



United States Department of Agriculture

# Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species Programs



*Accomplishments*  
Fiscal Year 2015



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# Pacific Northwest Regional Office

## 2015 Wildlife Program Accomplishments

### Highlights of the 2015 Regional Office accomplishments include:

- Helping to coordinate the 25th Anniversary of the Blue Mountain Elk Initiative Celebration in Pendleton. Former FS Chief Dr. Jack Ward Thomas gave the keynote address.
- Updating the DecAID website and recording four webinars for biologists to utilize on their own.
- Coordinate Challenge Cost Share grant program which funded 42 projects and distributed \$1,379,000 in R6 funding.
- Participate in 2 integrated vegetation reviews on the Umpqua and Umatilla NF's.
- Coordinated surveys on 30 transects for the fourth year of a 6 year white-headed woodpecker monitoring program in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS).
- Coordinated and participated in 5 Rapid Assessment Teams for helping assess and prioritize post fire restoration needs and potential salvage options.
- Participated in 4 Forest Plan Revision workgroups as well as the pre assessment work.
- Reviewed projects for the BMEI and Oregon and Washington Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation PAC's.
- Held interagency coordination meetings with ODFW, WDFW and the USFWS.
- Advised ongoing Forest Plan Revisions on the Colville and Blue Mountains.
- Participated as co-lead in development of questions to be addressed in the NWFP Science Synthesis.

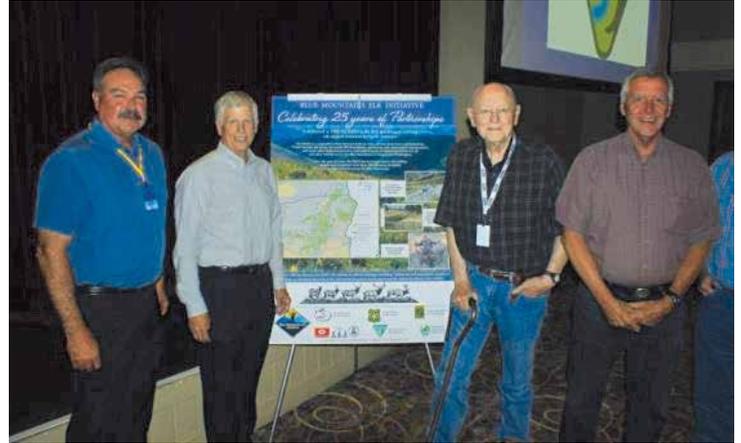
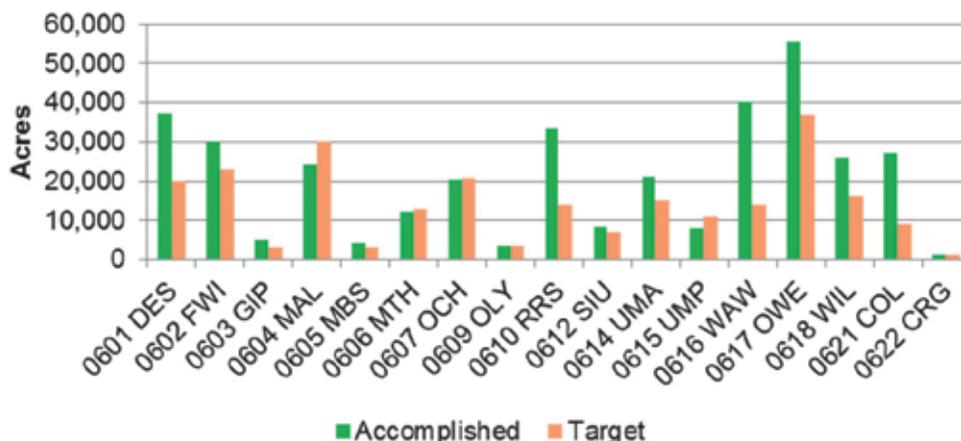


Figure 1. From left to right, Mike Wisdom, Tom Tidwell, Jack Ward Thomas and Dale Bosworth at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Blue Mountain Elk Initiative in Pendleton Oregon in July of 2015.

- Gave presentations to ODFW, WDFW, GNLC and the WildLinks Conference on the Terrestrial Restoration and Conservation Strategy.
- Helped coordinate and fund the largest multi species carnivore survey effort in the history of Oregon in partnership with Katie Moriarty of PNW, Bruce Hollen of BLM and the USFWS. Over 700 cameras were deployed.
- Assisted Eastside Restoration Team in developing habitat model for goshawk. The model will be used in conjunction with the existing white-headed woodpecker model to help develop landscape and stand level treatments.

### Final 2015 WIT Terrestrial Habitat Enhancement Targets For Region 6



**Contacts:** Josh Chapman, 503-808-2901  
 Regional Wildlife Program Manager  
 Kim Mellen McLean, 503-808-2677  
 Regional Wildlife Ecologist



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**Pacific Northwest Regional Office**  
 1220 SW Third Avenue  
 Portland, OR 97201

# Regional Office

## 2015 Threatened and Endangered Species Program Accomplishments

T&E program goals are to: (1) recover threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate (TEPC) species; (2) coordinate and collaborate with states, federal agencies and non-governmental organizations to conserve and restore TEPC species habitat and populations; and (3) provide technical assistance concerning the Endangered Species Act and its implementation and Forest Service T&E policy and procedures.

### Accomplishments include:

- Made focused investments on monitoring and small scale restoration projects for listed and de-listed wildlife species. Projects were completed on 10 National Forest and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area for Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, Gray Wolf, Silverspot and Taylor Checkerspot Butterfly, Oregon Spotted Frog, and Western Snowy Plover.
- Assisted Forests on issues associated with OR-7 wolf pack in the Cascades by summarizing literature, providing examples analyses, and facilitating a conference call with other Forests.
- Prepared multiple letters to the field on FWS findings and proposed listings
- Refined and adopted National Forest Service interim Greater Sage Grouse guidance to protect the species and habitat.
- Working with the FWS, ODF, ODFW, BLM to develop a memorandum of understanding for fisher in western Oregon to provide a framework for cooperation and conservation.
- Reviewed and commented on draft NEPA documents through the Environmental Review Committee process.
- Allocated funding for forests to participate in anadromous recovery planning.



- Reviewed and provided comments on draft Colville NF land management plan revision.
- Worked on revisions of the regional Aquatic Riparian Conservation Strategy (ARCS).
- Participated on NEPA and ESA reviews on the Rogue River Siskiyou and Willamette NFs.
- Assisted with the WO evaluation of the adequacy existing Forest Service aquatic conservation strategies as a result of the Cottonwood Environmental Law Center NOI regarding the bull trout CH designation.
- Completed evaluation of Land and Water Conservation acquisition projects for TES species.
- Strengthened relationships with Washington and Oregon FWS state offices through annual coordination meetings.
- Developed Barred Owl removal financial agreement, annual operating plan, and memorandum of understanding with the FWS and USGS.
- Facilitate the Interior Deputy Team annual field review for assessing progress with implementation of the PACFISH/INFISH LRMP biological opinions.
- Completed an interagency training on specialists analysis and biological evaluations/assessment on the Malheur NF.



**Contacts: John Chatel, 503-808-2972 Scott Woltering, 503-808-2669 Anne Poopatanapong, 503-808-2663**



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**R6 Regional Office**  
1220 SW Third Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

# Regional Office

## 2015 Interagency Special Status/Sensitive Species Program and Survey & Manage

### Highlights of 2015 Regional Office accomplishments:

- 78% (\$448K) of ISSSSP budget provided to 17 Forests to fund priority inventory and conservation planning projects and for participation in species conservation work groups.
- Guided and improved species management and strengthened NEPA analysis through Regional direction, oversight and editing of many valuable conservation tools and inventory efforts:
  - o 10 conservation assessments
  - o 23 species fact sheets
  - o 49 inventory and monitoring projects
  - o 12 restoration and educational projects
- Improved Mardon skipper butterfly conservation by guiding the development of management plans covering 15 sites, and providing funding for implementation of plan actions associated with 5 sites.
- Provided for improved conservation of sensitive and strategic species.
  - o Updated Regional Forester Sensitive Species list
  - o Queried field botanists and biologists for sensitive species priorities in order to identify inventory and conservation information gaps, key personnel with skills to potentially assist in filling gaps, and tools and other applicable inventory and conservation products that may assist others in managing sensitive species.
  - o Improved coordination with state and federal agencies and organizations concerned with plant and animal conservation.
- Fungi Work Group: Strengthened botanists' NEPA skills through development and implementation of fungi NEPA and effects analysis training session for Sensitive and Survey and Manage fungi species.
- In partnership with The Xerces Society, improved 62 botanists' and wildlife biologists' survey and identification skills for native bumblebees through sponsoring 3 Bumble Bee workshops in Oregon.
- Resolved complex issues with Survey and Manage species while meeting species persistence objectives and other land management objectives.
- Specimen identification services provided for the field units for more than 900 vouchers of lichens, bryophytes, fungi, and invertebrate species.



Rich Hatfield (far left) from The Xerces Society training USFS personnel on how to identify bumble bee and conduct surveys Cottage Grove Ranger District, June 2015.

- Facilitated and funded the publication of three manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals:
- Roth, Barry. "Range of *Pristiloma crateris* Pilsbry, 1946 (Gastropoda: Pulmonata: Pristilomatidae) in the United States Pacific Northwest." Check List 11.2 (2015): 1571.
- Liu H-P, Hershler R, Rossel CS (2015) Taxonomic status of the Columbia dusksnail (Truncatelloidea, Amnicolidae, Colligyrus). ZooKeys 514: 1-13
- Gordon, Matthew; VanNorman, Kelli. 2015. *Bridgeoporus nobilissimus* much more abundant than indicated by the presence of basidiocarps in forest stands. North American Fungi, v. 10.

### Contacts:

John Chatel, 503-808-2972  
Rob Huff, 503-808-6479  
Carol Hughes, 503-808-2661  
Darci Rivers-Pankratz, 503-808-2688  
Mark Skinner, 503-808-2150  
Kelli Van Norman, 503-808-6606



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**R6 Regional Office**  
1220 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

# R6 National Forests & BLM Districts

## Avian Conservation Program Accomplishments



The FS/BLM Avian Conservation Program was initiated as part of the “Service First” Initiative to develop a consistent, integrated migratory bird program between the agencies.

- ✓ Co-wrote and received funding for the Regional Pollinator Seed Collection Challenge Cost Share proposal. Secured funding from outside organizations totaling 30k in contributions.
- ✓ Continue to work with the Klamath Bird Observatory to produce **DST**'s to aid in habitat management for priority avifauna on Forest Service and BLM lands. Projects include prioritizing watersheds for oak habitat restoration, determining forest habitat types using avifauna as surrogates, building full life cycle international projects for hummingbirds.
- ✓ Chair of the Forest Service, Western Hummingbird Partnership (WHP) Committee where I established a national cadre of individuals interested in hummingbirds. I schedule and facilitate quarterly conference calls to discuss ongoing issues.
- ✓ Work with partners to develop and incorporate Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) priority avian species and assessment tools into our forest planning efforts.
- ✓ Assisted our National Wildlife Program Managers in developing responses to the FWS Notice of Intent for Incidental Take provisions, participated in discussions regarding the revision of the Forest Service MOU with the Fish and Wildlife Service, and provided input to the WO Director briefings regarding the development of a national node of the Avian Knowledge Network.
- ✓ Initiated the development of an National Avian Conservation Team (ACT) to provide consistent briefings/information regarding avian issues to the Nat. W/L Program Leads.
- ✓ Coordinated and facilitated a half day workshop at the recent Wildlife Society Meeting on the “Tools” Available for avian conservation.



