

# The Washington Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Washington Chapter of

The Wildlife Society

Spring 2017

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Danielle Munzing*



With the 2017 Annual Meeting behind us, many of us are hoping to get out in the field and do what we love. This year that has been a bit more challenging with the long, wet, cold spring. Seems like a lot of roads are impassable due to that last hunk of snow in a shaded drainage that just won't melt. For me, this is my favorite time of year: it means time to monitor Northern Goshawk nest sites, survey for Northern Spotted Owls, and be in the field with my co-workers to consult on their projects and determine how I can help them accomplish their activities while designing them in way that could also benefit wildlife habitat. The annual meeting this year was the perfect inspiration for the work I do, combining wildlife habitat and forestry. Meeting with the Society of American Foresters has always been a great success, and based on the feedback I received from attendees, 2017 was no different.

This year's conference was held during the last week of March in Yakima, Washington. I really enjoy the annual meetings for the diversity of people that come together. The plenary session was a perfect representation of that diversity with several talks all addressing the theme, "Forests and Wildlife: Responding to Change." I thought about the theme particularly during the presentation by Kelly McAllister that focused on making highways better for wildlife through infrastructure and improvement projects. It will be interesting to see how the infrastructure changes affect the landscape for wildlife and their ability to cross a major east/west barrier in this state. Washington is doing so much for wildlife and their habitats across the state and in ways that are new and innovative. I hope that you, The Wildlife Society members, benefit from not only the annual meetings, but also our biannual newsletter, to keep up to date on what our members are up to across the state. Be sure and peruse the Regional Reports.

Speaking of diversity, I had the pleasure this year of meeting an attendee not affiliated with either of the partner societies, but who works as a forester on the East Coast. Bob Williams came all the way from Laurel Springs, New Jersey, to tell us how he has been successfully managing pine

forests, for over 25 years, using an ecological approach to provide habitat for threatened and endangered species. I really enjoyed hearing his perspective on how he has become what he calls an

ecological forester. Bob did such an amazing job of articulating the importance of collaboration between foresters and wildlife biologists and the keys to his success. That message of collaboration perfectly sums up why and how we produce a successful annual meeting each year.

## 2017 JOINT ANNUAL MEETING

*Danielle Munzing*

I hope you had the chance to attend the 2017 Joint Annual Meeting held between the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Washington Society of American Foresters in Yakima, Washington focused on Forests and Wildlife: Responding to Change.



**FORESTS AND WILDLIFE:  
RESPONDING TO CHANGE**

**YAKIMA CONVENTION CENTER**

**&**

**RED LION HOTEL  
YAKIMA, WA**

**MARCH 28-31, 2017**

The joint meeting was well attended, drawing more than 200 people from the Washington State Society of American Foresters and the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society, including 60 students. Thanks in part to the generosity of meeting sponsors (more than \$10,000 in donations!), we were able to provide free lodging for 14 students.

The week's events started on Tuesday with pre-meeting workshops, including:

- Developing Forest Stewardship Plans
- Timber Harvest Contracts and Compliance
- Forest Wetlands: Identification and Management

Wednesday morning was busy, with meetings for each partner society and talks focusing on **Habitat for Wildlife** and **Hot Topics**. Most sessions included research from both east and west of the Cascades. If you are wondering what might be considered a Hot Topic, the session covered everything from copper bullets, to white-nose syndrome, to grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades.

Wednesday afternoon offered three sessions. **Forest Health and Ecological Integrity** addressed how our forested landscapes have changed over time with fire and how things may look in the future with climate change. The **Predator/Prey Relations** session covered a number of species including birds, marine mammals, and large carnivores. The **Forest Certification and Timber Markets** session covered various types of certification for tree farms and government agencies.

The evening was lively with a hosted reception that provided guests with beverages and a nacho bar! In addition, there was the launch of the photo contest, exhibitors were available, there was the very popular student mentoring session and the always exciting student **Quiz Bowl**. This year the West Coast Team took home first place. CONGRATULATIONS!

Thursday morning started with the **Plenary Session** focused on the theme of the meeting. After a night of socializing and quiz bowling it was nice to see a large turnout to the session. This year we had leaders from the Yakama Nation, Washington Department of Transportation, SDS Lumber Co., Forterra, and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Each speaker addressed the changes they have seen across Washington Landscapes and measures currently being taken to make improvements for forests and wildlife habitat. The session was followed by a hosted lunch and the charismatic and engaging **Commissioner of Public Lands, Hilary Franz**. Commissioner Franz addressed current changes happening in Washington State, her

mission as Commissioner, and then opened the floor to questions. The morning was informative and engaging for all. We even had a visit from the local TV station.

Thursday afternoon offered sessions on **Forest and Wildlife Research, Thinning for Wildlife: Late and Early Seral Habitats** and **IGNITE Talks**. IGNITE talks are often a big hit. They are short (10-minute presentations) with limited time on slides. The session is a great way to give a presentation on preliminary results or updates.

The awards banquet and auction Thursday evening highlighted fabulous food, socializing, awards for special achievements, and some laughs.

Friday morning came before we knew it and suddenly we were wrapping up the week with a WA-TWS member breakfast in the morning, followed by talks focusing on **Mesocarnivores** and **Wildlife Conservation**. Meanwhile, WSAF offered a **Small Forest Landowner Stewardship and Restoration Tour** in Cle Elum.

A warm round of applause to the steering committee and to all who participated. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

Special thanks go out to those people and organizations who sponsored our joint annual meeting in Yakima. The following sponsors helped assure a high-quality program for the broad array of natural resource professionals in attendance.





Finally, let's hear it for the the hardworking and fun-loving people who put so much effort into planning this meeting and bringing it to life! Here (with apologies for the inevitable oversights and omissions) is a partial list of the contributions of various team members:

**Andy Perleberg** (WSSAF)—Field Trip

**Annemarie Prince** (WA-TWS)—Volunteer Coordinator

**Bill Vogel** (WA-TWS)—Awards, Workshops

**Bruce Thompson** (TWS)—Student Lodging Assistance

**Danielle Munzing** (WA-TWS)—Steering Committee, Catering Coordination, Photo Contest

**Dick Hopkins** (WSSAF)—Quiz Bowl

**Dominic Bachman** (WA-TWS)—Student Mentoring Session

**Jeff Kozma** (WA-TWS)—Poster Session, Program Development

**John Walkowiak** (WSSAF)—Steering Committee, Audio-Visual, Catering, Exhibitors, Facilities

**Katy Stuart** (WA-TWS)—Steering Committee, Auction/Raffle

**Ken Bevis** (WA-TWS)—Auctioneer

**Lori Rasor** (SAF)—Registration

**Melinda Olson** (SAF)—Registration

**Mike Hall** (WA-TWS)—Registration

**Peter Heide** (WSSAF)—Plenary Session

**Phil Hess** (WSSAF)—Field Trip

**Ron Tressler** (WA-TWS)—Printed Program

**Sara Hansen** (WA-TWS)—Quiz Bowl

**Tony Fuchs** (WA-TWS)—Steering Committee, Meeting Sponsorships, Plenary Session

**Wendy Sammarco** (WSSAF)—Steering Committee



The team that made the WSSAF/WATWS joint annual meeting possible.

