



United States Department of Agriculture

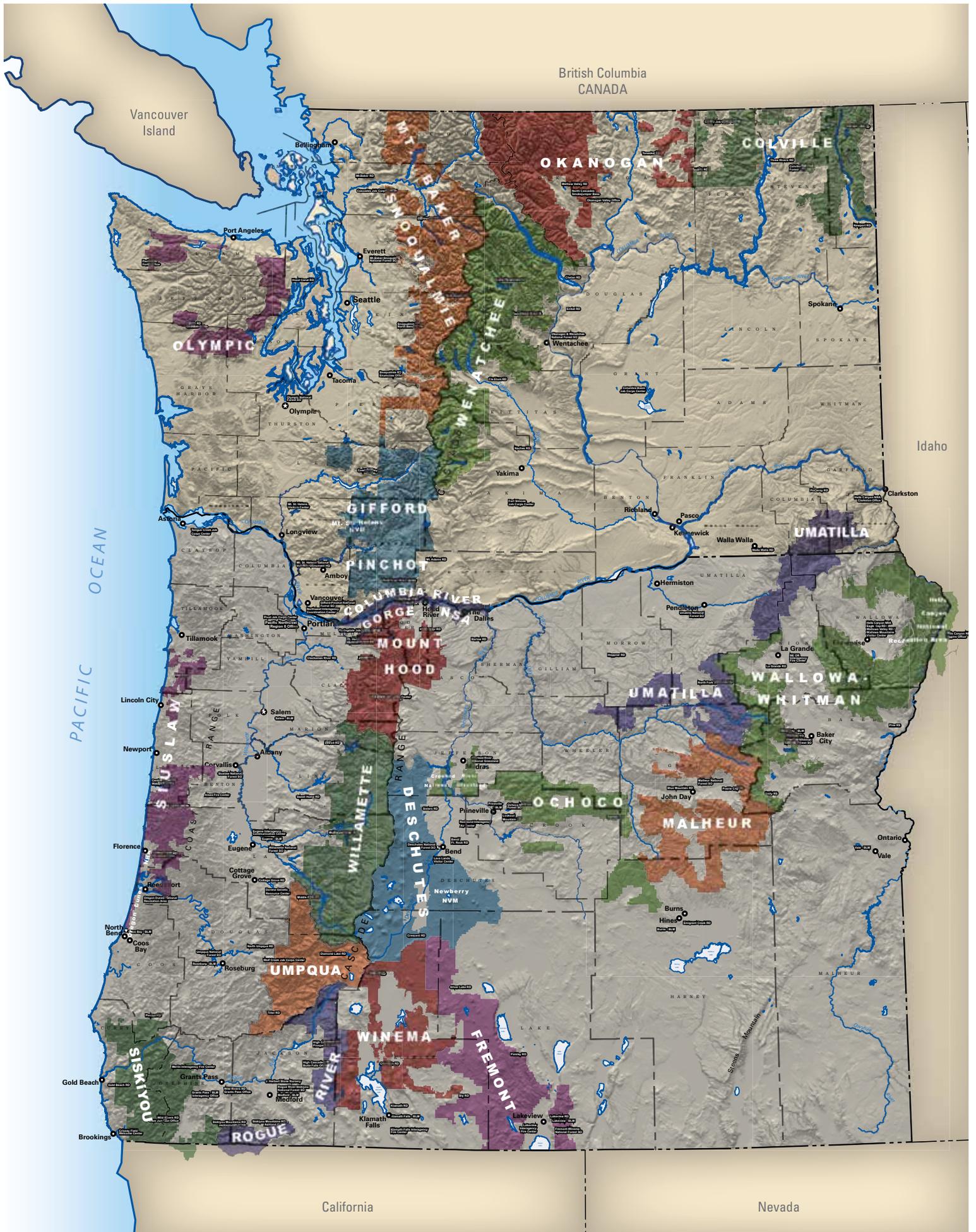
# WILDLIFE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAMS



accomplishments  
FISCAL YEAR 2016



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# Regional Office

## 2016 Wildlife Program Accomplishments

# WILDLIFE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**T**his documents represents highlights from the work done by Forests in Region 6 during Fiscal Year 2016 on behalf of wildlife and wildlife habitat conservation in Oregon and Washington. The Region has just over 100 dedicated wildlife biologists and wildlife technicians who tirelessly work to build partnerships, educate the public while also planning, implementing and monitoring wildlife habitat restoration activities across the 16 National Forests, one grassland and one national scenic area in Region 6.

This report is organized to highlight regional accomplishments as well as individual Forest accomplishments which include a focused narrative on a specific project each Forest selected to highlight. The last section of this report showcases the work being done by each of our Regional Centers of Excellence which are comprised of District or Forest level biologists who serve as Regional resources for specific species wildlife species or groups of species.

Please feel free and share this report with partners, other federal agencies, or any other interested publics. On the bottom of most slides are contacts for the individual biologists who are available to provide more information if desired. It is our hope that this report can be used to emphasize and celebrate the critical role National Forests in Oregon and Washington play in wildlife habitat conservation in the Pacific Northwest.