Figure 1. Building the Western Hummingbird Partnership Program with our MX cooperators.



- ✓ Active participant on the Partners in Flight (PIF), National Steering Committee. We make recommendations to the Council for the Conservation of Migrating Birds regarding priorities for avian conservation nationally.
- ✓ Chair of the Western Working Group (WWG) of PIF. Our mission is to develop science based tools for bird conservation throughout the west. Our recent meeting focused on implementing the new farm bill provisions and how we can obtain farm bill grant monies for bird conservation.
- ✓ Participant on the Forest Pre-Plan Revision, Species of Conservation Concern workgroup. Creating regional guidance for the development of the required SCC list.



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**Barb Bresson**, FS-BLM  
Avian Conservation Program  
bbresson@fs.fed.us  
503.668.1414





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# 2015 Wildlife/TES Forest Accomplishments



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# Colville National Forest

## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

In 2015, the Colville National Forest had a variety of projects and natural events that contributed to wildlife and TES habitat enhancement.

### Accomplishment highlights include:

- Through partnerships with Defenders of Wildlife, Conservation Northwest, and Selkirk Conservation Alliance, placed food storage lockers in the Sullivan Lake Campgrounds to reduce the likelihood of grizzly bear / forest users conflicts.
- Increased seclusion habitat on 1,219 acres with road closure improvements, unauthorized OHV trail closure, and decommissioning.
- Improved habitat for migratory birds through harvest activities.
- Wildfires improved big game winter and summer range and woodpecker habitat for a total of 19,765 acres.
- Used prescribed fires to improve 1377 acres of big game habitat.
- Installed vent caps on outhouses and water escape ramps to reduce wildlife mortality.
- Presented numerous environmental education programs.
- Snag Creation, a bat rocket, aspen exclosures, meadow maintenance, noxious weed treatments, OHV unauthorized use closures rounded out our wildlife program.

### Monitoring Habitats and Populations:

#### 1. Continued projects to determine effects of harvest

##### activities on:

- Forage for white-tailed and mule deer with WSU and WDFW.
- Goshawk territories and post-fledging areas.
- Moths, which provide food for several sensitive species.

#### 2. Conducted surveys for:

- Mammals: wolverines (with WDFW and Selkirk Conservation Alliance), woodland caribou/winter recreation.
- Insects: tawny-edged and Peck's Skipper, Eastern tailed blue, Western bumblebees.
- Birds: goshawks, harlequin ducks, North American breeding birds, loon nesting, white-headed woodpeckers.

#### 3. Monitored for:

- Grizzly bear core habitat/open and total road densities.
- Closed road effectiveness.

#### 4. Supported efforts to monitor for:

- Wolf/livestock interactions (WSU, WDFW).
- Caribou mortality (WDFW, IDFG, FWS, BC Min. of Envir., IPNF).
- Grizzly bear populations and habitat use (WDFW, IDFG, FWS, BC Ministry of Environment, IPNF).
- Grizzly bears using hair snares (IPNF, USFWS).
- Common loon wintering areas (Biodiversity Research Inst.).
- Mollusks (IDFG 's Multispecies Baseline Initiative).



Figure 1. Aspen Regeneration after the Stickpin Fire.

### 2015 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
618	BDBD	Prescribed Fire
31	CFLN	Prescribed Fire, Road Closure, Unauth Trail Closure, Wildlife Hab Improved, Wildlife Hab Improved-NonGame
493	CMFC	Wildlife Hab Improved-NonGame
730	CMLG	Decommissioning
160	CWKV	Wildlife Hab Improved-NonGame
96	NFRG	Wildlife Hab Improved-NonGame
1	NFVW	Non-native Plant Treatment, Wildlife Hab Improved-NonGame
4,081	NFWF	Decommissioning, Meadow Restoration, Road Closure, Unauth Trail Closure, Wildfire Natural, Wildlife Hab Improved, Wildlife Hab Improved-NonGame
264	PTNR	Meadow Restoration, Wildlife Hab Improved-NonGame
377	SSCC	Decommissioning, Prescribed Fire, Road Closure, Structure Maintenance -Wildlife
345	WFHF	Prescribed Fire
20,032	WFSU	Prescribed Fire, Road Closure, Wildfire Natural
<b>27,230</b>		<b>Total</b>

### Partners/Cooperators

Defenders of Wildlife, Conservation Northwest, and Washington State University, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, British Columbia Ministry of the Environment, Biodiversity Research Institute, Slow Foods Upper Columbia Chapter, Boy Scouts of America Chewelah, Seattle City Lights, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Selkirk Conservation Alliance, Student Conservation Association, various individuals.

Contact: Karen Honeycutt 509-684-7224



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**Colville National Forest**  
765 South Main Street  
Colville, WA 99114

# Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

In 2015, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area participated in several projects.

### Accomplishment highlights include:

- Prescribed burned (NWTF support) and sprayed and native seeded (OHA support), to improve oak savannah habitat in the Wagon Road unit, 7 Mile Area (Figure 2).
- Sprayed and planted native riparian vegetation for the Thousand Acres Restoration Project to improve riparian habitat with Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership.
- Continued building split-rail fence at Sandy River Delta (SRD), keeping the east-side wetland more pristine for wildlife, and planted vegetation on many acres in SRD (Figure 1).
- Maintained nesting habitat for western pond turtles in the Collins Creek area through mowing.
- Thinned encroaching fir amongst oak habitat (benefitting Western Gray Squirrel), created wildlife brush piles and snags at Catherine Creek and Collins areas, and topped and slit snags for bats at Catherine.
- Created, purchased and installed resource protection signs at Eagle and Wahkeena Creeks, and at Sandy River Delta split-rail fence with CCS funds.
- Sprayed and planted pollinator attracting plants (e.g. milkweed) at Moorhead Fisher, OR with CCS funds.
- Conducted peregrine falcon and bald eagle nest site monitoring.
- Interpretation/Education (I&E)- Outreach to children, students, and adults through: CRGNSA campground programs; Skamania Co. Fair; environmental/riparian events (Water Jam); and environmental programs like CGEI's SECRETS, the Oregon Zoo's Urban Nature Overnight, Salmon Watch and CRGNSA's Eagle View.



Figure 1. Volunteers, like Youth Education and Sports Services (YESS), make continued building of a resource (wildlife/fisheries/ cultural) protection fence possible at Sandy River Delta, OR.



Figure 2. Prescribed burning at Wagon Road, Rowena, OR. Burn/spray/seed projects enhance oak savannah habitat.

### 2015 Accomplishments

1,116 acres Terrestrial Habitat Enhancement  
(core/integrated/partner)  
\$383,345 Partner Contributions  
151 I&E Presentations

### Partners/Cooperators

OR Dept. Fish and Wildlife, WA Dept. Fish and Wildlife, WA Conservation Corps, Skamania and Klickitat Co. Noxious Weed Control Boards, Youth Education and Sports Services, WA Dept. Natural Resources, Ash Creek Restoration, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Hunter's Association, Sandy River Watershed Council, Klickitat Rails to Trails, Cape Horn Conservancy, Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute, Cape Horn Conservancy, Friends of Sandy River Delta, Skamania Co. Youth Corps, Portland Water Bureau, OR Dept. of State Lands, Friends of Columbia Gorge, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Penstemon Fund, National Wild Turkey Federation, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, National Forest Foundation, World Salmon Council, commercial river outfitters, local schools.

Contact: Brett Carré 541-308-1718



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**Columbia River Gorge NSA**  
902 Wasco, Suite 200,  
Hood River, OR 97031

# Deschutes National Forest

## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

**In 2015, the Deschutes National Forest accomplishment highlights include:**

- Continued removal of lodgepole pine from stringer meadows and riparian areas to enhance elk habitat
- Continued WNS screening at Lava River Cave and repaired cave gates, addressed road breaches and removed garbage from several caves.
- Began implementation on road closures and aspen in the Indian Ford project area.
- Installed gates in deer winter range, repaired fence in several locations, and worked with partners to mitigate a power pole issue.
- Installed 65 toilet vent caps to reduce wildlife mortality.
- Worked with partners to run 2 MAPS stations.
- With partners, monitored/inventoried for western bumblebees, Oregon spotted frog, bald and golden eagles, peregrine falcon, bats, spotted and great gray owls, goshawk, yellow rail, carnivores, white-headed woodpecker, and the Sierra Nevada red fox.
- Presented numerous environmental education programs to local schools and organizations.



Figure 2. Processing birds at the Indian Ford MAPS Station.



Figure 1. Bobcat feeding at carnivore station.

### 2015 Accomplishments

FUND CODE	ACRES
NFWF	2,278
CMLG	148
WFHF	4,453
CWKV	3,809
NFRW	290
NFVW	5,325
SSCC	6,062
CFLN	4,400
SPFH	239
NFTM	5,649
RTRT	1,262
BDBD	78
SSCC	2,954
PTNR	5,968
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>37,353 acres</b>

### Partners/Cooperators

ODFW, OHA, NWTF, Mule Deer Foundation, High Desert Museum, Gilchrist Schools, Oregon High Desert Grotto, Friends of the Cascades Wilderness, Wanderlust Tours, Discover Your Forest, Deschutes Children's Forest, Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Power, Klamath and Deschutes Co. School Districts, Klamath County Search and Rescue, UC Davis, and volunteers.

**Contacts:** Lauri Turner, Forest Wildlife Biologist 541-383-5640



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**Deschutes National Forest**  
63095 Deschutes Market Road  
Bend, OR 97701

# Fremont-Winema National Forest



## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

In 2015, the Fremont-Winema National Forest Wildlife Program completed several projects.

**Accomplishment highlights include:**

- Thinned conifers within 1,515 acres of aspen and meadow habitat to improve riparian habitat.
- Surveyed for fisher on the Klamath and Chiloquin Ranger Districts using baited cameras.
- Completed scat surveys for Sierra Nevada red fox on the Klamath Ranger District.
- Monitored for white-headed woodpeckers within the Crooked Mud Honey Project in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Research Station.
- Surveyed for western bumble bee at 12 historic observation sites.
- Surveyed known western pond turtle populations located on the Bly and Lakeview Ranger Districts.
- Installed a post and pole fence to protect 35 acres of Oregon spotted frog habitat.
- Partnered with Klamath Bird Observatory to conduct landbird monitoring on the Forest.
- Monitored several bald eagle nests and two peregrine falcon nests.
- Completed project level surveys for spotted owl, goshawk, and aspen.



Figure 2. Fisher detection on the Klamath Ranger District



Figure 1. Western pond turtle on the Lakeview Ranger District

### 2015 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
7,484	CFLN	CFLR
8,043	NFTM	Timber
12,637	WFHF	Fuels
17	NFWF	Wildlife
67	NFVW	Watershed
1,364	KV	KV
545	Partner	Partner

**30,157 Acres Total**

#### Partners/Cooperators

Institute for Bird Populations, Klamath Bird Observatory, Klamath Tribes, BLM, ODFW, USFWS, Oregon Hunter Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon State University, The Mule Deer Foundation, Lakeview Stewardship Group, Lake County Resource Initiative, Chewaucan Biophysical Monitoring Group, Ruby Pipeline Mitigation Funds, Warner Creek Correctional Facility, Lakeview Elementary School.

