

Proposed Grazing Permit, Cowlitz Wildlife Area (Spears Unit)

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WAC 220-500-200: new permits

“Grazing permits shall first be submitted to the commission, which may review the permits to ensure that they conform to commission policy.”

“If, within thirty days, the commission has not disapproved a permit, the director shall be deemed authorized to issue that permit.”



Domestic Livestock Grazing on Department Lands

Policy number

C-6003

Effective date

Feb 12, 2021

Signed by

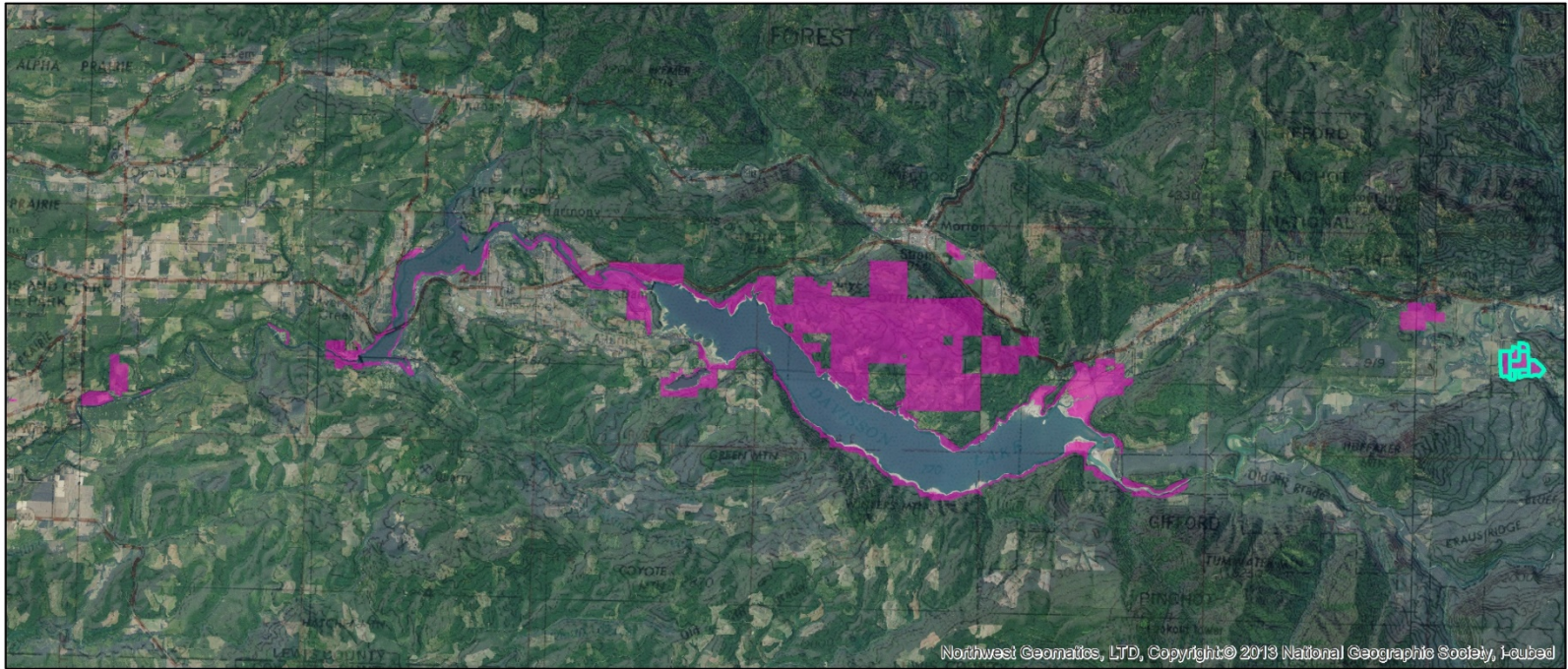
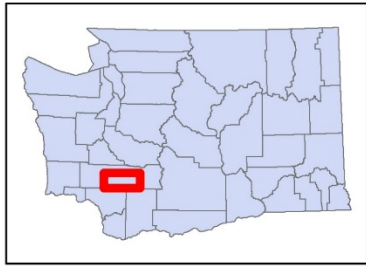
Larry Carpenter, Fish and Wildlife Commission Chair

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife acquires and manages land to protect fish and wildlife and their habitats, maintain biodiversity and provide opportunities for fish and wildlife related recreation.

GENERAL POLICIES: Domestic livestock grazing on Department owned or controlled lands may be permitted if consistent with WDFW's conservation mission and WAC 220-500-200.

