

Wildlife Program – Bi-weekly Report

July 1 to July 15, 2020

DIVERSITY DIVISION

Nothing for this installment.

SCIENCE DIVISION

Nothing for this installment.

HUNTER EDUCATION

Nothing for this installment.

LANDS DIVISION

Nothing for this installment.

GAME DIVISION

Nothing for this installment.

REGION 1

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:

1) Managing Wildlife Populations

Wolf Captures: Wildlife Biologists Prince and Turnock collared three adult wolves (two females, one male) while checking traps for Wolf Biologist Roussin. All the collared wolves were within the Carpenter Ridge pack territory and will be part of the [predator/prey research project](#). This may be a WDFW one-day record for the number of wolves caught, so good job Biologist Roussin in setting those traps!



A sedated wolf with a radio collar

2) **Providing Recreation Opportunities**

Nothing for this installment.

3) **Providing Conflict Prevention and Education**

Non-Lethal Deterrent Deployment and Implementation: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Bennett and other WDFW staff members deployed Foxlights, a RAG box, and checked a possible rendezvous site in Stevens County.



A FoxLight along a pasture in Stevens County

Columbia County Elk Hazing: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Kolb spent two consecutive afternoons assisting a producer with a current Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreement (DPCA) haze elk off their legume crop in Columbia County. Due to the late Spring and early Summer precipitation accumulation, Blue Mountain area producers are enjoying a banner year of crop production. The legume crops are particularly attractive to both deer and elk, with crop damage occurring from both the consumption of the crop as well as significant trailing veins throughout fields.

Legume Crop Damage: Walla Walla and Columbia county producers with legume crops are experiencing the heaviest ungulate activity currently. Wildlife Conflict Specialist Kolb continues

meeting with producers with active DPCA's to discuss and implement damage abatement measures to mitigate additional damage to the sensitive crops.



Black Bear Relocation: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Kolb assisted WDFW Enforcement with the relocation of a yearling male black bear in Walla Walla County. A homeowner reported a 'bear cub' sighting initially on July 4 and Kolb followed up with the reporting party (RP) who stated the bear was no longer in the area. Kolb reminded the RP to keep garbage cans and food sources secure to reduce the incentive for the bear to return. On July 7 an adjacent homeowner called to report the bear cub was back and that it was the same bear that had been in the area previously. At the request of WDFW Enforcement, Kolb transported a culvert trap to the scene to assist. WDFW enforcement officers chemically immobilized the yearling black bear next to a tree where food source material had been set out (i.e., dog food and fruit). Residents of the area denied any knowledge of the existing 'food bowl,' but were reminded that purposely feeding bears was both dangerous and illegal. Following the immobilization, Kolb transported the yearling bear in the culvert trap and assisted WDFW enforcement officers with the relocation release.



Yearling Black Bear cub that was chemically immobilized and relocated away from residential dwellings (notice the food bowl with fruit at the base of the tree)

4) Conserving Natural Areas

Habitat Enhancements: Private Lands Supervisor Earl, with the assistance of Conflict Specialist Wade, loaded and moved equipment to a site that has been prepared for a lure crop planting on private property.



Equipment delivered and getting ready for a lure crop planting

5) Providing Education and Outreach

Cooperator Letters: Natural Resource Worker Holcomb and Private Lands Biologist Gaston will work on updating cooperator letters for participants enrolled in the WDFW Voluntary Access Programs. The cooperator letters provide landowners with important dates, hunting seasons, and relevant information for their upcoming seasons.

6) Conducting Business Operations and Policy

Cattle Producers of Washington Meeting: Wildlife Conflict Supervisor McCanna participated in the Cattle Producers of Washington (CPoW) Department of Agriculture grant board meeting. McCanna provided a guidance to range riding organizations document explaining the difference between range riding and human presence and what WDFW's interpretation of daily and near daily is. McCanna also assisted CPoW with suggestions on their current budget and how to build a spending plan.

7) Other

Nothing for this installment.

REGION 2

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:

1) Managing Wildlife Populations

Lynx Monitoring: Biologist Fitkin with help from Biologist Jeffreys began deploying remote cameras for what is likely to be the last field season for the Lynx Occupancy Modeling project in the Okanogan Lynx Management Zone headed up by Dr. Dan Thornton at Washington State University (WSU). Cameras are being deployed in front country locations along the Lake Chelan-Methow Watershed divide, and the most remote parts of the Pasayten Wilderness. Despite being snowed on in late June, the first wilderness trip went smoothly, hitting the sweet spot between snowpack melt and mosquito emergence. We also helped retrieve some cameras deployed last winter by WSU project technicians that included detections of lynx as well as other species of interest. The outcome of this work will be to refine the existing model and develop a long-term monitoring strategy.



