings this week. Most of the deer left the area during the hazing effort. Only nonlethal methods were used.

Damage Claim: An orchard owner in Vantage called requesting damage claim information because of elk in his orchard. Conflict Specialist Wetzel will meet with him next week to provide damage claim information and look at potential damage in his orchard.

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

Wildlife Areas

Colockum Wildlife Area: Over 1.5 inches of rain fell on the weekend of March 5, causing flooding in the Colockum Creek drainage. Colockum staff members will attempt to assess any road damage issues on the wildlife area as snow recedes and access becomes available in the coming weeks.

Wenas Wildlife Area: The weekend brought another round of heavy rainfall, with over 2 inches Saturday night, triggering more flooding in the Wenas Valley. This event caused even more flooding and damage than the flooding that occurred in mid-February. One positive was the log caught in the Hardy Canyon bridge break away moved on downstream with the high water.

Sunnyside Wildlife Area: Assistant Manager Buser and Natural Resource Technician Kaelber met with Regional Program Manager McCorquodale about the Sunnyside / Snake River Wildlife Area management and moving forward after the departure of former Manager Bjornstrom.

L.T. Murray Wildlife Area: Our new tractor purchase saga continued this week, even though we thought it had been ordered last week. Assistant Manager Hunt worked through the changes in the paperwork and MI split with help from Section Manager Dahmer and Chris Cohen in Purchasing. Chris has also been working directly with our WA Tractor sales rep, which has helped immensely. We think everything is ordered now, and are expecting a June delivery (fingers crossed).

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Manager Huffman coordinated with CAMP, who ripped, graded, and added about 15 loads of gravel to the HQ parking lot. The grading was really needed as the potholes were about big enough to swallow a car. Due to the wet conditions and lack of a roller, about half the parking lot is too soft to drive on. It has been coned off to restrict traffic.

Lake Naches Development: Manager Huffman met with Yakima County code Enforcement to discuss options for dealing with encroachment in the Lake Naches Development adjacent to the wildlife area. The owners of the building do not have any building permits for the structures on their lands either. Unfortunately, at this time the county officials are not willing to pursue their code violations.

Oak Creek Management Plan: Manager Huffman continues to work on items for the Oak Creek Management Plan. Huffman completed a stakeholder contact list and submitted it to Planner Vigue. Huffman and Vigue had a quick phone call to discuss timing of meetings and things that need to be completed before a public outreach meeting is held. Huffman compiled photos of the wildlife area and will work on website updates.

Flooding: Flooding from Saturday night took out all repairs done by YCS over in Cowiche. Flooding was worse this time than it was from the snow melt two weeks ago. There are a lot of problem at the bridge over SF Cowiche Creek. The landowners upstream have a derelict foot bridge that dams up and forces water out of the main channel. No pictures of the high flow on the creek were taken. The feed site road crossing at the barn canyon had silt plugged up in the undersized culvert. It overtopped the road, causing it to erode. Assistant Manager Berry and Natural Resource Worker 2 Farias were able to clear enough silt from the culvert to allow some water to flow through. The road is barely passable to the feed truck.



High flows with a lot of silt caused the culvert to plug where the feed site road crosses the barn canyon on the Cowiche Unit. This section of road was just repaired and the culvert inlet cleaned by the Yakima Construction Shop.



View of flood damage from near the Cowiche hay barn. You can see how high water was during the rain event. Once the culver inlet was cleared, the road was just wide enough to get the feed truck across.

REGION 4

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management



Sgt. Chandler and Officer Moszeter assisted Biologists Kertson and Smith with the location of a suspected cougar den. The den was located, as were three four-week old kittens. The trio was ear tagged after a unique photo session opportunity.

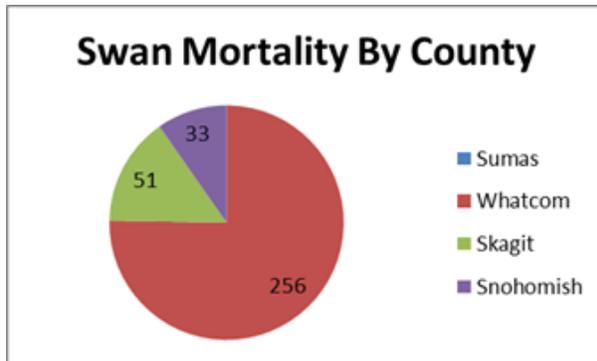
Seattle City Lights Grants: Biologist Yarborough rated the final research program proposals that were submitted to Seattle City Lights for grant funding. The funding was established in response to federal licensing requirements related to the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project.

