

**W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area - Implementation Plan**

Goal	Objective	WLA or Units	Performance measures	Complete	Pending	Delete	On-going	WDFW Lead Support	Tasks	
1. Maintain or improve the ecological integrity of priority ecological systems and sites.	A. Establish an ecological integrity baseline and associated goals for ecological systems of concern and priority systems and sites and establish ecological integrity goals by 2024.	All	1. Funding identified (Y/N)				X	Ecological Integrity Monitoring Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with WLA manager to design a monitoring plan to achieve the objective over 10-year planning term.</li> <li>- Conduct data collection to determine baseline within 10-year planning term.</li> <li>- Provide baseline report to WLA manager prior to start of subsequent 10-year planning term.</li> <li>- Work with WLA manager to establish ecological integrity goals.</li> </ul> Climate change consideration: The ecological integrity baseline should include parameters that can provide a baseline for assessing climate change impacts.	
			2. Baseline established (Y/N)				X			
			3. Ecological integrity goals established (Y/N)				X			
	B. Conduct an assessment of native prairie habitat by 2022, and by 2024 develop a strategy or plan to protect and restore native prairie habitat.	All	1. Funding for assessment identified (Y/N)					X	Habitat Program WLA Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct assessment of native prairie to gather baseline data.</li> <li>- Consider conducting periodic surveys.</li> <li>- Prioritize areas for restoration.</li> <li>- Identify funding sources.</li> <li>- Climate change consideration: Restoration goals should be designed around future conditions due to climate impacts. Consider viability before large investments.</li> </ul>
			2. Number of volunteer groups identified to partner on assessment and plan					X		
			3. Native prairie assessment completed (Y/N)					X		
			4. Native prairie restoration plan developed (Y/N)					X		
	C. Develop a plan to survey entire wildlife area for rare plants including Spalding's catchfly ( <i>S. spaldingii</i> ) by 2024. Develop management plan for areas where rare plants are found, including adaptive measures.	All	1. Funding to conduct surveys identified (Y/N)					X	Habitat Program WLA Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work more closely with native and rare plant groups to share information, priorities, projects (e.g. UW Rare Care, DNR Natural Heritage).</li> <li>- Identify data gaps and prioritize areas to survey for new plant species (e.g. Smoothing Iron).</li> <li>- In forest management actions, build funding in to conduct plant surveys in these areas.</li> <li>- Recruit volunteer groups to do surveys (Scouts, etc.).</li> <li>- Work with partners to identify funds for more plant surveys.</li> <li>- Work with Wildlife Diversity staff on survey.</li> <li>- Adjust activities in areas where rare plants are found to minimize impact.</li> </ul>
			2. Number of volunteer groups identified to conduct survey					X		
			3. Number of forest management actions identified where plant surveys can be built into plans					X		
			4. Survey conducted (Y/N)					X		
			5. Management plan developed for locations where rare plants are found (Y/N)					X		
	D. Develop plan to monitor and conserve federally threatened <i>S. spaldingii</i> on Asotin Creek WLA and anywhere it is found on the wildlife areas.	All	1. Plan developed to monitor and conserve <i>S. spaldingii</i> (Y/N)					X	WLA Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with WDFW vegetation ecologist and other specialists to develop plan.</li> <li>- Take into consideration that <i>S. spaldingii</i> may be dormant in some years and multiple surveys may be needed.</li> <li>- Include all areas where <i>S. spaldingii</i> is found in the plan.</li> </ul>
			2. Plan includes all areas where <i>S. spaldingii</i> is found (Y/N)					X		
	F. Annually inspect elk fencing and gates; repair and replace as needed and as funding allows.	All		1. Number of miles of fencing inspected and repaired or replaced	8				WLA Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspect fences and gates annually.</li> <li>- Complete repairs as needed.</li> <li>- Submit Capital funding requests to</li> </ul>

			2. Capital funding request submitted (Y/N)	N					meaquarters for replacement/maintenance of aging sections of fence.
<b>G. Reduce presence of trespass cattle onto WLAs by maintaining integrity of boundary stock fences.</b>	All	1. Miles of boundary fence maintained or replaced	2						WLA Manager Enforcement  - Meet with USFS to discuss lessee fence obligations. - Work with WDFW Enforcement to take action when/where appropriate. - Seek Capital funding to replace aging stock fences. - Seek funding to hire a seasonal four-person crew for working on stock and elk fence.