Biologist Fitkin enjoying the ultimate in social distancing (and a “Mufasa moment”) in a remote corner of the Pasayten Wilderness – Photo by E. Jeffreys



Biologist Jeffreys enjoying some high-country birding between camera deployments – Photo by S. Fitkin



Lynx detection along the Sawtooth Crest (can you pick out the diagnostic characteristics?) –
Photo by WDFW remote camera





“What are the odds” weasel vs hare photo series – Photo by WSU remote camera

Bat Colony Count and Disease Sampling: Biologists Abigail Tobin and Emily Jeffreys returned to Lake Chelan State Park to collect fresh guano samples from a bat colony in park housing. These samples will be analyzed for the presence of *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, the fungus that causes White-nose Syndrome (WNS). Biologists also performed an exit count to estimate the number of bats present as bats emerged from the attic to feed shortly after sunset.



(Left) Biologist Jeffreys collecting guano samples for laboratory analysis. (Right) little brown bats roosting in the attic – Photos by Abigail Tobin

North American Bat Monitoring: Biologists Jeffreys and Comstock deployed four acoustic detectors at Burch Mountain and Swakane as part of a joint effort between WDFW, Northwestern Bat Hub at Oregon State University, and other regional partners. These acoustic detectors record the high-frequency vocalizations of bats, allowing for call analysis and species identification. The data will be incorporated into the North American Bat Monitoring Program, which seeks to monitor local and regional bat populations across the continent and inform effective bat conservation.



Biologist Jeffreys deploying an acoustic monitor in a meadow site – Photo by Devon Comstock

Fisher Tracking: Biologists Comstock and Jeffreys teamed up with Statewide Mesocarnivore Biologist Jeff Lewis to locate a radio-collared female fisher. The female's signal had been consistently detected within a limited radius northwest of Lake Wenatchee, indicating that she may have a den with kits in the area. Locating a den site would present a valuable opportunity to learn more about this elusive mammal, so biologists hoped to set up remote cameras at the den and collect fecal samples. However, the challenging terrain and frequent movements of the

female to different locations (as indicated by signals picked up by the antenna) precluded biologists from locating her or her possible den site. The search will likely continue in the near future.



Biologist Lewis listening for a signal from a radio-collared fisher near Lake Wenatchee – Photo by Emily Jeffreys

Northern Leopard Frogs: Biologists Grabowsky and Rowan continued surveys for tadpoles and old egg masses in the Potholes Northern Leopard Frog Management Area. Biologists Dougherty and Grabowsky met with Section Manager Connally to get her up to speed on all things Leopard Frogs and also provided some perspective on potential project directions.

Pygmy Rabbit Reintroduction Effort: Reintroduction efforts continue with 70 kits released into the two primary Recovery Areas in Beezley Hills (30 kits) and Burton Draw (40) so far this summer. The breeding enclosures are looking to more than double our kit production output over the past couple of years. We will hold off on further releases until we have retained enough kits for replacement of our enclosure breeding population. Once those have been harvested from the enclosures, we will resume releases later this summer if sufficient numbers of kits remain. Breeding is slowing down now with adults no longer showing evidence of reproducing.

While we had instant dividends from our recent translocation effort, we now need to sustain this breeding bump in our enclosure population for the next couple of years. To do so, we will retain the next 40 kits captured within the enclosures as future breeders for 2021 (19 captured thus far).

After consulting with some members of the Science Advisory Team with multiple breeding enclosure options for these kits, we decided the best option to sustain high yield breeding will be to build another mobile breeding enclosure (likely the last one). This option, while the most challenging in terms of labor and workload, will continue the most successful breeding scenario of maintaining rabbits on “fresh pasture”, with optimal forage and free of coccidia and parasites. Working with wildlife area (WLA) Managers Peterson and Blake, we identified a section on the north end of Sagebrush Flat WLA with suitable habitat and good access. We hope to build this unit within July, then relocate selected kits into in August.

