

W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area Annual CAG Meeting

March 15, 2012

Management Plan Update Highlights

- 4-O Ranch acquisition (Jan 5, 2012)
 - 2,200 acres in phase 1
 - 6 phases with a total of 12,000 acres
- Renamed Wooten campgrounds back to numbers
 - Differentiate between state and USFS
 - Requested by enforcement for easier emergency response

Management Plan Update Highlights

- Discover Pass or Vehicle Use Permit Required to park anywhere on Wildlife Area
- Cummings Creek winter closure
 - Permanent signs posted around perimeter
- Power line burial
 - Didn't qualify for RCO grant that was submitted
 - Looking for other funding options

Management Plan Update Highlights

- Food Plots
 - New 2-acre food plot planted at Hartsock Unit
 - Seed donated from Pheasants Forever
- Weed Control
 - 442 acres treated in 2011
 - 282 acres ground and 160 acres aerial

Management Plan Update Highlights

- Floodplain Management Plan
 - All Programs working together (Fish, Wildlife, Habitat)
 - Hoping to utilize BPA funds designated for Tucannon drainage
- Lakes Management Plan
 - All Programs working together
 - Hoping to utilize BPA funds designated for Tucannon
- Large Woody Debris projects
 - 2012 = 200 full-size trees placed in river
 - Future = log structures placed between Hatchery bridge and Cummings Creek bridge

Cougar Research Update

- 4th year of the project
- 9 cougars captured and 8 radio-collared this year
 - 6 recaptures from previous years
 - 3 new captures, but 1 was too small to collar



Bighorn Sheep Update

- 5 ewes transplanted from Asotin Creek in February 2011
 - Fitted with GPS/VHF collars
- Transplants have wandered from Cummings Creek to Wenaha Wilderness Area
- 4 lambs were born to transplanted ewes
- Currently have 21 sheep in Tucannon herd
 - Only 4 lambs have survived
 - 1 was golden eagle, other 6 were unknown causes

Wolf Update

- Documented in Tucannon, primarily west of river
 - Skyline Drive to Godman Guard Station
 - West to Newby and Robinette Mtn
- Wolves on remote camera on Cahill
- Lots of reported sightings from public
- WDFW Wolf Management Plan now available:
http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Update on Grant Work

- Weed Spraying
 - Sprayed 160-acres with helicopter last year (MDF & BMEI)
 - Will be spraying 1,000-acres with helicopter in 2012 (RMEF & USFS-RAC)
- Hartsock Building Removal
 - Removing Quonset hut and bunkhouse in September 2012 (BPA funding)
 - Seeding area into native grasses

Update on Lake Inlets

- Beaver Lake Inlet
 - “bandage” completed March 14, 2012
 - Tri-State Steelheaders = \$2,000
 - Longer term repair planned for July 2012
- Deer Lake Inlet
 - Wing-dam repaired March 13, 2012

Questions?? Comments?? Concerns??