From left to right (irrespective of rows): Jeff Kozma, Annemarie Prince, Peter Heide, Sara Hansen, Chuck Lorenz, Phil Hess, Dominic Bachman, Melinda Olson, Rod Pfeifle, Bruce Thompson, Katy Stuart, Wendy Sammarco, Bill Vogel, Noelle Nordstrom, Lori Rasor, Tom Hanson, Danielle Munzing, Andy Perleberg, Ken Bevis, Kathy Brodhead, Mike Hall, Tony Fuchs, John Walkowiak. Photo collage: Mike Hall

## ELECTION RESULTS

Many thanks to all who participated in our recent elections, both by voting and (especially) by running for positions on the Executive Board. After tallying the results, we are pleased to announce that **Angelique Curtis** has been elected Vice President and **Sara Kindschuh** is our new Treasurer. In addition, **Dominic Bachman** and **Annemarie Prince** are joining us as board members.

Please join us in thanking and welcoming our new board members. Many, many thanks also to **Kathy Broadhead** (outgoing Treasurer), and to **Sara Hansen** and **Ron Tressler** for their dedicated service as board members!

Here is a bit of background information about our newly elected officers.

### **Angelique Curtis (Vice President)**

Angelique is originally from Red Feather Lakes, Colorado. She received a BS in Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism from Colorado State University in 2007 and a Master of Natural Resource from Utah State University in 2016. Her background is in big game and small game management, wildlife population demography, and wildlife disease ecology. Over the past 14 years she has had the opportunity to hold various positions in different federal, state, and provincial governments. These positions have given her a broad perspective on the different issues of wildlife management and research. Currently, she is the Small Game Section Manager for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. She directs the private lands access, furbearer, upland game, turkey, and small game programs.

Her professional interests include spatial and temporal wildlife movements with implications from anthropogenic factors (hunting, urban sprawl, energy development, etc...) and general wildlife population demography.

### **Sara Kindschuh (Treasurer)**

Sara works for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as the Game Data Biologist, which she began in 2015. In this position she manages harvest, survey, telemetry, and other data from game species across the state. Before coming to WDFW Sara received her MSc in Wildlife Science with a minor in Applied Statistics from New Mexico State University. There she studied the application of GPS cluster analysis to black bear carnivory research within the context of a larger project monitoring the responses of bear, cougar, elk, and mule deer to forest restoration treatments. Sara has a wide assortment of technical skills (programs such as R, SAS, SQL, ArcGIS, MS Access and Excel) as well as field experience working on a

variety of projects including elk calf mortality, Merriam's turkey habitat and movements, fisheries monitoring, small mammal population monitoring, and others. She also served as the senior class treasurer during her undergraduate studies. Sara has been a member of TWS since 2010 and is honored to be considered a candidate for treasurer for the Washington Chapter.

### **Annemarie Prince (Board)**

Annemarie Prince is the Assistant District Biologist for Washington Fish and Wildlife's Colville District. She has worked for WDFW for 7 years, the last 3 of which have been out of Colville. Annemarie works on a variety of species including: moose, white-tailed deer, grizzly bears, bighorn sheep, golden eagles, and common loons. In her position with WDFW she is also involved in setting hunting seasons, monitoring big game harvest, reviewing habitat management plans, planning wildlife captures, and improving survey methodologies. She has been a member of the WA chapter of TWS since moving back to Washington in 2013 and the NE representative since 2014. She has been a member of the National TWS for 13 years.

### **Dominic Bachman (Board)**

Dominic grew up in Utah on a large wildlife management area where his father was the manager. He obtained his BS degree in wildlife management from Humboldt State University in 2005 then stuck around a bit too long and ended up with a Masters in 2008.

His main research interests have focused on birds, wetlands and habitat management. However, he really wants to expand his working knowledge of other types of wildlife and ecosystems. He really enjoys building partnerships and being involved in working groups. Mentoring the next generation of wildlifers has been his favorite part of his career so far.

Dominic worked seasonally on several different western wildlife projects from Alaska to North Dakota. He started his career with the USFWS at Humboldt Bay NWR in 2005, and then in 2008 he transferred to the Modoc NWR in Northeastern California where he was the supervisory wildlife biologist. He recently moved to Washington to become the State Wildlife Biologist/Wetland specialist for the NRCS covering the whole state.

He loves spending time with his two sidekicks, CC and Blue, who are German wirehaired pointers. He enjoys hunting, fishing, adventuring, boating, beer drinking, and all other redneck activities, as well as touring and exploring the remote and dusty corners of the western U.S.



## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### *Awards Committee*

Once again this year, we were delighted to present several awards to various individuals and organizations during the Wednesday evening banquet at our annual meeting.

#### **Stewardship: Tom and Cindy Beechinor**

*Recognized for outstanding stewardship, collaboration with partners and sportsmen, and continuing leadership in education about forest, range, and wildlife conservation.*

Tom and Cindy are Master Woodland Managers and active landowners of a 640-acre property in the Blue Mountains above the town of Milton-Freewater, Oregon. WA-TWS is pleased to honor the Beechinors' accomplishments in the stewardship of forest and range lands, as well as their tremendous efforts in educating children and reaching out to and coordinating with other landowners and agencies.

#### **Leadership in Conservation: Woody Meyers**

*Recognized for career-long leadership in conservation and scientific integrity in wildlife management in Washington State.*

During a lifetime of dedication to ungulate research, management, and biology, Woody has led cooperative efforts in collaboration for management and education. A long-term leader, mentor, and friend in natural resources, he has been an ideal representative of WDFW and a credit to our chapter.



#### **Foresight: Dale Herter**

*Recognized for outstanding efforts in research, monitoring, and conservation of the northern spotted owl in the Central Cascades.*

Dale has been instrumental in much of the spotted owl work done in the I-90 corridor since the listing of the species. He has worked on surveys, monitoring, research, and the development of conservation strategies. He worked with others to establish the Rainier Demography Study Area and continues to support the monitoring program through his own efforts and those of his employer, Raedeke Associates. Without Dale's work, we would know much less about spotted owls and their needs in the Central Cascades.

#### **Special Achievement: Rich Harris**

*Recognized for outstanding leadership, partnership, and management of mountain goats to protect natural ecosystems.*

Rich has been instrumental in the development of WDFW's current position on mountain goats in the Olympics, also

helping land managers development alternatives for dealing with this species that is not native to the Olympics. He has fostered collaboration and has been a leader in this effort—all in addition to his regular job as a biologist and manager within WDFW.