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

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



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## 2016 Wildlife Program Accomplishments

### Highlights of the 2016 Regional Office accomplishments include:

- Coordinated the Wildlife, Botany and Native Plant program managers meeting in Everett, WA with a special session on pollinator conservation, a field trip to the I-90 wildlife connectivity project, and a wildlife PM session with Mark Skinner, Vicky Erickson and Jesse Plumage.
- Reviewed and made recommendations for WO Supplemental Fuels, Challenge Cost Share, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Joint Chiefs and WO Supplemental Fuels Programs.
- In response to the detection of white-nose syndrome in Washington State, worked with Rob Huff, Kelli Van Norman, Shawna Bautista and Jocelyn Biro to strategize and establish a regional response in conjunction with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service. Also worked with PNW and PSW Research, Northern and Southern Research Stations on developing research proposals related to Pacific Northwest bat ecology and WNS distribution in the PNW.
- Held a free bat box building workshop at the Beaverton Home Depot.
- Completed the first Good Neighbor Authority Agreement with ODFW to conduct environmental samples for WNS.
- Finalized Master Participating Agreement with WDFW along with an SPA to conduct environmental sampling for WNS.
- Co-lead the Integrated Vegetation Group with Laura Mayer to set up forest reviews of fuels/veg on the Malheur and Deschutes NF.



**Figure 1.** From left to right, Greg Schroer, Nicole Zimmerman, Cheryl Carrothers, Josh Chapman, FS Chief Tom Tidwell, Tammy Fletcher, Leakhena Au, Brian Logan and Mark Penninger in front of Gifford Pinchot's desk at the WO during National Wildlife Program Managers meeting in May of 2016. Photograph by Mark Penninger.



**Figure 2.** Michele Jusino and Dr. Dan Lindner, both from the Northern Research Station at providing a training on collecting environmental samples for the presence of white-nose syndrome at the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. They are demonstrating full decontamination gear necessary for sampling.

- Developed a single proposal form to satisfy applications for Challenge Cost Share, WO Supplemental Fuels and Joint Chiefs project proposals to streamline applications for competitive funding.
- Developed a regional interagency carnivore working group to prioritize carnivore conservation species and research activities for Region 6.

### Partners/Cooperators

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Pacific Northwest and Northern Research Stations, Conservation Northwest, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Oregon Hunters Association, Oregon and Washington Wildlife Societies, Blue Mountain Elk Initiative, Xerces Society, Oregon Zoo, Home Depot

### Contacts:

Josh Chapman, Regional Wildlife Program Leader  
joshuachapman@fs.fed.us, 503-808-2901  
Kim Mellen McLean, Regional Wildlife Ecologist  
kmellenmclean@fs.fed.us, 503-808-2677  
Barb Bresson, Regional Avian Conservation Program Manager,  
bbresson@fs.fed.us, 503-808-2307

**Pacific Northwest Regional Office**  
1220 SW Third Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

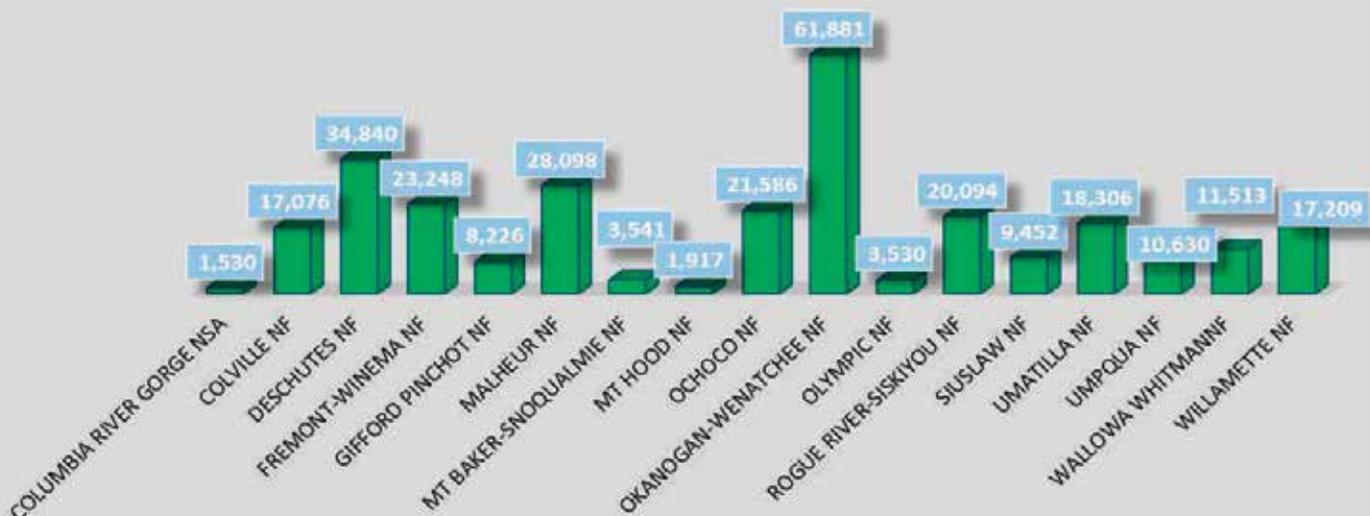


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## 2016 Wildlife Program Accomplishments

# TERRESTRIAL HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

**ACRES OF TERRESTRIAL HABITAT ENHANCEMENT IN FY16**



**Types of Terrestrial Habitat Enhancement Activities that occurred in Region 6 in FY 2016**

<b>Vegetation Treatments</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Aspen Restoration	51
Forage Enhancement	588
Increase Large Wood	113
Cavity Creation	2,324
Meadow Restoration	826
Non-native Plant Treatment	16,376
Nutrient Enrichment	5,010
Thinning	34,010
Native Plant Restoration	1,931
Pollinator Habitat Improvement	21
Rare Plant Protection	4
Soil Improvement	3
Wetland Restoration	119
Wildlife Hab Improved	47,188
Riparian Improvement	1,991
Revegetation	3,777

