



Floodplain Management Plan

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) received \$1 million for the 2019-21 biennium.

The Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) Team met in August to discuss moving forward with the FMP and what the next project will be.

A couple issues need to be finished or repaired on Rainbow Lake so that the project can be called complete. The wetland supply pipe is currently made of plastic and a

hole was broken in it shortly after the lake opened to the public for fishing. The drain holes are also too small and are continually plugging with vegetation.

The gates on the sediment basin do not fully seal so water is constantly leaking and not allowing for the sediment basin to fully dry to be cleaned out. A different type of gate is being researched to see if it will fully seal.

The Team decided to focus on Spring Lake next because it should be able to be completed with the \$1 million. The next step for the Team is to develop a Project Statement for Spring Lake and a cost estimate, then request qualifications from contractors. Interviews will then be held and a contractor selected to design and construct Spring Lake. Hopefully construction will be summer of 2021.



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Share Your Input on Wolves

Washington's wolf population is growing at a steady rate. The WDFW expects that wolves will be removed from the endangered species list in Washington in the next few years.

In preparation for that, WDFW is working to develop a post-recovery conservation and management plan for wolves. It will guide how they are

managed once considered recovered.

The development of this plan will be informed by public feedback. WDFW recognizes that there are many diverse opinions on wolves and is looking for constructive feedback to find a balance in how they are managed. Please provide your input through one of the following ways:

LIVE INTERACTIVE WEBINARS:

Watch a presentation, ask questions and find out how to provide input. To participate, click the link on the home page at WDFW.WA.GOV. Open to all.

September 17, 6 p.m.
September 25, 12 p.m.
October 15, 6 p.m.

TAKE A QUICK SURVEY OR LEAVE A COMMENT:

Whether you want to spend a few minutes taking a short survey or just want to leave your own comment, you can do so at:
WDFW.WA.GOV/WOLVES-POST-RECOVERY

MAIL A COMMENT:

WDFW – Wolf Post-Recovery Plan Scoping
PO Box 43200
Olympia WA 98504-3200

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

2020 Cougar Season

WDFW has assembled an internal working group of department biologists and enforcement officers to develop recommended changes to the cougar hunting seasons after hearing from concerned constituents at the March 2019 commission meeting.

In the coming months, WDFW will seek input from key external stakeholders, open a public comment period, host a digital open house with a question and answer session, and provide information through social media.

I will send out information to the WAAC as it becomes available.

Weed Spraying

Weed control continued this summer on the Wooten Wildlife Area. Yellow starthistle, houndstongue, rush skeletonweed, knapweed, and thistle were the target species this year. The \$5,000 from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation was used to spray 125 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.



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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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 11 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.