#### **Partnerships: Ted Thomas**

*Recognized for outstanding collaboration and development of partnerships in the protection of rare and sensitive plants and the natural ecosystems upon which they depend.*

Ted, a forest ecologist by background, performs a number of tasks within USFWS. His calm demeanor, scientific rigor, and passion for conservation have made him well-suited to working with partners in the conservation of rare and endangered plants. He is very dedicated and puts in long additional hours to see conservation efforts through, even when other work tasks compete for time.

#### **Conservation: Joe Engler**

*Recognized for outstanding and sustained efforts to conserve pollinators, some of our smallest but most important wildlife.*

When he recognized the need and opportunity to conserve pollinator species, such as bees and monarch butterflies, Joe quickly stepped in even though the subject was new to him. In addition to his many regular work tasks, Joe donated many hours of his own time to learn about new species, habitats, and issues; work collaboratively with others; and take on leadership at both the regional and national levels in USFWS.

#### **Conservation: Heidi Newsome**

*Recognized for outstanding and sustained efforts to understand post-fire shrub ecology and to rehabilitate critical communities.*

Heidi, a long-time WA-TWS supporter and past board member, has many duties on the Mid-Columbia Refuge. She has gone above and beyond in her focus on shrub-steppe ecology, invasive plant management, and post-wildfire rehabilitation and restoration. Her dedication and enthusiasm for this work are infectious and inspiring.

#### **Chapter: Mike Hall**

*Recognized for outstanding and sustained support, dedication, and devotion to the Washington Chapter.*

Mike was our Secretary for 7 years and has always been eager to take on tasks nobody else wanted. He shouldered the task of updating our bylaws in 2013 and he provided important advice and support as we moved into the social media arena. Most recently, he stepped forward to take a key role in registration for this year's annual meeting.

## 2018 MEETING PLANNING

*Katy Stuart*

Planning for the 2018 Joint Annual Meeting is already underway. We are excited to be partnering with the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society! We are also planning to invite additional organizations to join in on the fun! We are currently exploring dates in February with a likely location in the Portland area. Stay tuned for more details to come, including the theme.

## CONSERVATION REVIEW COMMITTEE UPDATE

Since the last newsletter the Conservation Review Committee provided a letter of support (with the help of the Resolutions and Public Statements Committee) for Wild Future, the 2017-2019 WDFW budget initiatives.

We are currently looking for a new leader for this dynamic committee that reviews legislative proposals, administrative regulations, environmental assessments and impact statements, and other subjects or issues affecting wildlife or wildlife habitat within the organizational area of the Chapter and makes recommendations to the Executive Board for action to be taken by the Chapter. If you are interested, contact Katy Stuart ([katydstuart@gmail.com](mailto:katydstuart@gmail.com)) for more information.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Thanks to successful annual meetings and judicious financial management, WA-TWS has enjoyed the fortunate position lately of being able to fund wildlife-related education, as well as research and conservation projects. We received many excellent applications for the latest round of scholarships, research grants, and conservation grants. It wasn't easy, but after careful review and consideration, we identified several successful applications.

This year, the Richard E. Fitzner memorial scholarship fund awarded \$2,500 to **Sarah Scott**, who will be a senior at The Evergreen State College next year. She has focused her studies and field work on marine mammal research.

We awarded research grant monies to **Leah Rensel and Tom Virzi** to support winter monitoring of bat maternity sites in Western Washington, and **Teresa Lorenz** to examine the diet and nest fungal communities of sensitive woodpeckers in Washington.

For the bat colony monitoring project, we are providing \$1,500 to cover the costs of attending a course on classifying and analyzing ultrasonic bat calls using the Kaleidoscope software package. Ensuring the quality of data analysis is a

crucial part of the project, which will 1) assess the relationship between use of summer maternity colonies and winter bat activity; 2) determine the basic environmental conditions that influence bat activity at summer roost sites; and 3) provide findings to managers focused on bat conservation in Washington, especially in response to white nose syndrome (WNS).

The results of this project could have wide-reaching implications for WNS research and management in Washington. If the study confirms that bats use maternity colony sites in winter, even in small groups or as individuals, investigators will know locations to test and monitor for WNS. Faced with the conservation disaster that WNS could represent for bats in Washington, it is important that investigations such as this begin as soon as possible.

We are also pleased to award a \$1,000 grant to Teresa Lorenz and her students. Their research will use advanced gene-sequencing techniques to identify predators of radio-tagged woodpeckers (based on predator DNA left on transmitters at kill sites), predators of nestling woodpeckers (based on predator DNA at depredated nests), and wood decay fungi at nest sites (which do not reliably produce sporocarps for species identification). Dr. Lorenz and her group are using next-generation sequencing to precisely identify prey species consumed by different species of woodpecker that co-occur on their study sites during the breeding season. They are also using next-generation sequencing to map fungal community succession and wood decomposition following forest restoration projects (e.g., thinning and prescribed burning).

Finally, we are awarding a conservation grant of \$1,200 to the **Whatcom County Amphibian Monitoring Program**, to support their volunteer-based data collection initiative. Funds will go toward the production of full-color, laminated identification guides of adult frog and salamanders and egg masses, reimbursement of volunteers' travel expenses, and the acquisition of a GPS unit, hand nets, thermometers, and disinfection solution. Stop by WCAMP's website (<https://whatfrogs.wordpress.com/>), check out their recent accomplishments, and admire the prominent placement of our logo!

## NORTHWEST SECTION NEWS

*Harriet Allen*

It's been a busy spring, and I am grateful to have been able to attend Chapter meetings in Montana, Alaska, and Washington this year. All three meetings had diverse, interesting, and timely plenary sessions that generated a good deal of participation from the members attending.

There were also good discussions at the chapter business meetings. This year The Northwest Section met with the Montana Chapter; next year we will be meeting with the Alaska Chapter.

Since last fall, The Wildlife Society has continued active engagement and implementation of its Strategic Plan and a strong emphasis on providing benefits to members. Benefits now include

- The *Wildlife Professional* magazine, which is now delivered 6 times per year,
- The weekly eWildlifer and TWS talks,
- Free(!) online access to all(!) TWS journals,
- The online member directory, TWS Network,
- An online policy library, and
- Discounts on conferences, journals, textbooks.

If you're not already a TWS member at the national level, go to <http://wildlife.org/join/> for more information.

Some activities from this spring include:

**Council Meeting.** The Wildlife Society's Spring Council meeting was held March 5-6, 2017, in Spokane, Washington, before the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. An important task for Council at this meeting was to approve the budget and operations plans for 2017-18. Executive Director Ken Williams presented a proposed budget that was discussed, refined, and then approved by Council. The Society continues to be financially vigilant through frequent, detailed monitoring, and is maintaining a strong, positive financial position, while remaining conservative in expenditures. We also addressed future development and staffing of Society programs, partnerships, and opportunities for international engagement.