**Contacts:** Amy Markus 541-947-6256



**Fremont-Winema National Forest**  
1301 S. G Street  
Lakeview, OR 97630

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# Gifford Pinchot National Forest

## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

In 2015 the Gifford Pinchot National Forest provided wildlife and T&E guidance, analysis, Level one consultation and recommendations for 2 vegetation management projects and misc. small projects from recreation, salvage, fisheries and special uses.

### Accomplishment highlights include:

- Implemented RMEF partnership invasive treatments in elk habitat on Mount St Helens and meadows on the south zone; \$35,400 for 200 acres.
- Invasive work was completed by Aquatics group in Muddy River drainage. Figure 1 shows School for the Deaf students removing scotch broom.
- Administered KV snag and down wood creation, utilized local fire crew for 901 down wood creation as well as contract to complete project.
- Maintained seasonal wildlife closures on the forest for winter range protection.
- Maintained 41 wood duck boxes on Cowlitz Valley RD.
- Sixth bi-annual winter hibernacula Townsend's big-eared bat survey at 6 caves with partner in-kind contribution from Cowlitz Indian Tribe. Total count was 184, down from 403 in 2013.
- Partnered with Conservation Northwest, Puyallup Tribe and Cascade Carnivore Project on detection cameras for Cascade Red Fox, Wolverine and Wolves.
- Participated in Environmental Education in White Pass School Field Day, Get Outdoors Day, Cave etiquette education, Boy Scout endangered species presentation, Portland Sportsman Show, Earth Day Celebration, Ape Cave white-nosed syndrome training, MSHI volcano naturalist training on wildlife habitat and animals and MTA, MSH and CV Fishing Day.
- Completed analysis and draft restoration strategy for 2 south zone mardon skipper meadows. Completed draft decision memo and CE for 7a Meadows Mardon Skipper restoration.
- Permanent mardon skipper transects in Peterson Prairie read with Xerces.
- Monitored the known peregrine falcon eyrie on the south zone, (no activity observed for the second year in a row).
- Completed surveys for Cowlitz Valley mardon skipper.
- Counted Oregon spotted frog egg masses in Trout Creek- 30 were found.
- Completed Bald eagle winter surveys in Randal and Packwood.
- Mountain goat survey on Mount St Helens with WDFW and MSHI, (125 counted).
- South zone biologist is part of the Bat Center for Excellence team.
- Forest Biologist is the Regional WA RMEF Liaison.



Figure 1. Muddy River CCS project –scotch broom removal from Muddy River drainage.

### 2015 Accomplishments

Acres	Job Code	Funding
4,972	CWKV	116,730
200	NFWF	94,100
10	RMEF	35,400
Surveys	NFVW	3,000
	NFIM	3,000

### Partners/Cooperators

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Cowlitz Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Mount St Helens Institute, Washington Department of Wildlife, Conservation Northwest, Cascade Carnivore Project, Xerces, Gifford Pinchot Task Force.

Carol Chandler- Forest Wildlife Biologist 360-891-5106  
Mitch Wainwright –South Zone Biologist 360-449-7857  
John Jakubowski North Zone Biologist 360-497-1131



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**Gifford Pinchot National Forest**  
10600 NE 51<sup>st</sup> Circle  
Vancouver, WA 98682

# Malheur National Forest

## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

In 2015 the Malheur National Forest successfully completed and implemented its Invasive Plant Treatment EIS, with no appeals or litigation.

### Accomplishment highlights include:

- Hosted the annual RMEF regional rendezvous and planned work projects for 51 RMEF volunteers on the Prairie City RD.
- Coordinated annual OHA volunteer work week.
- Surveyed 28,075 ac. and 1785 trap/nights for American Marten with 8 detections using camera traps.
- Conducted tours for birders in attendance at the Harney County Migratory Bird Festival.
- Completed 5 wildlife specialist reports for Magone, Starr-Aspen, Big Mosquito, Central Malheur and Wolf projects.
- Did maintenance work on 10 guzzlers on the Emigrant Creek RD.
- Collaborated with the Blue Mtn. Forest Partners group to do a technical review of status and ecology of goshawks.
- Constructed 1 mile of buck and pole fencing along Summit creek.



Figure 2. Marten detection – Ragged Ruby Project, Blue Mtn. RD

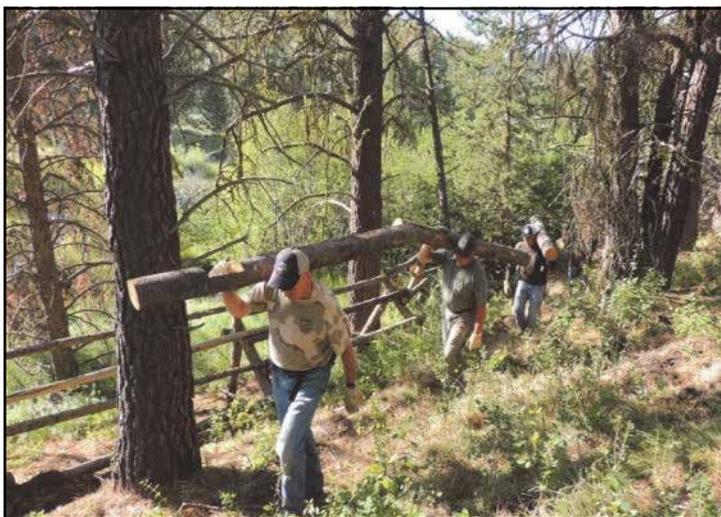


Figure 1. Buck and Pole fence construction with RMEF volunteers.

### 2015 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
4,725	NFWF	Road closures, aspen enhancement,
18,251	Non-NFWF	Fuels and Veg Mgt. riparian restoration
498	Partnership	Road Closures, aspen enhancement, guzzler repair

### Partners/Cooperators

Oregon Hunters Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Youth Conservation Consortium

**Contacts:** Clark Reames 541-575-3474



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**Malheur National Forest**  
431 Patterson Bridge. Rd.  
Box 909  
John Day, OR 97845

# Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

In 2015 the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest successfully improved wildlife habitat and provided wildlife information to the public.

### Accomplishment highlights include:

- 5,189 acres of wildlife habitat improvement through conifer thinning to accelerate development of late-seral habitat, conifer thinning to promote huckleberry growth, capping vault toilets for bird protection, installing a bat friendly mine closure, and Wild & Scenic River habitat enhancements.
- Wildlife information shared with approximately 221,000 individuals at public events: Trip Travel and Adventure Expo, Skagit River Salmon Festival, Stillaguamish Festival of the River, and Issaquah Salmon Days.



Figure 1. Huckleberry habitat improvement.

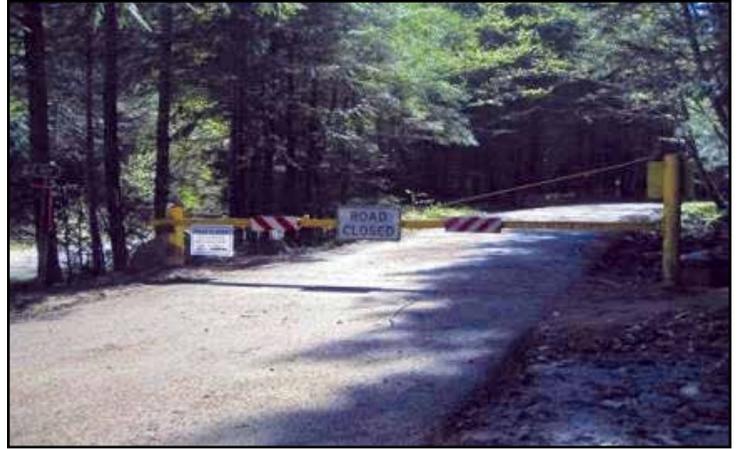


Figure 2. Road 7013 Winter Range Gate.

### 2015 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
1,490	NFWF	Capping Vault Toilets for Birds
505	NFTM	Thinning to Accelerate Late-Seral Habitat Development
2,000	NFMG	Bat Friendly Mine Closure
50	NFWF	Wild & Scenic River Habitat Enhancement
50	NFVW/ NFWF/SSCC	Huckleberry Habitat Improvement
494	WFSU	Habitat Improvement From Natural Wildfire
	NFVW/	Winter Range Habitat Improvement
600	NFXN	
<b>5,189</b>		<b>Total</b>

### Partners/Cooperators

Defenders of Wildlife, Conservation Northwest, and Washington State University, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, British Columbia Ministry of the Environment, Biodiversity Research Institute, Slow Foods Upper Columbia Chapter, Boy Scouts of America Chewelah, Seattle City Lights, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Selkirk Conservation Alliance Student Conservation Association, various individuals.

Contact: Jesse J Plumage 425-873-6031



**Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest**  
2930 Wetmore Ave, Suite 3A  
Everett, WA 98201

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# Mt Hood National Forest

## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

In 2015 the Mt Hood National Forest successfully completed and implemented its stewardship and integrated habitat improvements. There were several wildlife species monitoring surveys that provided new information on the species:

- Surveyed spotted owls on 3,400 acres for the Pollaliev Cooper fuels restoration project.
- We continued surveys for Sierra Nevada Red Fox.
- We surveyed 28 locations for Western Bumblebee and found 4 new locations.
- We surveyed Oregon spotted frogs and found 51 egg masses.

### Accomplishment highlights include:

- 2,501 acres of forage enhancement and accelerating spotted owl habitat development through commercial and pre-commercial thinning.
- 1728 acres of invasive plant control to improve early seral habitat for wildlife.
- Roads decommissioned to improve big game habitat utilization resulting in an improvement on 3,474 acres.
- OHV trails closed to improve big game habitat utilization resulting in 400 acres of habitat improvement.
- Topped or Girdled 1,340 acres of snags and down wood creation for dead wood dependant species.
- 9 Mineral block supplements to improve 252 acres of habitat.
- 6,815 acres of wildfire that improved wildlife habitat. The acres burned were not salvaged in order to improve snag and down wood conditions.
- Partnership with Hawkwatch to record hawk migration movements and band hawks at Bonnie Butte.
- Partnership with Cascadia Wild to do snow track surveys for rare carnivores and operating remote cameras.



**Contacts:** Alan Dyck 503-668-1676



Figure 1. Western Bumblebee

Photo by Alan Dyck

### 2015 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
1,340	NFWF & SCCC	Snag & Down wood creation
3,474	SSCC	Road Decommission
1,728	NFWF	Invasive Plant Control
2,501	SSCC	Forage and spotted owl habitat from thinning
252	NFWF	Huckleberry Habitat Improvement
400	SSCC	OHV Trail Closure
6,815	WFSU/ NFWF	Snag and down wood retention following wildfire
<b>16,510</b>		<b>Total</b>

### Partners/Cooperators

Hawkwatch, Cascadia Wild, Oregon hunters Assoc., PGE, Northwest Ecological Research Institute



for the greatest good

**Mt Hood National Forest**  
16400 Champion Way  
Sandy, OR 97055

# Ochoco National Forest

## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

In fiscal year 2015, the Ochoco National Forest accomplished 20,303 acres of terrestrial wildlife habitat enhancement. Partnerships and integration with other resource programs were key to this accomplishment.