		2. Critical stock fences identified and mapped (Y/N)	Y						
		3. Meeting with USFS to discuss lease obligations (Y/N)	N						
		4. Proposal developed and submitted for fence crew (Y/N)	N						
<b>H. Implement Weed Management Plan annually.  Identify weeds that are increasing such as ventenata, medusa head, yellow starthistle, and sulfur cinquefoil.</b>	All	1. Number of acres inspected	500						WLA Manager  - Annually develop work plan in coordination with Assistant Managers and statewide weed manager. - Annually develop work plan in coordination with Assistant Managers and statewide weed manager. - Use Integrated Pest Management to minimize use of rodenticides, pesticides, and herbicides. - Utilize local private contractors where appropriate to conduct weed suppression on wildlife areas. - Complete annual reporting requirements. - Identify and document weeds that are increasing. - Eradicate A-List weeds such as Mediterranean Sage and yellow starthistle. - Develop a proposal to hire and manage statewide seasonal weed suppression crews to work on multiple WLAs in Eastern Washington. - Near locations of <i>S. spaldingii</i> , implement measures to reduce impacts to the plant. - Near listed fish habitat, implement measures to reduce impacts to fish. Climate change consideration: Plan for possibility of new weeds. Monitor weeds expected to increase because of climate change.
		2. Number of acres treated	410.5						
		3. Annual weed control report produced (Y/N)	Y						
		4. New and increasing weeds identified and documented (Y/N)	Y						
		5. Number of A-list weeds identified and eradicated (Y/N)	0						
		6. Proposal for statewide seasonal weed suppression crew developed and submitted (Y/N)	N						
		7. Where weeds are managed in or near Spalding's catchfly ( <i>S. spaldingii</i> ) or other rare plant habitat, measures implemented to avoid or minimize effects on the plant (Y/N)						X	
		8. Measures implemented to avoid or minimize impacts to listed fish species, including bull trout (Y/N)	Y						
<b>J. Implement the Forest Management Plan.</b>	All	1. Number of acres of commercial thinning completed	0						Forester  - Plant trees on W. T. Wooten. - Continue treating forests that have diseased trees or are overcrowded. - Create appropriate snags. - Maintain healthy understory vegetation communities. - Maintain healthy riparian forest ecosystems. Climate change consideration: Climate resilience is considered in forest plan.
		2. Number of acres of non-commercial treatment completed	345 - precommercial thinning						
		3. Number of acres of prescribed broadcast burning	0						
		4. Number of acres of reforestation	0						
		5. Number of acres assessed for future treatment						X	
<b>2. Assess, protect, and improve habitat for fish and wildlife</b>	Asotin Creek Unit  All	<b>A. Conduct Fish Passage projects at Lick Creek and coordinate with USFS on the culvert at Sourdough Gulch. Identify and plan for other fish passage barrier removals.</b>	1. Lick Creek fish passage project completed (Y/N)					X	Habitat Program WLA Manager  - Work with Habitat Management to make this a priority. - Coordinate with USFS on culvert work. Climate change consideration: Use climate-adapted culverts information to size culverts.
			2. Sourdough Gulch culvert repaired (Y/N)					X	

			3. Plan for other fish barrier removal developed (Y/N)	N					
3. Sustain Individual species through habitat and population management	A. Maintain healthy bighorn sheep population by communicating to the public the risks from domestic animals to bighorn sheep.	All	1. Information about risks to wild bighorn sheep from domestic sheep and goats communicated to the public (Y/N)	Y				WLA Manager Wildlife Biologist	- Obtain current information from wildlife biologist. - Use opportunities when engaging with the public to provide information. - Provide information to neighboring landowners.
