# Wildlife Program – Bi-weekly Report

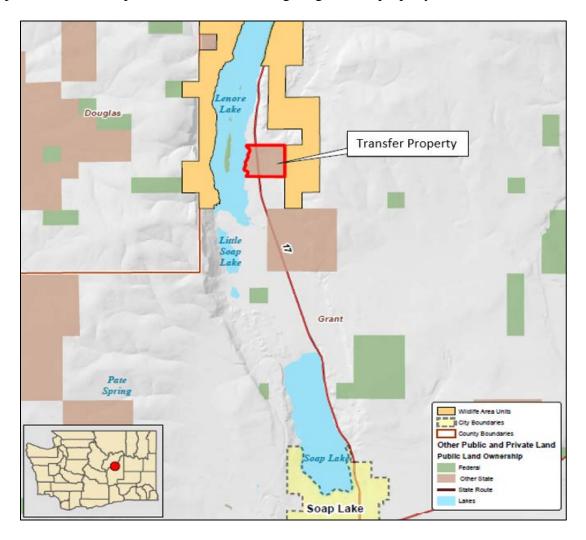
June 1 to 15, 2022

# **LANDS DIVISION**

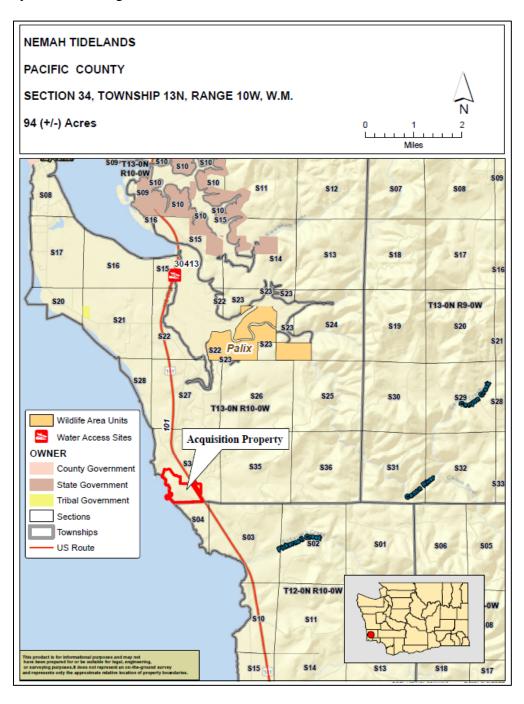
#### HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:

# **Providing Recreation Opportunities**

Lands Acquisitions: The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) closed on the acquisition of 174-plus acres in Grant County, known as the Lake Lenore property, in Region 2. This property was owned by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) yet managed by WDFW. This property was approved through Lands 20/20 in 2019 and by the Commission in December 2020 and was a no-fee transfer from State Parks to WDFW for continued public recreation. This property will be managed as part of the Columbia Basin Wildlife Area and continue to provide public recreation and water access to Lake Lenore, with the potential to develop a future formal shooting range on the property.

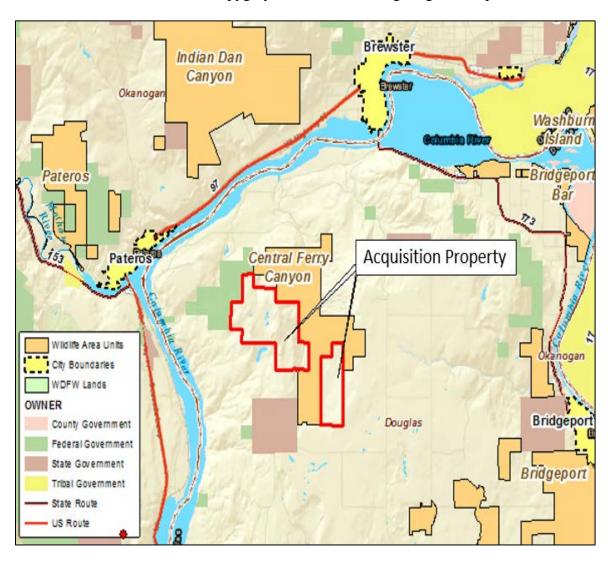


WDFW closed on the acquisition of the 94-plus-acre Nemah Tidelands property in Pacific County, Region 6. This property was approved through Lands 20/20 in 2018 and by the Commission in March 2022 and was acquired at the appraised value of \$564,000 using a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Water Access grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office. Acquiring this property provides WDFW a unique opportunity to provide direct public access to nearly a mile of Willapa Bay tidelands for shellfish harvest and will be managed by WDFW's Region 6 Water Access team.