**Wildlife Program Priorities** – The Wildlife Program priorities were developed by the Regional Terrestrial Restoration and Conservation Strategy (TRACS), the Maury Mule Deer Initiative, and the Interagency Special Status and Sensitive Species Program.

**Interpretive and Educational Events** – Biologists continue to participate and engage youth in educational events including the Ochoco Fur, Fin, Fire and Feather event that reaches more than 700 elementary students; River Keepers, a elementary outdoor storyline; Crook County Summer Reading Program; Eagle Watch with the Oregon State Parks; and participation in a variety of Youth Conservation Corps projects for the accomplishment of wildlife habitat restoration and increasing youth knowledge and appreciation of nature.

Project	Acres
Aspen Restoration	254
Exclosure Fence	18
Fence Removal	376
Invasive Plant Treatment	3,264
Juniper Removal	52
Nest Boxes	148
Non-commercial thinning	498
Commercial Thinning	769
Low Intensity Wildfire	5,736
Prescribed Fire	4,511
Riparian Planting	14
Riparian Restoration	147
Road Closure/Decommission	1,807
Wildlife Escape Ramps	129
Wildlife Guzzlers	2,575
TOTAL	20,303

Figure 2. Acres HBT-ENH\_TERR by project type



Figure 1. Silver-bordered Fritillary (*Boloria selene*)

**Pollinator Conservation** – The Forest participated in the Regional CCS Proposal; The Birds and the Bees, Pollinators, if you please! Seeds of six native forbs were collected to benefit the western bumblebee and rufous hummingbird. The Forest also received Interagency Special Status and Sensitive Species funding to conduct surveys for the butterfly, the Silver-bordered Fritillary. Surveys yielded 22 new occupied locations.

**Centers of Excellence** – Ochoco NF biologists provide regional support as Centers of Excellence for elk and liaison with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in Oregon; the Blue Mountains Elk Initiative Coordinator; and sage-grouse. Partners/Cooperators- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Hunters Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Blue Mountains Elk Initiative, National Wild Turkey Federation, Portland General Electric, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts, Oregon State Police, Youth Conservation Corps

**Contact:** Kevin Keown, Forest Wildlife Biologist  
541-416-6605 [kkeown@fs.fed.us](mailto:kkeown@fs.fed.us)



for the greatest good

**Ochoco National Forest**  
3160 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Prineville, OR 97754  
**Crooked River National Grassland**  
813 SW Highway 97  
Madras, OR 97741

# Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

2015 was the second big fire year in a row. Over 160,000 ac. of the forest burnt. Most wildlife biologists spent a month or more working in various capacities on fire teams.

### Wildlife Habitat Improvement on over 55,000 acres:

Natural Wildfire, Non-native wildlife removal (STVA), Road decommissioning or storage, Thinning, Weed treatment, Prescribed fire, Revegetation and plant restoration, Beaver reintroduction, Fencing, Bear-resistant garbage containers, Nesting/cavity structures, and Other (see chart).

### Inventory and Monitoring:

- Counted 1,383 individuals of 17 species of migrating raptors at Chelan Ridge and banded 360.
- Monitored 9 falcon aeries, and 6 bald eagle nests.
- Completed 2nd year of baseline monitoring for Mardon skipper, largest known population at an estimated 6,135.
- Counted 138 (50% increase) Townsend's big-eared bats in the largest and longest recorded active hibernacula in WA.
- Continued supporting the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship program and a white-headed woodpecker survey.
- Conducted initial surveys for sensitive lepidopterans.
- Continued surveys for presence of wolverine and other rare carnivores on 4 districts.
- Surveyed 17 miles of Wenatchee River and documented 20 osprey nests.
- Surveyed historic great gray owl and goshawk nest sites.
- Documented over 1,300 little brown bats roosting in FS bldg.
- Completed numerous project support surveys for numerous species including owls and Chelan Mtn snails.

### Environmental Education:

- Leavenworth Spring Bird Festival, 1,500 people.
- Bonaparte Lake National Fishing Day, 215 kids.
- Numerous school, community and university presentations.

### Research Support:

- Collaborated in I-90 road ecology research with WSDOT, CWU, and I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition.
- North Cascades Wolverine Study year 10, PNW Olympia.
- Univ. of Wash. Wolf/Deer interaction study.
- WSU Wolf/livestock interaction study.
- Northern spotted owl prey base study, expanded to include breeding bird occupancy, PNW Lab Wenatchee.
- White-headed woodpecker study, Univ. of Idaho.
- Chelan Ridge Raptor Migration, Hawkwatch International.

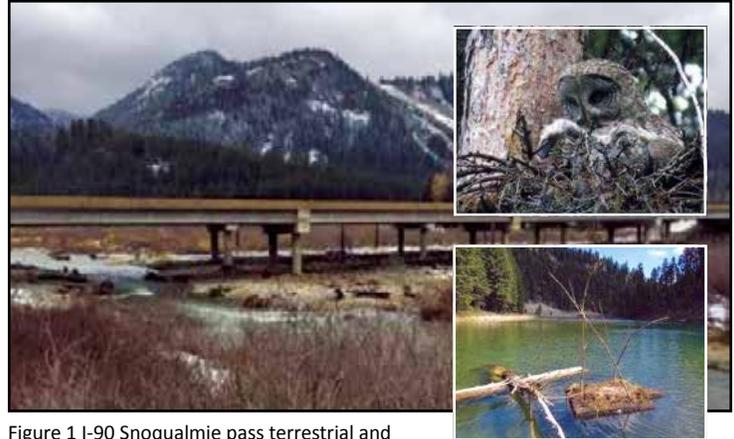


Figure 1 I-90 Snoqualmie pass terrestrial and aquatic underpass on the Cle Elum RD. Insets: great gray owl on nest and artificial loon nesting platform on the Tonasket RD.

### 2015 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
3,373	CFLN, CWFS	Prescribed fire, road decomm, native plant restoration
7,199	BDBD, WFHF	Prescribed fire, thinning
7,326	NFIM, NFTM	Nonnative removal, nest struct
3,790	NFVW	Weed treat, revegetation, fence
3,671	NFWF	Beaver reintro, meadow restor., nest struct, revegetation.
3,111	NFXN, PTNR	All the above
1,895	RBRB, RTRT, SRS2,SPFH	Fencing, revegetation, weed treatment
25,176	WFSU	Natural wildlife, road decomm.
<b>55,624</b>		<b>Total</b>

### Partners/Cooperators

Access Fund, Cascades Carnivore Project, Conservation NW, CWU, EcoTrust, GEAR UP, Hawkwatch, Icicle Arts, Lake Chelan Sportsmen, Loon Lake Loon Assoc., Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, National Audobon Society, National Forest Foundation, Oroville Sportsmen, TMDF, NWTF, Nature Conservancy, RMEF, Ruffed Grouse Society, Seattle City Light, Team Naturaleza, Upper Basin Birders, UW, UI, WSU, WA Conservation Science Institute, WA Women's Foundation, WA Climbers Coalition, Wenatchee River Institute, Wolverine Foundation, Yakama Nation, and many local government agencies.

Contact: Monte Kuk 509-664-9320



for the greatest good

**Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest**  
215 Melody Lane  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

# Olympic National Forest

## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

In 2015, the Olympic National Forest completed several habitat restoration projects, and continued to engage with our partners and the public. Accomplishment highlights include:

- First documented marten sighting on the Forest in seven years; obtained ISSSSP funds to begin surveys on the Forest and Olympic NP.
- Participated in multi-partner Peninsula-wide fisher monitoring.
- Partnered with WDFW and recreation program in annual mountain goat public outreach using student interns to contact 2,675 visitors.
- Continued recovery actions for Taylor's checkerspot and its critical habitat through habitat enhancement.
- Collaborated with local construction trades program to create 30 flying squirrel nest boxes.
- Installed nest and roost boxes for small owls and forest bats.
- Collected native plant seeds for pollinators under multi-forest R6 Challenge Cost Share.
- Presented to Peninsula Wilderness Club and The Wildlife Society WA chapter annual meeting.
- Created "Nature Notebook" on Forest website to share seasonal natural history moments.
- Collaborated with Regional Wildlife Program and Forest webmaster to produce video for website on the work of a wildlife biologist.
- Continued elk forage habitat enhancement work using volunteers, WCC, and contractors.
- Monitored Olympic marmot population with the Olympic NF and volunteers.



Figure 1. Installation of bat box by ONF certified tree climber.

### Contacts:

Susan Piper, Forest Wildlife Biologist, 360-956-2435  
Kurt Aluzas, Wildlife Biologist, 360-765-2230  
Karen Holtrop, Wildlife Biologist, 360-765-2206  
Betsy Howell, Wildlife Biologist, 360-956-2292



Figure 2. Taylor's checkerspot habitat enhancement completed by Washington Conservation Corps crew.

### 2015 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
371	CMLG,	Road decommission
450	CWKV	Snag creation; native planting and seeding
22	NFIM,	Prescribed fire for meadow restoration
1,555	NFWF	Bat and owl nest box installation; habitat piles; native seeding
50	NFXF	Thinning and habitat piles
438	NFVW	PCT; invasive weed treatment
69	NFXN	Thinning and habitat piles
545	NFTM	Commercial thin
<b>3,500</b>		<b>Total</b>

### Partners/Cooperators

USFWS, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Eyes in the Woods, Olympic National Park, U.S. Geological Survey, Washington Conservation Corps, West Sound Tech.



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**Olympic National Forest**  
1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW  
Olympia, WA 98512

# Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

In 2015, the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest accomplished T, E, and S, and MIS species inventories, as well as habitat improvement work across the Forest with our many internal and external partners. Our focus in the terrestrial wildlife program continues to be maintenance and restoration of both early and late seral habitats, as well as the conservation and recovery of listed and sensitive species that occur on the Forest.

### Accomplishment highlights include:

Over 32,000 acres of wildlife habitat enhanced using both appropriated monies as well as successfully integrating with other resources, in particular fire and fuels resources. A large portion of the Forest's target also came from the installation of bat gates across the Forest which has proven to be an effective mitigation measure for loss of natural roosting habitat.

A multi-Forest seed collection effort was initiated for early seral pollinators including bumblebees and butterflies such as the Monarch butterfly and Mardon Skipper. Seed stock will be grown at the local USFS nursery and used for outplanting for various pollinator species. The Wild River RD also received a 50,000 Grant to propagate both milkweed and Monarch butterflies for outplanting and release.

The Forest continues a fisher and small mammal monitoring effort with PSW/PNW, the Nature Conservancy, and the City of Ashland to study the response of fisher and their prey species to fuels reduction activities in the Ashland Watershed. To date, 32 fisher have been captured, 14 dens have been located, 10 in hardwoods. We will continue to monitor how these animals respond to the treatments in FY 2016 and 2017. The small mammal trapping effort has had 2 years of pre-treatment sampling and 2 years of post-treatment sampling completed now at this time. Initial results seem to show a positive response by some species to the fuels work.



Figure 1. Ashland Forest Resiliency Fisher Monitoring Project.