**114,331**

<b>Habitat, Species Management and Risk Reduction Treatments</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Trail Decommission	10
Road Decommissioning	36,677
Facility Maintenance	20
Fence-Exclosure	983
Fence-Removal	120
Garbage Removal	364
Guzzler Development	1,100
Spring Development	1,984
Ingress-Egress Ramps	269
Beaver Reintroduction	1,982
Lake-Pond Development	2,263
Mine-Cave Protection	13,231
Nest-Roosting Structure	2,951
Pipe Capping-Removal	2,033
Barred Owl Removal	47,065
Road Improvement	1,266
Invasive Species Mgmt-Plant	5,512
Structure Maintenance-Wildlife	725

**118,555**

<b>Fire and Fuels</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Prescribed Fire	27,886
Other Fuel Treatment	636
Wildfire Natural	31,259

**59,781**

- Forests in Region 6 accomplished over 290,000 acres of Terrestrial Habitat Enhancement, exceeding our regional target by 20,000 acres.
- 55 different partners contributed to this work, contributing over \$1.5 million dollars of funds and in kind labor

## 2016 Wildlife Program Accomplishments

# 2016 INTERAGENCY SPECIAL STATUS/SENSITIVE SPECIES PROGRAM AND SURVEY & MANAGE

Guided and improved species management and strengthened NEPA analysis through Regional direction, oversight and editing of many valuable conservation tools and inventory efforts:

- 4 conservation assessments
- 8 species fact sheets
- 2 site management plans
- 39 inventory and monitoring projects
- 9 USFS personnel participation on the Fungi and Bat work groups

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.

Completed year 3 of distance sampling monitoring enabling estimates of Mardon skipper populations at four sentinel sites in Oregon and Washington.

Through the efficiency of an R6 botanical survey contract, 37,000 acres and 350 miles of road surveyed for vascular and non-vascular plants, fungi, or invasive plants on FS and BLM lands.

Contributed to rare species genetics knowledge (GenBank database) by sequencing 530 fungal and 52 mollusk specimens.

Empowered agency biologists and botanists to conduct surveys for rare pollinating bumble bees by co-sponsoring Bumble bee workshops with The Xerces Society on the species life history, threats, identification and survey methodology.

Provided specimen identification services for field units, processing more than 1000 vouchers of lichens, bryophytes, fungi and invertebrate species (for both FS and BLM).

Developed a proactive approach to red tree vole conservation (high priority site management recommendations).



Mardon skipper-Joan St. Hilaire



Boletus pulcherrimus-Wikipedia

Facilitated and funded the publication of one manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal:

- Liu, H.P., Marceau, D. and Hershler, R., 2016. Taxonomic identity of two amnicolid gastropods of conservation concern in lakes of the Pacific Northwest of the USA. *Journal of Molluscan Studies*.

### Partners/Cooperators

ORBIC, WNHP, The Xerces Society, Smithsonian Institution, Oregon Wildlife Institute, USGS, PNW, OSU, University of Washington

### 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

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



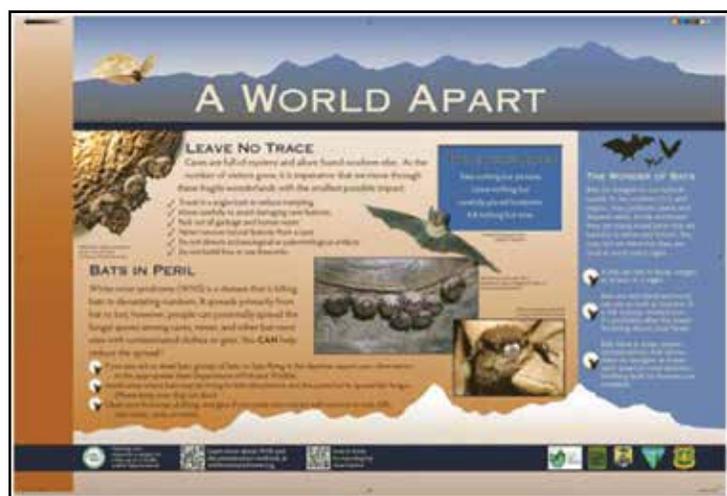
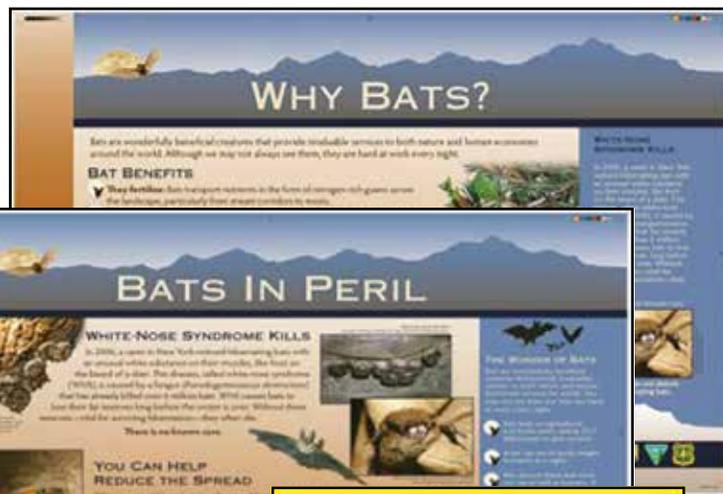
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## 2016 Wildlife Program Accomplishments

# WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME RESPONSE

Successfully coordinated and collaborated with the Pacific Northwest-wide interagency group comprised of other federal, state and tribal entities. This cooperative work provided for a consistent approach to white nose syndrome response associated with the March 2016 discovery of white-nose syndrome in bats in Washington State.