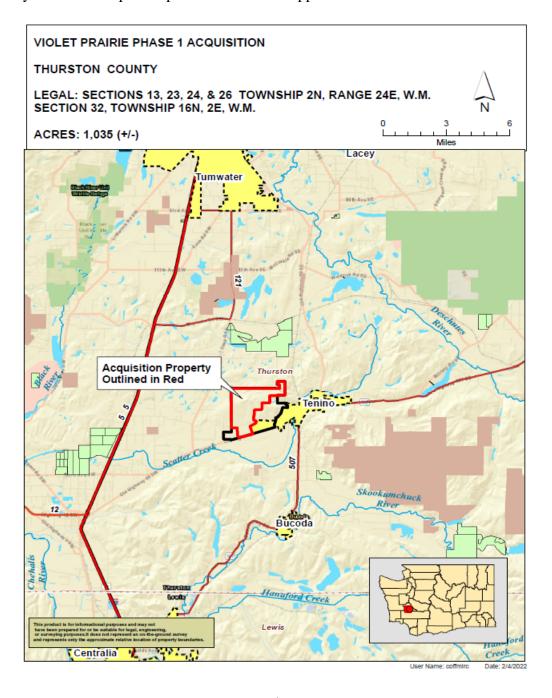


#### **Conserving Natural Landscapes**

More Lands Acquisitions: WDFW closed on the acquisition of a 1,513-plus acre property in Douglas County, Region 2, which will be added to the Central Ferry Canyon Unit of the Wells Wildlife Area. This property was approved through Lands 20/20 in 2018 and by the Commission in March 2022 and was acquired at the appraised value of \$580,00 using a Cooperative Endangered Species grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This property consists of extensive shrub steppe habitat for mule deer and Columbian sharptailed grouse, and habitat for the conservation of Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit and Washington ground squirrel.



WDFW closed on the first 1,035-plus acres of a multi-phased property acquisition to acquire a total of 1,567 plus acres in Thurston County, just west of Tenino, known as the Violet Prairie property. This property was approved through Lands 20/20 in 2016 and by the Commission in March 2022 and was acquired at the appraised value of \$7,765,107.06 using a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Critical Habitat grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office and two Cooperative Endangered Species grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This property includes intact, prairie-oak woodland and wetland habitat, adds significantly to the protected area of the Scatter Creek watershed, and protects occupied habitat for the federally threatened Mazama pocket gopher, Puget blue butterfly, Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, and will eventually increase compatible public recreational opportunities.



# **REGION 1**

# HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:

# **Managing Wildlife Populations**

**North America Bat Monitoring:** WDFW Biologists Lowe and Atamian deployed and retrieved bat acoustic monitoring equipment for one grid cell of the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat).

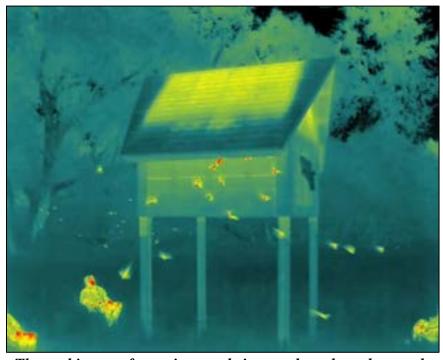


NABat acoustic monitoring station and Biologist Atamian trying to convince Biologist Lowe there was a bigfoot behind her

**Bat Maternity Colony Monitoring:** WDFW Biologists Atamian, Lowe, Devivo, Westerman, and Wagner, along with Bureau of Land Management Biologist Lowe and Eastern Washington University graduate students conducted annual exit counts at five of the local colonies. One of the colonies is growing, three are stable, and one is declining. Some of the decline observed in the one population might be due to the impact of the 2020 Whitney wildfire (~128,000 acres) on local insect populations and the 2021 drought reducing water and insect populations further.



