

SHERMAN CREEK WILDLIFE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Prepared by Wildlife Area Manager, Joe McCanna &
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2006

STATE OF WASHINGTON

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This Program Receives Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds.
Project W-94-D, Segment 25

This report should be cited as:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2006. Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Management Plan. Wildlife Management Program, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia. 40 pp.

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Washington State Wildlife Area Plan

SHERMAN CREEK WILDLIFE AREA

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Management Program
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Washington State Wildlife Area Plan

Sherman Creek Wildlife Area

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November 2006

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe McCanna", is written over a horizontal line.

Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY..... iv

CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION..... 1

 1.1 Agency Mission Statement 1

 1.2 Agency Goals and Objectives..... 1

 1.3 Agency Policies 1

 1.4 Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Goals..... 2

 1.5 Planning Process 2

CHAPTER II. AREA DESCRIPTION AND MAP 3

 2.1 Property Location and Size..... 3

 2.2 Purchase History and Purpose 5

 2.3 Ownership and Use of Adjacent Lands 5

 2.4 Funding 6

 2.5 Climate..... 6

 2.6 Soils and Geology 6

 2.7 Hydrology and Watersheds..... 6

 2.8 Fire History..... 6

 2.9 Vegetation Characterization 7

 2.10 Important Habitats 7

 2.11 Fish and Wildlife..... 8

 2.12 Cultural Resources..... 8

CHAPTER III. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES, ISSUES & STRATEGIES 9

Agency Objective: Protect, Restore & Enhance Fish and Wildlife and Their Habitats.. 9

 1. Maintain big game populations..... 9

 2. Improve and maintain fish populations..... 10

 3. Manage for upland birds 10

 4. Manage for species diversity 10

 5. Protect and restore riparian habitat 11

 6. Protect and manage other species 11

Agency Objective: Provide Sustainable Fish and Wildlife-Related Recreational and Commercial Opportunities Compatible With Maintaining Healthy Fish and Wildlife Populations and Habitats. Improve the Economic Well-Being of Washington by Providing Diverse, High Quality Recreational and Commercial Opportunities..... 11

 1. Provide public access compatible with fish, wildlife and habitat protection..... 11

Agency Objective: Ensure WDFW Activities, Programs, Facilities and Lands are Consistent With Local, State and Federal Regulations that Protect and Recover Fish, Wildlife and Their Habitats	12
1. Manage weeds consistent with state and county rules, and to protect and recover fish and wildlife and their habitats.....	12
2. Manage species and habitats in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and Washington State fish passage, road management and forest practice rules.....	12
3. Provide fire management on agency lands (Appendix 3).....	13
4. Protect cultural resources consistent with state and federal law.....	13
5. Pay county PILT and assessment obligations.....	13
Agency Objective: Provide Sound Operational Management of WDFW Lands, Facilities and Access Sites.....	13
1. Maintain facilities to achieve safe, efficient and effective management of the wildlife area.....	13
2. Maintain other structures and physical improvements	14
3. Maintain equipment	14
4. Pursue funding opportunities	14
5. Perform administrative responsibilities	14
6. Protect and apply water rights for best use.....	14
7. Work with Tribal governments to ensure fish and wildlife management objectives are achieved.	15
<i>CHAPTER VI. PERFORMANCE MEASURES, EVALUATION AND UPDATES TO THE SHERMAN CREEK WILDLIFE AREA PLAN</i>	<i>16</i>
1. The Sherman Creek Wildlife Area performance measures for 2006 include:.....	16
2. Annual Evaluation of Performance.....	17
3. Annual Plan Update.....	17
<i>APPENDIX 1. Public Issues and Concerns</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>APPENDIX 2. Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Weed Management Plan.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>APPENDIX 3. Fire Control Plan.....</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>APPENDIX 4. Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Water Rights.....</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>APPENDIX 5. Management Plan Comments & Responses</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>APPENDIX 6. Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive and Candidate Species List.....</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>REFERENCES</i>	<i>41</i>

List of Figures

<i>Figure 1. Sherman Creek Wildlife Area</i>	<i>4</i>
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List of Tables

<i>Table 1. Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Weeds Including the State and County Weed Class Listing and Approximate Number of Acres Present.....</i>	<i>22</i>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sherman Creek Wildlife Area is located in Ferry County in northeast Washington. It lies along the west side of Lake Roosevelt in the eastern foothills of the Kettle River Range. The land was purchased in 1948 with Pittman-Robertson and State Wildlife funds to protect deer on the winter range and provide for wildlife related recreation. The Sherman Creek Wildlife Area is managed as a significant winter range for deer to date. There are five parcels totaling 8,782 managed acres.

The primary management concerns and public issues identified in the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Plan are:

- Maintain big game populations
- Improve and maintain fish populations
- Manage for upland birds
- Manage for species diversity
- Protect and restore riparian habitat
- Protect and manage other species
- Provide sustainable fish and wildlife related recreation
- Manage weeds consistent with state and county rules

In 2006, WDFW staff completed the draft Wildlife Area Management Plan and prepared for timber harvest activities related to the Bisbee Mountain Fire Salvage Sale and the Sherman Creek/Oak Creek PTR Exchange Timber Sale. The salvage operation includes about 500 acres of fire-damaged lands on which standard timber salvage will take place. The PTR Exchange Sale identifies 3,955 acres of wildlife area lands available for harvest over a 5-year period, scheduled to begin in 2008. Goals of this activity include wildlife habitat improvement, protection of stream corridors, reducing impacts of forest fires through appropriate fuels management and improving overall forest health.

CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

This plan provides management direction for the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area. This plan will be updated annually to maintain its value as a flexible working document. It identifies needs and guides activities on the area based on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Agency Mission of “Sound Stewardship of Fish and Wildlife” the statewide goals and objectives of the agency as they apply to local conditions.

1.1 Agency Mission Statement

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife serves Washington’s citizens by protecting, restoring and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats, while providing sustainable fish and wildlife-related recreational and commercial opportunities.

1.2 Agency Goals and Objectives

The underlined goals and objectives directly apply to the management of this wildlife area. These goals and objectives can be found in the Agency’s Strategic Plan.

Goal I: Healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations and habitats

- Objective 2: Protect, restore and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.
- Objective 3: Ensure WDFW activities, programs, facilities and lands are consistent with local, state and federal regulations that protect and recover fish, wildlife and their habitats.

Goal II: Sustainable fish and wildlife-related opportunities

- Objective 6: Provide sustainable fish and wildlife-related recreational and commercial opportunities compatible with maintaining healthy fish and wildlife populations and habitats.
- Objective 7: Improve the economic well-being of Washington by providing diverse, high quality recreational and commercial opportunities.

Goal III: Operational Excellence and Professional Service

- Objective 11: Provide sound operational management of WDFW lands, facilities and access sites.

1.3 Agency Policies

The following agency policies provide additional guidance for management of agency lands.

- Commission Policy 6003: Domestic Livestock Grazing on Department Lands
- Policy 6010: Acquiring and disposing of real property
- Policy 5211: Protecting and Restoring Wetlands: WDFW Will Accomplish Long-Term Gain of Properly Functioning Wetlands Where Both Ecologically and Financially Feasible on WDFW-Owned or WDFW-Controlled Properties
- Policy 5001: Fish Protection At Water Diversions/Flow Control Structures And Fish Passage Structures
- Policy: Recreation management on WDFW Lands
- Policy: Commercial Use of WDFW Lands
- Policy: Forest Management on WDFW Lands
- Policy: Weed Management on WDFW Lands
- Policy: Fire Management on WDFW Lands
- Other policies/contractual obligations/responsibilities

1.4 Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Goals

Management goals for the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area are to preserve habitat and species diversity for both fish and wildlife resources, maintain healthy populations of game and non-game species, protect and restore native plant communities, and provide diverse opportunities for the public to encounter, utilize, and appreciate wildlife and wild areas. Specific management goals and objectives for the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area can be found in Chapter 3.

1.5 Planning Process

Statewide goals and objectives listed above and information specific to the area are used to guide management priorities at Sherman Creek. The original purpose for purchasing the land, species present, and habitat conditions, past management strategies and public issues and concerns are evaluated to develop specific wildlife area management activities.

A Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) has been established to provide for public involvement in wildlife area management. The CAG is made up of one representative from each major interest group in the local community to serve as a spokesperson for that group. CAG members will be informed of, and encouraged to comment on present and future management of the area. CAG participation in planning will add credibility and support for land management practices and help build constituencies for wildlife areas.

The CAG will be used as an ongoing means to identify social, cultural and economic issues important to the people of Washington and the management of the wildlife area. An internal District Team consisting of local representatives from each WDFW program also helps to identify other species or habitat plans pertinent to the management of the area.

Sherman Creek/Le Clerc Creek CAG

Kelly White, Landowner, Former WDFW Commissioner
Dwight Morgan, Retired School Teacher
Warren Current, Bird Watcher
Don Comins, Pend Oreille Cons. District
Jerry Cline, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chris Loggers, U.S. Forest Service
Jim Davidson, Ferry County Weed Board
Larry Walker, National Wild Turkey Federation

Plans will incorporate cross-program input and review at the regional and headquarters level by the habitat program, wildlife program, enforcement program, and fish program. Pertinent information from existing species plans, habitat recommendations, watershed plans, ecoregional assessments, etc., will be used to identify local issues and needs and ensure that the specific Wildlife Area Plan is consistent with WDFW statewide and regional priorities.