- ✓ Provided FS and BLM leadership, along with R6 Wildlife Program lead and R6 Invasive Species coordinator, in formulating the response, information sharing, and surveillance needs.
- ✓ Compiled bat location data for FS and BLM lands.
- ✓ Provided funding for increased staffing and tools for “show cave” management.
- ✓ Worked cooperatively with ODFW and WDFW on surveillance opportunities.
- ✓ Developed public information tools, including environmental education signs, and distributed to field units.
- ✓ Participate on national white-nose syndrome teams dealing with surveillance, communication, and decontamination/cleaning.



### Contacts:

- Rob Huff, 503-808-6479
- Kelli Van Norman, 503-808-6606
- Josh Chapman, 503-808-2901
- Shawna Bautista, 503-808-2697

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



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## 2016 Wildlife Program Accomplishments

# 2016 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

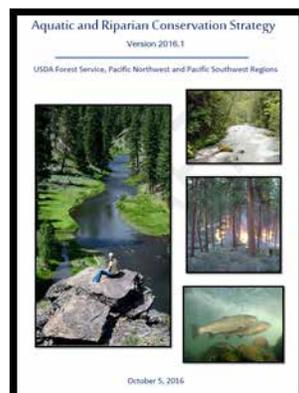
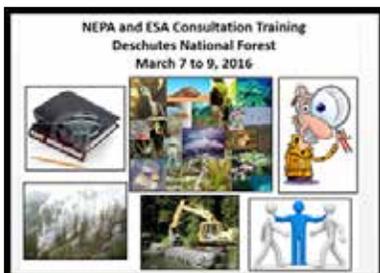
T&E program goals are to: (1) recover threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate (TEPC) species; (2) coordinate and collaborate with states, federal agencies and non-governmental organizations to conserve and restore TEPC species habitat and populations; and (3) provide technical assistance concerning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

### Accomplishments include:

- Continued to take proactive steps in species conservation by making focused investments (\$1.4 million in Challenge Cost Share and T&E monitoring funds) on monitoring and integrated restoration projects on all national forests within the region.
- Prepared letters to the field on Service's proposed listings and other ESA rule changes.
- Reviewed and commented on draft NEPA documents through the Environmental Review Committee process.
- Allocated funding for forests to participate in anadromous fish recovery planning.
- Worked on Northern Spotted Owl territory density model (estimation of habitat based carrying capacity for territorial species) paper submitted to Landscape Ecology.
- Assisted Blue Mountains and Colville NFs Forest Plan revision aquatic conservation strategies and ESA consultation.
- Led regional aerial fire retardant webinar to increase understanding of the 2011 guidance and ESA compliance with specific biological opinions.
- Organized and lead the interagency Oregon Spotted Frog coordination meeting.
- Assisted forests and regional staff with CERCLA and ESA guidance.



- Coordinated Western Oregon programmatic with the Forests, BLM, and Services.
- Worked on revisions of the regional Aquatic Riparian Conservation Strategy.
- Participated on NEPA and ESA reviews on the Umpqua and Colville NFs.
- Assisted WO's evaluation of the adequacy of 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.
- Continue to manage MOU, Interagency Agreement, and Annual Operating Plan for Barred Owl Removal project; continue to coordinate project with the Siuslaw and Okanogan Wenatchee NFs.
- Completed an interagency training on specialists analysis and biological evaluations/assessments on the Deschutes and Olympic NFs.
- Worked to develop an interagency inland survey protocol for Marbled Murrelets.
- Lead SCOAP (Deschutes, Ochoco, and Fremont Winema NFs) Climate Change vulnerability assessment on listed and sensitive fish species.



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

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



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*2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments*

# FOREST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2016, the Colville National Forest had a variety of projects and natural events that contributed to wildlife habitat enhancement.

## Accomplishment highlights include:

-  Through partnerships with Defenders of Wildlife, Conservation Northwest, Pend Oreille County PUD, Seattle City Light, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, and Selkirk Conservation Alliance, placed 23 food storage lockers in East Sullivan, Gypsy Meadows, Noisy Creek Campgrounds to reduce the likelihood of grizzly bear / forest users conflicts
-  Increased wildlife habitat on acres with road closure improvements (423 acres), unauthorized OHV trail closure, and road decommissioning (67 acres)
-  Improved habitat for migratory birds through harvest activities
-  Wildfires improved big game winter and summer range and woodpecker habitat for a total of 12,976 acres.
-  Used prescribed fires to improve 2,861 acres of big game habitat.
-  Road closure enhancements
-  Installed 8 vent caps and 23 water development escape ramps to reduce wildlife mortality.
-  Presented numerous environmental education programs.
-  Riparian exclosures and improvement, (Middle Fork Calispel, Pierre Creek, Tacoma Creek).
-  Western Bumblebee training for 90 people

## 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 with Conservation Canines, Conservation Northwest, Hinman – Collecting genetics, RMRS genetics, ISSSSP, WDFW, PNW
  - Moths, which provide food for several sensitive species – OSU, Western Washington University
2. Conducted surveys for:
  - *Mammals*: woodland caribou/winter recreation
  - *Insects*: Western bumblebees Citizen Science Project
  - *Birds*: goshawks, North American breeding birds, loon nesting, white-headed woodpeckers
3. Monitored for:
  - Grizzly bear core habitat/open and total road densities.
  - Closed road effectiveness.
  - Visitor Contact Patrols in Grizzly Bear Recovery Area
4. Supported efforts to monitor for:
  - Wolf/livestock interactions (WSU, WDFW)
  - Caribou mortality (WDFW, IDFG, FWS, BC Min Envir, IPNF)
  - Moose Sight Ability Model – WDFW, UM
  - Common loon wintering areas (Biodiversity Research Inst.)
  - Monarch Citizen Science Project



Wolf pups captured on camera during the Grizzly Bear Monitoring.