**Leadership Succession.** Current TWS Executive Director Ken Williams is retiring at the end of June and the Society has named Ed Thompson as the next Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer. Thompson was selected from more than 30 candidates as part of a year-long search process. The Search Committee interviewed 5 candidates just prior to the Spring Council meeting. Thompson, who currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Society, will take over the new Executive Director role on July 1 when Ken Williams retires. Ed brings more than 20 years of executive experience in membership organizations, including three years with TWS.

**2017 Annual Conference.** The 24th Annual TWS conference will be **September 23-27** in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Education and Training Committee is in full

swing reviewing proposals submitted for symposia, workshops, panel discussions, and paper and poster presentations. The conference website will open for registration **May 15**. Student, Professional, and New Professional members will receive a \$50 discount in addition to \$200 member savings if registered by June 30.

Funds have been raised for Native American Student travel grants, which will enable TWS to bring between 11-15 students to the Conference, so if you know of someone who might be interested in applying for the grants, please let them know about this opportunity.

**Working Groups.** At the request from two TWS working groups (Wetlands, Student Development), Headquarters will be providing a table during the Annual Conference so all Working Groups can be promoted during the meeting. TWS has 27 working groups, covering a broad scope of the wildlife profession. The working groups are an important source of expertise to provide input and review for the Society's position papers and technical reports. Please consider joining a working group that you may be interested in.

**Publications.** Council approved Dr. Merav Ben-David, a professor of wildlife ecology and management at the University of Wyoming, as the new editor-in-chief of *Wildlife Monographs*. Dr. Ben-David obtained her doctoral degree at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and after graduating, remained there as a research associate, investigating subjects such as the ecological impacts of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. She replaces Dr. Eric Hellgren, professor and chair of wildlife ecology and conservation at the University of Florida, Gainesville, who oversaw the publication of 25 monographs during his 10 years as editor-in-chief.

**Membership.** TWS membership was 9,799 in January—an increase of 878 members from last year. The current membership mix is 53% professional, 27% student, 11% new professional, and 9% retired. Automatic renewal is also now available and has been adopted by about 30% of the membership.

A new initiative, the Give Back Program, was launched in December. Under this program, renewing members may nominate a colleague for a 6-month free membership. The nominee may accept or decline. This is a great benefit that members can offer to colleagues who may want to try out membership for free. Since the launch of the program, 2,592 members have renewed online and 592 have nominated an individual for a free 6-month membership. Of that number, 451 have accepted the offer. Consider nominating one of your colleagues when you renew!



**Government Affairs and Partnerships.** The Council approved Government Affairs and Partnerships policy priorities for the 115th Congress (through January 3, 2019). While implementing these new priorities, staff will also work in the broad scope of issues that impact wildlife professionals and their work in sustaining wildlife populations and habitats. Government Affairs staff continued to engage in policy efforts with Sections and Chapters through the Conservation Affairs Network. The new online Policy Library is now available through the Member Portal. The library allows members to search for TWS policy letters, comments, and testimonies submitted since 2010.

**We mourn the passing of Jane Jorgenson.** TWS suffered a huge loss in March with Jane’s death. She served TWS for several decades, and was the Society’s institutional memory. Her broad responsibilities included bookkeeping, financial tracking and reporting, human resources, and contract administration. She was known and loved by hundreds of TWS members and will be greatly missed.

**Certification.** Council approved a request from the Early Professional Working Group to amend the current certification program requirements to provide for a 3-year extension to the 10-year time limit for Associate Wildlife Biologists to apply to become Certified Wildlife Biologists. This will allow more time, if needed, for applicants to obtain the required 5 years of professional experience.

Hope you are having a great spring,  
Harriet Allen  
Northwest Section Representative to Council

**REGIONAL REPORTS**



What have our colleagues been up to lately? These reports help keep us informed of the various wildlife and habitat management, habitat restoration, and research projects occurring throughout Washington. If you do not see your important work represented here please consider contributing to the next newsletter by contacting your regional representative. Contact information is on the back page of this newsletter.

**OLYMPIC REGION – Betsy Howell, USFS**

**Skokomish Tribe Cougar and Elk Studies**

*Bethany Tropp Ackerman, Skokomish Tribe*

The Skokomish Tribe has been continuing to deploy GPS collars on cougars in the Skokomish Game Management Unit (GMU). The project had some setbacks when a collar failed and another cougar left the study area, but we added three new collars this season. All newly collared cougars are female and one of them has had kittens (2 males and 1 female) since being collared. The wildlife crew has been busy with kill site searches for all collared cats, gathering baseline data on prey selection and kill rates. As more collars are deployed we hope to look at differences between male and female cougars, differences among age classes of cougars, and, hopefully, to produce a density estimate.



Shane Miller of the Skokomish Tribe with a captured female cougar. Photo: Matt Ackerman, CrimsonFlick Studios



Kittens! Photo: Matt Ackerman, CrimsonFlick Studios



Skokomish has also been maintaining an elk monitoring program. We currently have 15 collars in 9 herds that we track weekly. We plan on having an elk capture this fall to replace collars that have been lost to mortality. The program spans 3 GMUs and we hope to be able to deploy collars in previously unmarked herds to gather home range data in addition to population and composition estimates.

### Black-tailed Deer and Elwha River Monitoring, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

*Kim Sager-Fradkin (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe),  
Kurt Jenkins (USGS), and Rebecca McCaffery (USGS)*

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (LEKT) wildlife program is actively engaged in two primary research projects. The first is an examination of Columbian black-tailed deer fawn and buck mortality across the north Olympic Peninsula. Over the past three seasons we have captured and tagged 126 fawns and 26 bucks for mortality and home range assessment. Annual mortality rates for fawns ranged from 77% to 88% in the first two project years, with predation being the primary cause of mortality. The third cohort is still in its first year of life so we have not finalized those data yet. Buck mortality rates were also relatively high, with predation and human harvest being the primary sources of mortality. Finally, we have conducted ground- and aerial-based surveys for deer across our study area and are currently summarizing those data. This spring we will collar a final cohort of deer fawns. This project was funded by a grant from the Administration for Native Americans.



