



Floodplain Management Plan

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) requested \$4 million during the recent legislative session and received \$2 million for the 2015-17 biennium. Anchor LLC was hired by WDFW last fall to serve as the environmental consulting firm on the project.

The \$2 million will be used to conduct hydrological and geotechnical studies on all of the lakes, refine the cost estimate for upgrading Rainbow Lake, develop construction-ready designs for Rainbow Lake, construct Phase 1 of Rainbow Lake, develop conceptual plans for the rest of the lakes, and continue

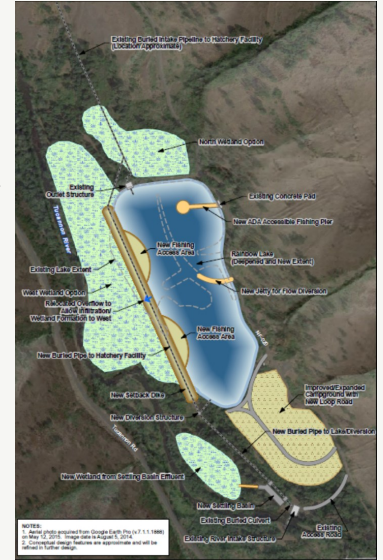
with public outreach.

Phase 1 of Rainbow Lake will consist of construction of a sediment trap near the inlet. This trap will be a concrete structure that can be periodically flushed out into an adjacent wetland and will reduce the sediment that gets in Rainbow Lake. The goal is to reduce the amount of sedimentation and the frequency of dredging in Rainbow Lake.

Phase 2 of Rainbow Lake will be completed during the 2017-19 biennium and will include making Rainbow Lake deeper, narrower, and longer. We are still

looking at the possibility of digging the lake deeper and lowering the dike height to remove the lake from the jurisdiction of the Department of Ecology's Dam Safety Standards.

Part of Phase 2 of the Rainbow Lake redesign will include upgrading Campground 3 and making it a drive-through campground that is more accessible to trailers and motorhomes. It will include removing the old fiberglass outhouses and installing new concrete vault toilets that are ADA accessible.



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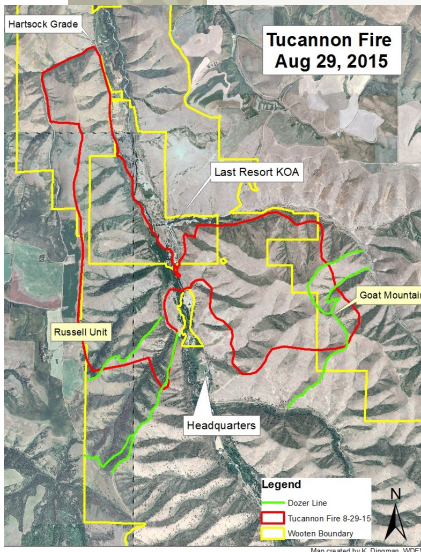
Tucannon Fire

The Tucannon Fire started on August 29, 2015 at 9:30am. The fire started on the hillside to the west of the Last Resort KOA. A total of 2,630 acres was burned with ~1,750 acres on the W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area. The fire was declared contained on September 3, 2015.

The fire was fast moving through the grass and burned through the elk fence in several spots but did not damage the fence. Some boundary barbed wire fence was also

burned through but did not appear to have sustained any major damage.

The dozer lines that were cut to try to stop the fire have been rehabbed to Department of Natural Resources standards and will be seeded with grass seed this fall.



Large Wood Projects

The Large Wood projects were successfully completed by the end of August. PA 11 (Watson Lake to Deer Lake) was completed. The disturbed areas will be seeded with grass seed this fall and planted with trees and shrubs.

The project in PA 15 (Russell Unit) was completed. The areas that were disturbed this year will be seeded with grass seed.

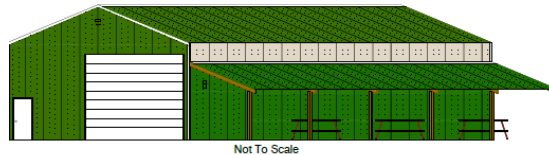
All of the project areas will be treated for noxious weed infestations in the future.

TO PRESERVE,
 PROTECT AND
 PERPETUATE FISH,
 WILDLIFE AND
 ECOSYSTEMS WHILE
 PROVIDING
 SUSTAINABLE FISH
 AND WILDLIFE
 RECREATIONAL AND
 COMMERCIAL
 OPPORTUNITIES.

Mountain Road Project Update

Garfield County, in cooperation with USFS and WDFW, has begun construction on a shop at Baker's Pond near the USFS boundary. The area has been smoothed out to begin construction of the building and the new vault toilet has been installed.

CONCEPTUAL PLAN



Weed Spraying

Weed control continued this summer on the Wooten Wildlife Area. Yellow starthistle, houndstongue, rush skeletonweed, knapweed species, and thistle species were the target species this year. The \$10,000 from the Blue Mountain Elk Initiative was used to spray 265 acres.

The grant application is currently being written up to be submitted for more funds to continue spraying next year.

Columbia County Fair Booth

Assistant Wildlife Area Manager, Kari Dingman, put together a booth representing Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at the Columbia County Fair. She gave 2 presentations on the Floodplain Management Plan, and assisted with getting Smokey the Bear to the Fair.



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The W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area consists of 16,000 acres in the foothills of the Blue Mountains. The main valley contains the Tucannon River, along which are located 8 man-made lakes which were constructed in the 1950s. The lakes are stocked with hatchery raised rainbow trout for a put-and-take fishery. There are 10 campgrounds located on the Wildlife Area.

The area was historically a major big game wintering location and lies adjacent to National Forest lands. The bulk of the land purchases occurred from 1941-1944. The elk fence was constructed in the 1960s.

Current management objectives and problems are similar to past goals and problems which include providing maximum winter-range forage conditions while meeting recreational use demands. At the present time there is a harvest season of some type taking place 12 months of the year within the boundaries of the wildlife area.