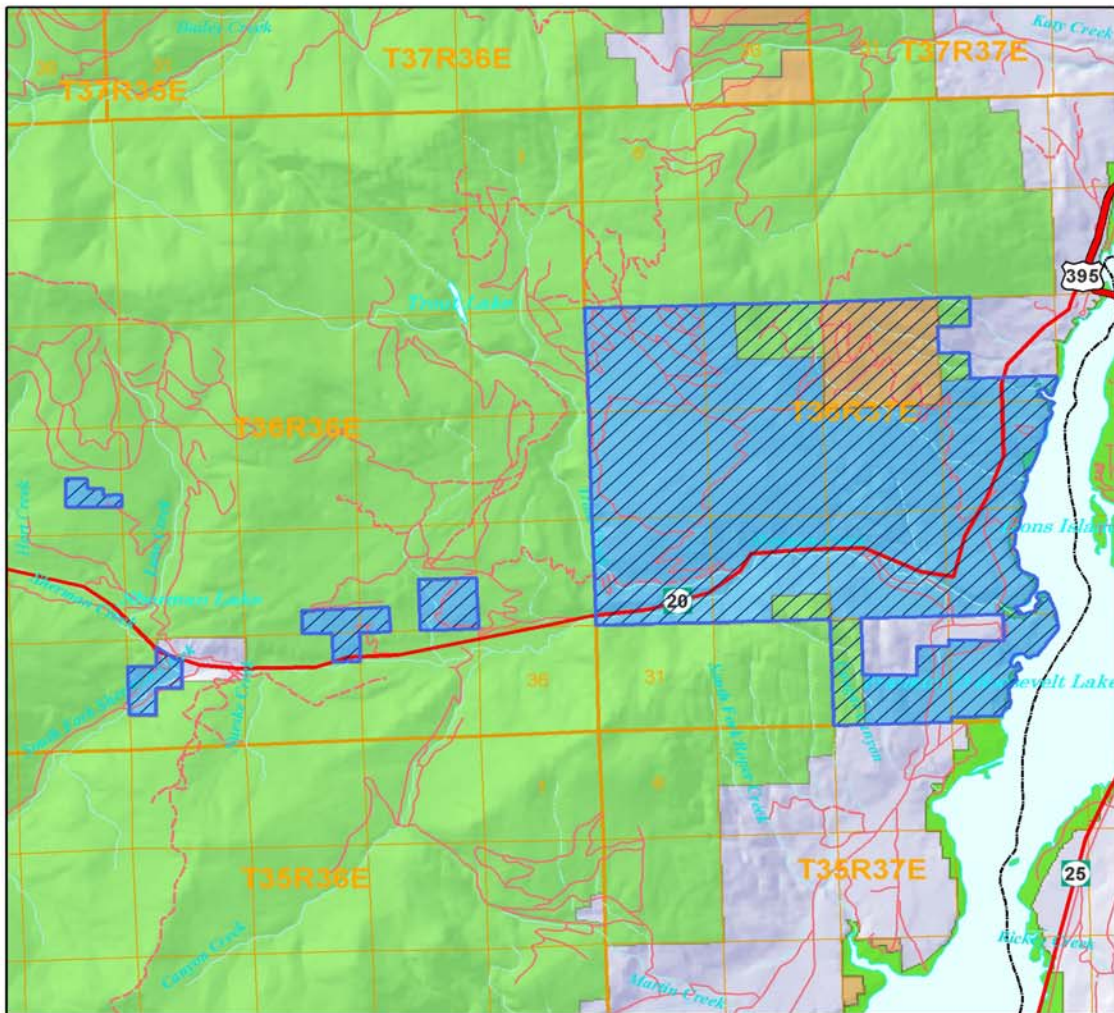
The Sherman Creek Wildlife Area plan will be reviewed annually with additional input from the CAG and district team to monitor performance and desired results. Strategies and activities will be adapted where necessary to accomplish management objectives.

CHAPTER II. AREA DESCRIPTION AND MAP

2.1 Property Location and Size

Sherman Creek Wildlife Area is located in Ferry County in northeast Washington approximately 80 miles northwest of Spokane. It lies along the west side of Lake Roosevelt in the eastern foothills of the Kettle River Range. The closest town is Kettle Falls, about 3 miles northeast of the area in Stevens County. There are five parcels totaling 8,782 managed acres.

Figure 1. Sherman Creek Wildlife Area



- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Unit Conservation Easement WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife Owned Land <p>Major Public Land Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Land Other State Land County Land City Land Tribal Land | <p>Administrative Boundaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Township Line Section Line Shore Line County Line State Line International Border City or Town Limits | <p>Transportation Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interstate Highway US Highway State Route Secondary Road Trail | <p>Hydrography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Stream or River Intermittent Stream Canal Shoreline Lake or Wide River |
|---|--|--|--|

1:100,000

1 inch equals 1.6 miles

2.2 Purchase History and Purpose

Prior to white settlement of the area, the Colville Indians and other tribes heavily used the original Kettle Falls on the Columbia River as a salmon fishery. Many of the flats and benches along both sides of the river south of the falls were reportedly used as burial areas. Wildlife area land was part of the Colville Reservation from 1872 to 1892. In 1892 the land went back into federal ownership.

Heavy prospecting occurred during the late 1800's and early 1900's, with homesteading taking place from 1905 to 1920. Grazing by cattle, sheep and horses occurred from the early 1900's with sheep grazing prevalent until about 1945. Grazing since 1945 has been mainly from cattle owned by local ranchers. The White Pine Slash Timber Company bought up much of the land in the area and controlled it until 1929 when the Dollar Mountain Fire burned much of what is now wildlife area land. Timber losses from the fire caused White Pine Slash to disappear from the scene. The forage that emerged following the Dollar Mountain Fire caused the development of large herds of deer in the Sherman Creek area. With the completion of Grand Coulee Dam, the Columbia River was flooded in 1941; which inundated much of the lowland area along the river. In the late 1940's the Washington Department of Game became interested in purchasing the land to address damage complaints that were being received each year as deer moved to their winter range along the west side of Lake Roosevelt. The land was purchased in 1948 with Pittman-Robertson and State Wildlife funds to protect deer on the winter range and provide for wildlife related recreation. The Sherman Creek Wildlife Area is managed as a significant winter range for deer to date.

2.3 Ownership and Use of Adjacent Lands

Most of the land bordering the area is part of the Colville National Forest administered by the U.S. Forest Service. The National Park Service manages the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation lands along the shores of Lake Roosevelt in the Coulee Dam National Recreation Area. DNR manages timber within section 16 on Bisbee Mountain and WDFW leases or did lease grazing rights in that section. This section is included in a proposed land exchange with WFDW.

The Department is currently in negotiations with Western Pacific Timber to trade a one-time harvest of timber on Sherman Creek Wildlife Area in exchange for perpetual timber rights held by Western Pacific Timber on the Department's Oak Creek and Wenas Wildlife Areas, in Yakima County. The harvest plan is currently being developed and could occur over a 1-15 year period subject to the harvest prescription. The harvest will be appraised and the exchange will be based on fair market value. The exchange must be approved by U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

There is approximately 560-acres of land within the wildlife area owned by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and managed by WDFW through a cooperative agreement. There are orchards and residences within and adjacent to the area as well. General legal descriptions for the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area are in the table below.

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
36 NORTH	37 EAST	15-22, 29,30,33,34
36 NORTH	36 EAST	20,26,27,33,34

2.4 Funding

Funding for management of the wildlife area comes from State General Funds and Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Funds. Sherman Creek and LeClerc Creek Wildlife Areas are funded using one PR and one state funding allotment for the management of both areas. The annual PR and state funding amounts are \$35,303 and \$14,018 respectively. These funds support all operations and maintenance activities including salaries and are divided between the two wildlife areas to accomplish management goals.

Two staff positions are supported:

0.5 FTE Fish and Wildlife Biologist 2

7 month Habitat Technician 1

The Department will, as part of the implementation of this plan, submit grant proposals and applications and identify other strategies to address unfunded management needs on the wildlife area.

2.5 Climate

The wildlife area lies between the Cascade Mountains and the Rocky Mountains which greatly influences weather patterns. Annual precipitation varies from 12 inches in the valley bottoms to 40 inches at higher elevations. Average summer high temperatures are 85 to 90 degrees F, while winter averages 15 to 20 degrees. Aspect is generally east or south facing.

2.6 Soils and Geology

The soils have a glacial origin created during the Wisconsin Ice Age and are considered part of the British Columbia Coast Range Batholith. Specifically, the Colville Batholith, comprised mainly of granodioritic and monzonitic intrusions underlies the area. Pre-Cambrian limestone, slates shists and argillites are present as well. Other soils are from glacial outwash, upland and alluvial soils. Rock outcrops and cliffs are a major topographic feature. Elevations vary from 1,289 to 4,600 feet.

2.7 Hydrology and Watersheds

Sherman Creek Wildlife Area is located at the lower end of the Sherman Creek Watershed. Sherman Creek begins at the Kettle Crest (T36N, R35E, Sec 24) and flows 24 miles down to the Columbia River. Trout Creek drains into Sherman Creek from the north. Once popular fishery, this watershed has undergone changes in the last century including modification from fire, the construction of highway 20 and other events that have led to increased sedimentation. In 1992, Bonneville Power Administration opened the Sherman Creek Fish Hatchery to boost salmon stocks in the Roosevelt basin. To provide a successful hatchery program and further stabilize the basin, many issues concerning the health of the Sherman Creek watershed have been addressed. WDFW continues to work with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, DNR and other land managers to improve the watershed.

2.8 Fire History

The most significant fire event in the Sherman Creek area was the Dollar Mountain Fire that burned in the summer of 1929. This devastated much of the watershed and caused significant changes in vegetation. Smaller fires have occurred since that time but with no great effect. 75 years of aggressive fire suppression on forested lands throughout the west have increased fuel loads and

modified habitats. Cooperation between WDFW and other land management agencies in the use of prescribed fire has been and should continue to be used as a habitat management tool.

