

## Partnered Wildlife Habitat Projects on Diamond Lake Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest, Pacific Northwest Region

The Diamond Lake Ranger District is located just west of the crest of the Cascades in Southwest Oregon. With over 300,000 acres of federally managed lands, the district is home to a wide variety of interesting and unique natural resources. At lower elevation you can find towering Douglas-fir forests. At the higher elevations, you find alpine meadows and magnificent views. Big game populations, principally Roosevelt elk and black-tailed deer, are an important resource on public lands. Recreational hunting for these two species alone accounts for an estimated 23,321 days of recreational use annually on the Diamond Lake District (1999 ODF&W data). Although wildlife habitat work accomplished on the district in the past has centered around these big game populations and continues to be a focal point for the wildlife program, the work we do also benefits other wildlife species, such as grouse, song birds, quail and turkeys.

In the past, regeneration logging practices provided lots of high-quality foraging habitat. Changing forest management policies have produced a negative trend in foraging habitat amounts. Declining population trends are expected to continue without active forage management activities. The solution? To engage in an active and extensive habitat management program, focusing resources on forage enhancement and early seral habitats.

Past accomplishments on the district include planting and fertilizing a backcountry airstrip, forage regeneration by mowing, prescribed burning, post-timber sale seeding and planting as well as installing big game guzzlers, water developments, fence removal, forage openings, forage production and utilization administrative study, shrub regeneration (mowing) and fertilization.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Accomplishment</b>
2002	Rogue/Umpqua Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Umpqua Valley Audubon (UVA)	41 acres mowing 10 acres fertilization 45 acres seeding
2003	Rogue/Umpqua RAC, Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Oregon Hunters Association (OHA), Forest Service (USFS), UVA	117 acres mowing 10 acres fertilization 65 acres seeding
2004	RMEF – Rogue/Umpqua RAC OHA, USFS, UVA	98 acres mowing 10 acres fertilization 80 acres seeding
2005	RMEF–Rogue/Umpqua RAC OHA, USFS, UVA	173 acres mowing 10 acres fertilization 300 acres burning 90 acres seeding
2006	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), Rogue/Umpqua RAC, USFS, UVA	108 acres mowing 150 acres burning 130 acres seeding
2007	RMEF, ODFW, Rogue/Umpqua RAC, Douglas Forest Protection Association, Student Conservation Association USFS,	339 acres mowing 709 acres seed/plant 24 acres food plots 21 acres bracken fern control

	Flat IRTC Stewardship Credits, North Umpqua Hydropower Project Mitigation UVA	10 acres ceanothus regeneration 61 acres shrub-land restoration 8 acres fertilization
2008	RMEF, ODFW, Rogue/Umpqua RAC OHA-Umpqua Chapter USFS Flat IRTC Stewardship Credits North Umpqua Hydropower Project Mitigation UVA	266 acres mowing 299 acres seed/plant 16 acres food plots 5 acres shrub-land restoration 39 acres fertilization
2009	RMEF, ODFW, Rogue/Umpqua RAC OHA-Umpqua Chapter USFS Flat IRTC Stewardship Credits North Umpqua Hydropower Project Mitigation UVA	132 acres mowing 78 acres seed/plant 25 acres food plots 5 acres shrub-land restoration 39 acres fertilization 7 miles of linear meadow creation 4 acres administrative forage study 20 acres fence removal

Future wildlife habitat projects on the Diamond Lake Ranger District may include:

**1. Continuing Forage Opening Creation**

- Forage Opens will be created by clearing an area of trees and shrubs, cultivating a suitable seedbed, adding fertilizer or soil amendments, and seeding and planting with desired grasses, forbs and shrubs.
- In the future looking at new ways to create these openings

**2. Continue Forage production and utilization administrative study**

- Diamond Lake District Wildlife Program plans call for extensive forage enhancement projects into the future. To ensure maximum benefits from these treatments, a variety of forage plants will be evaluated to determine both productivity and animal preferences.

**3. More prescribed burning**

**4. Meadow restoration**

**5. Oak and Chinquapin restoration**

**6. Continued Shrub Regeneration (mowing)**

- Mowing was accomplished by tracked equipment with heavy-duty mower attachments. Logging units 15+ years of age have declining forage quality, but represent an excellent opportunity for forage management activities. Our objective was to develop enhanced foraging opportunities in this abundant habitat.
- Investigate the use of prescribed fire or a combination of both mechanical and fire to accomplish shrub regeneration.

**8. Wetland creation which includes installing guzzlers**

For more information about the wildlife program on the Diamond Lake Ranger District, contact Jeff Bohler or Justin Hadwen at (541) 498-2531 or [jbohler@fs.fed.us](mailto:jbohler@fs.fed.us) or [jhadwen@fs.fed.us](mailto:jhadwen@fs.fed.us).