Old ranch house that has become a bat colony since it has stopped being lived in



Thermal image of an exit count being conducted at a bat condo

**Bumblebee Surveys:** Biologists Prince and Turnock conducted one bumblebee survey near Colville. The cooler spring has delayed some flowering and additional surveys will likely be conducted a bit later than in previous years.

**Wolf Monitoring:** Biologists Prince and Turnock processed a young female wolf from the Dominion Pack. She was collared for monitoring purposes.



Young female member of the Dominion Pack

# **Providing Recreation Opportunities**

Waikiki Springs Fuel Management: Access Area Manager Dziekan met with WDFW Forest Management Team Lead Tveten and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fuel Management Expert Jeffries at the Waikiki Springs Unit of the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area. They hiked the property and discussed plans for fire fuel reduction, especially along the property boundary with houses. Jeffries provided on-the-ground expertise and advice on the best options for fuel reduction. Currently the plan is to reduce ladder fuels, remove smaller trees, brush back along trails, chip or remove dead wood, remove shrubs, and replace with fire-wise species. This project is still in its infancy and won't see results until late this year or into 2023.

**Hunting Access:** Natural Resource Technician Barron mailed out re-enrollment information letters to former hunting access cooperators. Technician Barron also met with two landowners to get signatures on new hunting access contracts. Barron updated the private lands hunting opportunities site and updated contact information on a cooperator's signs. Barron called two other cooperators to discuss extending their contract before the expiration date. Natural Resource Technician Janowski secured a renewal contract for a Hunt by Written Permission cooperator in Stevens County to extend through 2024. Technician Janowski also reached out to a cooperator in Ferry County to obtain a signature for a Hunt by Written Permission contract renewal.

# **Providing Conflict Prevention and Education**

**Deer Park Elk:** A reporting party has had continuing damage to leased land with orchard grass due to elk. The owner of the property would allow an archery-only land access; however, the plot is extremely small and near developments. We discussed loaning propane cannon and working with volunteers from Inland Northwest Wildlife Council to increase hazing on the property. The reporting party is interested in cannons but is still hesitant that this effort will be enough.

**Elk in Haystacks:** Elk have previously been getting into haystacks on a reporting party's property between January-April, but 12 missing haystacks were not noticed until April 2022. We advised the reporting party that there is no retroactive compensation or support for damage but if this issue occurs again this winter, we are happy to assist with hazing as time allows or consider hunter access programs or master hunter access depending on qualification requirements.

**State Line Elk:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist Kolb continued to try and keep elk pushed up in the foothills and out of the commercial crop areas throughout the week. The peak calving period will complicate hazing efforts over the next few weeks.

Non-lethal Deterrents: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Kolb met with a Walla Walla County livestock producer who wanted additional information about wolves and non-lethal deterrents. Kolb provided the producer with two fox lights and discussed other deterrent tools and husbandry practices. Kolb assisted multiple Columbia County producers with the installation of fox lights and fladry on private cattle pastures that have experienced recent wolf activity (the Columbia pack).



A solar powered fox light is deployed as one of numerous non-lethal deterrents in a private cattle pasture within the Columbia wolf pack territory



Fladry is deployed as one of numerous non-lethal deterrents in a private cattle pasture within the Columbia wolf pack territory

**Producer and United States Forest Service (USFS) Range Manager Check-ins:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist Wade checked in with multiple producers this week to monitor grazing progress and to share information on known wolf activity and collaring efforts. Wade also checked in with USFS Range Manager Druffel to give an update on collaring efforts and for information sharing.

**Bear Concerns in Pend Oreille County**: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Bennett continued to address black bear concerns in five areas throughout the county. Information on securing attractants were discussed in all situations. Two bear proof garbage cans were dropped off.

**Vineyard deer damage:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist Kolb met with a Walla Walla County vineyard owner about on-going damage issues. Advice was provided and the vineyard entered into Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreement.



Vine damage caused by deer in a grape vineyard. The consumption of budding vines may significantly impact a vineyard's total production

**Garfield County Bear Issue:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist Wade was contacted by a Garfield County homeowner who reported that a small black bear was coming to his house. The homeowner was worried that the bear may damage his property or injure his livestock. Wade directed the homeowner to haze the bear if it returned and also discussed eliminating any attractants that may be present.