2.9 Vegetation Characterization

Ponderosa pine and Evergreen ceanothus habitat types dominate the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area. As you gain elevation, increased precipitation gives way to a greater variety of conifers including western larch, Douglas fir, grand fir, Engelmann spruce and sub-alpine fir. Deciduous shrubs including ceanothus, snowberry, serviceberry, rose and ocean spray; and grasses such as pine grass and Idaho fescue dominate the forest understory. Aspen thickets are common around the many seeps and springs on the area. The variety and distribution of vegetation at Sherman Creek provide hiding, escape and thermal cover, shade, foraging and nesting sites, perches, and water sources. Often these highly productive communities contain plant and/or wildlife species that are sensitive, endangered or threatened. Statewide management goals outlined by WDFW as well as goals specific to Sherman Creek Wildlife Area will be discussed in this document to address these issues.

2.10 Important Habitats

Ponderosa Pine Forest- The Sherman Creek Wildlife Area was originally purchased to protect deer on winter ranges. Because the area remains an important winter range forest management practices must continue in order to maintain quality winter range in the Ponderosa Pine-Ceanothus habitat type found on the lower elevation south facing slopes.

Aspen Stands – This habitat type is present throughout the Sherman Creek area due to the seeps and springs that are scattered across upland forest openings. Stands of various size, shape and age provide forage and cover for deer, forest grouse and snowshoe hare and a variety of small passerines.

Cliffs- The cliffs and rocky outcrops are important breeding, nesting and feeding and loafing areas for a variety of wildlife. This habitat type is of limited availability and should be protected from human disturbance.

Riparian- Conservation of riparian areas along Sherman Creek, the Columbia River and associated drainages provides clean water, cover, travel corridors and other important habitats for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Cooperation with other WDFW programs and neighboring public and private land managers will ensure ongoing riparian health.



Aspen Stand

Snags and Logs- This habitat type provides forage and shelter for a large variety of wildlife at Sherman Creek. Pileated Woodpecker and other cavity-dependent species, black bear, forest grouse, small passerines and a wide variety of invertebrate life benefit from forest management practices which increase the density of standing dead and downed woody material.

Agricultural- There are 100 acres in alfalfa production under a sharecrop lease and about 20 acres of wildlife food plots on the area. Maintaining an agricultural operation provides important forage and cover for game and non-game wildlife. Wildlife area staff and the sharecropper continually monitor and change this activity to maximize the benefits to wildlife.

2.11 Fish and Wildlife

Wildlife diversity is of primary importance to the goals and strategies guiding WDFW's management efforts. Sherman Creek Wildlife Area contains many species of wildlife that depend on managed Ponderosa Pine forest habitat and the associated habitats described above.

A diverse mix of wildlife is found at Sherman Creek. The most conspicuous animal is white-tailed deer, with mule deer, mountain lion, bobcat, black bear and coyote completing the list of big game and large carnivores. Other terrestrial wildlife includes western rattlesnake,



Porcupine



Western Toad

rubber boa, western painted turtle, muskrat, snowshoe hare and porcupine. Several bat species, Canada geese and a variety of ducks, songbirds, eagles and other raptors, forest grouse, California quail, wild turkey, shorebirds and other wildlife occur here as well. Threatened, endangered, sensitive and candidate wildlife species that occur or potentially use the wildlife area are listed in Appendix 6.

2.12 Cultural Resources.

Cultural, geological, and other non-renewable resources are protected, and may not be removed unless such removal is beneficial to wildlife, habitat, or the Wildlife Area, or for scientific or educational purposes. WDFW will coordinate with the appropriate agency of jurisdiction for the protection of such resources. Past issues have included the removal of various rock formations, Native American artifacts, plants, seeds, and other items by members of the public.

CHAPTER III. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES, ISSUES & STRATEGIES

Statewide goals and objectives listed in chapter one shape management priorities on wildlife areas. Specific wildlife area information including why the area was purchased, habitat conditions, species present, and public issues and concerns are evaluated to identify wildlife area activities or strategies. *Public issues from past planning efforts and the Citizens Advisory Group are noted in italics and are captured in [APPENDIX 1](#).* Objectives and associated strategies or tasks specific to Sherman Creek Wildlife Area are listed where appropriate under applicable agency objectives. Unfunded needs are underlined.

Agency Objective: Protect, Restore & Enhance Fish and Wildlife and Their Habitats.

1. Maintain big game populations

Sherman Creek Wildlife Area is managed primarily to protect deer winter range habitat. WDFW staff recommends that mule deer and white-tailed deer habitat objectives at Sherman Creek be considered separately, with emphasis placed on habitat improvement for mule deer. However, Bald and Golden eagles, pileated woodpecker, songbirds, blue and ruffed grouse and other species depend on forested habitat. Many of the activities planned for management of deer will benefit these other species. **Note: Strategies A-E** and their associated timeframes will be incorporated into a future timber sale plan currently being developed for Sherman Creek Wildlife Area by the Wildlife Program in Olympia.

A. Strategy: Manage forest stands to produce dense cover of multiple age classes for white tailed deer and open, older/mature forest for mule deer. Timeframe: As timber sale plan is developed.

B. Strategy: Use timber sales and pre-commercial forest management practices to achieve desired forage/cover ratios within key winter range. Use commercial logging as well as a schedule of understory thinning. Cooperate with WDFW state forester to develop a long-range plan prioritizing stands appropriate for such activity. Timeframe: As timber sale plan is developed.

C. Strategy: Cooperate with USFS and DNR to develop common deer management goals for the Sherman Creek drainage. Focus deer management in the Coyote Creek/Trout Creek areas and higher elevations of the drainage specifically on mule deer. Use PHS mapping data to prioritize project areas for mule and white tailed deer. Timeframe: As timber sale plan is developed.

D. Strategy: Maintain the annual winter road closure between December 1st and March 31st on Bisbee Mountain to minimize disturbance to deer. Timeframe: Annually.

E. Strategy: Conduct controlled burns every spring in cooperation with USFS, DNR and USFWS to dispose of timber slash and improve forage quality and quantity. Plant/seed evergreen ceanothus in conjunction with burning to improve winter range forage. Timeframe: Annually beginning spring 2007.

F. Strategy: Maintain/develop springs or other water sources such as guzzlers each year to improve habitat suitability for deer and other forest dependent wildlife species. Staff will apply for grant money if wildlife area O & M budget is not sufficient. Timeframe: One site annually.

G. Strategy: Plant Ponderosa Pine and deciduous shrubs along roads and other forest openings in the spring (following the timber harvest discussed in the note in

sub-objective 1: Maintain big game populations.) to increase available hiding and thermal cover for deer. Timeframe: Post timber sale, as funding allows.

H. Maintain seasonal and yearlong road closures throughout the area to decrease disturbance to all wildlife. Timeframe: Annually.

I. Strategy: Explore management activities to benefit elk and moose. Timeframe: Ongoing.

J. Strategy: Trade our 20% share of the haying lease for a late first cutting (July 1st) to reduce fawn mortality associated with haying operations. Timeframe: Annually, beginning 2007.

2. Improve and maintain fish populations

A. Strategy: Work with the RMAP program to stabilize road systems and correct erosion problems to reduce sediment loads to the Sherman Creek drainage. Timeframe: Ongoing.

B. Strategy: Cooperate with Sherman Creek Fish Hatchery staff in the ongoing maintenance and operation of the fish screen and ditch at the irrigation diversion on Sherman Creek. Timeframe: Annually.

3. Manage for upland birds

Upland birds at Sherman Creek Wildlife Area include blue grouse, ruffed grouse, California quail and wild turkey. The area is also a designated pheasant release site. These species provide hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for many visitors each year.

A. Strategy: Treat one aspen stand on Bisbee Mountain each fall by cutting and pruning to improve brooding and foraging habitat for blue and ruffed grouse. Timeframe: Annually beginning September 2006.

B. Strategy: Maintain upland bird feeders throughout the winter if feeders are designed so they are not accessible to turkeys. Timeframe: Annually.

C. Strategy: Mow 2 acres of strips or plots annually in forest openings to increase succulent forage and provide multiple layers of foraging/brood cover. Timeframe: Annually.

D. Strategy: Maintain at least 5 acres of annual food plots, to provide food sources for upland birds and other species. Timeframe: Annually.

E. Strategy: Continue annual releases of California quail captured from other areas to increase this population. Timeframe: Annually.

4. Manage for species diversity

Develop and maintain quality habitat that will provide life requisites for a diversity of species. Nearly all activities on the wildlife area benefit a diversity of species.

A. Strategy: Seed remaining non-crop fields to a grass and forb mix every fall until completed (crested wheatgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, alfalfa and small burnet suggested). Request sharecropper to plant crops which will further benefit game and non-game species while producing enough alfalfa to provide additional forage for Canada geese and deer. Add specific goals to management plan that target non-game species. Timeframe: Ongoing.

B. Strategy: Remove dense stands of young trees encroaching on meadows. Open meadows with a few scattered trees provide foraging habitat for Western Bluebirds

and other passerines. Place more nesting boxes near open meadows throughout the wildlife area. Explore opportunities for volunteers to conduct annual breeding bird surveys for WDFW. Timeframe: Ongoing.

5. Protect and restore riparian habitat

The agency has prioritized riparian habitat management and protection. Riparian areas provide habitat for a large diversity of fish and wildlife species, for high densities of animals, for important breeding areas and movement corridors.