## 2016 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
1374	BDBD	Prescribed Fire
389	CFLN	Prescribed Fire, Riparian Improvement
88	CWKV	Prescribed Fire
114	NFRG	Ingress-Egress Ramps
		Road decommissioning and storage, Ingress-Egress Ramps, Pipe Capping, Soil Improvement, Wildlife Hab Improved, Wildlife Hab Improved-NonGame
581	NFWF	Prescribed Fire
100	NFXN	Road decommissioning and storage, Prescribed Fire, Storage-Level 1, Wildlife Hab Improved-NonGame
663	PTNR	Fence-Exclosure, Prescribed Fire, Storage-Level 1
150	SSCC	Prescribed Fire
640	WFHF	Prescribed Fire
12976	WFSU	Wildfire Natural



**17,075** Total



## 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, Seattle City Light, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Selkirk Conservation Alliance, Kalispel Tribe, Kootenay Tribe, North Idaho College, Colville Tribe, various individuals.

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

**Contact:** Karen Honeycutt 509-684-7224  
khoneycutt@fs.fed.us



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# National Forest

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

### HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS

#### Road Closure Enhancements

In 2016 we installed several boulders on one road and a gate on another to enhance seclusion in the Forest's portion of the Selkirk Mountains Grizzly Bear Recovery Area.

#### Animal Resistant Containers

All developed (fee) campgrounds on the Forest presently have animal-resistant trash cans. We continue to install metal, food storage lockers in campgrounds adjacent to the recovery area, and in heavily used dispersed campsites within the recovery area. These lockers are intended to provide campers with a secure place to store food, beverages and other wildlife attractants when their camp is unoccupied, and when they are sleeping at night. The devices have been well-received / used by the public.

In 2016 we installed 23 food storage lockers on poured cement pads. Various partners provided funding for the purchase of these structures.



Grizzly bear being measured and fitted with a radio collar in the Selkirk Mountains.

### RESEARCH AND MONITORING

#### Cooperative Selkirk Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Study

- Multi-year (2012-2017) interagency effort.
- Objectives: Determine grizzly bear survival rates, population trend, and causes of death. Develop habitat use models for the ecosystem.
- Techniques: Install hair snag corrals and rub posts to collect hair samples for DNA testing. Record bear presence with remote cameras. Assist with funding a USFWS bear trapping crew.

#### Closed Road Monitoring

The CNF maintains and monitors 58 gates on closed roads in our portion of the grizzly recovery area.



Grizzly bear using a rub tree.

### INFORMATION / EDUCATION / ENFORCEMENT

Signage / Brochures- We maintain about 20 informational boards in the recovery area and 18 boards in developed campgrounds directly adjacent to the recovery area.

Presentations- on proper food storage / large carnivore safety, and grizzly bear management and large carnivore safety.

Visitor Contact Patrols to inform / educate Forest visitors about camping and hunting safely in grizzly bear occupied habitat.

#### Partners

Conservation Northwest, Defenders of Wildlife, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Pend Oreille County Public Utility District, Scenic Canyons Recreational Services Inc, Seattle City Light, Selkirk Conservation Alliance, BC Min. of Forests, Lands, & NR Ops, USFWS, IDFG, Idaho Department of Lands, IPNF, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, WDFW

**Colville National Forest**  
12641 Sullivan Lake Road  
Metaline Falls, WA 99153

**Contact:** Michael A. Borysewicz 509-446-7532  
mborysewicz@fs.fed.us



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# Columbia River Gorge

In 2016, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area participated in several projects that benefitted wildlife. Accomplishment highlights include:

- Prescribed burned and native seeded to improve oak savannah habitat at Courtney, near White Salmon, WA.
- Treated invasive plants, planted pollinator attracting plants (e.g. milkweed) near Mosier, OR (see Figure 1).
- At Sandy River Delta: treated invasive plants, planted native riparian vegetation (east side); continued building buck and rail fence at SRD to protect east-side wetland/ riparian area for wildlife and fish (see Figure 2); started pollinator hedge along that fence; installed purple martin nest structures.
- Maintained nesting habitat for western pond turtles in the Collins Creek area (Skamania Co.) through mowing.
- Thinned encroaching fir amongst OR white oak habitat (benefitting Western Gray Squirrel), created wildlife brush piles and snags, and topped/slit selected snags for bats at Catherine Creek area, Klickitat Co., WA.
- Gorge-wide renewal of pasture permits, benefiting wildlife species that utilize open space/agricultural land.
- Peregrine falcon and bald eagle nest site monitoring.
- Interpretation/Education (I&E)- Outreach to children, students, and adults through: campground programs; county fairs; environmental events (e.g. Water Jam, Eco-Blitz); and programs like CGEI's SECRETS, the OR Zoo's Urban Nature Overnight, Salmon Watch and CRGNSA's Eagle View.