Picture of the bear frequenting the area

Anatone Cougar Report: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Wade responded to a report of an Anatone area homeowner finding three deer fawns and one elk calf chased by a cougar near their home. The homeowner was worried for the safety of their small children and children from surrounding homes. Wade discussed the issue, collected pictures for the homeowner, and discussed what to do if the residents encountered a cougar. Wade shared the information with Officer Sabo who was going respond to the location to gather further evidence and meet with the homeowner.



Photo provided by the homeowner

**Grouse Flats Elk:** Wildlife Conflict Specialist Wade checked the Grouse Flats area for elk activity this week. Wade observed a small herd of elk in a hay field. The elk rapidly left the field upon Wade's arrival.

United States Forest Service Grazing Allotment: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Wade spent two days this week surveying two United States Forest Service (USFS) grazing allotments for signs of wolf activity prior to cattle being turned out. Wade observed tracks in both allotments, then conferred with USFS Range Manager Druffel and gave her an update. Wade also checked WDFW and private pastures near the USFS allotments.

Cattle Guard Cleanout: The Hog Canyon Access Area near Spokane had a problem this spring. Gravel filled in the cattle guard on the access road, potentially allowing cattle onto the property. The grate is located at the border of WDFW and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property, but nobody could determine who last graded the road and pushed the gravel in. Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area's (SLWA's) Assistant Manager Finch and Natural Resources Technician Wagner came to the rescue. They coordinated with Access Manager Dziekan and BLM Recreation Specialist Holmes to clean out the cattle guard, using SLWA's water truck and high-pressure hose. This creative solution prevented labor-intensive use of a welding torch and excavator!



SLWA Assistant Manager Finch removing gravel

# **Conserving Natural Landscapes**

**Wildflower Explosion:** This year's wet spring has brought on a flush of grasses and forbs in the Channeled Scablands, a strong contrast to the dry spring of 2021. Twenty-one months after the Whitney Fire swept through Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area, it is good to see native vegetation springing back. The shrub component will take longer to grow back up, however.



Spring grasses and forbs at Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area

The Swanson Lakes are Drying Up: The east Swanson Lake and west Swanson Lake (bisected by a diked roadway) are evaporating fast, even in a very wet spring. Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area staff members expect they will be dry by the end of June. A phragmites infestation found this spring on the west lake will need additional treatment beyond the already-applied herbicide, perhaps a burning in fall 2022.

#### **Providing Education and Outreach**

**Bears, Cougars, Moose, Oh My!** Biologist Prince and Officer Kirsch provided a presentation to the public as part of the REI Wednesdays in the Woods series at Riverside State Park. This is an annual event that the two have done for a few years now. The crowd was enthusiastic, asked great questions, and four lucky participants received a free can of bear spray.

# **Conducting Business Operations and Policy**

**New Employee at Sherman Creek Wildlife Area:** On June 1, Fure started work as the new Natural Resources Technician at Sherman Creek Wildlife Area. Fure received her bachelor's degree in biology from Central Michigan University. She moved to the Kettle Falls area earlier this year and is happy to work outdoors. Welcome to WDFW, Fure!



Natural Resources Technician Fure's first day at Sherman Creek Wildlife Area

## **REGION 3**

#### HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:

#### **Managing Wildlife Populations**

Washington Ground Squirrel Surveys: District 4 Wildlife Biologist Fidorra worked with Wildlife Technician Arthur on the fixed-plot squirrel survey for Washington ground-squirrels (WAGS). The survey is to assess the status and trend of WAGS across the Washington Range at survey sites repeated every five years. Initial impressions are that squirrel occupancy appears to be lower than 2017 but more surveys remain to be done though the end of May.

**Shrubsteppe Wolverine:** District 4 Wildlife Biologist Fidorra received reports thirdhand from several staff members who had been sent videos of a wolverine in the vicinity of the Columbia River near the Benton-Klickitat border! A few days later, a wolverine was confirmed shot in eastern Klickitat County in a chicken coop and WDFW 5 staff members responded to the incident. The wolverine is a Candidate Species for listing in Washington.



Image from a video of a wolverine taken by citizen RB McCord near the border of Benton County

**Burrowing Owl Breeding Season Begins:** District 4 Wildlife Biologist Fidorra and volunteer members checked artificial burrows for burrowing owls and conducted heavy weeding work. With all the rainfall lately, weed growth was overtaking some of the burrows and owls will abandon when vegetation gets too dense. Fortunately, several owls were on sites with eggs. Fidorra coordinated with partners including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Global Owl Project on ongoing methods and research processes to align efforts across central Washington.