Figure 2. Monarch Butterfly Caterpillar on *Asclepias cordifolia*

### 2014 Accomplishments

Accomplishment type	Fund Code	Acres
Cavity Creation	KV	710
Fence enclosure and removals	NFRG	125
Invasive Species Mgmt-Plant	NFVW	1736
Lake-Pond Development	NFVW	1097
Aspen/Meadow Restoration	NFVW	192
Bat Cave Protection	NFMG	12054
Native Plant Restoration	NFWF	94
Nest-Roosting Structure	KV	62
Pollinator Habitat Improvement	NFWF/ NFIM	1
Prescribed Fire	WFHF	1162
pre-comm/comm. thinning	NFTM	3338
Wildfire Natural	P code	12263
Wildlife Hab Improved	NFWF	150
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>32983</b>

### Partners/Cooperators

USFWS, OR Hunter's Association, Klamath Bird Observatory, OR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, JH Stone Nursery, Xerces Society, Southern Oregon University, Oregon State University, Pacific SW Research Station, Fresno, The Nature Conservancy, City of Ashland, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Corvallis.

**Contact:** David Clayton Forest Wildlife Biologist



**Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest**

3040 Biddle Road  
Medford Oregon, 97504

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# Siuslaw National Forest

## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

In 2015 the Siuslaw used multiple sources including stewardship retained receipts, KV, secure rural communities, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and appropriated funds to continue or initiate new projects. Additional work was accomplished through multiple partners and volunteer efforts.

### Highlights include:

- Another record high number of western snowy plover nests and confirmed fledging plover chicks from Siuslaw National Forest nesting areas! One of the most successful recovery units for the snowy plover.
- Developed an outreach team with local watershed councils and local high school students. The community outreach is being led by the high school students to help build collaboration and support for converting old homestead meadows from non-native pastures into Oregon silverspot habitat.
- Through cooperation with PNW Research Station, collared 8 Humboldt Marten. First boreal marten documented on the beach in the dunes system!
- Small mammal and NSO prey studies have led to changes in how we treat plantations and which stands are chosen for treatment.
- Pollinator specific plants were identified and collected from the forest to help create a pollinator friendly seed mix available for large scale forest restoration efforts.



Figure 2. Humboldt Marten in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. Photo by Mark Linnell.



Figure 1. Collaboration with stakeholders, stewardship groups, OSU and PNW research.

### 2014 Accomplishments

#### Core Acres

593  
NFWF

#### Activities

Silverspot habitat maintenance, Snowy plover maintenance, monitoring, predator control, meadow maintenance, predator proof trash containers, conservation canines, marten research, small mammal research, riparian enhancement

#### Integrated Acres

7556  
CWKV, NFTM, NFWW,  
CMLG, SRS2, SPST,  
PTNR, SSSC, NFXN

#### Activities

Terrestrial habitat restoration, deadwood creation, control of invasives, road decommissioning, beaver deceivers,

#### **Partners/Cooperators**

Watershed Councils-Mid-Coast, Alsea, Salmon Drift Creek, Siuslaw, Mary's River; Stewardship Groups; RMEF, ORBIC, APHIS, FWS, OPRD, TNC, ODF&W, Cascade Pacific RC&D, Oregon Zoo, Institute for Applied Ecology, PNW Research Station.

**Contact:** Deanna Williams 541 750-7013



for the greatest good

**Siuslaw National Forest**  
3200 SW Jefferson Way  
Corvallis, OR 9733

# Umatilla National Forest



## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

### **Umatilla National Forest Wildlife Program accomplishment highlights:**

- Assisted ODFW with wolf monitoring.
- Bald and golden eagle monitoring.
- Mid-winter bald eagle surveys.
- Collected plant seed for pollinator species.
- Enhanced habitat for big game forage and other wildlife on 7,128 acres through prescribed fire and fuels reduction projects.
- Improved wildlife habitat by treating 6,382 acres of noxious weeds.
- Decommissioned 23 miles of roads with full bench re-contour affecting 4,200 acres of security habitat for wildlife.
- Installed several road closures on 10 roads, enhancing 3,300 acres of big game security habitat.
- Created snag habitat by girdling trees on 21 acres
- Repaired fence around 9 acres of aspen stands.
- Served on Blue Mountains Elk Initiative (BMEI) and assisted with the BMEI 25th Anniversary Celebration.
- Served on the Hells Canyon Bighorn Sheep Initiative and assisted with bighorn capture.
- Coordinated with state agencies and USFWS on wolves
- Focused on effective integrated approach to vegetation management.



Figure 2. Recently discovered bald eagle nest on the Tucannon River, Pomeroy Ranger District.



Figure 1. Trail camera photo of wolf on the North Fork John Day Ranger District, Desolation Unit. First estimated area of known wolf activity in the southern half of the Umatilla NF.

### **2015 Accomplishments**

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
7,128	WFHF	Prescribed Fire
6,382	NFWF, NFWW, SRS2, PTNR	Noxious weed Treatment
7,526	CWKV, PTNR	Road decom & closure
21	CWKV	Snag Creation
9	Partner in-kind	Aspen fence
<b>21,066</b>		<b>Total</b>

### **Partners/Cooperators**

ODFW, WDFW, USFWS, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Boy Scouts, BMEI, Hells Canyon Initiative, Blue Mtn. Habitat Restoration Council, CTUIR

**Contact:** Elizabeth Berkley 541-278-3814



for the greatest good

**Umatilla National Forest**  
72510 Coyote Rd.  
Pendleton, OR 97801

# Umpqua National Forest

## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

**In 2015, the Umpqua National Forest successfully met & exceeded planned wildlife targets.**

**Accomplishment highlights include:**

- Commercially thinned 1907 acres of second growth to improve future habitat for wildlife species and northern spotted owl Critical Habitat.
- Completed 547 acres of snag creation for wildlife habitat.
- Placed 384 acres of prescribed fire on the landscape to benefit wildlife species, early seral habitat & pine/oak habitat restoration areas.
- Closed/repairs 5 mine adits with bat friendly gate closures.
- With RMEF, OHA & ODFW completed over 70 acres of forage enhancement, opening creations, along with a pond creation for elk, deer, grouse, quail, amphibians and other wildlife species.
- With the Audubon Society-Umpqua Chapter, Phoenix School, OYCC, ODFW & Umpqua Watersheds monitored migratory bird routes, NW Pond turtle sites, conducted amphibian surveys and installed 11 vent covers at recreation sites.
- Relocated 3 nuisance beaver to lovely homes on the Umpqua with BAC/SURCP (Beaver Advocacy Committee/ South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership).
- Collaborated with adjacent Forests to inventory for bumble bees & other insects, along with Sierra Nevada red fox, fisher and other carnivores.
- Surveyed for bats, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, red tree voles, mollusks, spotted owls and other rare wildlife species.
- Hosted Western Bumble Bee Workshop for the Forest Service & BLM with Xerces Society.
- Conducted numerous environmental education presentations, including Bat Week in local schools, OSU Forestry School, Job Shadowing with Wolf Creek Job Corp.



Figure 1.: Specimen collected during the Western Bumble Bee Workshop.



Figure 2.: Documented fisher on the Umpqua NF as a result of monitoring efforts. This is the 1st documentation on the Umpqua NF in 15 years.

### 2015 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
384	BDBD/ WFHF	Prescribed Fire
547	CWKV	KV Wildlife Treatments
10,000	NFMG	Bat Gates on Mines
550	NFWF	Wildlife Improvements, Including Vent Covers
1,907	NFTM	Beneficial Timber Harvests
72	PTNR	Partnership (inc. NFXN)
<b>13,469</b>		<b>Total</b>

### 2015 Accomplishments Partners/Cooperators/

#### Big Thanks:

Audubon Society-Umpqua Chapter, BAC/SURCP, NWTF, ODFW, OHA, Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC), RMEF, Umpqua Watersheds, Wolf Creek Job Corp, Xerces Society, along with numerous independent volunteers from the community, schools & local businesses.

**Contact:** Tiffany Young, Forest Wildlife Biologist, 541-957-3260



**Umpqua National Forest**  
2900 NW Stewart Parkway  
Roseburg, OR 97471

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# Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest accomplished several habitat restoration projects and wildlife surveys in 2015. Some highlights of the program include:

- Plugged 28 open pipes on gates and hold back posts to prevent entrapment of wildlife (figure 2).
- Partnered with ODFW on implementation and enforcement of cooperative travel management areas.
- Applied prescribed fire to nearly 12,000 acres to benefit elk, deer, and mature pine associated wildlife species;
- Beneficial results for wildlife were realized on nearly 25,000 acres of wildfires.
- Non-commercially thinned 1,112 acres of young conifer stands to prolong their value as forage for big game and as early seral habitat.
- Coordinated a terrestrial mollusk workshop for our biologists.
- Surveyed 45 acres for western bumblebees.
- Maintained and monitored 24 great gray owl nest platforms;
- Invasive weed control was conducted on 1,045 acres.
- Monitored numerous nest sites of golden eagle, peregrine falcon, and goshawk.
- Surveyed for marten, wolverine, and montane fox at 15 remote camera sites (figure 1).
- Minor amounts of survey for bats, small mammals, and white-headed woodpecker.
- Protected 20 acres of mountain mahogany through brush piling over seedlings; and
- Provided education and outreach to numerous schools and community groups.



Figure 1. Camera traps were used to survey for marten, montane fox, and wolverine. This tree hugging bear visited one of our sets. He asked to spare this tree from blue paint.



Figure 2. Downy woodpecker is one species that could benefit from plugging open pipes on gates, mine markers, and vault toilets.

### 2015 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
1,360	NFWF/ NFXN WL	Habitat Improvement
1,112	NFTM	Non-Commercial Thinning
12,000	NFHF	Prescribed Fire
1,045	NFWF/ NFWW	Invasive Weeds
<b>15,517</b>		<b>Total Terrestrial Habitat Enhancement</b>
25,000	WFSU/ NFTM/ WFHF	Beneficial Wildfire

### Partners/Cooperators/

Oregon Dept. Fish and Wildlife; Blue Mountain Elk Initiative; Oregon Hunters Association; Hells Canyon Preservation Council; Blue Mountain Conservancy; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; Wallowa Resources; Hells Canyon Bighorn Sheep Restoration Initiative; Friends of Ladd Marsh; Oregon Youth Authority.

**Contact:** Mark Penninger, Forest Wildlife Biologist  
541 523-1285



for the greatest good

**Wallowa-Whitman National Forest**  
1550 Dewey Avenue, Suite A  
Baker City, OR 97814

# Willamette National Forest

## 2015 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

In 2015 the Willamette National Forest exceeded planned wildlife targets.

### Accomplishment highlights include:

- With RMEF, OHA, and other partners, completed over 8400 acres of elk and deer enhancement by road closures, weed treatments, and forage improvement.
- Completed 1250 acres of snag creation and 805 acres of downed wood creation.
- Commercially thinned 2530 acres of second growth to improve future habitat for northern spotted owls.
- Built slash piles for quail on 168 acres of open forest habitat.
- With ODFW enhanced over 9800 acres of anadromous habitat benefitting bald eagles, bears, and other riparian-associated wildlife.
- Monitored/inventoried for bats, bees, peregrine falcons, fisher, Oregon spotted frogs, red tree voles, Sierra Nevada red fox, mollusks, spotted owls and other rare wildlife species.
- Conducted numerous environmental education presentations and hosted an International Visiting Biologist on the MRRD.



Figure 2. In FY15, the Willamette completed a long-term monitoring project for peregrine falcons. The number of known nest sites on the Forest has increased from 0 in 1990 to 21 in 1999 to 32 in 2015, although not all are occupied each year. Monitoring results have provided data used by ODFW and USFWS for evaluating State and Regional population trends for peregrines through recover and post-delisting timeframes.