	B. Reduce injuries to wildlife by continuing to remove unnecessary or problematic fencing where and when possible, replacing and installing wildlife-friendly fences of no more than 42 inches high, 3-strand when possible.	All	1. Number of miles of unnecessary or derelict fencing removed	2				WLA Manager Wildlife Biologist	- Review CREP contract at Charley Creek and seek ways to remove fence. - Where appropriate, mark fences with tags or flags so wildlife can adequately see the fencing to reduce injuries. - Work with volunteer groups such as Inland Northwest Wildlife Council.
			2. Number of miles wildlife-friendly fence (42 inches or less, 3-strand when possible) installed	2					
	C. Improve habitat for mule deer populations.	All	1. Number of overgrown tree stands that are non-commercially thinned	345				Forester Wildlife Biologist	- Work with wildlife biologist to identify forest activities that may improve habitat for mule deer.
			2. Number of stands that have been converted to fir-dominant stands commercially thinned	0					
	D. Reduce the threat of lead poisoning to golden eagles and other species.	All	1. Coordinate with other efforts to address lead ammunition (Y/N)	N				Wildlife Biologist WLA Manager	- Coordinate with internal and external efforts on lead ammunition risk reduction. - Explore incentives for the use of non-toxic ammunition. - Begin to develop or promote best management practices that include burying or removing gut piles, discouraging shooting of non-classified wildlife.
			2. Best Management Practices to reduce the risk of lead ammunition drafted (Y/N)	N					
	E. Reduce and manage human /wildlife conflicts.	All	1. Number of additional acres of food crops planted for large wildlife	5.5				WLA Manager Wildlife Biologist Conflict Specialist	- Increase food crops based on need. - Look for ways to modernize water systems including wells, pipelines, storage tanks, and troughs. - Seek funding to make major infrastructure upgrades/repairs to water systems. - Document wolves living on wildlife areas where cattle grazing is permitted where possible. Also document all wolf/cattle conflicts on wildlife areas. - Providing a diversity of habitat in good to excellent condition would provide species with the opportunity to adapt to these changing conditions. -Climate change consideration: Consider how change in snowpack and winter conditions will affect impact of conflict.
			2. Existing salt sites maintained for big game species (Y/N)	Y					
			3. Water systems and troughs maintained for big game species (Y/N)	Y					
4. Talking points developed on why food crops are planted for elk and how they are used in conjunction with water developments and salt sites (Y/N)			N						
5. Recommendations of "wolf conflict on WLA lands" group implemented (Y/N)			Y						
6. Number of conflicts resolved per year for wolves and for elk.			0						
H. Provide information to the public about Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species management.	All	1. Information on management of ESA-listed species communicated to the public (Y/N)	Y				Fish Program Habitat Program WLA Manager	- Obtain current information from fish and habitat biologist. - Use opportunities when engaging with the public to provide information on ESA-listed species	

			2. Talking points developed on fish management and reason for low returns (Y/N)	Y					species. Climate change consideration: Consider climate change vulnerability information. Highlight improvement projects that help build resilience.
	I. Improve habitat for fish.	All	1. Number of fish habitat improvement projects conducted	0				Fish Program <i>Habitat Program</i>	- Use Asotin County Conceptual Restoration Plan for Asotin Creek WLA (Bennett 2018) Climate change consideration: Project design should consider climate resilience aspects. - Projects on lands purchased with USFWS Section 6 funding will be reviewed by USFWS.
			2. Miles of stream improved	0					
	J. Implement the W.T. Wooten Floodplain Management Plan.  Prioritize projects based on available funding from biennial Capital Projects. Projects: 1) Bury the power line from the Tucannon Hatchery to Camp Wooten; 2) enhancement at Beaver-Watson Lake; 3) enhancement at Deer Lake; 4) construction at Spring Lake; 5) decommission Big Four Lake.	W.T. Wooten	1. Power line from the Tucannon Hatchery to Camp Wooten buried (Y/N)	N				WLA Manager <i>Habitat Program</i>	- Prioritize projects based on need and budget. Climate change consideration: Monitoring and reporting should consider climate resilience benefits of the projects.