A. Strategy: Protect and enhance riparian habitats along Sherman creek in areas where available cover of all types is low to increase cover to desirable levels.
Timeframe: Ongoing.

6. Protect and manage other species

(Note: Timeframes and funding of the strategies listed in this section will be addressed in the development of the Sherman Creek timber sale plan.)

A. Strategy: Cooperate with National Park Service along Lake Roosevelt to decrease human disturbance around Bald Eagle nest sites and increase the number of available perches along shoreline feeding areas.

B. Strategy: Maintain suitable nesting and feeding sites for Golden eagles by thinning timber stands within 1500 feet of nesting sites.

C. Strategy: Improve habitat for Pileated woodpeckers by using forest management practices that will recruit the proper size, distribution and density of Ponderosa pine snags for nesting sites and foraging habitat over the long term.

D. Strategy: Maintain and continue to evaluate the success of road closures to protect the variety of wildlife using cliff habitat. Timeframe: Ongoing.

Agency Objective: Provide Sustainable Fish and Wildlife-Related Recreational and Commercial Opportunities Compatible With Maintaining Healthy Fish and Wildlife Populations and Habitats. Improve the Economic Well-Being of Washington by Providing Diverse, High Quality Recreational and Commercial Opportunities.

1. Provide public access compatible with fish, wildlife and habitat protection.

Access for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and other activities is an agency priority. However, access and recreation must be controlled to protect fish and wildlife resources and to comply with federal and state regulations. Public input clearly emphasizes the importance of providing recreational access, with protections for the resource.

A. Strategy: Provide open roads where no resource issues exist and when there are sufficient resources to maintain them. Timeframe: Ongoing.

B. Strategy: Close road access where road conditions are not safe or where conditions have a significant negative impact on fish and wildlife. Timeframe: Complete by November 2007.

C. Strategy: Provide hunting opportunities for persons with disabilities. This may include, on a case-by-case basis, allowing disabled hunters drive-in access to the center of the wildlife area, on established trails. Timeframe: Ongoing.

D. Strategy: Continue the annual pheasant releases to provide additional hunting opportunity. Timeframe: Annually during pheasant season.

E. Strategy: Work with Sherman Creek fish hatchery staff and volunteer groups to complete planning and construction of an interpretive trail on the wildlife area. Pursue grant money to fund this project. Timeframe: Ongoing.

F. Strategy: Participate in annual education programs. Introduce habitat and wildlife management practices to school groups, Boy Scouts and other local interest groups to further education and support for WDFW programs. Timeframe: Ongoing.

Agency Objective: Ensure WDFW Activities, Programs, Facilities and Lands are Consistent With Local, State and Federal Regulations that Protect and Recover Fish, Wildlife and Their Habitats

1. Manage weeds consistent with state and county rules, and to protect and recover fish and wildlife and their habitats

Weed control is required by state law to protect public economic and natural resources. Invasive weeds are one of the greatest threats to fish and wildlife habitat quality. Cooperative weed control efforts are encouraged to improve efficacy and to minimize impacts on adjacent landowners as part of the agency's good-neighbor priority.

A. Strategy: Produce and implement weed management plan ([APPENDIX 2.](#)) to include weed identification and inventory, risk/threat, control priorities, and monitoring. Timeframe: Developed in 2006, annual updates beginning 2007.

B. Strategy: Coordinate weed efforts with federal, state and local entities to improve efficacy and minimize costs. Timeframe: Ongoing.

C. Strategy: Control weeds in old agricultural fields, and re-plant to perennial native vegetation. Timeframe: Ongoing.

D. Strategy: Control weeds along power line rights-of way and roads to reduce the spread of weeds from one area to another. Timeframe: Annually.

E. Strategy: Continue to manage weed populations of special concern including diffuse knapweed, leafy spurge and Dalmatian toadflax and adjust management as needed. Treat and re-seed weed infestations with desirable vegetation using cultural, mechanical chemical and biological methods. Continue cooperative projects with Ferry County Extension office within the bio-control program. Timeframe: Ongoing.

F. Strategy: Ensure staff is properly trained and licensed, including annual refresher training, to use weed control chemicals. Maintain all required weed control records. Timeframe: Annually.

2. Manage species and habitats in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and Washington State fish passage, road management and forest practice rules.

Federal law requires the protection and management of threatened and endangered species.

A. Strategy: Protect buffers adjacent to wetlands and riparian habitat. Timeframe: Ongoing.

B. Strategy: Specific strategies associated with ESA species present or potential. Timeframe: Ongoing.

3. Provide fire management on agency lands

Fire suppression agreements must exist for all agency lands to protect the people of Washington, and to protect natural and economic resources of the agency and adjacent landowners.

- A.** Strategy: Contract with local, state or federal entities to provide fire suppression support on the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area. Timeframe: Ongoing.
- B.** Strategy: Provide “Red Card” fire training, and annual refresher training, for wildlife area manager and assistant manager. Develop a list of fire responsible individuals. Timeframe: Training completed 2005, refresher 2006 and ongoing.
- C.** Conduct more controlled burning on the uplands above highway 20 in cooperation with DNR and USFS. Timeframe: As funding allows.

4. Protect cultural resources consistent with state and federal law

Federal and state law requires an assessment of cultural resources on agency lands prior to activities that may impact those resources. A comprehensive cultural resource survey has been conducted for the wildlife area.

- A.** Strategy: Assess cultural resource value (historic and archaeological) of all structures before renovation or removal. Timeframe: Completed 2004.
- B.** Strategy: Perform cultural resource review and assessment before digging-including posts for new fence line, parking lots, toilets, buildings, etc. Timeframe: Ongoing.

5. Pay county PILT and assessment obligations

State law requires the agency to pay PILT and county assessments.

- A.** Strategy: Pay PILT and assessments to counties. Timeframe: Annually.

Agency Objective: Provide Sound Operational Management of WDFW Lands, Facilities and Access Sites.

1. Maintain facilities to achieve safe, efficient and effective management of the wildlife area.

- A.** Strategy: Maintain office to provide a safe and effective workplace. Provide utilities, phone, computers, etc. Timeframe: Ongoing.
- B.** Strategy: Maintain all fences to prevent trespass livestock and unauthorized vehicular traffic, thereby protecting habitat. Timeframe: Ongoing.
- C.** Strategy: Survey ownership and build additional fence if needed to protect habitat. Timeframe: Ongoing.
- D.** Strategy: Maintain roads and trails to prevent resource damage and provide access for staff. This includes activities such as weed control, grading, and re-graveling as appropriate. Timeframe: Ongoing.
- E.** Strategy: Maintain parking areas to prevent resource damage and provide access. Sign all parking lots as appropriate. Timeframe: Annually.
- F.** Strategy: Identify and explain other capital needs.

Wildlife area staff will address the capital needs and submit them to the district team and program staff. Timeframe: July of 2006.

2. Maintain other structures and physical improvements

A. Strategy: Maintain all signs, gates, culverts, water structures, wells, irrigation systems to perform operation and maintenance of area. Timeframe: Annually.

3. Maintain equipment

A. Strategy: Service all equipment including trucks, tractor and implements, weed sprayers, trailers, etc. Request replacement equipment when needed. Timeframe: Ongoing.

B. Strategy: Rent equipment when it is more efficient to do so, or when needed. Timeframe: As needed.

4. Pursue funding opportunities

A. Strategy: Apply for grants and other funding opportunities consistent with planned priorities to supplement funding. Timeframe: As needed.

B. Strategy: Enroll lands in CRP and other federal programs when appropriate, to generate revenue and accomplish desired habitat conditions. Timeframe: As appropriate.

C. Establish or maintain sharecropping agreements with neighbors, to address artificial cultivation needs and generate additional revenue to support enhanced O&M. Timeframe: Ongoing.

5. Perform administrative responsibilities

A. Strategy: Develop and monitor budgets. Track expenditures when purchasing supplies and materials. Timeframe: Annual and ongoing.

B. Strategy: Supervise employees. Timeframe: Ongoing.

C. Strategy: Complete administrative and fiscal reports as required. Timeframe: Annual and ongoing.

D. Strategy: Attend project/mitigation related meetings and conduct local public outreach activities. Timeframe: As appropriate.

E. Strategy: For criminal or civil unauthorized activities found to occur or have occurred on the area, take appropriate actions to report/resolve problems. Issue incident reports as necessary. Timeframe: As necessary.

F. Strategy: Maintain leases on DNR lands within the wildlife area. If/when these sections' ownership is turned over to WDFW, assist with the transfer as appropriate. Timeframe: As needed.

6. Protect and apply water rights for best use

Water rights can impact wildlife area operations including food plots, restoration projects, etc. Water use can also reduce instream volumes for fish and other animals.

A. Strategy: Identify and record all water rights and uses of water (**Appendix 4**). Timeframe: Completed in 2006.

B. Strategy: Move all unneeded water rights permanently or temporarily into the State Trust Water Rights Program. Timeframe: As needed.

7. Work with Tribal governments to ensure fish and wildlife management objectives are achieved.

A. Strategy: The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation retain the right to hunt on the North Half, which includes the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area. Communicate wildlife management needs to the Colville Tribe to meet management goals of both agencies. Timeframe: Ongoing.

CHAPTER VI. PERFORMANCE MEASURES, EVALUATION AND UPDATES TO THE SHERMAN CREEK WILDLIFE AREA PLAN

Wildlife area plan performance measures are listed below. Accomplishments and desired outcomes will be evaluated to produce an annual performance report. The wildlife area plan is a working document that will evolve as habitat and species conditions change, as new regulations are enacted, and as public issues and concerns change. Plan updates will address these changes.