# **Providing Recreation Opportunities**

Manastash Ridge Trails: Wenas Wildlife Area Manager Hughes met with a member of the Manastash Ridge Trails Coalition who represents the mountain bike community. They did a site visit to access trail conditions, areas of concern for spring runoff/stream crossings, decommissioned trails and new user-built trails that have been made since the Final Plan for the trails was developed. Hughes reached out to the full coalition and shared the final version of the approved management plan. Hughes is working on setting up a meeting this summer for the coalition to get back together to discuss implementation of the plan moving forward.

Oak Creek Wildlife Education Corps Volunteers: May 11 was this year's date for the Oak Creek Wildlife Education Corps (WEC) annual wildlife area clean-up volunteer effort. Eighteen of the WEC volunteers that regularly staff the Oak Creek Visitor's center during winter feeding operations arrived at 7:00 am to pick up garbage along designated routes of the wildlife area. This event also signifies the final monthly meeting for the WEC until they resume in November. An end-of-the-year service award dinner is planned for June this year, but Wildlife Area staff members hosted a barbeque lunch on the clean-up day to feed the hungry trash grabbers.



Manager Mackey prepares lunch for hardworking volunteers from the Wildlife Education Corps group after the annual clean-up

#### **Providing Conflict Prevention and Education**

**Rattlesnake Hills Elk Summer Bull Permits:** District 4 Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand prepared and delivered damage prevention permits (DPP) to landowners in Elk Area 3721. These permits assist with pressuring elk away from valuable wheat crops during critical plant development.

**Benton City Marmot Complaint:** District 4 Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand received and responded to a complaint from a Benton City landowner who was concerned about marmots foraging on his alfalfa hay crop. Education on marmot biology, lethal and non-lethal control techniques, and reference to "Living with Wildlife" was discussed.

**Selph Landing Badger:** District 4 Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand responded to a nuisance badger call after a landowner's dog received wounds from a badger protecting its young outside of Pasco. The landowner was told that badgers can become very protective, and it would be advisable to keep their dogs away from the badgers' den. Additional information was provided on local Wildlife Control Operators and our "Living with Wildlife" reference materials. A report was generated in the Spillman Flex system.

**Paterson Deer Complaint:** District 4 Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand received and responded to a deer damage complaint from a large wine grape operation in Paterson near the Columbia River. Although hazing including pyrotechnics and gas cannons have been employed their effectiveness has diminished. Continued hazing and limited use of kill permits will be used to minimize the damage.

## **Conserving Natural Landscapes**

Wenas Mellergaard Wire Rolling: Biologist Daling and Technicians Stoltenow and Rodriguez completed rolling old barbwire on the Mellergaard property, just off Durr Road. This spring, Biologist Daling, Technicians Stoltenow and Rodriguez, Manager Hughes, and Assistant Manager Taylor rolled over seven miles of old four-strand barbwire fences and removed numerous old t-posts. The old fencing was removed so wildlife would be able to cross freely without getting tangled or caught in it.



Wire staged to be disposed of at Mellergaard



Pygmy short horned lizard found at Mellergaard

Wenas Wildlife Area McCabe Weed Treatment: Biologist Daling, Manager Hughes, and Technicians Stoltenow and Rodriguez treated five and a half acres of Whitetop (Hoary Cress) at the McCabe Fields site. Whitetop is an invasive and prolific spreader (one plant can produce from 1,200 to 4,800 seeds). The plants at McCabe were treated with broadleaf herbicide to control competition with native species.

**Wenas Wildlife Area Roza Fields:** Biologist Daling surveyed Roza Fields, near the bottom of Roza Creek. The area is slated to be aerially treated for broadleaf weeds next week. The weeds (mainly mustards) are actively growing. The treatment is aimed to limit competition with native grasses in the area.



View of Roza Fields, showing native bunch grasses with mustard growing in between

Oak Creek Wildlife Area Worrell Weed Treatment: Assistant Manager Charlet and Technician Boggs backpack treated portions of the Worrell ranch on the Cowiche Unit for Scotch thistle. Germination is much lower than in previous years with up to a 4-fold reduction in daily chemical use. This is an encouraging sign as it is likely in part due to proliferation of native vegetation since the fire in 2010. However, given the colder spring temperatures, the plants are slightly behind in their growth stage, so further germination of old seed banks could still occur as the weather warms back up.