			2. Enhancement at Beaver-Watson Lake completed (Y/N)	N					
			3. Enhancement at Deer Lake completed (Y/N)	N					
			4. Construction at Spring Lake completed (Y/N)	N					
			5. Big Four Lake decommissioned (Y/N)	N					
	K. Construct the Large Wood Project from Rainbow Lake inlet to the hatchery bridge.	W.T. Wooten	1. Construction completed (Y/N)	N	2021			WLA Manager <i>Habitat Program</i>	- Coordinate with Habitat Program.
	L. Continue fish monitoring and tagging efforts on the Tucannon River and Asotin Creek (steelhead, spring chinook, and bull trout).	W.T. Wooten Asotin Creek	1. Fish monitoring and tagging efforts documented (Y/N)	Y				Fish Program	- Continue to monitor steelhead, spring chinook, and bull trout in Tucannon River. - Continue to monitor steelhead and bull trout in Asotin Creek - Report bull trout information to USFWS E. WA Field Office.
4. Protect wintering wildlife from human disturbance	B. Maintain current seasonal closures to protect wintering wildlife at Cummings Creek (Jan. 1-April 1). As per agreement with Asotin County, maintain motorized closure at Asotin Creek (Dec. 1-April 1) annually.	W.T. Wooten Asotin Creek	1. Closure posted at Cummings Creek (Y/N)	Y				WLA Manager <i>Enforcement Program</i>	- Work with USFS to coordinate gate closure. County and USFS on gate closure on Asotin Creek. - Reassess conditions during 2-year plan update or as conditions change.
			2. Agreement with Asotin County maintained (Y/N).	Y					
			3. Gates closed on Asotin Creek (Y/N)	Y					
	C. Continue to limit off-road vehicle travel on the wildlife areas, and ensure any temporary roads constructed for forest health projects are closed to vehicle use.	All	1. Temporary roads closed after projects completed (Y/N)	Y				WLA Manager Forester <i>Enforcement Program</i>	- Install/maintain gates. - Post closed roads. - Enforce road closures.
			2. Road closures posted (Y/N)	Y					
			3. Number of cases of violators enforced	Unknown					
5. Achieve species diversity at levels consistent with healthy ecosystems	A. Develop species-specific actions for the WLA, for listed species or species of greatest conservation need.	All	2. Number of species-specific actions completed	0				Wildlife Biologist <i>WLA Manager</i>	- Develop species-specific actions for the WLA, for listed species, or species of greatest conservation need. Consider future stress from climate change for those species considered highly vulnerable.

	<b>B. Conduct survey for Species of Greatest Conservation Need in coordination with the Diversity Division.</b>	All	1. Species surveys completed (Y/N)	Y				Diversity Division <i>Wildlife Biologist</i>	- Coordinate district priorities with Olympia Wildlife Diversity staff annually.
<b>6. Provide for and improve opportunities for hunting and fishing</b>	<b>A. Increase public's knowledge of hunting opportunities on the wildlife area, and promote hunting of game birds, turkey, and predators in addition to big game by 2020. Offer turkey hunting clinic.</b>	All	1. Materials developed and posted or provided (Y/N)	Y				WLA Manager Game Division Hunter Education Division	- Determine which units and hunts to promote. - Partner with other WLAs interested in similar message. - Partner with hunter groups. - Work with Public Affairs on materials development. - Work with Hunter Ed to determine feasibility of developing a turkey clinic. - Determine if interest in other hunting clinics.