Last year we began monitoring kit dispersal and settlement with transect surveys mid-summer. While these are not directly relatable to our winter efforts, they do provide an additional window in which to evaluate population establishment. Similar to the winter efforts, we map active burrows and clusters of fresh pygmy rabbit sign (dust baths, fresh fecal pellets, burrow digs) on the release areas. We collect fresh fecal samples for genetic analyses by the University of Idaho to identify the individual rabbit. From this, we can evaluate residency and dispersal from release/acclimation pens, overall distribution, adult survivorship from last year, and evidence of wild reproduction. We were very encouraged with identifying over 190 sites, more than triple our total from last summer. We still have a third of the Burton Draw Release Area to complete so that total will surely increase. We are most excited about the amount of activity in areas where we did not release rabbits, suggesting good survivorship and breeding by rabbits released last year.

2) Providing Recreation Opportunities

Sinlahekin Campground Renovations: Sinlahekin WLA staff members installed twelve concrete bases and installed ten steel fire rings. These fire ring improvements meet the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) standards for designated campfire locations. With the abundance of history and cultural concerns, a Colville Tribes Archeologist was on-site during the excavation and installation of the concrete bases. Staff members will continue to install gravel around the bases then attach the DNR approved fire rings. The Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP) crew out of the Yakima Shop was able to install gravel camping pads at four different campground sites on the Sinlahekin WLA. With the nice weather, the use of the campgrounds has been consistent so far this summer. Renovations will continue throughout the summer.

3) Providing Conflict Prevention and Education

Addressing Elk and Deer Concerns: Specialist Bridges has worked with a multitude of landowners in assisting with attempts to decrease damage from both deer and elk. DPCAs were pushed through, and permits were issued in a fashion that landowners were comfortable with regarding Covid-19 concerns.

Cost-Share Calving Pens: Specialist Heilhecker submitted a livestock damage prevention cooperative agreement to cost-share fund a predator-proof fence around calving pens within the Beaver Creek territory. WDFW would fund half the cost of the materials up to a predetermined dollar amount.

Data Sharing Agreements: Specialist Heilhecker emailed new data-sharing agreements to producers, within the Loup Loup territory, who previously had access to the collar location data. Data sharing agreements expire on March 31. New agreements need to be signed before receiving access to data that becomes available on July 15 after the denning period.

Wildlife Monitoring: Specialist Bridges continues to follow up on reports of possible wolf sightings. Trail cameras have been placed to continue monitoring over the next few weeks.



4) Conserving Natural Landscapes

Pygmy Rabbit Safe Harbor Agreement: Biologist Hughes met with a landowner to review and obtain signatures for his site plan and permit application for the Safe Harbor program. The landowner is enrolling 2080 acres into the Safe Harbor Agreement. A relative of the landowner is interested in enrolling his property as well. Hughes provided information about the Safe Harbor program and the enrollment process with the relative. Hughes will be conducting baseline surveys for the new property throughout the next 3 weeks. The new property being surveyed is located within the Dormaier Recovery Area, a couple of miles from Chester Butte.

Biologist Hughes surveyed several locations that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is planning to install gates, new fences, and conduct maintenance on old fences. All the locations fall within their Safe Harbor Agreement. A survey of each site revealed no potential of affecting pygmy rabbits or alteration on their habitat would result from the work. Minimal to no sagebrush will be altered on each site. Hughes gave the go ahead to move forward with all plans proposed.

State Acres for Wildlife (SAFE) Conservation Reserve Program: Private Lands Biologist Braaten received a call from a landowner whose SAFE Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) fields were partially burned in the Road 11 wildfire. Firebreaks were created along and through parts of his fields. Private Lands Biologist Braaten went out to assess the fire damage and it was

minor. Recommendations were given. The landowner said the fire started near his property from an Avista power pole which sparked a wildfire that burned 10,000 acres including known sage grouse nesting and lekking areas. Fire moved fast trapping wildlife.



Biologist Cook visited with two landowners that need forbs planted this fall as part of SAFE contracts to discuss with them, pick forb planting locations, and ensure landowners understand and are preparing for planting. Field site visits for two other SAFE contracts to plan planting locations and create maps for landowner reference. One site is weedy and may need adjustments after communication with Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Biologist Hughes met with NRCS in Grant County to discuss planning requirements for one new SAFE signup and one re-enrolling SAFE field. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided Hughes with updated documents needed for writing each plan. Hughes coordinated with each landowner and discussed the enrollment process. Hughes conducted site visits to each field being enrolled. For the re-enrolling fields, Hughes conducted a visual survey and made records of species present and field conditions. The fields being enrolled currently meet SAFE requirements; therefore, Hughes will only be suggesting operation and maintenance on weeds when necessary.



