

Wildlife Program – Bi-weekly Report

August 1 to 15, 2022

LANDS DIVISION

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:

Providing Education and Outreach

Public Lands Visitation Study: The Department, along with other state natural resource agencies including the Department of Natural Resources, State Parks, and the Recreation and Conservation Office, partnered with Earth Economics to determine public visitation and the economic contribution of outdoor recreation on state-managed public lands and measure how spending circulates within the state's economy. The report found that visitation on state public lands increased by 12% from 2019 to 2020, including a 7% increase on WDFW-managed lands, and supported \$5.9 billion in spending on goods and services. This spending supported more than 37,000 full- and part-time jobs, \$1.65 billion in wages, and more than \$435 million in local and state tax revenue.

For more information on the study, see [WDFW's recent blog post](#).

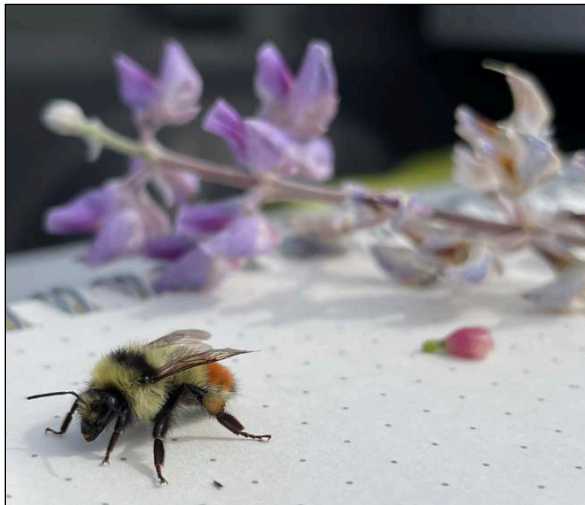
You can read the final report online here: [Outdoor Recreation on State Lands in Washington](#)

REGION 2

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:

Managing Wildlife Populations

Bumble Bee Survey District 7: Biologists Jeffreys and Eilers and Scientific Technician Pavelchek completed bumble bee surveys in two more Chelan County grid cells, one in the Mills Canyon area of the Swakane Wildlife Unit and one near Fish Lake. Fortunately, there were plenty of bees to be caught, and biologists captured 20 bumble bees of at least six species at the Mills Canyon survey site and 28 bees of at least three species at the Fish Lake site. Habitat data were collected for each grid including identifying and photographing flowering plant (food source) species. The increased bee species diversity encountered at Mills Canyon may in part have reflected the greater diversity of flowering plants available at this site.



Central bumble bee (Bombus centralis) getting ready to take off after processing (L) and two-form bumble bee (Bombus bifarius) visiting a snowberry (R; Symphoricarpos albus).

– Photo by J. Eilers

The data collected from this survey were entered into the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas online database. The PNW Bumble Bee Atlas is a collaborative effort between WDFW, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation to track and conserve the bumble bees of Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

Bumble Bee Survey District 6: Biologist Heinlen conducted bumble bee surveys within District 6. These surveys address bumble bee distribution, health, and habitat needs across Washington. Of note is any detections of the three Species of Greatest Conservation Need: the Morrison's, Western, and Suckley Cuckoo Bumble Bee. Biologist Heinlen did detect the Western Bumble bee. More information about WDFW Species of Greatest Conservation Need can be found in the [State Wildlife Action Plan](#).



The Western Bumble Bee (Bombus occidentalis). A WDFW Species of Greatest Conservation Need — Photo by J. Heinlen

Bat Monitoring: Biologists conducted emergence counts at three more known bat colonies in Chelan County: a barn on Entiat River Rd, Lake Chelan State Park housing, and a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) warehouse near Lake Wenatchee. The Entiat and Lake Chelan sites have been monitored the previous two summers, and counts were down this year. However, chattering was heard in the roof of the house at Lake Chelan State Park even after the exit appeared to be over, and much chattering was heard in the warehouse by Lake Wenatchee, as well.

As these are maternity roosts, this suggests pups here may not be volant (able to fly) yet, which could be the reason for the smaller numbers of bats seen exiting this year. Although counts were conducted in the same time frame as last summer, it's possible that this year's cool, wet spring and early summer may have delayed parturition. Biologists will return to these sites in early August to determine whether numbers of exiting bats have increased as one would expect when pups are able to fly.