Processing a fawn during the 2016 capture season.  
Photo: Kim Sager-Fradkin, LEKT



Radio-collared black-tailed deer fawns captured in 2016.  
Photo: Kim Sager-Fradkin, LEKT

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, USGS Olympic Field Station, Olympic National Park, and Western Washington University are studying colonization of the former reservoir habitats by wildlife, following the removal of two dams in the Elwha River. Our objectives are to determine the rates of colonization and examine the roles that wildlife play in habitat restoration. We are examining species richness and abundance of colonizing small mammals and birds, documenting the return of beavers, ungulates, bears, and amphibians to the lakebeds, and quantifying how different wildlife species are affecting restoration of these habitats. We have completed three seasons of small mammal trapping surveys to document colonization of 11 small mammal species (including mice, voles, shrews, bushy-tailed woodrats and ermines, among others) in relation to revegetation efforts. Two mouse species make up 82% of our total captures, and are often the only species found on exposed sediment and cobble. We are also examining avian-mediated dispersal of seeds from the forest edge out onto the lakebeds, with a focus on deciphering which plant species are being distributed and onto what substrates they are being deposited. We have documented 32 riparian bird species in these new habitats, which have deposited 20 different species of shrubs, herbaceous plants, and grasses onto the lakebeds. Lastly, we are monitoring sign of ungulates and beavers to determine the spatial and temporal return of browsers and their impact on regenerating vegetation. Ungulate browse has affected 20 species, with greatest browsing on willow and cottonwood. Bird and ungulate research is ongoing, and we are analyzing the small mammal patterns as a baseline for future work. Our work will document the restoration of wildlife presence to these developing habitats, as well as quantifying the functional role various wildlife species are playing in the restoration process.



Columbian black-tailed deer buck in newly formed habitats on the former Mills reservoir. The remnants of Glines Canyon dam are in the background. Photo: Dave Manson, LEKT



Sara Cendejas-Zarelli processing a mouse captured on the former Mills reservoir. Photo: Kim Sager-Fradkin, LEKT



Bushy-tailed woodrat captured on the former Mills reservoir. Photo: Dave Manson, LEKT



Wildlife Biologist Anita McMillan with a recently collared fawn, ready to be placed back where it was found. Photo: Shelly Ament, WDFW.

#### *Olympic Elk Monitoring*

Current efforts involve monitoring of collared elk in Clearwater and Sol Duc GMUs. A population estimate study was conducted in 2011 and the collared elk have been checked usually once a year with an aerial flight to check for the VHF collar signals. The project will continue monitoring the collared cows this year and then an assessment will be made about the value of continuing this effort.

#### *Mid-winter Waterfowl Surveys*

The first week of January is the target week for mid-winter waterfowl surveys. We recruit assistance to complete the counts. During the 2015-2016 season we started partnering up with the Port Angeles Christmas Bird Count (conducted at the same time) to gather some of the counts and identifying new areas for the WDFW records. Sites with concentrations of waterfowl are counted every year during this time.

#### *Trumpeter Swan Monitoring*

Shelly Ament has been coordinating with Martha Jordan and volunteers from the North Olympic Audubon Society to record swan numbers and habitat use in the Dungeness Valley. Monitoring is conducted during the entire winter season the swans are present. Sick and dead swans have been collected for testing. The local PUD has been involved in the installation of markers to discourage powerline strikes.

#### Wildlife Report, WDFW District 16

Anita McMillan and Shelly Ament, WDFW

#### *Black-Tailed Deer in Western Washington's Managed Forests*

District 16 has participated in this study, which will be wrapping up this summer when the Vectronic collars will automatically drop off of the deer. At the end of April, the District 16 portion of the project had three does with Vectronic collars, two 2016 fawns with VHF collars, and three 2015 fawns with VHF collars.



### *Taylor's Checkerspot Surveys – Clallam County*

WDFW District 16 staff will conduct surveys of the two known Taylor's checkerspot sites west of Port Angeles. Transects will be surveyed using a modified Pollard walking method at the two extant Taylor's checkerspot sites west of the Elwha. As of April 21, 2017, no adult Taylor's checkerspots had been observed at either site. Our goal is to conduct three complete survey counts during the peak flight window, which has yet to be determined for this season. In 2016 the first adult Taylor's checkerspots were observed on April 6 and peak counts were starting around April 18. So it appears that the flight season is starting at least 2 weeks later than last year.



Taylor's checkerspot butterfly. Photo: Anita McMillan, WDFW.



Wildlife Biologist Shelly Ament setting up segment markers along the Taylor's checkerspot transect routes, with assistants Biologist Jessica Hanawalt and Heather McPherson.  
Photo: Anita McMillan, WDFW.

The discovery of *Editha* checkerspots (presumably Taylor's) in some new locations made for some excitement last year. One was in the Elwha Valley within Olympic National Park, in the foothill balds, and another one was along the bluffs

at the Port Angeles Landfill. The checkerspot found at the landfill was collected on June 6, 2016, to protect it from being harmed by the watering of a habitat restoration project. No other Taylor's checkerspots were observed in that area at that time, but it was very late to find adults for the 2016 season. Searching for Taylor's checkerspots around the Port Angeles Landfill and the nearby airport will be a high priority for District 16 staff in 2017. We welcome the assistance of volunteers in this effort! Please contact [anita.mcmillan@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:anita.mcmillan@dfw.wa.gov). WDFW will make the necessary arrangements for access. Some searching will be conducted on habitats in the Elwha Valley and further west along Lake Crescent and further west along the Mount Mueller Ridge if time allows.

In other checkerspot news, the two extant sites west of the Elwha are fraught with habitat issues, especially noxious weeds. Scotch broom has invaded some areas. If not removed annually the growth crowds out other vegetation and blocks the sunshine from reaching the ground. Knapweed has also been a problem at these sites. In addition to noxious weed removal, habitat enhancement projects at these and other sites have involved removing shrubs and small trees in some areas.

### *White Nose Syndrome Surveillance*

We collected swab samples, bat feces, and environmental samples at two little brown/Yuma myotis maternity colonies in April. Some bats at these two sites were captured for swab samples. A biopsy sample was also collected from one bat with unusual wing markings. Environmental sampling and feces collection at these sites will continue into May. For ongoing monitoring, two evenings of exit counts will be conducted at these colonies and at the only known Townsend's big-eared bat colony in District 16 before June 21.



Bat being sampled and checked for White Nose Syndrome. This bat is showing some unusual wing markings but under the UV light they are not showing the distinctive orange coloring that occurs on WNS-infected bats. Photo: Anita McMillan, WDFW.

Please report bat colonies for future monitoring of colony size and species use, as well as potential sampling.

**Here is the WDFW link to WNS information:**

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/health/wns/>

**To report a bat colony, please visit**

<http://wdfw.maps.arcgis.com/apps/GeoForm/index.html?appid=f40d8e2c0ab84faa89251fb8b65be1aa>

**To report a sick or dead bat, please visit**

<https://wdfw.maps.arcgis.com/apps/GeoForm/index.html?appid=f719cf5190334c13b8224c5e9d7676b1>

(Links to the two pages above can also be found at the WDFW WNS page.)