1. The Sherman Creek Wildlife Area performance measures for 2006 include:

- Work with WDFW forester and wildlife program staff in 2006 to ensure timely development of a plan for the upcoming timber sale that accomplishes PHS objectives specific to the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area. Explore the possibility of using timber sale receipts to fund unfunded strategies within this management plan.
 - Improve at least one aspen stand in 2006.
 - Mow 2 acres of forest openings to increase succulent forage.
 - Implement and monitor projects to show annual improvements to deer winter range.
 - Develop or improve 1 nesting/perching site or feeding area for Bald eagles annually.
 - Document options for moose and elk management projects annually.
 - One water development project each year.
 - Expand open meadows by 2 acres and install 10 nest boxes for bluebirds each year.
 - Map old agricultural fields and either include them in an expanded food plot program or plan to re-seed with perennial vegetation beneficial to game and non-game species.
 - Appropriate weed control on the wildlife area, with focus on areas adjacent to roads. Meet the goals for 2006 outlined in the weed management plan. Concentrate control efforts on Diffuse Knapweed and Dalmatian Toadflax . Review the year's weed control work, using reports generated, and compare effort and success to previous years' weed control activities.
 - Maintain the irrigation ditch and system that serves the orchard and alfalfa fields for diversion compliance and efficiency.
 - Work with the sharecropper to cultivate and re-seed a portion of the alfalfa fields each year so the entire hay lease is on a maximum of a 6-year rotation.
 - 5 acres of snag inventory and/or recruitment for Pileated woodpecker habitat each year.
 - As habitat surveys are conducted and analyzed, determine general trend of habitat quality. If quality is declining, attempt to determine cause of decline and develop/implement strategies to improve habitat quality.
 - Plans completed and updated as appropriate, including WA plan and all listed appendices.
 - Maintain all signs, parking areas and access sites.
 - Maintain current licenses and certifications required for staff.
 - Conduct at least 1 project using volunteer or school groups for outreach and education.
 - Maintain current fire protection contracts.

2. Annual Evaluation of Performance.

Evaluate performance measures and produce an annual report. At the beginning of each calendar year, the manager will convene the CAG and district team to assess wildlife area specific performance measures and accomplishments that will be used to develop the annual plan update. This update will be an attachment to the plan.

3. Annual Plan Update.

As projects are completed and new issues arise, this plan will be updated, without needing to be re-written. With CAG and District Team input, the plan will continually reflect the strategies, goals and objectives of the current year.

APPENDIX 1. Public Issues and Concerns

The planning process included meetings with the Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) and the District Team (DT) to obtain input helpful in guiding management of the wildlife area. Draft documents of an introduction and history of the wildlife area as well as WDFW goals and objectives were distributed for review and discussion. Below is a list of issues and concerns identified by the CAG and DT during the 2005 planning process.

This input will assist in developing strategies to implement management goals and objectives. Issues that are not underlined originated from the CAG. Underlined statements below indicate that the input was received from the DT.

Issue A. Access/Recreation:

- Maintain current road closures to protect deer on winter range and wildlife using cliff habitat.
- Consider using language in the plan that addresses the use of horses, ATV's and mountain bikes when developing guidelines for public access.
- Conduct more cultural resource inventory, especially in the area of old railroad grades.
- Include wildlife viewing opportunity from the wildlife area headquarters to the fish hatchery.
- Post "Please Don't Litter" (describe fines??) signs along main roads, especially the Inche'llium highway.

Issue B. Wildlife Area Management:

- Add management activities that benefit moose and elk to the plan.
- Manage for healthy, uneven-aged stands of aspen. Expand the list of wildlife that benefit from aspen stands.
- Suggested uses for the agency's 20% share of the alfalfa crop: Trade it to the sharecropper for a late 1st cutting to reduce fawn mortality associated with haying and/or work with the sharecropper to leave more standing crops of a greater variety that will benefit game and non-game species. Joey has spoken with the sharecropper regarding this and he is willing to work with us.
- Develop a plan for timberland management and harvest at Sherman Creek. Create an overlay map of the wildlife area that includes timber types, aspen patches, croplands and non-crop fields.
- Plant more food plots throughout the wildlife area.
- Add goals to the management plan that are targeted to non-game species.
- Maintain/develop springs and distribute water sources such as guzzlers, as appropriate, to improve habitat suitability for deer and other forest dependent wildlife species.
- Place more bird boxes throughout the wildlife area.
- Breeding bird surveys previously done by WDFW biologists could be turned over to someone else; possibly volunteers.
- Conduct more cultural resource inventory, especially in the area of old railroad grades.
- Make more use of volunteer organizations and local school groups for project work.
- Maintain upland bird feeders throughout the winter.

Issue C. Habitat:

- Include a map of deer winter range on the area and a description of preferred habitats.
- Add “Agriculture” as an important habitat under section 2.1 including food plots and alfalfa fields.
- Inventory bat habitat on the area.
- Include a description of Sherman Creek fish habitat.
- Work with DNR and Forest Service fire crews to burn above and below highway 20. Burn small portions over a period of years.
- Improve brood habitat for forest grouse.
- Plant more evergreen ceanothus. Scatter ceanothus seed in open fields then burn to promote sprouting of the plants.
- Plant willow cuttings in wetter areas.
- Inventory bat habitat.
- Contact NWTF for money to fund a habitat-monitoring program in cooperation with Kettle Falls High School.
- Utilize water pockets on the wildlife area. Explore possibilities of further development of existing seeps and springs. Kettle Falls H.S. will install a guzzler in the spring of 2005 on Bisbee Mountain. This project will be funded by NWTF.

Issue D. Weed Control

- In grass fields below the alfalfa fields use chemical fallow in summer and seed to grasses such as crested wheatgrass and bluebunch wheatgrass in the fall.
- Mow the knapweed just before the plants go to seed.
- Continue using a variety of weed control methods (chemical, mechanical, cultural, biological).

APPENDIX 2. Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Weed Management Plan

Weed Control Goals on WDFW Lands

The goal of weed control on Department lands is to maintain and improve the habitat for wildlife, meet legal obligations, provide good stewardship and protect adjacent private lands.

Weed control activities and restoration projects that protect and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats on Department lands are a high priority. When managing for specific wildlife species on our lands the weed densities that trigger control are sometimes different than on lands managed for other purposes (e.g. agricultural, etc.). For example, if a weed is present at low densities and does not diminish the overall habitat value, nor pose an immediate threat to adjacent lands, control may not be warranted. WDFW focuses land management activities on the desired plant species and communities, rather than on simply eliminating weeds.

Control for certain, listed species is mandated by state law (RCW 17.10 and 17.26). WDFW will strive to meet its legal obligation to control for noxious weeds listed according to state law (Class A, B-Designate).

Importantly, WDFW will continue to be a good neighbor and partner regarding weed control issues on adjacent lands. Weeds do not respect property boundaries. The agency believes the best way to gain long-term control is to work cooperatively on a regional scale. As funding and mutual management objectives allow, WDFW will find solutions to collective weed control problems.

Weed Management Approach

State law (RCW 17.15) requires that WDFW use integrated pest management (IPM), defined as a coordinated decision-making and action process that uses the most appropriate pest control methods and strategy in an environmentally and economically sound manner to meet agency programmatic pest management objectives, to accomplish weed control. The elements of IPM include:

Prevention- Prevention programs are implemented to keep the management area free of species that are not yet established but which are known to be pests elsewhere in the area.

Monitoring- Monitoring is necessary to implement prevention and to document the weed species, the distribution and the relative density on the management area.

Prioritizing- Prioritizing weed control is based on many factors such as monitoring data, the invasiveness of the species, management objectives for the infested area, the value of invaded habitat, the feasibility of control, the legal status of the weed, past control efforts, and available budget.

Treatment- Treatment of a weeds using biological, cultural, mechanical, and chemical control serves to eradicate pioneering infestations, reduce established weed populations below densities that impact management objectives for the site, or otherwise diminish their impacts. The method used for control considers human health, ecological impact, feasibility, and cost-effectiveness.

Adaptive Management- Adaptive management evaluates the effects and efficacy of weed treatments and makes adjustments to improve the desired outcome for the management area.

The premise behind a weed management plan is that a structured, logical approach to weed management, based on the best available information, is cheaper and more effective than an ad-hoc approach where one only deals with weed problems as they arise.

Weed Species of Concern on Sherman Creek Wildlife Area:

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*).

Table 1. Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Weeds Including the State and County Weed Class Listing and Approximate Number of Acres Present.

Weed Species	2006 State Weed Class	2006 Ferry County Weed Class	Wildlife Unit(s)	Acres Present**
Spotted knapweed	B	B-designate	All Units	20
Diffuse knapweed	B	B-Non-designate	All Units	180
Dalmatian toadflax	C	B-Non-designate	All Units	20
Canada thistle	C	C	All Units	5
St. John’s wort	C	C	All Units	500
General weeds	(n/a)	(n/a)	All Units	10

** The number of acres listed represents an estimate of acres occupied if all populations were combined into one solid stand of the weed.

B – Designate: Control will be required and enforced.

B - Non-designate: Control will be required and enforced for vehicle corridors, buffer strips, and in areas of limited distribution, control is encouraged in areas of larger infestations.

C – Control is encouraged in areas of large infestations and required in areas of limited distribution.

Source: 2006 Ferry County Noxious Weed List and Policy.

Detailed descriptions, natural history and management information for each weed species listed above (with the exception of “general weeds”) was taken from the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board web site: http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed_list/weed_listhome.html and The Nature Conservancy’s Invasive Species Initiative web site: <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/index.html>. Management for individual weed species can be found in the following “Weed Species Control Plan” (WSCP) sections.