The Entiat barn hosts a colony of big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*), while it appears that the warehouse by Lake Wenatchee hosts a multi-species colony like that occupying Lake Chelan State Park housing, a mix of little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*) and Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*).



*Research Scientist M. Schroeder processing a female Mount Rainier white-tailed ptarmigan
— J. Heinlen*

Ptarmigan: Research Scientist M. Schroeder and Biologist J. Heinlen spent two days in the Pasayten Wilderness monitoring the Mount Rainier white-tailed ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucura rainierensis*). We documented several ptarmigans including one hen with three chicks, three previously banded males (one five years old, two three years old), and we banded a female. A remote camera was placed to monitor Ptarmigan use of snow fields, as has been done over the past couple of years. This work informs management of Ptarmigan in Washington state which is currently proposed for federal listing. Information about the life history, habitat needs, and status of this subspecies of Ptarmigan can be found at the [USFWS Species Status Assessment](#).

Washington Wolverine Survey: The Washington Wolverine Survey is part of a western multi-state effort to determine current baseline distribution, occupancy, and genetic characteristics of wolverines. The survey consists of setting up remote cameras in the fall with an automated dispenser that releases scent throughout the survey and gun brushes to passively collect hair for genetic analysis. The set is pulled when accessible the next spring/summer. Biologist Heinlen and WDFW volunteer Fischer pulled sets near Windy Peak and Thunder Mountain in District 6. Even though no wolverines were detected at these two sites several other species including other rare carnivores were detected, including lynx, wolf, and fisher. You can find out more about this project from the report: [Western States Wolverine Conservation Project: Results of the Washington Wolverine Survey, Winter 2016-2017](#).



Other species detected during the Washington Wolverine Survey. Top, left to right: Lynx, Wolf, Fisher. Bottom, left to right: Marten, Black Bear, Moose

Providing Recreational Opportunities



Finished camping pad with packed gravel, bumpers, and fire ring — Photo by N. Wehmeyer.

Sinlahekin Campground Renovations: Sinlahekin Staff members finished up the campground upgrades by installing gravel on some of the access roads to the campgrounds that were in much need of repair, along with adding gravel to many of the camping pads at the various campgrounds. Staff members also installed parking bumpers and gravel around the picnic tables that were installed at some of the sites. This has been part of the Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) Campground Renovations grant. Many of these sites have been used regularly and are a big hit with campers. We have received many thanks from the public on the upgrades.

Providing Conflict Prevention and Education

Range Riding: Specialist Heilhecker met with a rancher to sign a new damage prevention cooperative agreement. The agreement cost-shares range riding activity in the Beaver Creek territory.

Deer and Elk Exclusion Fencing: Specialist Heilhecker continues to work on ordering fencing materials for signed cost-share fencing agreements. Prices for steel t-posts and woven wire from the vendor on state contract are unreasonably high so she is getting bids for fencing materials to

justify purchasing off-contract. The wood posts were delivered to a central location in Okanogan County. The vendor will arrange to have the wood posts delivered to each landowner's property.

Elk Damage: Specialist Heilhecker received a call regarding elk damage. The landowner stated he hazes the elk each evening, riding his motorcycle, chasing the elk, until they go back onto national forest. He also provided three links to YouTube videos of elk and elk sign on their property. There is an active damage prevention cooperative agreement for the property. Specialist Heilhecker issued him a landowner kill permit.

Osprey Young Recovery: Specialist Heilhecker spoke to a landowner who found an osprey nest on the ground. The landowner stated the pin feathers on the three young were mostly gone. His neighbor found a list of rehabilitators on the WDFW website. They found a rehabilitation facility willing to take the osprey and will drive the birds to the westside of the state.

Reducing Deer and Elk Damage to Crops: Specialist Bridges continues to work with a multitude of landowners in assisting with attempts to decrease damage from deer and elk.