#### *Common Loon Surveys*

If you see any common loons on freshwater habitats between April and June, please report your sightings so that District staff can arrange for follow-up checks and nesting documentation. One option for reporting sightings is [eBird](#). A direct report to [anita.mcmillan@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:anita.mcmillan@dfw.wa.gov) would also be welcome.

We will be searching for loon nesting activity on Ozette Lake from May through July this year. If time allows, other lakes and freshwater habitats will be checked as leads come in.

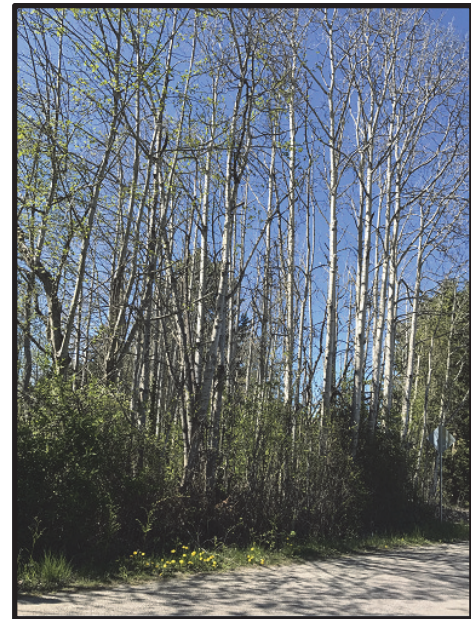
#### *Quaking Aspen Stands on the Olympic Peninsula*

Wildlife Biologist Anita McMillan has been noticing small patches of quaking aspen on the northern Olympic Peninsula. She also found the following account from biologist and author Ron Hirschi, about the many aspen stands he and his team encountered when they were mapping the coastal zone of Washington in the 1970s:

One thing is for sure, aspens are or were very common. When we did the mapping of the entire coastal zone of Washington back in the 70s, we were surprised at all the groves. That gave me the search image and in other jobs, I saw a lot of aspen in places I'd overlooked them before getting used to what to look for.

Our aspens rarely get that Rocky Mountain fall color because of our wetter weather. They need long, dry spells in the fall to "yellow up" ...

Another thing is that our aspens usually look a heck of a lot more like alder when young. The bark is typically grey, not white, so it's easy to pass them by.



Two views of quaking aspen stands on the Olympic Peninsula. Notice the quaking aspen stand below the large cottonwoods in the first image. Photos: Anita McMillan.

If you run across any aspen stands on the Olympic Peninsula, please notify [anita.mcmillan@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:anita.mcmillan@dfw.wa.gov) so she can update the Priority Habitats and Species database.

#### *Sea Otter Surveys*

We are targeting the week of June 26 to 30 for a comprehensive survey for sea otters on the Outer Coast. This project involves simultaneous aerial surveys and ground counts. By conducting counts over the entire week, we hope to achieve at least one reliable count amongst the various weather and sea conditions encountered. The number of otters observed continues to increase every season. The high count in 2016 was 1,806. Single sea otters are occasionally observed along the Strait of Juan de Fuca and in Puget Sound, but no regular groups have been documented anywhere other than on the Outer Coast.



## Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring, Olympic National Forest

*Betsy Howell*

Most of the bald eagle nests and territories on the Olympic Peninsula are on the coastlines. A few nests on the Olympic National Forest, however, are along major rivers and one is along a reservoir. We conducted aerial surveys from 2008 to 2013 and will return to our monitoring this June. The most productive nest on the Forest is by a reservoir that receives a lot of motorized boat traffic in the summer. Our monitoring program includes territories and nests along the Sol Duc, Wynoochee, East Fork Humptulips, West Fork Humptulips, and Calawah rivers.



The base (with hardhat for scale) of the most productive nest tree on the Olympic National Forest, August 2016.

Photo: Betsy Howell



The same nest as above, in June 2014; note adult with feathered young closer to bole of tree. Photo: Mark Stalmaster.

## Puget Sound Area on White Nose Syndrome Watch

The WDFW is currently in surveillance mode around bat roosting sites within 20 miles of North Bend, where a single case of white nose syndrome was found last year. Surveys include acoustic monitoring and working with landowners to investigate possible maternity colonies.

White nose syndrome is a fungus that attacks bats during hibernation. The fungus is believed to interfere with hibernation and associated energy use, causing bats to die from lack of energy resources.

It's still too early to tell whether Washington population can remain mostly uninfected—or if we will need to go through a multi-year process of massive population declines followed by a slow buildup of resistant populations. For more information, check out the [WDFW WNS website](#).



*Acoustic bat monitoring unit set at a residential colony* – Photo by Biologist Anderson, WDFW

*PBS also recently released a video piece on WNS in the Pacific Northwest, which can be found here:*

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/deadly-epidemic-spurs-research-lives-bats/>

## Wildlife Habitat Enhancement, Olympic National Forest

*Karen Holtrop*

The Olympic National Forest continues to work with The Center for Natural Lands Management to increase seed of larval food and nectar plants for the Taylor's checkerspot. Recently the Forest purchased extra *Collinsia parviflora* seed; some of this seed is being applied to project sites this spring while the rest is being stored at a USFS storage facility in Bend, Oregon, for future use.

The Forest also is establishing an agreement with the Olympic National Park to propagate native plants for butterflies and other pollinators.

The Forest developed a Blanket Purchase Agreement for habitat enhancement services such as wildlife tree, snag, and coarse wood creation. Contract orders will be awarded over the next 5 years under this agreement.

A pre-commercial thinning contract currently under development will include prescriptions and units for wildlife enhancement, including elk habitat in the Sitkum (Calawah) watershed. This contract is partially funded with a grant from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

### **NORTHWEST (Puget Sound) REGION – Steve Hall, Point Environmental Consulting, Inc.**

#### **Cause of Gull Deaths Determined**

The mystery of what killed more than 30 gulls and sickened dozens of others near the Port of Tacoma has been solved: it was avian botulism. The incident was first reported back in January, when about 50 gulls were found dead or paralyzed from the neck down. WDFW biologists sent carcass samples to the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin, for testing. The lab found the cause of death to be Type C botulism toxin, a type associated with birds but not humans.



Port of Tacoma environmental project manager (and WA-TWS member!) Jenn Stebbings releases one of sixteen gulls recovered after Botulism. Photo: Tacoma News Tribune

The source of the toxin is unknown, but biologists suspect the gulls were feeding on the carcass of an infected bird.

ONLINE

#### ***Botulism caused gull deaths near Port of Tacoma***

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/news/mar0217a/>

In related news, the *Tacoma News Tribune* recently published a great story about the daily work conducted by Jenn Stebbings, the Port of Tacoma wildlife biologist who worked on the botulism case:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article139921753.html>

#### **Transient (Bigg's) Killer Whales Filmed off West Seattle**



When you think of urban wildlife, the thought of 8,000 pound carnivores hunting within a few hundred feet of busy City streets probably isn't the first thing to come to mind, but Seattle and other West Coast cities are within the range of many very large whales, including an increasing presence of transient, or Bigg's killer whales, which eat primarily seals and other marine mammals.