Figure 1. In 2015, the Forest documented a significant population of western bumblebees by discovering 20 new sites in the higher elevations of the McKenzie River Ranger District.

### 2015 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
5121	CWKV	KV Wildlife Treatments
2613	CMLG	Road Closures
2000	NFLM	Bat Gates on Mines
2076	NFWF	Wildlife Improvements
2533	NFTM	Beneficial Timber Harvests
8969	PTNR	Partnerships (inc. NFXN)
476	SSCC	Stewardships
349	NFVW	Weed Treatments
<b>25,486</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>

### Partners/Cooperators/

Boy/Girl Scouts of America, BPA, PGE, RMEF, NWTF, ODFW, OHA, Northwest Youth Corps, numerous watershed councils, schools & businesses

**Contact:** Joe Doerr, Forest Wildlife Biologist, 541-225-6433



**Willamette National Forest**  
3106 Pierce Parkway  
Springfield, OR 97477

for the greatest good



# Centers of Excellence



for the greatest good

# Ochoco National Forest

## 2015 Amphibian & Reptile Center of Excellence Accomplishments

Betsy Howell on the Olympic National Forest functions as the “Center of Excellence” for amphibian and reptile conservation in Oregon and Washington. The primary duties under this position include:

- Serving as a liaison with the Northwest affiliate of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC).
- Serving as the co-chair for NW PARC (2-year term begun in February 2015).
- Disseminating current conservation information on amphibian and reptile species to Region 6 National Forests.
- Participating in regular conference calls with the PARC Joint National Steering Committee.

### PRODUCTS/PROJECTS

- ❖ Organized and attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest PARC Conference in Portland, Oregon: “Citizen Science: Expanding Science and Ecological Literacy.” This one-day event focused on various aspects of citizen science, including the design, implementation, and success of amphibian and reptile projects, as well as the roll of mobile apps, bioblitzes, and outreach programs in conservation and stewardship. Presenters included individuals from North Cascades Institute, Western Oregon University, Xerces Society, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, and U.S. Forest Service. One hundred people attended the workshop.
- ❖ Began a two-year term as co-chair for NW PARC. Each PARC region has two co-chairs that work with a steering Committee on various efforts to promote the conservation of amphibians and reptiles. This year, our primary tasks have included redoing the NW PARC website ([www.nwparc.org](http://www.nwparc.org)) and planning for the 2016 meeting, the theme of which will be “Conservation Across Borders.” This meeting will take place in February in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Washington and Idaho Wildlife Societies and the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology.



2015 NW PARC Conference



Keynote speaker, Sharman Apt Russell (second from left), and speaker Celeste Mazzacano of the Xerces Society (far right) talk with workshop attendees during a break.

- ❖ Provided technical review of the Bsal (salamander fungus) Rapid Response Plan.
- ❖ Continued to forward current herp information to district and forest personnel.



**Contact:** Betsy Howell – 360/956-2292; [blhowell@fs.fed.us](mailto:blhowell@fs.fed.us)



for the greatest good

**Olympic National Forest**

1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Suite A  
Olympia, WA 98512-5623

# Ochoco National Forest



## 2015 Blue Mountains Elk Initiative & Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Center of Excellence Accomplishments

### Blue Mountains Elk Initiative Celebrates 25 Years

The BMEI celebrated 25 years in 2015. The date was marked by a two day celebration, June 30 –July 1, in Pendleton Oregon.

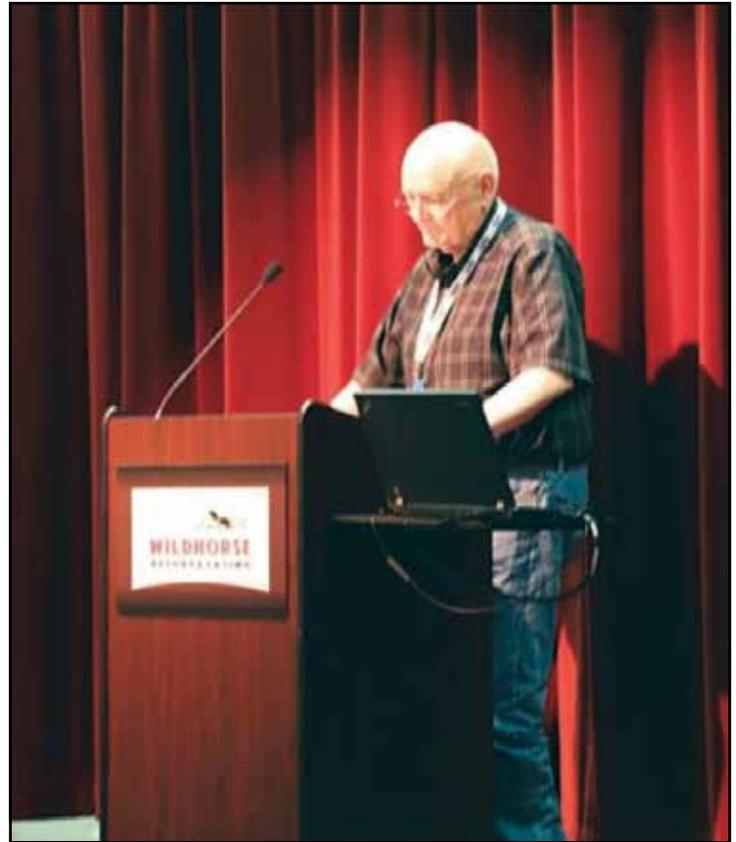
The two day event included a visit to the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range, where participants spoke about the four original elk studies; roads and traffic, intensive timber management, breeding bulls, and forage allocation. On day two, there was a Tribal Welcome and an Elder Prayer prior to the recognition and awards dinner hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The keynote speaker was Jack Ward Thomas, the 13th Chief of the Forest Service and a former Director of the Pacific Northwest Laboratory in La Grande, Oregon.

The BMEI is a cooperative effort between Federal, State, private landowners, Tribal Nations, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, sportsman and conservation organizations, and other partners with the mutual goal to improve the management of elk and other wildlife across the Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington.

The BMEI is the longest running and most successful initiative of it's kind, Over the past 25 years, the BMEI has leveraged nearly 10 million dollars and completed more than 300,00 acres of habitat improvement across the Blue Mountains.

### 2015 BMEI/RMEF Center of Excellence Duties and Accomplishments

- Solicited RMEF project proposals from Forests in Oregon and BMEI proposals from the four Forests in the BMEI area – Ochoco, Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman –and State, Tribal, and private cooperators.
- Assisted project proponents in the development of habitat restoration projects and project proposals,
- Served as the Forest Service liaison and voting member of the both the OR and WA RMEF project advisory committees (PAC); represented the BMEI at the both the Oregon and Washington PAC meetings.
- Reviewed, evaluated, and ranked 51 proposals,
- Assisted the OR RMEF PAC in the prioritization and selection of the projects to be funded; 20 projects selected for funding in OR.
- Facilitated the distribution of BMEI funds to successful applicants.
- *In FY'15 RMEF allocated a total of \$279,733 in Oregon which was matched by \$3,754,158 of USFS, \$125,000 BMEI (combined \$95K FS, \$10K ODFW, and \$20K Blue Mountains Habitat Restoration Council ), and other contributor funds.*



BMEI Celebration Keynote speaker Dr. Jack Ward Thomas

**Table 1. 2015 RMEF/BMEI Projects and Funding by Forest**

Forest	#RMEF/BMEI Projects	RMEF Funding	BMEI Funding
FREWIN	3	\$54,000	NA
OCH	1	\$20,000	\$20,000
RRS	1	\$15,000	NA
SIU	1	\$10,000	NA
UMA	3	\$12,500	\$30,000
UMP	1	\$8,700	NA
WAW	3	\$40,000	\$45,000
WIL	4	\$74,883	NA
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$235,083</b>	<b>\$95,000* *</b>

\*USFS projects only; \*\*USFS BMEI funds

**Contact: Kevin Keown – Ochoco National Forest 541-416-6605**



**Ochoco National Forest**  
3160 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Prineville, OR 97754

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# Gifford Pinchot National Forest

## 2015 RMEF WA Center of Excellence Program Accomplishments

In 2015, the Washington forest submitted 14 USFS projects to the Washington PAC. The following 9 projects were recommended and funded by the committee to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

- MTA Invasive Meadow Treatment –Gifford Pinchot NF invasive weed treatment in south zone meadows- \$20,400.
- Toutle River Invasive Weed Management – Gifford Pinchot NF – mouseear hawkweed treatments on the Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument- \$15,000,
- Judy Mills Project Prescribe Fire – Colville NF- \$6,900.
- **San Creek Summit Restoration – Colville NF - \$5,00.**
- Pend Oreille County Closed Road Improvements- Colville NF- \$3,620.
- Pend Oreille County Meadow Enhancements – Colville NF- \$4,800.
- Blue Mtns Wildlife Area Complex Noxious Weed Control- Umatilla NF- \$30,000.
- Chase Mountain Elk Security – Umatilla NF- \$5,000.
- Pinkham Prescribed Fire- Umatilla NF- \$11,750.

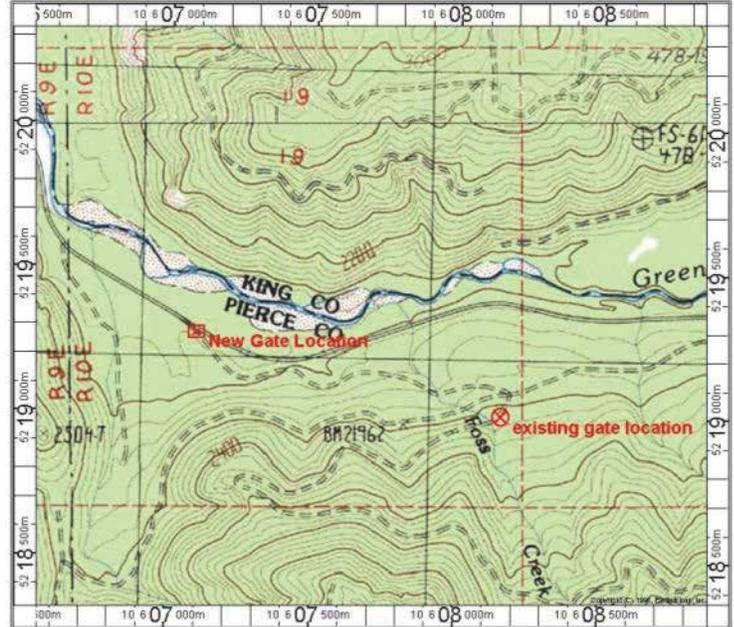


Figure 1 Rd 7013 Winter Gate relocation completed on Mount Baker Snoqualmie NF in 2015.

### 2015 Accomplishments

**RMEF Funding RMEF \$102,470**

### Partners/Cooperators

Washington Department of Wildlife, Skamania, Klickitat and Cowlitz County Weed Board, Asotin County Weed Board,

Carol Chandler- R6 WA Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Liaison 360-891-5106



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**Gifford Pinchot National Forest**  
10600 NE 51<sup>st</sup> Circle  
Vancouver, WA 98682

# Ochoco National Forest

## 2015 R6 Greater Sage-grouse COE Accomplishments

In 2015 the Ochoco National Forest hosted the “Center of Excellence” (COE) for greater sage- grouse on National Forests in Region 6 within the state of Oregon.