Whatcom Wildlife Advisory Council: Biologist Yarborough attended the Whatcom Wildlife Advisory Committee meeting in Bellingham. The Wildlife Advisory Committee advise the Whatcom County Planning and Development Services staff members and the Whatcom County Council on the value of wildlife and habitat management issues as they relate to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, with the goal of integrating wildlife management and protection into the community planning process.

Swan Mortality and Morbidity Study: Swan mortalities in Whatcom and Skagit counties are decreasing as swans begin to migrate north for the spring. Seven mortalities were recorded in Whatcom and Skagit counties this week. One mortality was recorded in Island County. This brings the weekly total to seven mortalities. The total for swan mortalities has now reached 341.

Technician Trejo also began preparing swan wings, swan silhouettes, and other props to be used in an interactive presentation at Jefferson Elementary School. The presentation will be focused on teaching kindergarteners about the physiology, life history, and conservation of trumpeter swans.

Weekly Mortality Report						
	Lead suspect	Powerline suspect	Other trauma	Undetermined	Feather Pile	Total
Sumas						
Whatcom	166	35	2	21	32	256
Skagit	18	20	2	5	6	51
Snohomish	8	21	0	2	2	33
	192	76	4	28	40	340
Percents	56.47%	22%	1%	8%	12%	100.00%



San Juan National Historic Prairie Restoration Environmental Impact Statement Review: District 13 staff members began review of this very substantial draft.

Invasive Species Work Planning: District 12 & 13 staff members met to review a draft plan and think about staff time required to monitor invasive species in 2016. District 13 also responded to a call on the nutria hotline where

the caller saw a flyer at a local store selling nutria as pets. Staff members visited the store and did not find any flyers offering nutria for sale. The reporting party did not respond to a follow-up call or email requesting additional information.

Marine Species Review: District 13 reviewed species survey data provided by the USFWS for refuge islands in the San Juan Islands.

Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances – Fisher: Biologist Anderson dialoged with Biologist Azerrad regarding property owners in District 12 that may be interested in working with WDFW to enter into a CCAA given fisher are being examined for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. Anderson reached out both internally to Enforcement and externally, while providing an initial list to Biologist Azerrad. District 12 staff members will provide final contacts by close of business on March 8, 2016. Timberland owners that may fall into the category for consideration for a CCAA should examine the website at http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/fisher/ccaa_faqs.html

WDFW King County Citizen Breeding Amphibian Monitoring: Biologist Anderson continues occasional identification and/or landowner access assistance (generally via email or phone) in collaboration with the Woodland Park Zoo and project volunteers. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.zoo.org/citizenscience>



Adult rough-skinned newt documented by WDFW-WPZ volunteers at Hazel Wolf Wetland – Photo by Team Hazel Wolf

PHS and Growth Management:

Biologist Anderson provided background and input regarding a concern sent to Olympia in regards to status and management of great blue herons in WA; in particular in Seattle. Anderson has also noted some mistakes in citizen reported locations of heron nesting sites and will be adding that to the list of to do for correction.



Eagle at local heron nest site in King County – colonies in urban King County appear to be dispersing and are often predated by area eagles, many of which nest in the same area. Divide and hide seems to be an increasing response of herons for various reasons, plausibly one of them being eagles – Photo by District 12 heron monitor contact

Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary:

Biologist Anderson touched base with local and HQ National Wildlife Federation regarding the status of their needs/intent in collaboration. Anderson will follow-up this week and close out based on status from the National Wildlife Federation to meet all needs and move forward. Anderson planned with area NGOs and governments regarding upcoming outreach efforts by District 12 to benefit the public in understanding how to be a good steward and wildlife manager. Anderson provided specimens to Enforcement for use over the weekend in outreach. Anderson responded to Backyard Wildlife inquiries and associated requests regarding the WDFW Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program, including data and collaborative outreach efforts where the public is voluntarily assisting WDFW in promoting the program and stewardship management techniques to their community.

Urban Hutton's vireo in territorial song – Photo by Biologist Anderson

Wildlife Areas

Lake Terrell Dam Blockage: Natural Resource Technician Deyo checked the Lake Terrell Dam for blockages in the outlet pipes. He cleared logs



from the inlet, but there appears to be a blockage inside the structure. Manager Kessler and Deyo will work this week to open the structure and clear the blockage.