Alisa Lemire Brooks, of the Orca Network, captured a lot of great video of these whales as they hunted along the shores of Seattle on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The video (link below) is bit rough (the first 15 seconds is empty water), but it's still worth the "effort" to enjoy a secondhand urban wildlife experience. And isn't it nice to know that -- at least in in some ways -- even we urban dwellers are surrounded by a wild Puget Sound?

ONLINE

#### ***YouTube: Biggs killer whales - T100s & T101s- Puget Sound - Apr 15, 2017 (HD)***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5oEu2GsS GA&feature=youtu.be>



## Update: Third Green Crab Site found at Puget Sound's Doorstep



European green crab. Photo: Lorenz Sollmann, Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Invasive European green crabs have been found in a third location –on the North Olympic Peninsula in Dungeness Bay, joining previous findings at San Juan Island's Westcott Bay and Skagit County's Padilla Bay.

As reported in Fall 2016, European green crabs are a potential game changer for Puget Sound's nearshore ecosystems. They pack a double whammy by consuming a wide range of native prey species while at the same time physically destroying eelgrass and other nearshore habitats that are critical to supporting fish and wildlife habitats in Puget Sound.

### *Sea Grant Washington Crab Team Website*

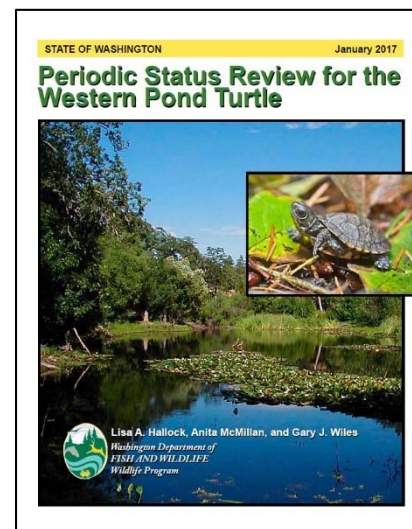
<https://wsg.washington.edu/community-outreach/environmental-threats/invasive-green-crab-volunteer-monitoring/>



Volunteers and staff of the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge examine newly discovered invasive green crabs. Photo: Jason West, USFWS.

Periodic Status Review for the Western Pond Turtle  
WDFW has recently completed a status review of Puget Sound's only native Testudine, the western pond turtle. Listed as by the State as endangered in 1993, the species was almost extirpated from our region in 1994 when what may have been the last 12 remaining turtles were rounded up and taken to Woodland Park Zoo for captive breeding. Now, some 18 years later, approximately 250 have been established in Pierce County and 80 in Mason County. The total statewide population is 800–1,000 turtles at six sites (four in the Columbia Gorge and the two in South Puget Sound)

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01853/>



### WDFW News Blotter

A sampling from the men and women of WDFW Region 4. The variety of work is always impressive!

#### FIELD STUDIES

- Live-trapped Townsend's voles at the 1,500-acre Lake Terrell WDFW unit (10 miles northwest of Bellingham) to collect DNA from mainland samples for comparison with the Shaw Island vole in the San Juan Archipelago.
- Trapped and banded wood ducks, mallards, and other waterfowl on Lake Terrell. Surveyed for Oregon spotted frog egg masses within the Samish River drainage in Skagit County.
- Traveled to Point Robinson on Vashon-Maury Island to observe thousands of marine birds in a feeding frenzy on herring spawn. Brant, scoters, and scaup were the most abundant species.



*Brant and surf scoters at Point Roberts*

- Conducted surveys and counts for snow geese, swans, and other waterfowl in the Fir Island area.
- Coordinated with USFWS staff from the San Juan Island National Wildlife Refuge to plan field surveys for the spring and summer breeding season.
- Participated on the annual aerial survey of elk in the Skagit and Nooksack river valleys, in collaboration with the Upper Skagit, Sauk-Suiattle, Swinomish, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, and Tulalip tribes



**HABITAT IMPROVEMENT**

- Made and deployed new cedar loon-nesting platforms.



*A loon nest platform under construction using 5x5 cedar beams. The platform will be covered with wire mesh and moss prior to deployment.*

- Discussed loon management with Biodiversity Institute (loons nest in the Puget Sound region only

at Calligan and Hancock Lakes on Hancock Timber Resource timber lands in eastern King County).

- Conducted maintenance on exiting nest boxes and installed new boxes for violet-green and tree swallows, barn swallows, chickadees, nuthatches, and wrens.



*Nest box. Photo WDFW.*

**MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

- Continued work on updating Wildlife Area Management Plans.
- Toured the Skagit Wildlife Area with WDFW's Statewide Forester to consider possible forest thinning needs and opportunities.
- Attended the annual San Juan Terrestrial Managers' Meeting to discuss wildlife and other management topics. Participants included staff from the San Juan Island National Historical Park, the San Juan Islands National Monument, Washington State Parks, Washington DNR, County Parks, the San Juan County Land Bank, the San Juan Preservation Trust, the San Juan Islands Conservation District, and others
- Together with staff from DNR, evaluated the Skagit and Monroe spring bear hunt units to assess gates and other access conditions and to coordinate with timberland managers and owners.

**WORKING WITH THE PUBLIC**

- Helped a high school student plan and implement a study about heron nesting.
- Attended the monthly meeting of the Washington Waterfowl Association.
- Conducted a spring bear hunting information meeting.



- Developed strategies to address crop damage by elk in Skagit County, deer in Snohomish County, and waterfowl and elk in King County.
- Addressed northern flicker damage to houses.
- Removed unauthorized sap-collecting jugs on bigleaf maple trees at the Stillwater Wildlife Area.



***Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm reported multiple big-leaf maple trees “tapped” for collecting sap at the Stillwater Wildlife Area***

#### **NORTHEAST REGION – Annemarie Prince, WDFW Sharp-tailed and Sage Grouse**

*Mike Atamian, WDFW Spokane District Wildlife Biologist*

Volunteer lek surveys and other prairie grouse recovery activities funded by the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account started in 2012. The project provides volunteer support for re-establishment and recovery of greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus*) in Washington State. Activities mainly include conducting surveys of sharp-tailed grouse leks and identifying new leks. Volunteers also assist in trapping birds for translocation, tracking radio-marked birds, locating and monitoring nests, and confirming chick fledging in the event that birds are translocated or marked during the year. These activities are key components in the recovery plans of both species. The project activities mostly take place at the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area, BLM Twin Lakes Management Unit, and surrounding private lands in Lincoln County. Volunteers have also worked in Douglas and Okanogan Counties.