Green-up on the far end of the headquarters feed site looking south towards headquarters.

After a few "false-starts" to spring, it appears to have finally arrived!

**Oak Creek Wildlife Area Windy Point Thinning Project:** Forester Hartmann solicited bids on Harvester and Purchaser contracts for Windy Point Commercial Thin Phase one. The project is scheduled to start early June and will take a few months to complete. Hartmann also posted public information signs along the FS-1302 in the vicinity of the project. Hartmann also accepted award of a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation grant to help fund Oak Creek's ongoing prescribed burn project.



Top: Public information sign for Windy Point posted at the FS-1302 & FS-1302-511 junction. Signs were posted at five locations along the FS-1302 on the perimeter of the project Bottom: Overview of Unit 2 of Windy Point Commercial Thin Phase one

Oak Creek Wildlife Area Tieton River Restoration Project: Manager Mackey met with Yakama Nation Fisheries Biologist to go over final plans for a floodplain/wetlands watering project along the Tieton River. It will consist of an uplifting rock diversion weir in the main channel that will seasonally water a partially constructed side channel feeding into existing wetlands and historic channel braiding of the Tieton River to promote development of more appropriate spawning habitat for fish and expand/maintain riparian habitat within the drainage while increasing groundwater storage capacity.

**Salmon Recovery Funding Board:** Manager Mackey met with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board review committee to show them the site and help them understand the implementation and importance of the project designed by Yakama Nation Fisheries. They will be reviewing a proposal submitted by Yakama Nation Fisheries to fund the project during this upcoming grant cycle.

**Sunnyside Snake River Wildlife Area Wetland Enhancement:** Assistant Manager Ferguson and Natural Resource Technician Wascisin planted approximately four acres of a native moist soil management seed mix high in desirable waterfowl food plants in the Rice Paddies wetlands.



Marsh Master tracks after spreading moist soil management seed mix on roughly four acres in two cells

Wetland Infrastructure Repairs: Sunnyside Snake River Wildlife Area Assistant Manager Ferguson and Natural Resource Technician Wascisin finished repairing the pipe connecting the Wendell-Phillips Road pump to the Bounds Pond supply line, leaving only connecting the pump panel wiring to the power source in order to finish the two-plus-year project of rebuilding the pump well, replacing the large diameter road culvert, and reattaching the water supply lines. After the project is complete, the pump will supply water to Bound's Pond in the Reserve and approximately 40 acres of wetlands in the Haystack Ponds, increasing waterfowl habitat and hunting opportunity.

Wetland Vegetation Maintenance at Sunnyside Headquarters Unit: After a deeper inundation of water combined with a longer saturation period than usual this past winter, we discovered that, as hoped, much of the reed canary grass infesting the Johnson Wetland area had been killed. Approximately half of the reed canary grass in the east end of Johnson is now gone, opening up the area to a greater diversity of wetland plant species. Next winter we plan on using the same technique, hopefully controlling much of the remaining invasive grass.



Large section of dead reed canary grass after longer-term deep inundation in Johnson Wetland.

Vegetation Management within the Sunnyside Snake River Wildlife Area: Natural Resource Technician Wascisin sprayed approximately 35 acres of invasive weeds in upland fields and along roadsides. Assistant Manager Rodgers and Manager Kaelber serviced and calibrated spray equipment at the Windmill Ranch Headquarters and began spraying invasive weeds, including approximately 8 acres of the newly seeded upland restoration project near Powerline Lake. Manager Kaelber removed beaver debris from the 7-acre pond water control structure in the Mesa Lake Unit and made necessary repairs to restore outflow to Mesa Lake and improve nesting habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl.

#### **Providing Education and Outreach**

**High School Student Job Shadow:** Assistant Manager Ferguson and Natural Resource Technician Wascisin hosted a Sunnyside High School Junior for a job shadow for two days. We showed him the diversity of wildlife on the wildlife area including shorebirds and waterfowl on the wetlands, some the routine tasks of daily work here, and a day of banding wood ducks in some of the 31 wood duck boxes on the Sunnyside Unit.