Lake Terrell Nesting Waterfowl Closure Signs: Manager Kessler ordered in new signs that will be posted on Lake Terrell to designate the waterfowl closure areas. These areas are closed to public access to protect nesting waterfowl from March – July 1. Natural Resource Technician Deyo prepped the Closed Waters and No Trespassing signs that will be posted on the lake this week.

Leque Island Estuary Restoration Project Funding: Project Coordinator Brokaw edited the grant pre-application materials and sent them to the Stillaguamish Watershed Council for consideration in the upcoming Salmon Recovery Funding Board opportunity. He also worked with The Nature Conservancy to develop a proposal for an opportunity with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Leque Island Estuary Restoration Project Meeting: Projects Coordinator Brokaw met with Biologist C.K. Eidem with Ducks Unlimited to discuss timelines and budgets for the remaining scope of the design and permit phase. They also discussed upcoming grant opportunities that could be a good fit to fund construction of the project.

Milltown Island Restoration: Projects Coordinator Brokaw began reviewing proposals from consultants who responded to an RFP for providing technical design work for designing the next phase of restoration at Milltown Island in the Skagit River.

Smith Island Site Visit: Projects Coordinator Brokaw attended a site visit at Snohomish County's 400-acre Smith Island Estuary Restoration site in the Snohomish River delta. At the site visit, county staff members shared lessons learned throughout the project and asked for feedback from estuary restoration practitioners on their final design prior to advancing to construction.

Smith Island Estuary Restoration project boundaries, which is adjacent to WDFW's Spencer Island Unit – Photo by Snohomish County



Stillwater Unit of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area: Sound Salmon Solutions held a volunteer planting event at the Stillwater Unit. Community volunteers planted 250 conifer seedlings within the Harris Creek project site. Plants were donated by Forterra via their Evergreen Carbon Capture Program.

Agricultural Leases: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm submitted completed agricultural lease packages for the Stillwater and Cherry Valley units. The packages are on their way to Olympia for review and management signatures.

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

Wildlife Management

Annual Drone report – Wildlife Harassment – Peregrines: Biologist Anderson received note of drone use at Snoqualmie Falls. The drone apparently approached actively breeding peregrines at the site – where Puget Sound Energy has assigned the entire area as NO DRONE USE. Anderson passed information along to Enforcement and Puget Sound Energy contacts and relayed an offer of assistance if needed. Drones are increasingly being reported as being used inappropriately and in potential violation of state and likely federal wildlife protection laws by the general public. More effort in this area will be needed as the market and availability of these items increases.

Urban peregrine falcon near major urban center with more potential for human harassment in various manners, such as use of drones, to gain a “better look” – Photo by M. MacDonald, WSDOT



Nest Camera Management Inquiry:

Biologist Anderson was requested by Wildlife Citizen Science Coordinator Connally and District 1 staff members to provide state legal considerations and past experiences in needs and management of raptor cameras. District 1 has had inquiries as to the needs in the establishment of a raptor camera at a university in the area. The group had a dialogue regarding this topic and various aspects of both legal needs and specific individual species management considerations.

Osprey Management: Biologist Anderson provided nest take permit amendments. Anderson discussed the process and related needs with Puget Sound Energy Biologist Walters, as well as the unintended effects of exclusion to adjacent area power infrastructure. Anderson spoke with Habitat staff members regarding Unauthorized Wildlife Take considerations in WDFW requests for wildlife management consultation. For example, the removal of nests due to land use proposals.

Urban Waterfowl Health Monitoring: Biologist Anderson followed up with Bellevue Parks to monitor and set-up retrieval of any obviously ill or dead individuals. No further cases of sick or dead animals/carcass piles were observed by Bellevue Naturalists. Thanks to Bellevue for their efforts to assist District 12 in wildlife health monitoring.

SeaTac Annual Wildlife Hazard Management Meeting: Biologist Anderson represented WDFW at the Port of Seattle annual wildlife hazard meeting and scope of annual work/efforts. Anderson discussed state legalities and ongoing working relationships to meet the needs of the port in their federal and international mandates. Anderson also brought up potential

items in the examination of streamlining state needs for large public service/utility entities that may be likely to experience increased wildlife take during their regular operations. Anderson discussed work with port management, biologists, and contract USDA Wildlife Services. Port and Wildlife Service biologists experienced a wildlife strike call and had Anderson accompany them. Afterward, they discussed some of the ongoing mitigation efforts surrounding SeaTac on site and in the vicinity. A commercial jet that is grounded for a day incurs a minimum down-time loss of \$60,000 – \$90,000.