During 2015 duties included:

- Serving as the Forest Service representative on the Oregon Sage-grouse Conservation Planning Team.
- Representing the Forest Service at the Oregon SageCon Partnership meetings.
- Responding to data requests related to sage- grouse conservation actions and the annual status review by USFWS.
- Assisting other National Forests in Oregon with sage-grouse by distributing information regarding sage-grouse and their habitat.



Figure 2. Example of sage-grouse habitat



Figure 1. Greater sage-grouse at a lek (breeding site)

During 2015, the SageCon Partnership, a collaborative group in Oregon, completed a State-wide All Lands All Threats Plan intended to promote conservation of sage-grouse, while addressing rural community sustainability in central and eastern Oregon. The COE attends SageCon meetings as the Region 6 USFS representative and also serves on the Oregon Sage-grouse Conservation Planning Team, which provides technical support to SageCon.

The USDA Forest Service working in partnership with a multitude of governmental and non-governmental partners across eleven western states, working in an unprecedented collaborative conservation effort, contributed toward the determination by USFWS that the greater sage-grouse does not require protection as a listed species under the Endangered Species Act. This finding was released in September 2015, just prior to the end of FY 15.



Figure 3. Hen sage-grouse in nesting habitat

**Contact:** Dede Steele 541-416-6500



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**Ochoco National Forest**  
3160 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Prineville, OR 97754

# Full Curl Program/R-6 Mountain Goat COE

## 2015 Accomplishments

The Full Curl Program continued to provide technical expertise to all western Forest Service regions through **Mark Penninger**, and **Melanie Woolever** prior to her retirement in early 2015. The program experienced a lull in activity from January through June 2015 due to Melanie Woolever's retirement and an injury that sidelined Mark Penninger for six months.

The following is a summary of services provided:

- Continued updating occupied bighorn/domestic sheep allotment maps for western states.
- Provided technical assistance and support to a variety of planning activities in all Regions using the risk of contact model.
- Provided technical assistance to forest plan revision teams regarding pack goats in occupied bighorn habitat.
- Staffed a booth at the Pope & Young Club's convention in Phoenix, AZ.
- Provided guidance and consistency in the application of national direction from Aug. 19, 2011 and June 2012 national memos.
- Assisted with bighorn disease sampling and a translocation.
- Continued involvement with the WAFWA Bighorn Sheep Working Group, including attendance at the summer WAFWA meeting in Reno, NV.
- Provided technical assistance to California Fish & Game on helicopter use in wilderness areas.
- Served as the primary FS contact for state wildlife agency biologists, Tribes, NGOs, disease researchers, and others involved in bighorn conservation.
- Represented the FS on the Hells Canyon Bighorn Sheep Restoration Initiative.
- Represented the FS on various interagency teams including governor's taskforce, disease review team, and Nez Perce Salmon River Recovery Program Team.
- Organized and staffed state-of-the-art booth at the Wild Sheep Foundation's annual convention, providing exposure to >8,500 exhibit hall attendees.



Figure 1. Mature Rocky Mountain bighorn rams in Hells Canyon. The Hells Canyon population continues to struggle decades after diseases from domestic sheep caused all-age die offs.

### **Mountain Goat, Center of Excellence,** summary of services:

- Technical contact for a National Park Service team conducting an EIS to address non-native goats on the OLY peninsula;
- Tracked reports of nuisance goats in Elkhorn Mountains, OR;
- Responded to questions by hunters and hikers about mt goats; and
- Provided technical guidance on goat issues to the RO and other FS units on request.



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**Mark Penninger**  
**Full Curl Program**  
1550 Dewey Ave. Suite A  
Baker City, OR 97814

# Upland Game Bird Center of Excellence

## 2015 Accomplishments

The Sisters Ranger District Wildlife Biologist on the Deschutes National Forest functions as a “Center of Excellence” for upland game bird related partnerships within Oregon and Washington. The primary duties under this position include:

### **National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF)**

#### **Region 6 Making Tracks Steering Committee Representative:**

##### **NWTF National Convention:**

- Participated in the finalization of the Steering Committee Charter. The charter outlines the mission, purpose of the Making

Track Program and committee responsibilities. The charter was signed by Deputy Chief of the Forest Service Leslie Weldon and NWTF Chief Conservation Office Rebecca Humphries.

- Participated in ongoing discussions between the FS and NWTF staff on the NWTF’s Big 6 Focal Landscapes and priority habitats associated with each landscape as it relates to NWTF “Save the Habitat Save the Hunt” initiative.

- Report out on Region 6 accomplishments from existing stewardship agreements and super fund projects.

- Annually submit meeting notes to Regional Program Manager

from National Convention, notes include complete agenda items of all attended meetings.

Annually a R6 Forest Supervisor accompanies me to the National

Convention Representing the Regional Forester. Kevin Martin from the Umatilla National Forest was the Regional Forester representative for 2015

##### **Making Tracks Steering Committee Member:**

**Quarterly Meetings-** Attend quarterly conference calls organized by Making Tracks National Coordinator Tracy Grazia. For FY 15 the committee focused on completing the steering committee Operational Plan and the Annual Strategic Plan.

The Operational Plan outlines how the steering committee functions and the processes by which the steering committee will operate. The Operational Plan was finalized and signed by the steering committee co-chairs: Robert Trujillo, USFS Region 8 Director of Biological and Physical Resources and Tom Hughes,

NWTF Assistant Vice-President of Conservation.

The Annual Strategic Plan identifies specific programmatic priorities and action items that will direct NWTF and USFS staff to enhance our combined cooperation and coordination efforts throughout 2015-2016.

**Partnership Development** –Participated in a Stewardship Agreement training hosted by the Okanogan/Wenatchee National

Forest. Participated as a subject matter expert and as a panel member to discuss Stewardship Agreements in a Q&A style forum. The training was attended by FS staff and various non-profit organizations.

##### **NWTF Cont.**

Provided a Stewardship Agreement process overview for the Malheur National Forest Biologists.

WAFWA Turkey Technical Committee Meeting- The annual meeting was hosted by ODFW in May. I attended the meeting and participated in discussions on habitat management as well as presented on partnership projects between NWTF and FS in the Region .

Support to the NWTF Regional Wildlife Biologist with ongoing stewardship projects, and assist with the Stewardship Agreement process for new stewardship projects.

Participated in the BMEI Partnership Celebration and Partnership meeting. Looking for opportunities to increase BMEI’s partnership capacity with the assistance of the Making Track program to expand habitat enhancement opportunities in the Blue Mountains.

Assist with the “Call For Proposal” through NWTF’s Superfund habitat enhancement process. Projects are reviewed by the COE, NWTF Regional Biologist, State Fish and Wildlife Biologist and the NWTF State Board. In FY 2015 projects were funded on the Oka/Wen, CRGNSA, (2)Malheur, Willamette.

### **Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) and other Upland Game Bird Coordination:**

- Coordinate with Director of Conservation at the RGS National Headquarters to promote partnership projects in the Region.

- When needed, work with local FS Wildlife Bios to provide RGS with potential volunteer projects that assist with habitat improvement work.

- Coordinate with Dave Budeau the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Game Bird Program Coordinator on upland game bird projects associated with National Forests in Oregon.

- Assist with Grouse and Mt. Quail Wing Bee in Southwestern Oregon. Provide Forest Program Managers with harvest results from both the Northeast Oregon Wing Bee and Southwest Oregon Wing Bee.



Figure 1. Dave Budeau ODFW Game Bird Program Coordinator providing directions at the Southwest Oregon Wing Bee.



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##### **Contact:**

**Monty Gregg,**  
Regional Upland Game Bird COE,  
541-549-7724

# Colville National Forest

## 2015 Woodland Caribou Center of Excellence Accomplishments

**SNOW PATROLS:** As in past winters, Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) continued to complete weekend visitor contact patrols on snowmobile in the Forest's portion of the Selkirk Mountains Woodland Caribou Recovery Area. We were only able to complete 2 patrols due to a breakdown of a snowmobile (seized gearbox) that required costly repairs. Snow conditions were unusually shallow and hard-packed in the winter of 2014- 2015, which appeared to have limited overall snowmobile recreation in the recovery area, compared to past years.

For the first time we detected snow-bike (tracked motorcycle) use in the caribou recovery area. This vehicle was driven around a gate and onto a closed road. Physically prohibiting this type of machine from being driven around almost any gate may be problematic.

As in recent years, we detected a small number of illegal entries by snowmobile riders onto Molybdenite Ridge, via closed roads. There were no other known incursions on high ridges in the forest's portion of the recovery area.

**VISITOR CONTACT PATROLS:** In Fiscal Year 2015, FPOs completed 20 weekend visitor contact patrols in the recovery areas for grizzly bears and caribou (which overlap). A primary objective of these patrols is to inform hunters about proper species identification, so a threatened or endangered species is not mistaken for a game animal. We also provide information (including brochures) on caribou ecology and recovery efforts.



Figure 1: Forest Protection officer making a hunter contact.



Figure 2. Wildfire that burned in the woodland caribou recovery area in 2015.

**KANIKSU COMPLEX WILDFIRES:** Lightning storms in August sparked a number of wildfires in the caribou recovery area, ranging from a fraction of an acre on up to several hundred acres in size. Owing to a lack of access and other firefighting priorities on the Forest, these fires were mostly monitored until they were put out by season-ending weather events. Fire severity tended to be mixed, which is thought to be the historic fire regime over most of the forest land in Pend Oreille County. The acres of "target" stands for caribou affected were small. The east zone biologist was assigned to a Burned Area Emergency Response Team for this complex of fires.

### CARIBOU MONITORING / PREDATOR MANAGEMENT:

Biologists in British Columbia (BC) continued to monitor 6 GPS collared caribou. The Colville National Forest contributed \$2,500 towards this effort. BC continued to remove wolf packs to reduce predation on the remnant caribou herd (estimated to be less than 20 animals). Cougar hunting regulations have been relaxed in BC. Methods to boost the population size of the herd are being discussed, including maternal penning, augmentation from elsewhere in BC, and additional predator control.

**Contacts:** Mike Borysewicz – 509-446-7532 or  
Karen Honeycutt – 509-684-7224



**Colville National Forest**  
765 South Main Street  
Colville, WA 99114

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# R6 Carnivore Center of Excellence

## 2015 Accomplishments

**John Rohrer, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, functions as the carnivore center of excellence for Region 6.** Primary duties include:

- Assist Forests with addressing carnivore life histories, distribution, status, and how Forest Service activities affect these species,
- Represent the PNW Region on national teams to develop strategies for conservation of rare carnivore species.
- Represent the PNW Region by attending national, international and interagency meetings of standing committees, such as the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee,
- Work with other FS Regions, agencies and partners, to conduct surveys, develop projects, implement habitat improvement programs and reintroductions, and develop tools to analyze the effects of FS projects on carnivores.

### 2015 Accomplishments

Provided partial funding for 4 projects:

- Installation of bear-resistant food lockers in campgrounds on the Colville NF.
- Marten surveys on the Malheur NF.
- Humboldt marten surveys on the RRS/Siuslaw NFs.
- Sierra Nevada Red Fox DNA analysis on Deschutes and Willamette NFs.



Figure 1. Marten detected on Blue Mountain RD, Malheur NF.