			2. Talking points produced for staff to explain the hunting conditions (Y/N)	N					
			3. Plan established with Hunter Ed on turkey clinics (Y/N)	N					
			4. Turkey clinics held (Y/N)	N					
	<b>C. Inventory and assess ADA fishing and hunting opportunities biennially.</b>	All	1. Number of current fishing and hunting ADA opportunities formalized on WLAs	2 FISHING				WLA Manager	- Work with agency ADA staff on issues and funding. - Identify ADA opportunities to be improved. - Identify new ADA opportunities to develop.
2. Number of possible new ADA fishing and hunting opportunities identified	0								
3. Number of new fishing and hunting ADA opportunities developed	0								
4. Biennial assessment completed (Y/N)	N								
<b>D. Reduce the number of ADA licensees taking motorized vehicles beyond where allowed.</b>	All	1. Ways to reduce of misuse of ADA license identified (Y/N)	N				WLA Manager <i>Wildlife Biologist</i> <i>Enforcement Program</i>	- Identify options to reduce ADA licensees taking motorized vehicles beyond where allowed. - Determine if "case-by-case" ADA access is reasonable approach. - Enforce violations.	
		2. Number of ADA "case-by-case" accesses set up	0						
		3. Number of cases of violators enforced	0						
<b>E. Continue to provide fishing opportunities on the W.T. Wooten WLA.</b>	W.T. Wooten	1. Number of fish stocked at Tucannon lakes	55,193				Fish Program	- Use fish stocking report for data. Climate change consideration: Longer term plans regarding fishing should consider changes in water temperatures which may impact fish.	
		2. Number of fishable lakes maintained	7						
<b>7. Provide and improve other appropriate recreational opportunities</b>	<b>D. Improve camping at W.T. Wooten by controlling at-large camping; pilot by 2019.</b>	W.T. Wooten	1. Pilot marking individual sites completed (Y/N)	N			WLA Manager	- Pilot a program at Camp 1 to identify and mark individual campsites. - Assess effectiveness at end of season.	
			2. Assessment of pilot completed and recommendations made (Y/N)	N					
	<b>F. Assess the wildlife area for restroom facilities that need to be improved, replaced, or added, including ADA accessibility, by 2022.</b>	All W.T.Wooten (ADA)	1. Assessment of restroom facilities completed (Y/N)	Y				WLA Manager	- Determine high use areas for restroom locations - Identify funding sources for new and improved (ADA) restrooms. Climate change consideration: Siting should consider flooding potential.
			2. Capital funding request submitted (Y/N)	N					
<b>H. Develop plan for identifying and promoting non-consumptive recreational uses compatible with fish</b>	4-O Ranch All	1. Partners or user groups for plan development identified (Y/N)	Y				WLA Manager	- As interest arises, work with user groups on recreational opportunities. - Consult ESA Section 6 Plan for plans on 4-O	

	and wildlife, such as winter wildlife viewing, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, especially on the 4-0 Ranch by 2024.		2. Plan for non-consumptive recreation developed (Y/N)	N					Ranch.