**Figure 1.** Planting Asclepias (milkweed) to promote Monarch butterflies and other pollinators at Moorhead Fischer, near Mosier, OR



**Figure 2.** Multi-year building of resource protection fence by Youth Education and Support Services volunteers at Sandy River Delta, near Troutdale, OR

## 2016 Accomplishments

1,530 acres terrestrial habitat enhancement  
(core/integrated/partner)  
\$341,200 partner contributions  
148 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, Sandy River Watershed Council, Klickitat Rails to Trails, Cape Horn Conservancy, Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute (CGEI), 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, National Wild Turkey Federation, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Friends of Trees, National Forest Foundation, World Salmon Council, commercial river outfitters, local schools.

## Columbia River Gorge NSA

902 Wasco, Suite 200  
Hood River, OR 97031

Contact: Brett Carré 541-308-1718,  
btcarre@fs.fed.us



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# National Scenic Area

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

# NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION PARTNERSHIP

The eastern side of the Columbia River Gorge is characterized by oak savannah and oak/pine woodland. In the absence of a natural regime of frequent fire, fir is encroaching into these historic habitats. CRGNSA fire and natural resource staff have joined efforts to both improve fire resiliency in this Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area, and improve wildlife foraging habitat for such species as deer, elk, turkeys and western gray squirrels. CRGNSA has also partnered over the past 5 years with outside organizations such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Oregon Hunter's Association, the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) to improve this habitat type through projects that combine underburning, invasive plant treatment and native plant seeding.

Since 2011, the NWTf has contributed each year to CRGNSA underburn projects. These projects include (on the OR side of the eastern Gorge) Wagon Road (2011, 2014), East Marsh Cutoff (2012) and McCall (2013). Most recently (on the WA side of the eastern Gorge), areas of Courtney (2016, 2016/2017) were burned and seeded. Note the turkeys checking out the post-burn area!



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

Contact: Brett Carré 541-308-1718,  
btcarre@fs.fed.us



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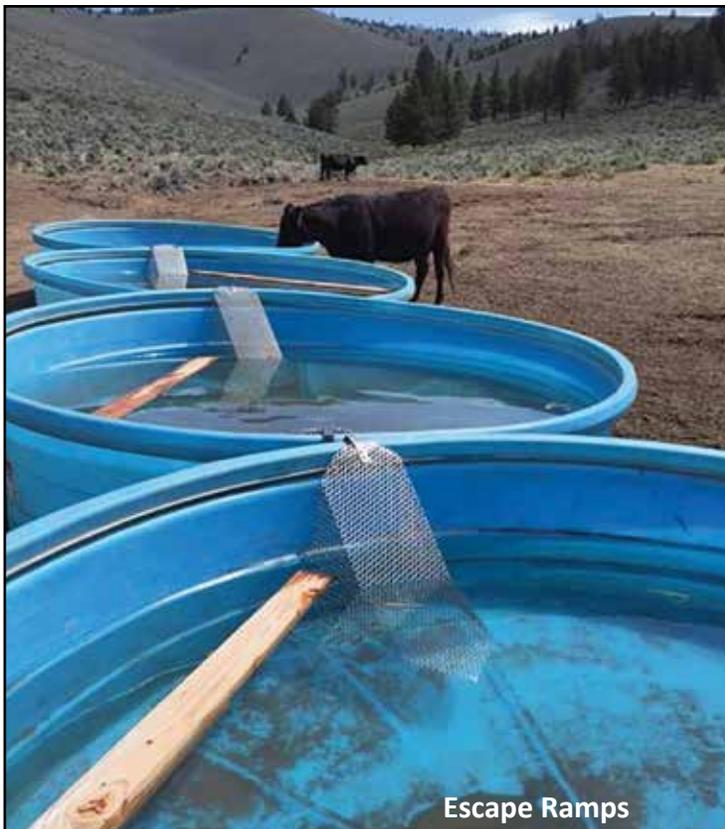
# Deschutes

In 2016, the Deschutes National Forest *accomplishment highlights include:*

- Hosted the 2nd annual Batacular event.
- Worked in partnership with ODFW to monitor caves and bats for WNS.
- Removed conifers within aspen stands and planted mtn. mahogany to enhance wildlife habitat.
- Partnered with East Cascades Audubon Society to install toilet vent caps to reduce wildlife mortality.
- Rebuilt one guzzler and performed guzzler maintenance on several others
- Completed lodgepole thinning in stringer meadows and riparian areas for big game.
- Decommissioned approximately 20 miles of illegal motorcycle trails and 4 miles of road as well as closed 5.7 miles of road enhancing wildlife core habitat.
- White-nose syndrome response planning
- Worked with partners to run 2 MAPS stations
- With partners, monitored/inventoried for a variety of wildlife species
- Presented numerous environmental education programs to local schools and organizations.



Swabbing for WNS



Escape Ramps

## 2016 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
3679	SSCC	Stewardship
5423	WFHF	Thinning/Burning
1789	RTRT	Planting/Burning
6452	CFLN	Invasive Treatments
2639	NFWF	Habitat Enhancement
5290	NFVW	Invasive Treatments

**34,773 TOTAL** Not all fund codes shown

## Partners/Cooperators

RMEF, High Desert Museum, ODFW, OHA, Discover Your Forest, East Cascades Audubon Society, Miller Lumber, Bend-LaPine Schools, Volunteers

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

Contact: Lauri Turner 541-383-5640  
lturner@fs.fed.us



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# National Forest

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

### MOUNTAIN GOAT RE-INTRODUCTION

ODFW developed a Rocky Mtn. goat reintroduction and monitoring plan for the central OR Cascades in cooperation with Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon State Police, Oregon Hunters Association, and FNAWS. The goal of the plan was to reintroduce mtn. goats to their native habitats in the central OR Cascades and to have a healthy, well distributed, and self sustaining population of mtn. goats.

