

Wooten CAG Meeting

Thursday, March 15, 2012

Last Resort KOA

2PM - 4:00PM

Kari Dingman, Assistant Wildlife Area Manager, had mailed out the 2012 Management Plan updates to the CAG members prior to the meeting. She asked for input from the CAG members on the updates, as well as answering questions pertaining to management of the Wooten Wildlife Area.

Kari gave an update on the 4th year of the cougar research project on the Tucannon. Nine cats were captured and 8 were collared (1 was a kitten and too small to capture).

Kari discussed the recent grant work that has taken place on the Wooten WA, including Mule Deer Foundation weed control projects and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation weed control projects. She also discussed the BPA grant project to remove the Hartsock buildings from the floodplain this summer. She updated the group on the status of burying the powerline.

Kari gave a half-hour presentation on the Floodplain Management Plan that WDFW is currently working on writing. She gave an overview as to how the floodplain functions and why it is important. She asked the group about the level of involvement they would like to have in reviewing and commenting on the plan when it is completed. The group wishes to be involved but would like most communications to occur over email and only call another meeting if there is something very important to discuss.

Glen Mendel gave a half-hour presentation on the Tucannon Lakes and their current status. He showed the group the conceptual designs that the Floodplain Management Team has come up with to enhance the lakes while also moving them out of the floodplain. The group was very receptive to the designs and are excited for WDFW to follow through with their plans.

Dave Karl gave a half-hour presentation on his large-woody debris project that is planned for the Wooten Wildlife Area this summer. He is going to place 200+ trees in the river using a helicopter or sky-crane. He explained to the group what the goal of the project is and how it will be implemented. He answered questions about why WDFW is putting trees in the river now and trying to get the river to braid, when in the past we were trying to clean the river out and straighten it.

Questions/Comments on the 2012 Management Plan Updates:

- Does WDFW plan to continue with food plots on the wildlife area?
- Why is WDFW continuing to purchase land when they can't take care of the lands they currently have?
- Is WDFW going to lease the grazing rights on the new 4-O acquisition?
- Why is WDFW flying elk counts in Cummings Creek in March during the winter closure?

- Is WDFW going to continue the current farming practices on the newly acquired 4-O Ranch?
- Is there an annual report written up for the cougar study? Why are Oregon's results so drastically different than Washington's results for the same mountain range?

The meeting came to a close at 4:00 PM. Any further comments or questions can be passed on to Kari Dingman through email (kari.dingman@dfw.wa.gov) or over the phone (843-1530).