1. Permitted livestock grazing on Department lands has several roles, including managing vegetation for wildlife, enhancing recreational opportunity, encouraging conservation across multiple ownerships on landscape scales through coordinated resource management, and protecting community character.
2. Permitted livestock grazing must be integrated with other uses, ensure that ecological integrity is maintained, and be consistent with any constraints tied to fund sources used to acquire or manage lands.
3. Except for temporary permits, grazing permits will be made available for internal Department cross-program review to ensure that all grazing permits are subject to best available science.
4. The Department will promote adaptive management and continued improvement of programs and practices as new knowledge and understanding of habitat ecology becomes available.

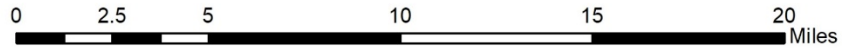




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Legend

 Cowlitz Wildlife Area



Desired Permit Outcomes

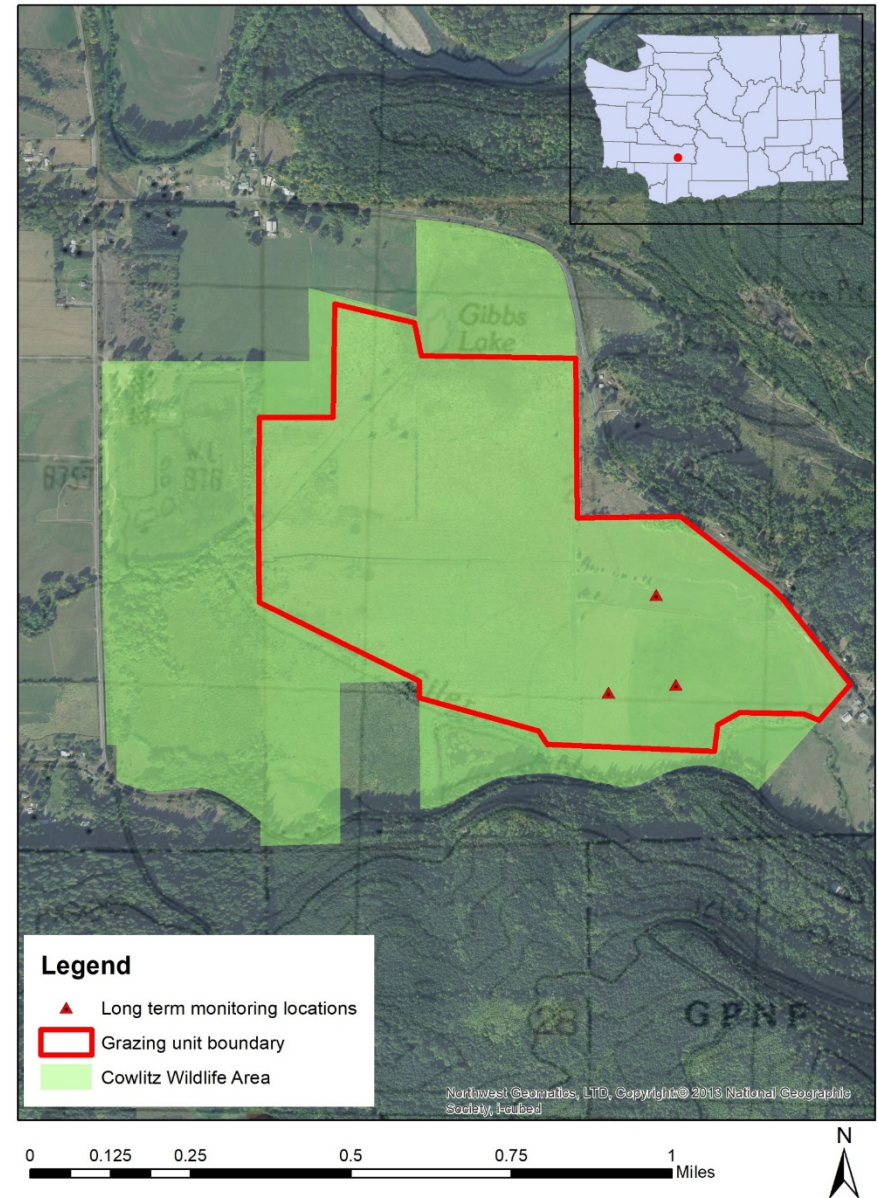
- Reduce reed canarygrass
- Increased plant diversity
- More productive habitat for elk, waterfowl, and other wildlife
- Ecological integrity is maintained





Spears Unit

- 230 acres
- Forage allotment based on clipped samples
- Livestock rotated April – October (temporary fence required)
- 4"-6" minimum post-grazing stubble height required
- Access to stream tightly constrained to a single location, crossing not allowed



Next Steps

- Commission received the proposed permit on January 20, 2022
- After 30 days (February 19, 2022) the Director would be authorized to issue this permit



Questions?