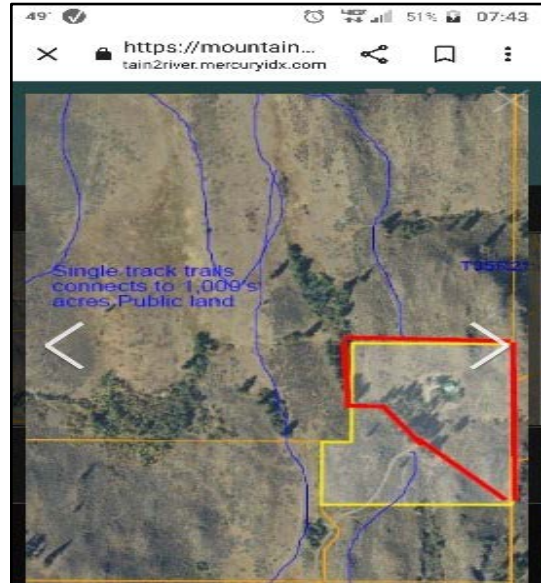
Preventing Dangerous Wildlife Encounters: Specialist Bridges has spent a considerable amount of time working with the City of Leavenworth, and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to begin reducing a major attractant (garbage cans at the school). Funding continues to be challenging, but Bridges is working with NGO partners to secure needed resources. Specialist Bridges met with the City of Leavenworth's Public Director to discuss fencing designs, permitting, and functionality of design with garbage pickup trucks.

Sheep and Goat Fencing Project: Specialist Bridges has been working the last five months to address domestic bighorn sheep disease concerns by working with a private landowner, Wild Sheep Foundation, and the Asotin County Conservation District. Fencing work to keep domestic sheep from interacting with wild sheep began on the August 25 and should take three-four weeks to complete.

Conserving Natural Landscapes



Unauthorized trail mowing on the Methow Wildlife Area — Photo by A. Repp



Network of unauthorized trails on the Methow Wildlife Area — Photo by A. Repp

Unauthorized Trail Mowing on Methow WLA: Wildlife Area Assistant Manager Repp confirmed illegal mowing and contacted Officer Day. His investigation revealed that a neighboring landowner had been doing the mowing. Officer Day contacted the landowner. Coincidentally the landowner is in the process of selling part of his property and the real estate company is advertising the unauthorized trails.



Screenshot of unauthorized trails



Scotch Thistle infestation on the Chiliwist Wildlife Area

— Photo by *N. Wehmeyer*

Sinlahekin WLA Noxious Weeds: Sinlahekin Staff members have been treating noxious weeds on the Chiliwist Unit. They have been using a variety of methods to treat the weeds from herbicide to hand pulling. This continued treatment has made a noticeable change in the amount of Scotch Thistle on the unit. Staff members will continue to treat the Scotch Thistle throughout the summer. Some of the plants have started to bolt, staff members will be clipping seed heads and spraying rosettes.

Scotch Creek WLA Noxious Weeds: Staff members started their annual control efforts of Musk Thistle on the Chesaw Unit. The infestation is widespread across the unit with plants in varying stages of maturity. Control efforts are currently focused on the South slopes at the lower elevations. Staff members also spot treated annual and perennial weeds in a native grass seeding planted in 2015. The seeding was mowed last fall to prep for the spot treatment.

Methow Wildlife Area Noxious Weeds: Staff spot treated 26 acres for houndstongue primarily in the Rendezvous Unit. Staff members will continue treatments in June weather permitting. Staff received a complaint that someone had been mowing miles of unauthorized trails in the Little Cub area of the Rendezvous Unit.

Scotch Creek Riparian Restoration Project: Staff members trimmed the grass around most of the newly planted shrubs in the project area. Trimming prevents the grasses from shading out the newly planted shrubs.

Habitat Plots: Biologist Cook applied herbicides to a failed irrigated food plot to prepare for planting again this summer. Cook applied herbicides on another habitat site to control weeds prior to planting this fall with native grasses. The herbicide appears to be working well.

Biologist Cook also visited food plots planted this spring. Two of the three plots are not growing well, and irrigation failures may be the primary factor. Low germination of a seed batch may be another factor because some species are growing better than others. They also planted triticale in a wildlife food plot that had poor establishment earlier in the year. Wildlife food plots provide standing forage in the fall and winter that can help support a wide variety of wildlife, including big game, small game and upland birds, and non-game birds and small mammals.



Aspen, Water birch, Choke Cherry and Hawthorne planted in the project area by the Tonasket and Oroville 5th graders — Photo by B. Dupont



Food plot with good germination and growth from sunflowers but limited growth from corn seeds. W Grant County — Photo by N. Cook

Okanogan Lands 20/20 Project Submittals: Okanogan Lands Operations Manager Haug submitted five applications for acquisitions in Okanogan County. The projects protect critical shrub-steppe and riparian habitats and increase recreation opportunity in the area. The applications will be reviewed later this month and then presented to staff in Olympia for approval.