SPOTTED KNAPWEED CONTROL PLAN

Scientific name: *Centaurea maculosa*
Updated: 2006

Common name: Spotted knapweed

DESCRIPTION: Description and Variation: Spotted knapweed is an eight to 48-inch tall perennial with a stout tap root. The plant is hairy and rough with a somewhat woolly appearance. The leaves, which are once or twice divided into lobes on each side of the center vein, are blue-gray in color. The over-wintering rosettes bolt in early summer, producing 1-15 stems. The stem leaves, which have a few lobes or are linear, become smaller toward the top of the plant. The pink to purple flowers (rarely white) occurs in egg-shaped to oblong heads, which are solitary at the ends of clustered branches. The bracts of the flower heads have obvious veins, with a black spot on the tip. The lower and middle bracts are egg-shaped, and green to brown below the tip. The tip and upper bract margin have a soft spine-like fringe, with the center spine being shorter than the others. White-flowered plants usually lack the dark spot on the bract tip. The plant flowers from June to October, producing black to brown, oval seeds with pale lengthwise lines, and a ring of slender, chaffy bristles.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION:

Herbicide can be an effective tool for control and applicators should refer to the PNW Weed Management Handbook, or other reputable resources, for product recommendations and timing.
Response to Cultural Methods: Grazing, mowing, and tillage: seasonal.

Biocontrol Potential Presently, there are ten biocontrol agents that have been released on spotted knapweed in Washington. *Agapeta zoegana* (root-boring moth), *Bangasternus fausti* (seed head weevil), *Chaetorellia acrolophi* (seed head fly), *Cyphocleonus achates* (root-boring/gall weevil), *Larinus obtusus* (seed head weevil), *Terellia virens* (seed head fly) are not presently collectable, and their effectiveness is unknown. *Larinus minutus* (seed head weevil) is available in limited quantities for redistribution. *Metzeria paucipunctella* (seed head moth), *Urophora affinis* (seed head gall fly), and *Urophora quadrifasciata* (seed head gall fly) are available for mass collections.

CURRENT DISTRIBUTION ON THE SITE

Widely scattered throughout all units on the wildlife area.

ACRES AFFECTED BY WEED: ~20

WEED DENSITY: Widely scattered.

GOALS

Continue to reduce the current population.
Prevent new occurrences.

OBJECTIVES

Treat all known populations.
Survey nearby areas for pioneering infestations.

ACTIONS PLANNED

Continue treatment of all infestations with Tordon 22K herbicide to prevent seed production.
Monitoring will continue on an annual basis.

CONTROL SUMMARY AND TREND

Spotted knapweed control efforts have focused on reducing plant density in scattered patches and stop seed production annually. Patch size and plant density within individual populations has been reduced over time.

DIFFUSE KNAPWEED CONTROL PLAN

Scientific name: *Centaurea diffusa*
Updated: 2006

Common name: Diffuse knapweed

DESCRIPTION: Description and Variation: Diffuse knapweed is an 8 to 40 inch tall, biennial or short-lived perennial species, with a long tap root. The single, upright stem produces several spreading branches. The basal leaves are short-stalked and divided into lobes on both sides of the center vein. The stem leaves are stalkless, becoming smaller and less divided near the top of the stem. The flowers, which are generally white (sometimes pink or lavender), occur in urn-shaped heads that grow in clusters at the ends of the branches. The bracts of the flower heads are leathery, with obvious veins. The lower and middle bracts are yellowish-green with a buff or brown margin; they are edged with a fringe of spines plus a longer, spreading spine at the tip.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION:

Herbicide can be an effective tool for control and applicators should refer to the PNW Weed Management Handbook, or other reputable resources, for product recommendations and timing.

Response to Cultural Methods: Cultivation will eliminate diffuse knapweed. Grazing or mowing delays flowering and may increase the number of stems, thereby increasing seed production.

Biocontrol Potential: Five biocontrol agents have been established on diffuse knapweed in Washington. Two seed head weevils, *Bangasternus fausti* and *Larinus minutus*, do not occur in collectable numbers at present. *Urophora affinis* (seed head fly), *Urophora quadrifasciata* (seed head fly), and *Sphenoptera jugoslavica* (root boring/gall beetle) are available for mass collections.

CURRENT DISTRIBUTION ON THE SITE

Widely scattered throughout the wildlife area. We expect the presence of scattered plants along roadsides to continue for the foreseeable future regardless of control efforts, due to introduction of seeds from vehicles, hunters' clothing, etc.

ACRES AFFECTED BY WEED: ~180
scattered

WEED DENSITY: Moderate: widely

GOALS

Control current populations.

Prevent new occurrences.

OBJECTIVES

Annually inspect roadsides and known areas of infestation for new plants.

Treat as much of known infested acreage as funding allows each year with residual herbicide before plants produce seed.

Survey nearby areas for pioneering infestations.

ACTIONS PLANNED

In 2006, herbicide application with Tordon 22K.

Monitoring will continue on an annual basis on all units.

CONTROL SUMMARY AND TREND

Diffuse knapweed control has been a high priority at Sherman Creek for the past 15 years. Agricultural fields that were once solid, waste-high stands of knapweed now have a few scattered plants at most. Roads are sprayed a minimum of every other year with residual herbicides. Biocontrol insects for diffuse knapweed are found throughout the area, some of which are periodically collected by the Ferry County extension office for distribution to other areas. Trend: Diffuse knapweed has been greatly reduced on the wildlife area due to ongoing control efforts.

DALMATIAN TOADFLAX CONTROL PLAN

Scientific name: *Linaria genistifolia*

Common name: Dalmatian toadflax

Updated: 2006

DESCRIPTION: (Following information is taken from the website:

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/Linadalm.html>): Mature dalmatian toadflax plants grow to be between 0.8 to 1.5 m tall. Leaves are broad, 2-5 cm long, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, 1-2.5 cm long and are alternate, generally clasping but crowded. Flowers are bright yellow. *Linaria genistifolia* ssp. *dalmatica* typically flowers from May to August. A mature plant can produce up to 500,000 seeds annually, and they can remain dormant for up to ten years. Dalmatian toadflax produces seed from July to October.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION:

Herbicide can be an effective tool for control and applicators should refer to the PNW Weed Management Handbook, or other reputable resources, for product recommendations and timing.

(Following information is taken from website:

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/Linadalm.html>):

Successful control can be obtained by pulling, or killing the plants with herbicide, before toadflax seed production begins. Since the plant also spreads through vegetative propagation, and the seeds can remain dormant for up to ten years, this process must be repeated every year for at least ten years to completely remove a stand. Competitive perennial grasses and forbs should be planted to utilize water and nutrients that would otherwise be readily available to toadflax.

The key to managing *Linaria genistifolia* ssp. *dalmatica* is to: 1) eliminate or greatly reduce seed production from established individuals (by cutting or pulling seed stalks prior to seed set, or by using insects to destroy flowers, seeds, or damage plants sufficiently so that no or few seeds are produced); and 2) destroy toadflax seedlings that arise from the soil seed bank before these plants become established (as above, plus herbicide).

Several insect species have been introduced as biological control agents for both toadflax species but none of them completely eliminate infestations. Herbicide treatment, if applied at the right time, can significantly reduce toadflax seed production. Cutting, mowing, and disking of toadflax plants can be effective on agricultural lands if repeated annually.

CURRENT DISTRIBUTION ON THE SITE

There are small populations throughout the wildlife area.

ACRES AFFECTED BY WEED: ~20

WEED DENSITY: Low.

GOALS

Continue to reduce population size and eliminate stray plants.

Prevent new occurrences.

OBJECTIVES

Treat all plants found each year, before they produce seed.
Survey nearby areas for pioneering infestations.

ACTIONS PLANNED

Herbicide application to all populations without biocontrol agents in 2006.
Monitoring will continue on an annual basis.

CONTROL SUMMARY AND TREND

Herbicide has been applied to all populations without biocontrol annually.
Biocontrol releases in 2001 and 2002 have been successful in reducing targeted populations.
Population size and density have been reduced over the past several years through 2005

CANADA THISTLE CONTROL PLAN

Scientific name: *Cirsium arvense*

Common name: Canada thistle

Updated: 2006

DESCRIPTION: Canada thistle is a perennial herb with a deep-seated complex system of roots spreading horizontally, which give rise to aerial shoots. The one to four foot tall stems are slender, green, and freely branched. The leaves are alternate, sessile, and deeply lobed. The leaf margins have stiff yellowish spines. The heads are many and relatively small. The plants are dioecious (all flowers on a plant are either male or female). The flowers are purple. The fruits are about 1/8 inch long, somewhat flattened, and brownish with an apical circle of long hairs, these eventually falling. Four varieties of *C. arvense* have been recognized based on variation in leaf characters, texture, vestiture, segmentation, and spyness.

Canada thistle is a perennial herb with a deep-seated complex system of roots spreading horizontally which give rise to aerial shoots. The one to four foot tall stems are slender, green, and freely branched. The leaves are alternate, sessile, and deeply lobed. The leaf margins have stiff yellowish spines. The heads are many and relatively small. The plants are dioecious (all flowers on a plant are either male or female). The flowers are purple. The fruits are about 1/8 inch long, somewhat flattened, and brownish with an apical circle of long hairs, these eventually falling. Four varieties of *C. arvense* have been recognized based on variation in leaf characters, texture, vestiture, segmentation, and spyness.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION:

Herbicide can be an effective tool for control and applicators should refer to the PNW Weed Management Handbook, or other reputable resources, for product recommendations and timing.

Response to Herbicides: Effective control can be achieved by using several broad-leaved herbicides that do not harm grasses. For more site-specific control recommendations, please refer to the latest edition of the Pacific Northwest Weed Control Handbook.