Commercial jet grounded due to bird strike – Photo by Biologist Anderson



Terminal Illness Hunt

Coordination: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Witman provided assistance for a disabled veteran who has qualified for a terminal illness hunt. Witman began coordination efforts to locate a hunting area in either Skagit or Whatcom, where the hunter could have an increased opportunity to hunt a bull elk during this upcoming fall.

Wildlife Areas

Lake Terrell and Intalco Units New Trash Cans: Manager Kessler ordered in new trash can lids and WDFW logo stickers for the trash cans on the Lake Terrell and Intalco units. Natural Resource Technician Deyo cut the tops off and prepped new 55-gallon metal drums to be used with the new lids as trash cans.



Snow geese at Wylie Farm adjacent to the Skagit Wildlife Area Headquarters



Snow geese utilizing field on Samish unit on Samish Island Road

Waterfowl Management on the Skagit Wildlife Area: Cosgrove monitored and manipulated water levels at the Samish Unit throughout the week. Cosgrove is slowly draining one pond on the west side with the new water control pipe and valve and monitoring vegetation emergence

and waterfowl use. This pond had the most ducks on it of any observed. Ducks and snow geese were also present in fields throughout the site.

Cosgrove monitored water levels and field conditions on the Island Unit and removed boards from the water control structure that drains Lorenzen field. Cosgrove dug two small surface ditches to drain low areas in two fields. Thousands of ducks and a hundred or so swans were observed in numerous fields.

Cosgrove continued to monitor waterfowl use at the Johnson/DeBay's Slough Unit and Nookachamps Creek area.

Skagit Acquisition Team: Projects Coordinator Brokaw typed up and distributed meeting notes from the previous week's team meeting. He also submitted additional information to USFWS regarding potential areas for replacement lands, and discussed funding sources available from other USFWS programs that may be able to provide funding to support the acquisition of replacement lands.

Volunteer Opportunities: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm reports that volunteers from the Snohomish Sportsman's Club completed brush and trail clearing activities at the Corson Preserve.

Private Lands/Access Management

Spring Bear Hunt: Private Lands Supervisory Biologist Caldwell and Private Lands Biologist Wingard toured the Monroe and North Skagit spring bear hunt units with DNR staff members. The group examined gates, discussed concerns from previous years, and directions for the future. Biologist Wingard will create new maps for this year's spring bear hunt that reflect the most current gate conditions. Biologist Wingard will also inventory combination locks used during this hunt to determine purchasing needs. Biologist Wingard prepared contracts for the private timber companies participating in this year's spring bear hunt. The level of access will remain the same as last year in both spring bear hunt units.

Migratory Waterfowl Forage: Private Lands Supervisory Biologist Caldwell and Biologist Wingard met with a landowner to discuss Migratory Bird Forage Enhancement planting projects. The partner landowner was very receptive and committed to planting 120 acres of barley this year. Supervisory Biologist Caldwell and Biologist Wingard also discussed planting options for next year that would be beneficial to both migratory birds and the landowner's soil. Biologist Wingard will prepare the contract for this waterfowl forage planting in the coming week.

Private Lands Wildlife Viewing: Private Lands Supervisory Biologist Caldwell and Private Lands Biologist Wingard met with a partner landowner about providing access for wildlife viewing at the Samish Flats area of Skagit County. In multiple meetings with regional Audubon groups, access (specifically parking site access) in the Samish Flats area was the number one priority. The contacted landowner was especially receptive that the access would be predominantly during the late winter, and therefore would not end up affecting the current farm

management plans. Biologist Wingard will prepare a private lands access contract for this landowner in the coming week.

Waterfowl Quality Hunt Site Breakdowns: Natural Resource Technicians Otto and Deyo continued Waterfowl Quality Hunt site breakdowns throughout Skagit, Whatcom, and Snohomish counties. Recent heavy rains this past week have made for some challenging conditions out in the field.

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

Wildlife Management

Biologist DeBruyn assisted a biologist from Puget Sound Energy with issues surrounding an eagle electrocution

Math and Science Outreach Event: Biologist DeBruyn met with Restoration Outreach Coordinator Alison Hart to plan for an upcoming event at the Cedar Creek Correctional Center.



Wildlife Conflict Monitoring & Management: Wildlife Conflict

Specialist Witman and Natural Resource Technician Cogdal spent several days in the Day Creek area of Skagit County installing both temporary and permanent elk exclusionary fencing to mitigate crop damage. Witman and District Biologist Yarborough met with two landowners in the Concrete area of Skagit County who are experiencing damage from approximately 80 elk on their property. Fencing options were discussed with one landowner along with other options to help offset damage.