Weeds showing signs of dying after herbicide application, site to be planted with native grass in Fall 2022 in West Grant County — Photo by N. Cook

Habitat Project Maintenance: Private Lands Biologist Braaten mowed around trees and shrubs on the Rice Alling project site.

Douglas County Wildfire: Private Lands Biologist Braaten was called by landowners about wildfire in Ragged Butte area in Douglas County. It was put out after it burned around 500 acres by fire fighters. This area was very ruffed and rocky but was adjacent to critical habitat for sage grouse and State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Conservation Reserve Program (SAFE CRP) fields.

SAFE-CRP: Private Lands Biologist Braaten met in person and called several landowners who have showed interest in participating in SAFE. Douglas County Farm Service Agency (FSA) is waiting to find out if there are any acres available for SAFE and asked Braaten to let landowners know there may be an opportunity and to call and get on list. In Douglas County, Wildlife Program Biologist Morris worked on a conservation plan for SAFE-CRP that is being re-enrolled this year. This included assessing the existing vegetation in the landowner's fields for wildlife habitat value, determining if changes need to be made to the enrolled fields, and planning what implementation and management actions need to be done to maintain high wildlife value on the field. This work will directly benefit wildlife by keeping agricultural land in high quality native vegetation that provides forage, cover, and pollinator habitat that supports a more healthy and diverse wildlife population.

Providing Education and Outreach

WDFW Staff members Tour with Methow Conservancy: Methow Wildlife Area (WLA) staff members Troyer, Repp and Wottlin along with Rx Burn Lead Eberlein and Lands Operations Manager Haug, met with the Methow Conservancy to tour forest health treatments in the Ramsey Creek area. The tour consisted of conservancy staff members, Wildlife Area Advisory Committee members and interested citizens who wanted to learn more about prescribed burning and forest health. Also helping on the tour was University of Washington Research Scientist S. Pritchard who provided technical knowledge regarding fire ecology. WDFW staff members provided information on fuels treatments, prescribed burn information and an overview of agency interest in forest health. Reviews of the tour were very positive with participants expressing how much they learned over the half-day adventure.



Group shot of the tour near the Ramsey Creek Campground — Photo by J. Haug

Douglas County Waiver Listening Session: Congresswoman Schier hosted a listening session in Marysville to discuss CRP waiver issue. Private Lands Biologist Braaten contacted a few landowners to be participants, offer support and discuss. One landowner attended.

Responding to Hunters Questions: Specialist Bridges has been responding to numerous calls from successful special permit holders for the Peshastin and Malaga hunts

Conducting Business Operations and Policy

Sinlahekin Assistant Manager Onboarding: Assistant Manager Riley completed his training to get his wildland red card certification. The next step to get his full certification is completing the pack test which he has scheduled. All staff members on the Sinlahekin WLA will be red card certified and ready for the wildland fire season. Hopefully they won't need to use their training this year.

Pheasants Forever Meeting: Biologists Cook and Morris attended parts of the local chapter of Pheasants Forever to discuss potential collaboration and field work WDFW might do with some habitat improvement projects. Cook had the opportunity to meet with Pheasants Forever Biologist to discuss further collaboration and assistance.

Private Lands Workshop: Private Lands Biologist Braaten, Morris, Cook and Rickel attended the Private Lands workshop in Ellensburg with staff members from around state. Staff members met to receive training and discuss issues related to the Private Lands program. Biologist Morris and Cook gave a presentation and led a discussion on using geographic information system (GIS) for private lands work. Biologist Braaten led a discussion on new techniques, tools, equipment, and herbicide. Other biologists gave presentations on various topics including seed mixes, equipment to use, etc. The discussions were very beneficial for sharing ideas and learning.

Other



Moose on the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area — Photo by N. Wehmeyer



Towhee drying off near the Dave Brittell Trail on the Sinlahekin WLA — Photo by J. Haug



Bighorn sheep on a natural mineral lick near Blue — Photo by N. Wehmeyer



Summer morning landscape and wildflowers on the Chiliwist Unit — Photo by N. Wehmeyer



Chiliwist wildflowers and fence — Photo by N. Wehmeyer



Newly planted grain hay field on the Charles and Mary Eder Unit — Photo by B. Dupont