			3. Number of non-consumptive opportunities developed or promoted	3 - wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding					
	K. Work with Lands Division on building capacity and support for wildlife area recreation infrastructure needs. Assess recreational funding sources available.	All	1. List of recreational funding opportunities developed (Y/N)	N				WLA Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meet with Lands Division manager on recreation funding strategy.</li> <li>- Assess recreational funding sources available.</li> <li>- Identify local champions, possibly WAAC members, or other partners.</li> <li>- Connect with WDFW Lands showcase initiative –may include requests for O&amp;M, equipment, capital needs.</li> </ul>
2. Number of funding opportunities pursued			0						
3. Amount of funding secured			0						
4. Number of projects developed and number completed			0						
	L. Develop a printed, folding map of all wildlife areas for public use. Include facilities, water access sites, trails, bordering USFS lands, by 2022.	All	1. Funding for map identified (Y/N)	N				WLA Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify funding for map development</li> <li>- Work with cartographers to create map.</li> <li>- Connect with Lands Showcase and Rec Strategy teams.</li> </ul>
			2. Map developed (Y/N)	N					
	M. Continue to install markers to identify wildlife area boundaries.	All	1. Collect data on stolen, missing, or damaged signs				X	WLA Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Install fences with special screws to attempt to reduce theft.</li> </ul>
			2. Number of boundary signs installed	12					
8. Offer multiple and varied opportunities for stakeholder participation and engagement	A. Continue to meet with the Chief Joseph/Asotin Creek and W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area Advisory Committees and the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council.	All	2. Topics of interest to members addressed	Y				WLA Manager and Assistant WLA Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Setup meeting time and place based on group members' availability.</li> <li>- Draft agenda with attention to group interest and time constraints.</li> <li>- Hold meeting and collect group comments and recommendations for consideration relative to future management actions (proposed or ongoing).</li> <li>- Publish meeting notes on committee web pages.</li> </ul>
	C. Expand the volunteer base and identify new volunteer projects.	All	1. Number of new volunteer groups working on wildlife area	0				WLA Manager and Assistant WLA Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue working with Lewis Clark ATV, BCH, RMEF and WA Bighorn Sheep, Inland Northwest Wildlife Council (INWC).</li> <li>- Identify and work with new groups as opportunities arise.</li> </ul>
			2. Number of volunteer days per year	2					
	D. Work with local community business and tourism associations to communicate opportunities on and benefits of the wildlife area.	All	1. Number of stories or events promoted on the wildlife area annually	2				WLA Manager Lands Messaging Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with internal Lands Messaging Team to develop messages, stories, and promotions on the wildlife area.</li> <li>- Develop 1-2 stories each biennium or as opportunities arise.</li> </ul>
			2. List and # of local entities contacted.	The Times, Dayton Chronicle					
9. Maintain productive and positive working relationships with local jurisdictions, community, neighbors, lessee partners and permittees	B. Maintain strong communication and coordination with local jurisdictions on implementation of the plan.	All	1. Appropriate local jurisdictions consulted on land use actions (Y/N)	Y				WLA Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consult with appropriate jurisdictions on actions that need their input.</li> </ul>

10. Maintain productive and positive working relationships with tribes	A. Work with the treaty tribes (Nez Perce and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)) to ensure the Plan's management objectives of fish and wildlife are achieved while providing opportunities for the exercise of treaty reserved rights.	All	1. Nez Perce Tribe invited to discuss wildlife area plan management objectives and mutual concerns for wildlife resources (Y/N)	Y				WLA Manager Wildlife Program Manager Region 1 Director	- Coordinate with tribes on management actions that may be of interest to them. - Extend annual invitation to Nez Perce Tribe and CTUIR to discuss wildlife area management issues, wildlife resources, and other common interests. - For management actions that could affect tribal interests, consider and evaluate impacts.
	B. Protect tribal treaty rights and carefully evaluate and consider impacts to traditional hunting and gathering sites.		2. CTUIR invited to discuss wildlife area plan management objectives and mutual concerns for wildlife resources (Y/N)	Y					
	C. Discuss mutual concerns for wildlife resources with the tribes.		3. For management actions that could affect them, tribal treaty rights are considered and evaluated (Y/N)	Y					
11. Maintain safe, highly functional administration, information, and facilities	A. Increase patrols in Blue Mountains to reduce deer and elk poaching. Investigate options for assistance such as bringing in officers from out of the	All	1. Additional number of patrols on the Blue Mountains WLA				X	Enforcement Program	- Advocate for more enforcement officers for Blue Mountains Area. - Assist Enforcement with logistical needs when situations arise (ATVs, Trailers, etc.).
			2. Number of options for additional assistance identified				X		
	B. Update wildlife area facility information in centralized database quarterly.	All	1. Central facilities database updated quarterly (Y/N)	Y				WLA Manager	- Use agency facility inventory tool to update facilities information.
C. Review and update information on the wildlife area web pages annually.	All	1. Wildlife area web pages reviewed and updated annually (Y/N)	Y				WLA Manager	- Keep online information up-to-date.	