Figure 2. Male wolverine, Special K, being released from a live trap, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

- Participated on North Cascades Grizzly Bear Tech Team and Recovery EIS Science Team.
- Assisted with grizzly bear detections surveys in Pasayten Wilderness.
- Provided support for WSU wolf/livestock interaction research projects.
- Provided assistance and support to WSU graduate student researching lynx and climate change.
- Provided support for Cascades red fox current state-of-knowledge write-up by Jocelyn Akins.
- Coordinated field portion of year 10 for the North Cascades Wolverine Project.
- Evaluated use of scat-detecting dogs for collecting wolverine DNA.
- Attended Wild Links annual meeting and Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee winter meeting.
- Assisted National Carnivore Program with annual Yellowstone Carnivore Class for line officers.
- Participated in numerous conference calls, meetings, and discussions regarding specific issues with wolves, wolverines, lynx, fisher, marten, montane, fox, and grizzly bear.

**Contacts:** John Rohrer 509-996-4001; [jrohrer@fs.fed.us](mailto:jrohrer@fs.fed.us)



**Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest**  
24 West Chewuch  
Winthrop, WA 98862

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# Siuslaw National Forest

## 2015 Western Snowy Plover Center of Excellence Accomplishments

### Nest Protection and Monitoring:

- Nesting season monitoring confirmed the fledging of well over 300 snowy plover chicks on the Oregon Coast. At least 189 chicks fledged from Siuslaw National Forest nesting beaches.
- Increased protection of nesting areas along 5 miles of beach from off road vehicles.
- Assisted with range-wide winter and early breeding season monitoring.
- Installed, maintained and removed 17.5 miles of symbolic rope fence to protect nesting snowy plovers. Installed 60+ additional seasonal informational and regulatory signs.

### Habitat Improvement:

- Nesting habitat was improved by hand pulling European beachgrass on 53 acres and mechanical removal of hummocks on 40 acres.
- Commercial oyster shell was spread over 12 acres to provide structure in plover nesting areas.
- Hosted 2 beach cleanup events with Surfriders and Emerald Empire Backcountry Horseman that removed over 2,000 lbs. of trash. **Predator Control:**
- Two APHIS-Wildlife Services specialists provided predator control from February – August at five nesting areas.



Figure 1. Scalping and burying beach grass hummocks on the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.



Figure 2. Juvenile snowy plover using oyster shell for cover. Photo by Adam Kotaich.

### Outreach:

- Five volunteer docents donated nearly 1500 hours monitoring recreational closures and contacting recreationists on the beach and in campgrounds. Over 4,600 visitor contacts were made.
- Provided training to Valuing People and Places Field Rangers who provided outreach to the public over 2,000 times.
- In cooperation with Oregon Parks and Recreation four new vehicle closure/recreational restriction signs were installed.

### Law Enforcement:

FPOs and volunteers documented 309 violations to area closures.

### Partners/Cooperators:

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, BLM, Oregon Biodiversity Information Center, ODF&W, APHIS-Wildlife Services, USFWS, ACOE.

**Contact:** Cindy Burns 541-271-6021



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**Siuslaw National Forest**  
**Central Coast Ranger District/ODNRA**  
855 Hwy 101  
Reedsport, OR 97467

# Region 6

## 2015 NRIS Wildlife Database Accomplishments

2015 saw no major changes in the NRIS Wildlife application. Legacy data migrations continued, and are almost complete for the region.

The National User Group continued discussions on data sharing and confidentiality issues, bat caves and INFRA, coordination with NICE and WIT, and invasive wildlife species.

### 2015 Accomplishments

**R6 Forests added more than 133,000 new observations and 52,000 sites since database use began in 2002. Almost 27,000 surveys are also in the database.**

## Region 6 NRIS Wildlife Observations & Sites

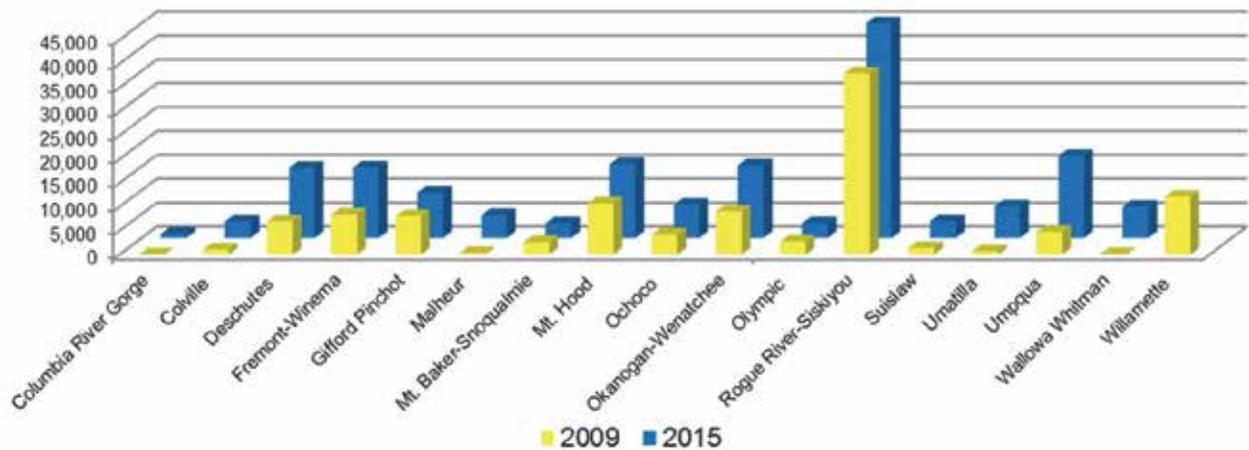


Figure 1. Growth of NRIS Wildlife Data 2009-2015 by forest

**Contacts:** Ann Glidden 509-996-4047



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**NRIS Wildlife Center of Excellence**  
Okanogan-Wenatchee NF Forest  
Methow Valley RD  
Winthrop, WA

# Region 6 Pacific Northwest

## 2015 DecAID Center of Excellence Accomplishments

### Website maintenance

- Update of Implementation Guide to include more recent examples and hyperlinks to training webinars.
- Review of 30 scientific journals monthly/quarterly for recent science to incorporate into website.
- Roll-out of updated regional GNN data up to 2012 for general veg data and through 2014 update for fires (tools to rerun GNN data using RAVG maps).

### Training

- Recorded a series of training webinars and uploaded to DecAID Implementation Guide website. Includes: general overviews, in depth look at tolerance levels, how to use the 2012 GNN data, how to interpret distribution analyses.
- Provided individual assistance to assist with analysis on several projects.

### Implementation

- Finalized templates showing how to create a Distribution Analysis and began individual trainings on using these templates.
- Additional members added to cadre for implementation help (Cole Belongie – GIS; Steve Acker –Veg interpretation).
- Further Development of the DecAID toolbox for ArcGIS using the RAVG maps to update for fires.



Figure 2. American marten atop snag (photo courtesy of Gaybrielle Dunham, Bend-Ft Rock RD)

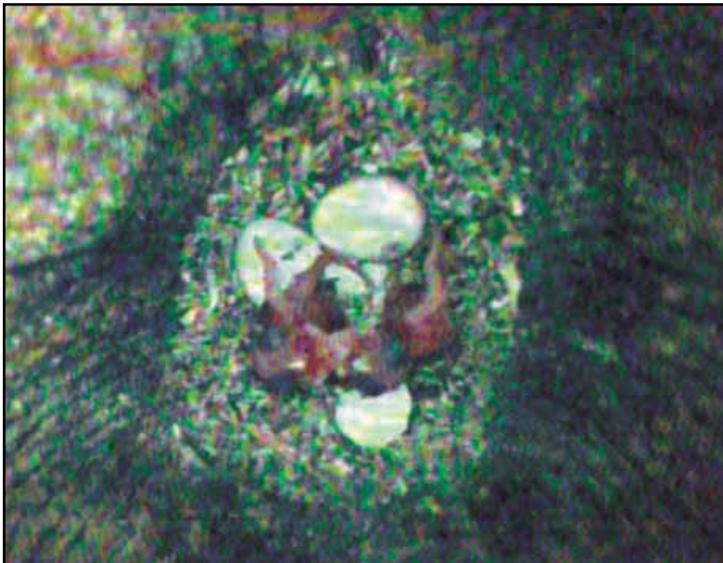
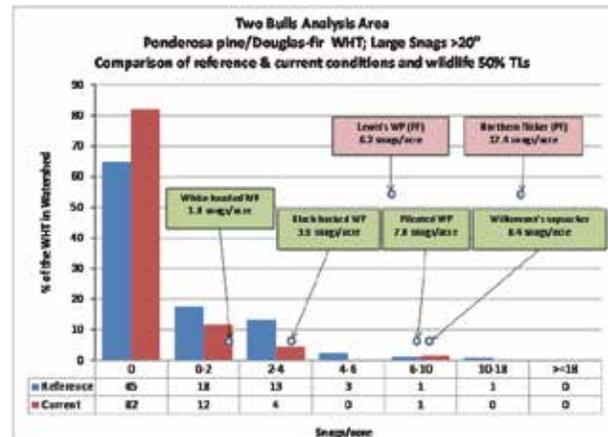


Figure 1. Newly hatched black-backed woodpecker nestlings photo courtesy Barbara Webb, Bend-Ft Rock RD



**Contacts:** Barbara Webb 541-383-4788  
Kim Mellen-McLean 503-808-2677



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**Deschutes National Forest**  
Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District 63095  
Deschutes Mkt Rd  
Bend, OR 97701

# Umpqua National Forest

## 2015 Mollusk Center of Excellence Accomplishments

**Tiffany Young (Umpqua National Forest) functions as the “Center of Excellence” for mollusk conservation in Oregon and Washington for the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.**

### Primary services include:

- Serves as a liaison with the Smithsonian Institute, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Oregon State Arthropod Collection (OSAC), the Xerces Society and the Siskiyou Field Institute.
- Field consultant on mollusk habitat and species identification.
- Provides training for mollusk identification and survey techniques.
- Provides identification services for mollusk vouchers.
- Curates mollusk specimens for permanent collections stored at OSAC, the Smithsonian and Carnegie Museum of Natural History.
- Circulates current conservation information on mollusks to the field units.
- Provides peer-reviews for research papers and journal articles.



Mollusk Training at the Gifford-Pinchot National Forest



Photo by: KC Briggs  
Identification Services

### 2015 Accomplishments:

- Provided one Mollusk Identification Workshop serving the Gifford-Pinchot, Mt. Hood & Willamette National Forests; Salem BLM Districts; and the Xerces Society. These workshops provided biologists with an overview of mollusk anatomy, identification techniques and field survey techniques.
- 32 people total were reached.
- Provided field consultation to the Rogue River-Siskiyou, Umpqua & Willamette National Forests, along with Roseburg BLM. Services included assisting biologists in determining suitable mollusk habitat, survey techniques and species identification.
- Provided species identification services for Forest Service and BLM field units. Services included identifying 86 snail and slug specimens collected in the field, processing 233 vouchers & providing feedback on identification results.
- Reviewed technical papers for ISSSSP funded projects and Northwest Science.



ID Challenge –submit answers to Tiff

Contact: Tiffany Young – 541.957.3260  
tayoung@fs.fed.us



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**Umpqua National Forest**  
Supervisor's Office  
2900 NW Stewart Parkway  
Roseburg, OR 97471







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