Mule deer doe and fawn — Photo by C. White



Turkey Vulture on the Charles and Mary Eder Unit — Photo by C. White



Strawberry Lake on the Chesaw Unit — Photo by B. Dupont



Happy Hill Water birch planting. Water birch is an important food source for Sharp-tail grouse in the winter when snow limits their ability to forage on the ground. Planted fall of 2021 — Photo by B. Dupont



Stormy sunset in the shrubsteppe over Tonasket — Photo by J. Haug



Sun through rain shower over the Tiffanys — Photo by J. Haug

REGION 3

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:

Managing Wildlife Populations

Bat Vaccinations: District 8 staff members in collaborations with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), assisted in the administration of vaccination trials for the treatment of White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) in a resident bat colony. Multi-year monitoring has indicated colony decline in this white-nose positive population of little brown bats, *Myotis spp.* Bats were captured and randomly selected to receive a vaccine or control dosage. Captured bats will be monitored to assess vaccination efficacy.



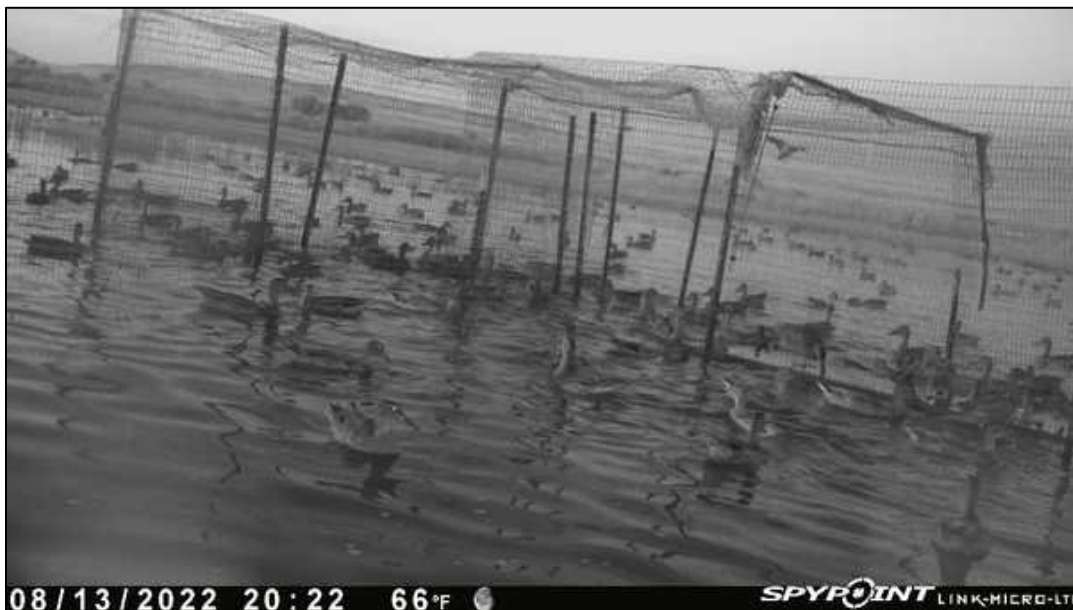
A captured bat receiving an oral vaccine against White-Nose Syndrome

Sunnyside Bat Sampling: Sunnyside Snake River Wildlife Area Manager Kaelber recently assisted staff members from Wildlife Conservation Society Canada with sampling bats from a bat colony found within the Wildlife Area. There are at least three species of bats using the roost location. Western long-eared myotis, Yuma myotis, and Big brown bats were collected and sampled for white-nose syndrome, pit tagged, and released back into the night sky. This activity will help with upcoming research and allow for tracking bat movement throughout eastern Washington.



Bat sampling and Pit tagging

Migratory Bird Banding: District 8 ended dove banding with 300 bands deployed by volunteers, a very good hatch for the second year. Volunteers and staff members started baiting ducks and eventually set up traps at Sunnyside and Moxee. After a slow start, ducks showed up in good numbers and banding will begin soon. The cellular cameras have been saving a lot of time and travel. The photos let us know when sites need to be re-baited, when enough ducks are present to justify setting traps, and the best times to run traps.



Ducks arriving sunset at the Sunnyside trap



A Full Trap evening at Moxee

Bumble Bee Surveys: District 4 Wildlife Biologist Fidorra conducted a second round of bumble bee surveys on the Mesa Unit of Sunnyside Snake River Wildlife Area. Three bees were captured, believed to be Brown-belted Bumblebees. Fidorra uploaded photos and data to the Pacific Northwest Bumblebee Atlas Portal from this season's surveys.