**Sharp-tailed grouse. Photos: Tom Munson**

#### **WDFW and UW Predator/Prey Research Project *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife***

The Predator-Prey Project seeks to quantify the effects of recolonizing wolf populations on co-occurring ungulate species and another top predator, the cougar. The two primary objectives of this project are to 1) examine the effects of wolf predation on ungulate demography and population growth and 2) investigate the impacts of recolonizing wolves on cougar population dynamics, space use, and foraging behavior. The project includes two study areas. One is in northeastern Washington, encompassing the majority of Stevens and Pend Oreille counties, where the wolf population is larger and more widely distributed, and the other is in Okanogan County in north-central Washington, where the wolf population is smaller and portions of suitable habitat remain unoccupied.



There is increasing understanding that a multi-species approach to predator-prey studies is relevant to account for the various interactions among apex predators and their prey. To implement a system-based approach, project personnel from WDFW and the University of Washington are attempting to capture and radio-collar 50 elk and 65 white-tailed deer in northeastern Washington, 100 mule deer in the Okanogan, and 10 cougars in each study area. The project will also attempt to maintain at least two active GPS collars on wolves in each project study pack. Research efforts were initiated in December 2016 and are slated to continue through 2021.

Ungulate capture efforts began in late January 2017, with staff in the field almost every day, aerial-darting elk, clover-trapping white-tailed deer, or drive-netting mule deer. The capture crew was able to drive-net and collar 20 mule deer (19 adults, 1 yearling) in GMU 224, clover-trap and collar 17 white-tailed deer in GMUs 117 and 121, and aerial-dart and collar 34 elk in GMUs 117 and 121. The carnivore capture team was able to capture and collar 15 cougars this winter: nine in the Okanogan study area (three adult females, three adult males, and three subadult females) and six in the northeastern Washington study area (two adult females, one adult male, one subadult female, and two subadult males). Six of the cougars in the Okanogan study area were captured in GMU 224 and the remaining three were captured in GMU 218. All of the northeastern Washington cougars were captured in GMU 117.



Mule deer capture. Photo: WDFW



White-tailed deer capture. Photo: WDFW



Cougar capture. Photo: WDFW



Elk deer capture. Photo: WDFW



### Channeled Scablands Waterfowl Surveys

*Mike Atamian, WDFW Spokane District Wildlife Biologist, and Matt Wilson, WDFW Statewide Waterfowl Specialist*

The Channeled Scablands of eastern Washington cover approximately 2,800 square miles of the Columbia Plateau. The landscape is characterized by a network of permanent, semi-permanent, and seasonal wetlands formed by scouring Ice Age floods 15,000 years ago. It is an area of regional and national importance for conserving wetlands that support migrating and breeding waterfowl and shorebirds.



To better understand the Channeled Scablands' role in waterfowl migration, the WDFW, Ducks Unlimited, the Audubon Society, Gonzaga University, and the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge are in the midst of undertaking the first-ever spring migration waterfowl surveys in the region. Eastern Washington has been known for decades to be an important migratory stopover in spring. However, no one has conducted large-scale surveys of bird abundance, distribution across the landscape, habitat use, species composition, and migration chronology. These surveys began in the spring of 2016 and will continue through 2019. To see the results, visit [stephen-hayes-gonzaga-waterfowl.shinyapps.io/CS\\_Spring\\_Migration/](http://stephen-hayes-gonzaga-waterfowl.shinyapps.io/CS_Spring_Migration/)

The data collected through aerial surveys and work on the ground will help the Eastern Washington conservation partnership better understand how the birds use this landscape, with the ultimate goal of working more effectively with willing landowners to accomplish strategic habitat protection and restoration programs that benefit both landowners and wildlife.

To read more, visit <http://buff.ly/2eEeMeG>.

In addition, WDFW Waterfowl Specialist Matthew Wilson and Region 1 WDFW biologists have been working with Dr. Steven Hayes and students from Gonzaga University

since February 2017 to capture, mark, and track northern pintails throughout the Channeled Scablands. Using rocket nets on private lands and the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, the crew has managed to capture more than 300 ducks, of which half have been pintails. Twelve adult hens were marked with VHF transmitters to track local habitat use and movements, with an additional six receiving GSM transmitters equipped with a micro VHF. The GSM units have provided large-scale movement data, and four individuals have been tracked to Alberta, Canada. The project is ongoing with students continuing to collect habitat data and invertebrate abundance information on wetlands used by pintails throughout the scablands.

**Below: Deploying rocket nets to capture waterfowl under dramatic skies.**





## Lynx Monitoring

*Scott Fisher, Washington DNR*

Department of Natural Resources staff continued running remote cameras in the Loomis State Forest this winter to document lynx occupancy and collect DNA to identify individuals and assess relatedness. Below are a few pictures of successful sites.



## Happenings on the Colville National Forest - Updates

*Chris Loggers, Colville National Forest Wildlife Biologist*

Here are some updates to projects described in the fall newsletter, being conducted to monitor the effects of land management, primarily timber harvest, as part of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project on the Colville National Forest. We were able to download the winter GPS locations from 1 tagged goshawk and we now have about 2,000 data points from that bird between late June and mid-March. In mid-April, falconer Craig Hinman started to monitor historical nests for activity to prepare for capture/tagging birds by WDFW's Jim Watson and associate Bob Davies in June. Chris Loggers and Peter Singleton are preparing for a busy goshawk field season, which will target an additional 27 birds for tagging with GPS-UHF tags or GPS-GSM tags as well as their tracking. If anyone is interested in conducting goshawk calling surveys in June or July for minimal (but some!) compensation, please contact Chris at [cloggers@fs.fed.us](mailto:cloggers@fs.fed.us) or 509-738-7727. He would like a commitment of at least 1 week. If you can sniff as well as UW's Conservation Canines, who will again search for goshawk genetic material, consider contacting Chris, too.

Moth sampling entered its final year with traps ready but weather not cooperating. WSU's Stephanie Berry completed her MS on Comparison of Nutritional Ecology between Sympatric Mule and White-tailed Deer in Northeastern Washington, under Dr. Lisa Shipley, and successfully defended (yes!) on April 19. She soon heads to the University of Montana to start a PhD project. Iver Hull will lead the project this summer.

## BE A MEMBER!

For more information the Chapter, including membership forms, please visit our [website](#). If you have questions regarding your membership status, please contact Noelle Nordstrom (360-600-5834, [noelle.nordstrom@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:noelle.nordstrom@dnr.wa.gov)). She will be happy to help you out.

If you're a member at the National level, you can also check your chapter membership status by logging in at <https://wildlife.secure.force.com/customlogin>.

Remember: chapter membership dues are only \$10 per year (\$5 if you are a student). It's an inexpensive way to stay connected and support wildlife!



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