SAFE Shrub steppe field being re-enrolled in SAFE - Photo by Hughes

Habitat Consultation on Private Lands: A landowner who recently purchased ground in Blackrock reached out to Hughes about how to improve the habitat, specifically for sage grouse. Hughes surveyed the area to see if any improvements were needed. The area appeared to be untouched habitat, looking as if it had never been tilled. Overall the habitat looked great, there was one small patch of Russian knapweed in a draw bottom. Hughes provided information to the landowner on how to treat Russian knapweed and what to plant in the area after treating the knapweed for a couple of years. Aside from managing the knapweed patch, Hughes suggested that the landowner leave the property alone. Hughes provided information on funding opportunities to help restore the knapweed patch.



Shrub steppe habitat in Blackrock - Photo by Hughes



Knapweed patch in draw bottom suggested to restore - Photo by Hughes

Scotch Creek Noxious Weed Control: The crew at Scotch Creek WLA spent a lot of time on the annual job of Musk Thistle control on the Chesaw unit. This mandatory class “B” weed is difficult and time consuming to control as it bolts continuously throughout the summer. Staff members are working independently on all fieldwork to keep maximum social distancing. Technicians Sklaney and Medina also worked on weed control across other units, equipment repairs at the Scotch Creek shop, and mowing shrub plots on Scotch Creek unit. The difficult job of Musk Thistle control on the Chesaw unit continues this period. With the warming temperatures, this problem weed has started to take off, requiring continuous surveillance to spot spray, or pick flower heads and pull plants. This mandatory class B weed is required by law to stop all seed production.

Other weed control efforts this period include:

- Sprayed Scotch Thistle and parking areas at Scotch Creek
- Sprayed Tunk Valley unit parking areas
- Sprayed and hand-pulled Hoary Alyssum at the Charles and Mary Eder unit
- Sprayed Leafy Spurge and Common Tansy at the Chopaka unit. To access the Leafy Spurge site, staff members had to drift boat across the Similkameen River and backpack spray the island. The Spurge infestation is less than last year.

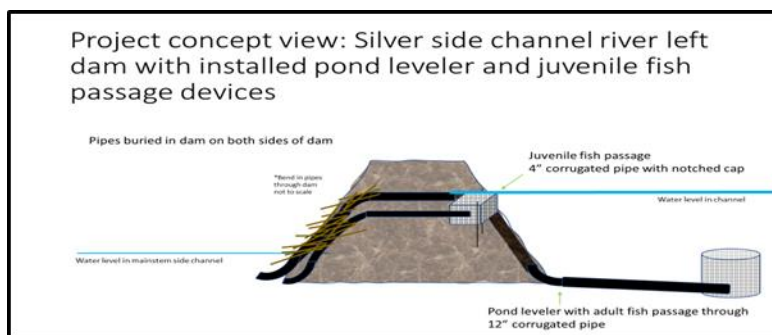


Access to the Leafy Spurge site across the Similkameen River – Photo by Jim Olson

Sinlahekin Integrated Pest Management: Staff members continued weed control on the units that comprise the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area. They treated areas of Rush Skeleton weed on the Chiliwist Unit that was identified by the Okanogan County Noxious weed office. Personnel also found other areas of infestation and treated those. Staff members continued to treat Bladder Senna, Multiflora Rose, and Spiny Sandbur on the Sinlahekin Unit.

Methow Integrated Pest Management: Over the last several weeks, the Methow Wildlife Area, primarily Assistant Manager Repp, has aggressively combated several high priority weed infestations. Repp teamed up with the United States Forest Service (USFS) for several days to treat houndstongue at the Riser Lake area of the Rendezvous Unit. Additionally, Repp has deployed hundreds, possibly thousands of biological control agents that target specific weeds such as diffuse knapweed. Repp has also mowed a dense monoculture of Russian knapweed. By mowing, we can now deploy a residual herbicide treatment in an attempt to beat back the weeds, which is phase one of our shrub-steppe restoration goals at the Golden Doe Unit. To top off the varied weed abatement approaches utilized as of recently, Land Operations Manager Haug spent several hours clipping seed heads off mature Scotch Thistle in a dry, shadeless draw on the southern flanks of the Golden Doe.