Waterfowl Banding: District 4 Wildlife Biologist Fidorra worked with staff members to install five duck traps on the Sunnyside Snake River Wildlife Area and McNary National Wildlife Refuge. Trapping began slowly due to high temps and a late season for duck breeding as some small broods were still being observed. About 30 ducks were banded in two days, so we are holding off and baiting will continue until numbers rise.



Technician Manderbach with mallard ready for release at trap site in Franklin County

Providing Recreation Opportunities

Landowner Hunting Permits: Region 3 Private Lands Biologist Hulett worked to get two groups of landowners in the Landowner Hunting Permits (LHP) program their 2022-2023 LHP elk permits. Since their previous hunting report was submitted after its due date, permits were sent out later than usual and an unforeseen mailing problem delayed the permits even further.

Private Land Hunting Opportunities: Region 3 Private Lands Technician Manderbach began updating and preparing all private land hunting opportunities in Region 3 for the upcoming hunting seasons. This includes mowing parking lots, posting boundaries of properties, and updating landowner information on access signs.

Wenas Green Dot and Road Management Sign Replacement: Wenas Wildlife Area Technicians Rodriguez and Stoltenow replaced several of the green dot road rule management signs in the central portion of the wildlife area with an updated version. The signs were riveted into place and will provide users information on how to responsibly recreate along green dot roads and the surrounding areas.

Sheep Company Shooting Range Impact Signs: Wenas Wildlife Area Technicians Rodriguez and Stoltenow marked the boundary of the impact zone surrounding the target and shotgun shooting ranges located on Sheep Company Road with signs informing users of the potential dangers of entering the impact area.

Providing Conflict Prevention and Education

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Meeting: District 4 Wildlife Biologist Fidorra attended and presented at the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board's annual meeting. Fidorra provided the board an overview on current shrubsteppe status and local issues in the Yakima Basin for terrestrial wildlife. The group has primarily worked on aquatic species and were interested in branching out.

Rattlesnake Hills Elk Hazing: District 4 Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand continued to spend time this past week hazing elk near the top of Rattlesnake Mountain. Wheat harvest is in full swing and elk harvest on damage permits has dropped off likely from harvest activity and elk becoming more nocturnal.

Olympia Headquarters Visit: District 4 Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand provided a tour of the Rattlesnake Hills area with Statewide Human-Wildlife Conflict Analyst Todd. We conducted a late-night hazing operation where several big bull elk were observed and hazed back to the Hanford reservation. The next day we were able to meet with a wheat producer conducting a harvest operation and tour some of the fields that are experiencing damage from Hanford elk. It was a great opportunity to show some of the challenges concerning elk damage issues in the area and for in person meet and greet.



Analyst Todd and a landowner discussing elk damage

Ringold Deer Complaint: District 4 Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand received and responded to a new deer damage complaint from a large tree fruit operation north of Pasco near Ringold. Two new blocks of cheery trees have been browsed on by deer and the landowner was looking for possible solutions. After surveying the damage, several non-lethal hazing techniques including “Critter Getters” and chemical repellents will be implemented. If the problem continues, hunting pressure either by general season hunters and/or damage permits will be employed.



Deer Browse Damage to a Young Cherry Tree

Blackrock Damage Permits: District 4 Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand prepared Damage Prevention Permits for a landowner in the Blackrock area to address elk damage in his orchard, corn, and alfalfa hay crop.

Pasco Deer: District 4 Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand, District Biologist Fidorra and Enforcement staff members removed and euthanized a doe deer from a residence in Pasco. The deer had been living in their backyard for some time and was in very poor health.

West Richland Fawn: District 4 Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand responded to a call from a homeowner of an injured fawn deer near their residence in West Richland. The deer appeared to have severe injuries to its front legs and was in very poor condition. The deer was removed, euthanized, and then taken to a Department of Transportation carcass collection facility.

Wheat Damage Assessments: District 4 Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand assisted a crop adjuster with a damage assessment on a wheat claim on Rattlesnake Hills with collecting samples used to determine potential yields prior to harvest.



Crop Adjuster Conducting Wheat Head Count

Wenas Winter Closure Boundary Signs: Wenas Wildlife Area Technicians Rodriguez and Stoltenow continued to monitor and update signs on the eastern edge of the winter closure boundary in Jones Canyon, as well as the southern portion of the boundary between Jones Canyon and the Mellotte feeding site.