Three separate releases were conducted over the past 6 years. Mtn. goats were captured from the Elkhorn Mtns. in Baker County. The first two releases occurred on the Warm Springs Reservation and consisted of 11 billies, 40 nannies, 6 yearling nannies, and 12 kids for a total of 69 goats. Subsequent monitoring by ODFW and the FS in the fall of 2015 estimated the population at 100 animals in the Cascades. In 2016, the third and final release was completed with 21 more goats released at the base of Three-fingered Jack on the Sisters RD. Fall monitoring has estimated 125 animals now in the central Cascades. Through our continued partnership with ODFW, we will continue to monitor the success of these reintroductions with the hope of having a stable population and a future hunting opportunity.



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

Contact: Lauri Turner 541-383-5640  
lturner@fs.fed.us



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# Fremont-Winema

In 2016, the Fremont-Winema National Forest Wildlife Program completed several projects. Accomplishment highlights include:

- Thinned conifers within 1,585 acres of aspen and meadow habitat to improve riparian habitat.
- Hand piled heavy fuels on 47 acres around an osprey nest in a future prescribed fire unit.
- Partnered with 13 private landowners, OSU Extension, NRCS, ODF, and the Lake County Watershed Council to inventory forest, aspen, noxious weeds, and meadow condition on 32,100 acres of private land in the North Warner Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project area.
- Partnered with BLM and OSU on the Southwest Oregon fisher study.
- 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 27 historic observation sites.
- Surveyed for fisher on the Bly, Klamath and Chiloquin Ranger Districts using baited cameras.
- Partnered with Klamath Bird Observatory to conduct landbird monitoring on the Forest.
- Monitored several bald eagle nests.
- Completed project level surveys for spotted owl, goshawk, and aspen.



Black bears detected in carnivore surveys



Great grey nest in aspen restoration unit

## 2016 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code
200	BDBD
2341	CFLN
1233	CWKV
3343	NFTM
236	NFVW
26	NFWF
13	NFXN
3558	RTRT
75	SRS2
7516	SSCC
4707	WFHF
<b>23,248</b>	<b>Total</b>

## Partners/Cooperators

Klamath Bird Observatory, Klamath Tribes, Bureau of Land Management, OR Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Hunter Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon State University, Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Mule Deer Foundation, Lakeview Stewardship Group, Lake County Resource Initiative, Chewaucan Biophysical Monitoring Group, Lake County Watershed Council, Warner Creek Correctional Facility, Lakeview Elementary School, OSU Extension, Oregon Department of Forestry.

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

Contact: Amy Markus @ 541-947-6256  
amarkus@fs.fed.us



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# National Forest

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

# SOUTH WARNER ASPEN MEADOW RESTORATION PROJECT

The South Warner Aspen Meadow Restoration Project was designed to restore aspen and meadows across a 23,000 acre landscape.

- Between 2010 to 2016, 3,062 acres of aspen and meadow were treated in the South Warner Mountains of the Lakeview Ranger District.
- Aspen and meadow stands were treated by hand falling all conifers less than 12" DBH and all non-old growth juniper less than 21" DBH. Trees were cut, limbed, and in most of the project area, all material less than 6-8" was hand piled to reduce heavy fuel loads for prescribed burning.
- In addition to acres treated on FS lands, 263 acres of aspen on adjacent private land were treated by the Lake County Watershed Council. Private land treatments were often aspen stands crossing land ownership boundaries, so continuous stands were given the same treatment, regardless of ownership.
- Approximately 90% of all aspen stands in the South Warner area received treatment.
- Hand felling treatments will be followed by piling and/or prescribed burning.
- With the completion of the South Warner Project, the District will be focusing future aspen restoration efforts in the North Warner area.

Partner/Contributor - 2009 to 2016	Funds
Lane County High School	\$67,000
ODFW/Mule Deer Initiative	\$43,728
Lake County Watershed Council	\$15,300
OHA	\$500
Federal/USFS Funds – NFWF/WFHF/CFLR/Title II	\$626,500
R6 Competitive Challenge Cost Share Funds	\$90,000
Ruby Pipeline Mitigation Funds	\$126,288
National Forest Foundation and LCRI	\$50,000
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$60,000
Northwest Youth Corps Matching Funds	\$88,189
Mule Deer Foundation	\$10,000
Private Landowners	\$4,000
Lakeview Chapter RMEF	\$5,000

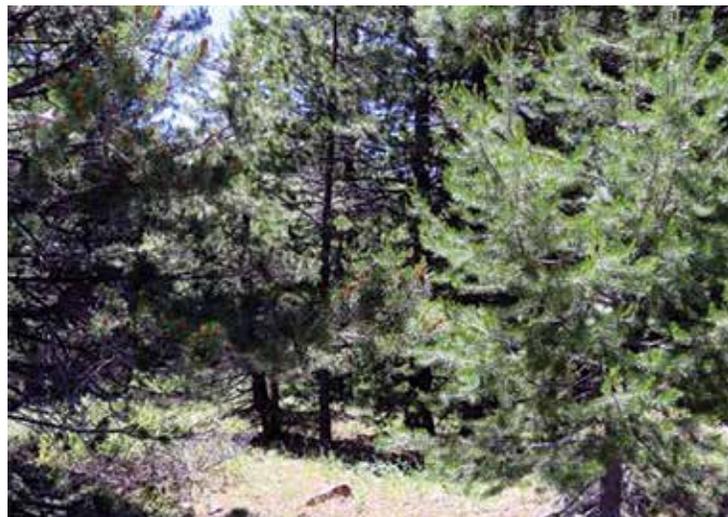
**Total \$1,186,505**



Unit SWA 2000 After Treatment

The South Warner Aspen Meadow Restoration Project area is identified as a:

- High priority for aspen habitat in the Region 6 Terrestrial Restoration and Conservation Strategy.
- Conservation Opportunity Area in the Oregon Conservation Strategy.
- ODFW Mule Deer Initiative Priority Unit.