Silver Side Channel Adaptive Management: The Methow Wildlife Area is working on a collaborative project at the Silver Side Channel designed to allow beavers to remain on-site while simultaneously providing improved fish passage for adult and juvenile Endangered Species Act (ESA) species. This project has been a whirlwind, but as of next week, WDFW, Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR), Washington Recreation and Conservation Office-Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and the Methow Beaver Project (MBR) will team up to install a pond leveler and fish passage devices to further enhance the already biodiverse Silver Side Channel. The pond leveling device will allow land managers to alter the depth of the beaver pond, which will preserve the investments in restoration planting while also providing and possibly improving adult salmon passage. The smaller fish passage device is specifically intended to accommodate or improve juvenile salmonid fish passage and ingress/egress to rearing and wintering habitat within Silver side channel at all channel flow levels year-round. This project is a great example of how we can better restore, protect, and enhance our natural resources through collaborative partnerships.



Pond leveler and fish passage device: this is a very basic, conceptual drawing of the fish passage and pond leveling devices to be installed at the Silver side-channel

5) Conducting Business Operations and Policy

Lidar Stakeholder Meeting: Lands Operations Manager Finger participated in a [LiDAR](#) stakeholder meeting hosted by DNR. Lidar is a method for measuring distances using differences in laser return times to a sensor. When conducted by aircraft the result is a highly detailed surface model (elevations) of the earth that comes in two datasets, DSM (Digital Surface Model – includes structures and vegetation) and DTM (Digital Terrain Model – bare earth). The purpose of the meeting is to help DNR prioritize LiDAR acquisitions across the state by coordinating with a broad cross-section of stakeholders for input. In Region 2 south, LiDAR has only been used to support wetland project development but there is potential to use the tool to track the spread, and removal, of Russian olive over time, for example.

Washington Conservation Corps Crew: Lands Operations Manager Finger and Wildlife Area Manager Eidson participated in a short coordination call to meet Joe Hall, who will be stepping in for Roland McGill upon his retirement. Ecology will soon be recruiting for the Moses Lake crew and this meeting was a good opportunity to give Joe some background information on Columbia Basin Wildlife Area and to strategize onboarding this new crew. We are all very excited about this opportunity and cannot wait to put the crew to work.

Blue Lake Access Site: Lands Operations Manager Finger held a Teams meeting to discuss the potential acquisition of a parcel immediately adjacent to the Blue Lake Water Access Site. The discussion was focused on how this parcel might improve existing recreational opportunities. The vision discussed was the installation of a large ADA-accessible lighted fishing pier and potentially a fish-cleaning station if water rights are included. The group will set up a site visit soon to confirm that the vision fits. Then we will determine whether there would be a reasonable chance of getting acquisition funding and if so, we'll consider pursuing. Unfortunately, this project would not be eligible for RCO (boat launch already exists), which would have had a good chance of success.

Royal Slope Solar Power Projects: Lands Operations Manager Finger participated in discussions about transmission lines development requests with Major Projects Biologist Verhey and Ephrata Field Office Manager Maynard, Deputy Field Office Manager Lay, and Natural Resources Supervisor Doolittle with Reclamation. There have been multiple requests for a power development corridor north of the Wanapum Substation and few expected on the horizon. This area is particularly important for herpetofauna like striped whipsnakes and includes critically endangered dune habitat. Finger looped in herpetologist Hallock, who was able to provide guidance directly to Reclamation with Biologist Verhey.



From top: Horseshoe Basin area (Pasayten Wilderness), Upper Methow Valley – Photo by S. Fitkin



Upper Chewuch River – Photo by S. Fitkin



Sunset over Horseshoe Basin – Photo by Emily Jeffreys



White bog orchid (Platanthera dilatata) in Long Swamp - Photo by Emily Jeffreys



Pygmy-short horned lizard caught and modeled by Natural Resource Technician, Amy Pavelcheck – Photo by Devon Comstock



Moose on the Sinlahkein Wildlife Area – Photo by Brandon Boulger



Brood of Cinnamon Teal on Forde Lake on the Sinlahkein Wildlife Area – Photo by Haug



Osprey with fish above Forde Lake on the Sinlahekin WLA – Photo by Haug



Juvenile Eastern Kingbird in hawthorn near Forde Lake – Photo by Haug



Common Yellowthroat near Forde Lake - Photo by Haug



Wildflowers on Joe Mills Mnt looking east into the Pasayten Wilderness – Photo by Haug

REGION 3

Nothing for this installment.