Response to Cultural Methods: Planting competitive crops, such as alfalfa and forage grasses can be very effective in controlling an infestation of Canada thistle.

Response to Mechanical Methods: Repeated tillage at 21-day intervals for about four months can be effective on minor infestations of Canada thistle. Repeated mowing to weaken stems and prevent seeding is also effective in low-level infestations.

Biocontrol Potentials: Many insects, a few nematodes, and the American Goldfinch have been reported to feed on various parts of Canada thistle. Most of these do very little damage. Three insects from Europe have been studied for biological control - *Altica carduorum* Guer (flea beetle), a leaf feeder, has not established itself well. Adults of the beetle *Ceutorhynchus litura* F. eat young thistle shoots, but do little damage. The fly, *Urophora cardui* L. is the most promising biological control agent. Eggs are laid in the terminal buds and galls develop which divert nutrients and stress the plant. Many microorganisms have been found associated with Canada thistle, but no potential biocontrol agents are known.

CURRENT DISTRIBUTION ON THE SITE

Found in very small patches on all units of the wildlife area.

ACRES AFFECTED BY WEED: ~5

WEED DENSITY: Low

GOALS

Control isolated populations and prevent new occurrences.

OBJECTIVES

Treat as many patches and individual plants as possible before they produce seed.

Survey nearby areas for pioneering infestations.

ACTIONS PLANNED

Continue spraying with herbicides such as Curtail or Tordon.

Monitoring will continue on an annual basis on all units.

CONTROL SUMMARY AND TREND

Several years of control efforts up through the 2005 season have kept Canada thistle from expanding on the wildlife area.

ST. JOHN'S WORT CONTROL PLAN

Scientific name: *Hypericum perforatum*

Common name: St. John's wort, goatweed

Updated: 2006

DESCRIPTION: Saint Johnswort is an erect, opposite-leaved perennial herb, ranging from two to four feet tall arising from a taproot. The plant can have single or multiple stems. The reddish stems are smooth, somewhat two-edged, woody at the base, and branching out toward the top of the plant. The narrow, lance shaped leaves are about one inch long, stalkless with pointed tips. Each leaf is spotted with tiny translucent dots. Each flower has five yellow petals and many yellow stamens. The black dots often visible along the petal margins are glands containing hypericin. This red pigment is also visible in glands on leaf margins giving the leaf a perforated look. The inflorescence is a flat-topped cluster of many flowers found at branch ends. The extended flowering period is from May to late September. St. Johnswort spreads both by underground and aboveground creeping stems, and by seed.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION:

Herbicide can be an effective tool for control and applicators should refer to the PNW Weed Management Handbook, or other reputable resources, for product recommendations and timing.

Response to Herbicides: Always refer to Pacific Northwest Weed Control Handbook when using herbicides for noxious weed control to check for timing and rates of application. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. Repeated applications will be necessary. Biological control agents are recommended for large weed infestation sites.

Response to Cultural Methods: St. Johnswort seedlings will readily establish in disturbed situations that include roadsides, overgrazed pastures, or open rangeland where native or forage species do not offer any competition. The combination of site-specific range management which includes encouragement of beneficial plants species as well as a grazing management plan will prevent new infestations and reinfestations. (Piper 1997). A successful control program in Australia included cultivation, sowing a competitive grass species, and fertilization. (Campbell and Delfosse 1984 as cited in Piper 1997; Moore et al. 1989 as cited in Mitich 1994).

Response to Mechanical Methods: Pulling should only be considered an option on new or small infestation sites and repeated pulls will be necessary to ensure removal of the whole plant and any lateral roots. Do not leave plants at the site, since vegetative growth will occur, and the seed source will remain. Tillage is effective when repeated in croplands (Crompton et al. 1988 as cited in Piper 1997). Mowing is a limited option depending both on site accessibility and whether seed formation has occurred. Repeated cuts are necessary (Piper 1997).

Biocontrol Potentials: Two foliage beetles, *Chrysolina hyperici* and *C. quadrigemina* were released in California from 1945 to 1946, and established within two years. This was the first intentional release of biological control agents on a weed population in North America. (Holloway 1957 cited in Piper 1997). A root-boring beetle *Agrilus hyperici* and a leaf bud gall-forming midge *Zeuxidiplosis giardi* were released in 1950 to help the *Chrysolina* spp. (Holloway and Huffaker 1953 as cited in Piper 1997). These established California colonies became the source for collections and distribution to *Hypericum perforatum* infestations throughout the western United

States. Recently released and established is the moth *Aplocera plagiata*. (McCaffrey et al. 1995 cited in Piper 1997).

CURRENT DISTRIBUTION ON THE SITE: There are large infestations throughout Ferry and Stevens counties. This weed is widely scattered throughout the wildlife area. We expect infestations to continue for the foreseeable future regardless of control efforts, due to the large amount of annual seed production and the lack of funds available to control this aggressive weed.

ACRES AFFECTED BY WEED: ~500

WEED DENSITY: moderate to high

GOALS

Treat as much of known infested acreage as funding allows each year with residual herbicide before plants produce seed
Control expanding populations around agricultural fields and along roadsides.
Prevent new occurrences.

OBJECTIVES

Prioritize infestations to be treated.
Investigate biological control availability.
Treat as many plants as possible with herbicide before they produce seed.
Survey nearby areas for pioneering infestations.

ACTIONS PLANNED

Continue with herbicide treatments of priority infestations in 2006.
Monitoring will continue on an annual basis in priority areas.

CONTROL SUMMARY AND TREND

Preventing encroachment into agricultural fields has been the highest priority with this species.
Trend: Control and/or reduction of priority infestations through 2005.

GENERAL WEEDS CONTROL PLAN

Scientific name: *Many*

Common name: General Weeds

Updated: 2006

DESCRIPTION: General weeds describe mixed vegetation that interferes with maintenance, agricultural, or restoration activities, where keying plants to individual species is not appropriate. Examples of general weeds may include vegetation occurring along roadsides, parking areas, trails, and structures and include species like, cheatgrass, kochia, Russian thistle, etc. General weeds may also occur in agricultural fields, or comprise the dominant vegetation at a site identified for habitat restoration. These weed species includes cheatgrass, Jim Hill mustard, purple mustard, field bindweed, and others.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Herbicide can be an effective tool for control. Applicators should refer to the PNW Weed Management Handbook, or other reputable resources, for product recommendations and timing, depending on the weed and desired management objectives.

Mechanical weed control may include mowing, burning, and/or plowing and disking of entire fields. Plowing and/or disking is required when preparing old farm fields for rehabilitation to native grass stands.

CURRENT DISTRIBUTION ON THE SITE

All public accesses and roadsides, and most old agricultural fields, on the wildlife area contain general weeds to varying degrees.

ACRES AFFECTED BY WEED: ~10

WEED DENSITY: Low

GOALS

Maintain public access

Prevent infestations in agricultural fields

Reduce fire danger

OBJECTIVES

Treat high public use areas with residual herbicide to prevent seed production, and with broad-spectrum/low residual herbicide such as glyphosate to minimize green growth.

Monitor and treat agricultural fields using chemical and mechanical controls to prevent infestation and promote desirable vegetation.

ACTIONS PLANNED

In 2006, problematic portions of roadsides, parking lots, and access sites, will be treated with appropriate herbicides, to eliminate the production and spread of weed seeds and improve appearance and public access for the entire season.

CONTROL SUMMARY AND TREND

For the past several years up through the 2005 season, general weed control using a variety of controls has been a priority around parking areas, agricultural fields, campsites and interior access roads. Trend: control or reduction of general weeds in these areas.

APPENDIX 3. Fire Control Plan

Responsible Fire-Suppression Entities: Fire response and suppression on the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area falls within the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Therefore, DNR must be contacted first, followed by an immediate call to other jurisdictions adjacent to the fire including the U.S. Forest Service and Ferry County Local Fire District # 3 at Barney's Junction. In some cases, where there are multiple landowners or fire responders, fire suppression activities may involve two or more fire fighting entities.

WDFW pays an annual fee to DNR for fire protection on WDFW lands. Fire suppression on WDFW forestlands is performed by DNR and/or U.S. Forest Service depending on the location of the fire, proximity to USFS lands and decisions made by fire management officials.

Department Fire Management Policy: It is the Departments policy that wildlife area staff members are not firefighters and should not fight fires. Wildlife Area staff are trained in fire fighting and fire behavior. However, staff will only provide logistical support and information regarding access to the Incident Commander of the responding fire entity.

Wildlife Habitat Concerns: The Sherman Creek Wildlife Area contains fire sensitive habitat critical for survival of wintering herds of deer. WDFW recommends that dense coniferous forest stands be protected whenever possible. This will maintain valuable thermal and escape cover habitat components and minimize displacement of all wildlife species due to fire. A WDFW Advisor will provide information to the Incident Commander regarding habitat concerns.

Aerial Support: The WDFW recommends that fire-fighting entities suppress fires on the wildlife area as rapidly as possible. WDFW requests the Incident Commander to seek aerial support if needed to extinguish a fire on its land promptly. If, in the professional judgment of the Incident Commander, a fire on lands adjacent to the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area causes an immediate threat to the area, WDFW requests that he/she seeks aerial support as possible.

Reporting: Report any fire on or adjacent to all units of the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area by contacting the DNR Dispatch Office in Colville (See contacts below). It is absolutely critical that any fire on the area is attacked as aggressively as possible during the initial attack. The importance of aerial support cannot be overstated.