Deer Damage: Wildlife Conflict Supervisor Caldwell spoke with a private landowner in Renton, WA about ongoing deer damage to his Christmas tree farm. Supervisor Caldwell is going to meet with the landowner next week to formulate a mitigation plan for next year and discuss other options. Wildlife Conflict Supervisor Caldwell contacted two separate private landowners (one in Everett, WA and the other in Oak Harbor, WA) about Gull related damage and nuisance mitigation. Deterrent strategies and other mitigation related options were provided to the individuals.

Elk Damage: Wildlife Conflict Supervisor Witman met with tribal co-managers and toured a private property in the Acme area of Whatcom County that has been experiencing elk damage to trees. Several options were discussed with the landowner to mitigate elk damage. Conflict Specialist Witman has received several calls this past week from a landowner in Snohomish County experiencing crop damage from snow geese. Witman and District Biologist Yarborough

provided hazing on the property with limited success. Additional hazing has taken place over the course of the week, with some geese moving onto a nearby corn stubble field.

Private Lands/Access Management

Waterfowl Quality Hunt Program Analysis: Private Lands Biologist Wingard nearly completed analyzing data collected this waterfowl season at Waterfowl Quality Hunt Unit sites. Hunter success across access types, site use percentages, survey compliance, and other preliminary data comparisons and results will be showcased at an upcoming Washington Waterfowl Association meeting that is scheduled to be conducted next week.

Payment to Property Owners: Natural Resource Technician Otto contacted and followed up with landowners in Whatcom County about order payments received. Out of the three landowners contacted, all have received payments and are pleased with the quick service.

Wildlife Areas

Cherry Valley Dike Breach: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm contacted Drainage District 7 for an update to the breach in the Cherry Valley dike. The breach has grown from a 12-foot gap to a 30-foot hole and is still growing. It appears the initial breach occurred where the repair from last summer joined with the rest of the dike. Apparently the old dike portion continues to weaken and fail during flood events. The district will be working to repair the breach this coming summer. They also said that the breach is now too large to repair with sandbags, so it will likely expand over the spring season.

Educational Signage: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm installed additional seasonal signage at the wildlife areas in the Snoqualmie Valley.

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

Wildlife Management

Leadership Training: Biologist DeBruyn completed his final leadership training module in Olympia.

Paper Published: Biologist Yarborough had some previous work published. Yarborough, R. Fenner, J. A. Gist, C.D. Loberger, and S.S. Rosenstock. 2015. Habitat Use by Abert's squirrels (*Sciurus aberti*) in Managed Forests. The Southwestern Naturalist 60 (2-3): 166-170.

Supervisor Training: Biologist Milner completed the last module of supervisor training in Olympia.

Coastal Wetlands Training: Natural Resource Technician Otto attended a two day class for Grass, Sedge, and Rush identification for Western WA/Puget Lowland Habitats. Time was spent

listening to lectures and learning identification techniques for field and lab settings on a variety of flora.

Technician Staff: This week, Brad will continue to tear down waterfowl quality hunt sites, contact Whatcom growers about potential barley planting, check supplies for brant work, shuttle blinds to Terrell storage, complete LMS training, and dismantle signage.

REGION 5

No report submitted this week.

REGION 6

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Satsop/Mason Deer Project: In 2009, WDFW initiated a study of the effects of forest management practices on black-tailed deer reproduction. Two of eight study sites are represented in District 15. These are Mason and Satsop. An objective of this study involves determining sources of mortality among all radio-collared deer. The radio-collars in the Mason cluster have remote monitoring capabilities and text messages are sent when certain events occur, although periodic field checks are recommended. The Satsop collars require field monitoring to determine status. Biologist Murphie reports that no mortalities have occurred recently. Two does and four fawns are currently being monitored in the Satsop cluster, while the Mason cluster has seven does and three fawns.

Per the study design, the doe collars in the Mason Unit are scheduled to drop off soon. Eight new collars will be deployed in March on different does. This week, doe captures were attempted by net-gunning from a helicopter and via ground darting. Biologist Murphie reports that three does were collared during the net-gunning operation and one doe was collared via ground darting.