REGION 4

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:

1) **Managing Wildlife Populations**

State Sensitive Common Loon: District 12 staff members surveyed for loon activity. Adult loon pairs were documented at two local lakes, while a single adult was located at a third. No young or nesting activity was observed. Further investigation will be required to determine if any of these loons successfully reproduce this season.



A pair of Common loons located in D12 recently

North American Bat Monitoring (NABat): District 12 staff members deployed acoustic monitoring units to capture bat activity at multiple sites. This is part of a larger US-Canada-Mexico survey effort to capture trends in bat species occurrence and activity patterns annually. More info [here](#).

Band-tailed Pigeon Surveys: District Wildlife Biologist Waddell conducted a survey for band-tailed pigeons at a mineral site along Chuckanut Drive in Skagit County. During surveys, a biologist records the number of birds entering and leaving a mineral site, along with other

information. These surveys are used to monitor the Pacific Coast population of band-tailed pigeons and set hunting regulations.



Waiting for band-tailed pigeons to fly into and away from a mineral site in Skagit County during an annual survey

2) Providing Recreation Opportunities

Cherry Valley Ditch Maintenance: Projects Coordinator Brokaw, WLA Manager Boehm, and Lands Agent Thomas worked together to prepare for construction to begin within the next few weeks. Ducks Unlimited, King County, and the local drainage district are leading a project within the Cherry Valley Unit that involves cleaning out ditches within the drainage district easement to help WDFW control water on the site and to plant hedgerows. Improved water control is meant to allow WDFW to better control invasive vegetation on the site, such as reed canarygrass.

Region 4 Private Lands Access Program Waterfowl Access and Habitat: Region 4 Private Lands Access Program staff members met with multiple landowners to finalize planting plans for waterfowl forage production. With the wet June this year, several sites are too wet for production agriculture but will be excellent waterfowl forage sites. WDFW partners with private landowners to plant barley for migratory birds to feed on over the winter. Funding for these efforts comes from the Washington State Migratory Bird Stamp. Multiple contacts were made with other partner landowners regarding hunting plans for the upcoming season.



Private Lands staff members farming a location that is too wet for production agriculture this year, Waterfowl Habitat and Access Program blind location is to the right of the picture



Grain delivery to partner landowners for planting



A location of a new waterfowl forage enhancement site that is usually farmed for production agriculture but is too wet this year. The blind location for hunting access is next to the telephone pole and the bushes.

Samish River Fishery: Private Lands Biologist Wingard began outreach to the local community in preparation for the upcoming Samish River Chinook season. This is an extraordinarily popular opportunity for shore-bound anglers, and this popularity can cause issues with the community. Through engagement and discussion with the community and Skagit County partners, the fishery has improved over the last few years and we hope to continue that improvement into the future.

3) Providing Conflict Prevention and Education

Gull Nests: District Wildlife Biologist Waddell received a call from the Port of Bellingham regarding gull nests located on top of an old warehouse set for completed demolition by the end of July. Biologist Waddell worked with WDFW staff members in Olympia to provide the port with a permit that would allow the Whatcom County Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Center to remove the eggs or young for rearing at their facility and later release into the wild. Multiple eggs and young were safely removed from the roof and transported to the rehabilitation center.

4) Conserving Natural Landscapes

North Leque Island Design: Projects Coordinator Brokaw had a call with Habitat Program and Capital Asset Management Program staff members about the North Leque Island project. The group reviewed an updated version of the plan set that addresses questions raised through the permit process.



The North Leque Island project involves removing a section of the dike to improve tidal flow

Restoration Forum: Region 4 held a virtual forum at which project managers presentation short snapshots of twenty projects underway in North Puget Sound that WDFW is leading or partnering on.

5) Providing Education and Outreach

Leque Island Presentation: Project Coordinator Brokaw gave a virtual presentation to the Sound Water Stewards group on Camano Island about Leque Island. The group is made up of Island County residents who participate in citizen science projects on local beaches. Because Leque Island is in their backyard, the group was very interested in the project and had a lot of great questions.



We were not able to give the in-person tour this year, but this is a photo of a Sound Water Stewards group touring Leque Island last year before the restoration project

6) **Conducting Business Operations and Policy**

Nothing for this installment.

7) **Other**

Nothing for this installment.

REGION 5

Nothing for this installment.

REGION 6

Nothing for this installment.