Contact in the order listed below

Fire Districts- Dial 911

NAME	TELEPHONE	CELL
Ferry Co. LFD #3 Herb Hipler	509-684-1240	

DNR- contact in order listed and request Operations or Staff Coordinator

NAME	TELEPHONE	CELL
DNR Dispatch (Colville) Request Operations or Staff Coordinator	509-684-7474	

USFS – contact in order listed

U.S. Forest Service-Tom Weinmann (Kettle Falls)	509-738-7730	
USFS Dispatch-Don Deese (Colville)	509-684-7194	

The following table provides telephone numbers in priority order of Department staff to be contacted in the event of a fire.

Department of Fish and Wildlife - contact in order listed

NAME	TELEPHONE	PRIVATE TELEPHONE	CELL
Joey McCanna, Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Manager	509-648-3680	509-648-3631	509-994-9335
Todd Baarstad, Wildlife Biologist	509-636-2344 or 636-2345	509-253-4355	509-721-1302
Chris Christensen, W.A. Habitat Tech.	509-684-4120	509-935-6488	509-675-1248
Ron Cram, Wildlife Officer, Ferry Co.	509-684-2089		
Mike Charron Sergeant, Chewelah	509-684-2089		
Regional Office – Spokane	509-892-1001		
Regional Program Manager – Kevin Robinette	509-892-7859		

APPENDIX 4. Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Water Rights

File #	Cert #	Person	Stat	Doc	Priority Dt	Purpose	Qi	UOM	Qa	Ir Acres	TRS	QQ/Q	Src's	1stSrc	Com 1	Com 2
G3-064685CL		WN. ST. DEPT. OF GAME	A	Claim L		DG		GPM			36.0N 37.0E 22		1	WELL	Sherman Creek Unit	
S3-*10120C	4747	WA Fish & Wildlife Department	A	Cert	11/13/50	IR	1.00	CFS		100.00	36.0N 37.0E 28	SW/NE	1	SHERMAN CREEK	Sherman Creek Unit	
S3-*22454CWRIS	11517	WA Fish & Wildlife Department	A	Cert	8/10/70	IR	1.00	CFS	246.00	100.00	36.0N 37.0E 28	SW/NW	1	SHERMAN CREEK	Sherman Creek Unit	
S3-*CV1P383		WA Fish & Wildlife Department	A	Cert Chg	11/13/50	IR	1.00	CFS		100.00	36.0N 37.0E 28	SW/NW	1	SHERMAN CREEK	Sherman Creek Unit	Changes POD
G3-064686CL		WN. ST. DEPT. OF GAME	A	Claim L		DG		GPM			36.0N 37.0E 33		1	SPRING	Sherman Creek Unit	
G3-072194CL		SPORTSMAN JAMES L	A	CLAIM S		DG,ST					36.0N 37.0E 20		1	WELL	Sherman Creek Unit	Dept owned
S3-*15472CWRIS	7886	BAKER W A	A	CERT	5/20/59	DM	.05	CFS	4.50		36.0N 37.0E 22		1	BEN CAMP CR	Sherman Creek Unit	Dept owned
S3-*00442PWRIS		ROOT & KNIGHT	I	Permit	6/25/20	IR	1.00	CFS		60.00	36.0N 37.0E 27		1	SHERMAN CREEK	Sherman Creek Unit	Dept owned
S3-*00457PWRIS		CAMP BEN C	I	Permit	8/1/20	DS,PO	28.00	CFS			36.0N 37.0E 27		1	SHERMAN CREEK	Sherman Creek Unit	Dept owned
G3-*04931PWRIS		BAKER W A	I	Permit	7/23/58	DS	10.00	GPM	5.60		36.0N 37.0E 27		1	WELL	Sherman Creek Unit	Dept owned
S3-28684		BONNEVILLE POWER ADMIN	I	Permit	8/25/89	FS	10.00	CFS	1.00		36.0N 37.0E 27		1	SHERMAN CREEK	Sherman Creek Unit	Dept owned
S3-*12340CWRIS	5443	WALDEN C J ET AL	A	CERT	5/12/53	DM	.02				36.0N 37.0E 27		1	UNNAM ED SPRING	Sherman Creek Unit	Dept owned
S3-00089CWRIS	S3-00089C	MELLENBERGER H	A	CERT	2/19/71	DS	.01	CFS	2.00		36.0N 37.0E 27		1	UNNAM ED SPRING	Sherman Creek Unit	Dept owned
R3-*00670PWRIS		WHITE PINE SASH CO	I	Permit	9/15/20	CI,IR			15.00		36.0N 37.0E 28		1	SHERMAN CREEK	Sherman Creek Unit	Dept owned
S3-*04010AWRIS		FULLER R G	I	New App	7/24/34	DS,IR	.50	CFS			36.0N 37.0E 28		1	DEADD MAN CREEK	Sherman Creek Unit	Dept owned
S3-*06956CWRIS	5453	MELLENBERGER H	A	CERT	3/8/46	IR	.60	CFS		40.00	36.0N 37.0E 28		1	SHERMAN CREEK	Sherman Creek Unit	Dept owned
S3-*00664PWRIS		WHITE PINE SASH CO	I	Permit	9/14/20	CI,IR,PO	24.00	CFS		1,000.00	36.0N 37.0E 30		1	SHERMAN CREEK	Sherman Creek Unit	Dept owned
S3-*08979PWRIS		CASSIDY FRANK F	I	Permit	8/8/49	IR	.20	CFS		20.00	36.0N 67.0E 26		1	UNNAM ED STREAM	Sherman Creek Unit	Dept owns part; from Cassidy
S3-*08980PWTIS		CASSIDY FRANK F	I	Permit	8/8/49	IR	.10	CFS		10.00	36.0N 67.0E 27		1	UNNAM ED SPRING	Sherman Creek Unit	Dept owns part; from Cassidy

APPENDIX 5. Management Plan Comments & Responses

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, February 2007

No public comments were received on the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Plan.

**APPENDIX 6. Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive and Candidate Species List
For Sherman Creek Wildlife Area**

<i>Wildlife Species</i>	<i>Listed Status</i>
Bald Eagle	State Threatened
Common Loon	State Sensitive
Peregrine Falcon	State Sensitive
Golden Eagle	State Candidate
Lewis' Woodpecker	State Candidate
White-headed Woodpecker	State Candidate
Pileated Woodpecker	State Candidate
Western Toad	State Candidate
Northern Goshawk	State Candidate




Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

STATE LISTED SPECIES

Revised March 2006

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission has classified the following 46 species as Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive. Many also hold a federal designation, such as Federal Endangered (FE), Threatened (FT), Proposed Threatened (FPT), Candidate (FC), or Species of Concern (FSC).

STATE ENDANGERED	STATE THREATENED	STATE SENSITIVE
<p><i>A species native to the State of Washington that is seriously threatened with extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the state.</i></p> <p>The 28 State Endangered species are designated in Washington Administrative Code 232-12-014</p>	<p><i>A species native to the state of Washington that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout a significant portion of its range within the state without cooperative management or removal of threats.</i></p> <p>The 11 State Threatened species are designated in Washington Administrative Code 232-12-011</p>	<p><i>A species native to the state of Washington that is vulnerable or declining and is likely to become endangered or threatened in a significant portion of its range within the state without cooperative management or removal of threats.</i></p> <p>The 7 State Sensitive species are designated in Washington Administrative Code 232-12-011</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MAMMALS (14)</p> <p>Pygmy Rabbit FE Sperm Whale FE Fin Whale FE Sei Whale FE Blue Whale FE Humpback Whale FE Black Right Whale FE Killer Whale (transients, offshores, others) - Southern Resident FE Gray Wolf FT Grizzly Bear FT Fisher FC Sea Otter - Columbian White-tailed Deer FE Woodland Caribou FE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BIRDS (7)</p> <p>American White Pelican - Brown Pelican FE Sandhill Crane - Snowy Plover FT Upland Sandpiper - Spotted Owl FT Streaked Horned Lark FC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">REPTILES (2)</p> <p>Western Pond Turtle FSC Leatherback Sea Turtle FE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AMPHIBIANS (2)</p> <p>Oregon Spotted Frog FC Northern Leopard Frog -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INSECTS (3)</p> <p>Oregon Silverspot Butterfly FT Taylor's Checkerspot FC Mardon Skipper FC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MAMMALS (4)</p> <p>Western Gray Squirrel FSC Mazama Pocket Gopher FC Steller Sea Lion FT North American Lynx FT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BIRDS (5)</p> <p>Bald Eagle FT Ferruginous Hawk FSC Marbled Murrelet FT Greater Sage-Grouse FC Sharp-tailed Grouse FSC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">REPTILES (2)</p> <p>Green Sea Turtle FT Loggerhead Sea Turtle FT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Find us on-line at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife.htm</p> <p><i>For more information on federal status, contact the US Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MAMMALS (1)</p> <p>Gray Whale -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BIRDS (2)</p> <p>Common Loon - Peregrine Falcon FSC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FISH (3)</p> <p>Pygmy Whitefish - Margined Sculpin FSC Olympic Mudminnow -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AMPHIBIAN (1)</p> <p>Larch Mountain Salamander FSC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For more information, contact the Wildlife Program (360) 902-2515</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>

REFERENCES

WDFW Strategic Plan

Wildlife Area Statewide Plan

WDFW policies and procedures

WDFW Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Draft Working Summary-1997

WDFW Priority Habitats and Species List-1999

Sherman Creek Water Quality Enhancement Proposal, WDFW/USFS-1992

LeClerc Watershed Assessment, USFS, Colville National Forest-1997

USFWS/WA. Dept of Game Cooperative Agreement- 1956.

DNR/WDFW Fish and Wildlife Lease #10-071953.

2006 Ferry County Noxious Weed List and Policy