Conserving Natural Landscapes

Blackrock Pilot Fire Strip Project Update: Region 3 Private Lands Biologist Hulett monitored the Blackrock Greenstrip throughout the summer to estimate how long the projects will stay green. At this time, the forage kochia is the only planted species that is still actively growing but many of the other species have completed their growing cycle and even produced seed. The site will be managed later this year with a mowing and final chemical application.



Most of the green vegetation is forage kochia, annual kochia and Russian thistle in this greenstrip along Highway 24

Milk Creek Pacific Crest trail: Oak Creek Wildlife Area Forester Hartmann inspected pre-commercial thinning units in the Milk Creek drainage of the Rock Creek Unit of Oak Creek Wildlife Area. The contractor did an excellent job working through very dense stands of small trees and constructing high-quality piles in fuel reduction areas.



Completed pre-commercial thinning unit in Milk Creek drainage. Sun-loving species like western larch and pine species now have good space to establish a healthy canopy. Slash from cut trees was piled along roads to reduce fire hazard

Windy Point Forest Restoration: Oak Creek Wildlife Area Forester Hartmann met with contractor staff members to discuss work on Phase One of the Windy Point Thinning Project. Work on Phase One should begin by the end of August. Phase Two of the project is in the early planning stages; a multi-stakeholder tour is scheduled for the beginning of September.



Orange paint bands visible in the foreground and (currently) hidden in the background mark leave trees in Unit two of Windy Point Phase one



Phase overlook from one of the stops stakeholders will visit at the September tour

Sunnyside Wetland Maintenance: Sunnyside Snake River Wildlife Area staff members have been busy mowing wetlands to provide better habitat for migratory waterfowl and recreational opportunities. Seasonal maintenance is required to maintain areas of open water and reduce monocultures of cattail and bull rush. Personnel will be working in the wetlands prior to reflooding in September and October.



Staff mowing cocklebur and other wetland plants

Providing Education and Outreach

Cowiche Feeding Station Volunteer Project: Oak Creek Wildlife Area Manager Mackey and Forester Hartmann hosted volunteers from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to assist with barn and fence repairs, as well as litter pickup. This was the first time Oak Creek has been able to host a volunteer event since 2019 and we were glad to have the enthusiastic help!



Volunteers gather in the Oak Creek parking lot to review the day's activities



Volunteers strike a pose in front of the Cowiche Barn after the day's work

Sunnyside Night Out Event: Sunnyside Snake River Wildlife Area Natural Resource Technician Wascisin worked at the recent Sunnyside Night Out community event hosted by local Law Enforcement. She answered questions about local wildlife and the Sunnyside Wildlife Area. The WDFW booth had many animal skulls, pelts, and swag bag giveaways for kids.



WDFW outreach booth at Sunnyside National Night out event

Other

Region 3 Private Lands Technician: Region 3 Private Lands Technician Manderbach started with Region 3 Private Lands on Aug. 1, 2022, after spending the last month with the Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area. Manderbach grew up in the Tri Cities and moved back after getting his Ecological Biology degree from Eastern Oregon University. He was very fortunate to get a fall chinook creel position out of the Pasco office not long after graduation and he continued to work seasonal fish jobs for the next three years. Manderbach is thrilled to be with the Wildlife Program!

Cow Canyon Fire: The Cow Canyon Fire started close to BBQ Flats on DNR ground in the Wenas Valley on Aug. 3. The response shown for this fire was amazing and it really made a difference with getting it under control. By Aug 12, the fire was over 90% contained. The Wenas Wildlife Area closed for about a week due to the active fire. Staff members spent time posting signs for the closure. Manager Hughes coordinated with incident command and other resources involved heavily with the fire. A total of 5,832 acres burned, with approximately 614 acres burning on the Wenas Wildlife Area. Majority of the fire burned DNR and private ownership. The biggest impact of the fire was on the landowners within the community, it burned two homes, one cabin, and 11 outbuildings.



Cow Canyon Fire a few hours after the start of it on Aug. 3

Bryon Unit Fire: Sunnyside Snake River Wildlife Area Manager Kaelber responded to a fire within the Byron Unit on the evening of Aug. 10. The fire originated on the Grandview side of the Yakima River and crossed during a period of high wind. Approximately half the unit was burned. Sagebrush and water delivery pipes for wetlands were destroyed.



Byron Unit Fire