Capitol Forest Deer Monitoring: Biologist Michaelis successfully downloaded all current activity and GPS data sets from the eight collared does able to transmit these data. One doe's collar does not transmit data to the portable terminal but does send GPS fixes. All of these nine animals have been equipped with GPS collars for one year now. They are scheduled to drop off during June 2017 when the study concludes. One more year of fawn captures and monitoring will begin later in May.

Taylor's Checkerspot Survey Scheduling: Biologist McMillan established a survey calendar for the sites west of the Elwha and emailed it to potential survey participants to request assistance at the sites. A survey window was identified from mid-March to mid-June. Due to the size of larva observed in February, it is possible that Taylor's checkerspot butterflies could be

flying as early as mid to late March. The sites west of Elwha have rarely had survey effort begin earlier than mid-April, so there is a possibility that occurrences in March and early April have not been detected in previous years due to lack of effort. Spot checks and, when feasible, transects will begin in mid-March and into the first week of April. In 2015, the earliest Taylor’s checkerspot butterflies at the west of the Elwha sites were observed April 8th at the northern extant site and April 15 at the southern extant site.

Elwha Shoreline Conservation: Coastal Watershed Institute

(<http://www.coastalwatershedinstitute.org/>) has purchased some habitat east of the mouth of the Elwha along the shoreline. The area is called Beach Lake. Jamie Michel had inquired about the wildlife values and especially the possibility of it as Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly habitat. It is adjacent to one of the areas searched for Taylor’s checkerspots in previous years and should be checked for occurrences. Biologist McMillan is working with Jamie Michel to arrange a visit this season during suitable weather.

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

Wildlife Management

Dusky Goose Survey: Biologists Michaelis, Novack, and Sundstrom conducted another survey for marked dusky Canada geese. Biologist Michaelis observed 23 collared birds. An additional group observed during last survey in the same vicinity was not observed. Biologist Michaelis also surveyed agricultural areas in northern Lewis and Thurston counties after receiving reports of dusky geese being in these areas, but none were found.

Biologist Sundstrom surveyed the northern portion of Pacific County and most of Grays Harbor County. Table 1 below summarizes her survey results. Table 2 depicts the results from the survey two weeks prior. The total numbers are similar, with a marked decrease in the number of dusky geese present throughout both counties since the February 17 survey. This is a familiar pattern this time of year as the various goose species/subspecies begin to stage and make their way north to their respective breeding grounds.

2/29/16 Location	Cackler		Aleutian		Tav/Lesser		Dusky		Western		Vancouver		GWF	Snow	Unknown/Other	Totals
	#	Banded	#	Banded	#	Banded	#	Banded	#	Banded	#	Banded				
Grays Harbor County	323		0		773		391	2	721		0		54	3	1,028	3,293
North Pacific County	1,695		0		844		1,713	3	232		0		1	0	500	4,985
Totals:	2,018	0	0	0	1,617	0	2,104	5	953	0	0	0	55	3	1,528	8,278

Table 1: Most recent dusky goose survey results

2/17/16	Cackler		Aleutian		Tav/Lesser		Dusky		Western		Vancouver		GWF	Snow	Unknown/Other	Totals
Location	# Banded		# Banded		# Banded		# Banded		# Banded		# Banded					
Grays Harbor County	553		0		856		738		581	3	0		52	1	1,075	3,856
North Pacific County	468	1	0	0	373	0	2,427	12	81	0	0		0	3	1,403	4,755
Totals:	1,021	1	0	0	1,229	0	3,165	12	662	3	0	0	52	4	2,478	8,611

Table 2: Mid-February dusky goose survey results

Goose Hunter Compliance Checks: Biologist Sundstrom worked two days in Pacific County and one day in Grays Harbor County checking goose hunters. Overall harvest reporting was low and one dusky goose was reported harvested.

Sundstrom spent several hours speaking with hunters from outside of the area who were inquiring about “private land” with the possibility of hunting for geese. Sundstrom drew maps and provided landowner contact information to those hunters. It was up to the hunters to contact the landowners for permission.

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

Wildlife Management: Biologist Novack responded to various public inquiries, including that of a woman who wanted WDFW to trap a cougar that had been photographed within a mile of her rural home. She was informed that WDFW typically will not trap cougars that haven’t shown habituation to people nor caused a problem for domestic livestock.

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

Wildlife Management

Improving the Wildlife Program: Biologist Novack attended the Wildlife Program Senior staff meeting in Olympia and provided a presentation relating to WDFW employee engagement. Biologist Novack is part of a workgroup formed to develop recommendations on improving WDFW employee engagement. The presentation explained their methods for distilling data from the Washington State all agency survey and the program school exercise.