High school student Sawyer and Natural Resource Technician Wascisin putting signs on new kiosk at Lower Rupely parking lot

**Salmon Summit:** Sunnyside Snake River Wildlife Area Assistant Manager Rodgers and Ringold Springs Hatchery Specialist Manderbach had the opportunity to attend Benton County Conservation District's yearly Salmon Summit event, where they spent two days educating local fourth grade classes about the fish and wildlife species of Washington and the importance of conservation. The kids had a blast learning about native species and habitats.





Fourth graders of the Tri Cities eager to learn about all things fish and wildlife!

#### **Conducting Business Operations and Policy**

**New Wildlife Technician on Board:** District 4 Wildlife Biologist Fidorra met with the new Waterfowl Section Technician Klienhenz to orient him to District 4 where he will assist with dove and duck trapping this summer.

Oak Creek Assistant Manager and Permanent Technician on Board: Please welcome Biologist Charlet and Natural Resource Technician Boggs to the Oak Creek team.

# **Other**

**Mallard's Hatching:** Sunnyside Snake River Wildlife Area Manager Kaelber and his daughter rescued a hen mallard with her 11 ducklings from a busy street in Pasco and released them along the Columbia River near Wade Park.



Mallard hen and ducklings after release near Columbia River

## **REGION 6**

# **Managing Wildlife Populations**

**Band-tailed Pigeon:** Biologists Novack and Cent conducted trapping and banding efforts for band-tailed pigeons near Neilton in District 17 and around Port Angeles in District 16. Various regional and Game Division staff members assisted the effort. Eleven new transmitters have been attached to birds and all appear to be uploading their data points. Four birds were transmitted in Neilton and seven birds near Port Angeles. At least seven birds from the 2021 captures are still transmitting data and appear to be in close proximity to their capture sites.

**Snowy Plover Surveys:** District 17 staff members completed the second breeding window surveys along with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Shoal water Tribal staff members at Long Beach, Midway Beach, and Graveyard Spit.

**Western Pond Turtles:** Biologist Murphie spent time conducting vegetation management activities at the release site in this district.

**Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Support for District 16 Efforts:** Biologist Murphie conducted surveys of Taylor's checkerspot butterflies (TCB) at a location in District 16 during May and early June. These surveys were hampered by cooler and wetter than normal weather this season. As a result, a full complement of survey effort was not completed and TCB counts are anticipated to be lower than expected.

**Black Bear Density Survey Effort** – **Hair Snares:** Biologist Murphie assisted District 16 in setting up 36 hair-snare corrals in the Clearwater Game Management Unit. Hair samples collected from bears during this effort will be submitted for DNA analysis and used to generate an estimate of density for the GMU.

#### **Conserving Natural Landscapes**

**Marbled Murrelet:** Biologist Novack visited some Department of Natural Resources (DNR) property that is expected to be surplused in the next few years. He will develop a Lands 20/20 application to acquire the site from DNR since it lies adjacent to existing WDFW lands and has great potential for marbled murrelet due to the large tree size and closed canopy structure.



Large spruce and canopy at DNR site assessed for future WDFW ownership

**Future Lands near Davis Creek:** Biologists Novack and Cent visited soon-to-be-acquired lands adjacent to the Davis Creek Unit to assess landowner compliance with removing some tire debris and evaluate the site for future restoration.

# **Providing Education and Outreach**

**General Wildlife Inquiries:** The region responded to inquiries received by phone or emails related to a deer, fawn, goat hunting, elk hunting, bear hunting, eagles, raven, and great blue heron.

# **Conducting Business Operations and Policy**

**Aircraft Safety Training Course Instruction:** Biologist Murphie prepped for and conducted two aircraft safety classes recently.

# **Other**

**New District 17 Assistant District Wildlife Biologist:** Cent started her duties on June 1. She comes to WDFW from the Warm Springs Tribe in Oregon where she was a Wildlife Biologist working on Oak Habitat restoration and developing a Natural Resource Management Plan. Her prior experience includes work with piping plovers, large carnivores, and a master's research project that looked at the impacts of grazing on waterbirds. For her first day on the job, she got to welcome an orphaned fawn to the regional office while it awaited transfer to a rehabilitation facility.



Assistant District Wildlife Biologist Marissa Cent with orphaned fawn at the Montesano Regional office