Unit SWA 2000 Before Treatment

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



Contact: Cheran Cavanaugh @ 541-947-6365

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# Gifford Pinchot

Supported NEPA process for a variety of district projects and completed Biological evaluation and assessments for 2 large vegetation projects and ERFO flood road damage.

- Supported the WDFW South Cascades Fisher Reintroduction project.
- Conducted field surveys and identified restoration opportunities in the 2 large vegetation management projects; Iron/Crystal Planning area and Upper White Salmon area.
- Finalized NEPA for 7a Meadow Mardon Skipper Habitat Restoration, winter 2016.
- Complete KV wildlife habitat improvement and invasive treatments on the forest, creation of 380 snags in the Upper Cispus Timber Sale and 1210 acres of invasive treatment.
- Managed forest wildlife winter gate closure program for winter range protection.
- Maintained 41 wood duck boxes on the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District.
- Successfully competed for 2 RMEF habitat improvement projects, to treat invasive weeds in valuable elk winter range near Packwood and MSHNVM. With RMEF funding, treated 110 acres for mouseeared hawkweed, knapweed and scotch broom in Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument (MSHNVM).
- Completed 308 acres of young stand thinning with the Puyallup Tribe grant to increase quality elk forage.
- Completed a draft invasive treatment strategy, survey for egg masses and 5 acres of treatment at the Trout Creek Oregon spotted frog site. No egg masses were found.
- Collected samples from winter hibernaculum for Townsend's big-eared bat to check for presence of WNS. Installed boot brushes and WNS prevention information at Ape Cave, MSHNVM.
- Participated with the regional Bat Working Group.
- Coordinated with the Cascade Carnivore project and Conesevation Northwest.
- Conducted wintering bald eagle surveys, peregrine falcon surveys and mardon skipper surveys. Assisted Xerces with survey at Peterson Prairie permanent transects.
- Forest biologist is the Regional WA RMEF Liaison.



Fisher being Released on the CVRD, December 2016.

## 2016 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
1600	CWKV	Snag and invasive Trt
150	RMEF	Invasive Treatments
2000	NFVW	
5	NFIM	OSF habitat treatment, survey and draft strategy
2000	NFTM	Elk habitat Improv.
308	NFWF WDFW	fisher coordination, Puyallup Elk Habitat improv.
<b>6063</b>	<b>Total</b>	

## Partners/Cooperators

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Cowlitz Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Mount St Helens Institute, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Conservation Northwest, Cascade Carnivore Project, Cascade Forest Conservancy, Lewis, Cowlitz, Skamania and Klickitat County Weed Boards,

## Gifford Pinchot National Forest

501 E. 5th St, #400

Vancouver, WA 98661

Contact: Carol Chandler @ 360-891-5106

cachandler@fs.fed.us

Mitch Wainwright @360-495-7857

John Jakubowski @360-497-1131



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# National Forest

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

### LANDSCAPE LEVEL WILDLIFE PROJECT

Prior to the eruption of Mt St Helens, few people realized there were mountain goats living in the area.

- While that population was likely wiped out by the blast, anecdotal sightings of these high-climbing, sure-footed mammals began to crop up in the 1990s. In 2014, Gifford Pinchot National Forest biologist Mitch Wainwright put together the first official mountain goat survey. 65 were counted by volunteer teams in the Mt St Helens/Mt Margaret area
- For the third year in a row a team of biologists and others from the Washington Department of Wildlife, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, and the Mount St. Helens Institute have inventoried mountain goats on Mount St. Helens and in the Mount Margaret Backcountry.
- The inventory was first conducted in 2014 to document the return of this iconic species to the area. It was assumed that the small mountain goat population on Mount St. Helens at the time was wiped out during the 1980 eruption.
- The inventory used trails around the mountain and in the Mount Margaret Backcountry. The survey is completed in a five hour period on the first Sunday in August. Teams of surveyors were assigned specific trail sections and viewpoints from which the goats can be seen and counted. The inventory method is easily repeatable from year to year, but is not meant to survey all of the suitable mountain goat habitat in the area.
- In August 2014 surveyors counted a total of 65 mountain goats. In 2015, a few additional survey routes were added to cover the south side of Mount St. Helens. In that year a total of 152 mountain goats were counted, with almost a third of them being kids.
- In 2016 the weather was windy and overcast, and many of the vistas were periodically obscured as clouds blew in and out. Even so, a total of 151 were counted, with 45 being kids.



**Gifford Pinchot National Forest**  
501 E. 5th St, #400  
Vancouver, WA 98661

Contact: Carol Chandler @ 360-891-5106  
cachandler@fs.fed.us



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## Accomplishment highlights include:

- Specialist reports completed for Canyon Creek salvage, Magone, Camp Lick, Wolf and Summit projects addressing 143,780 acres of restoration planning.
- Renewed a cooperative agreement with ODFW in reference to 6 (green dot) Travel Mgt. Areas on the Malheur.
- Initiated an agreement with ODFW for the use of Mule Deer Initiative funding for habitat enhancement work.
- Continued volunteer workdays in cooperation with OHA and the RMEF Regional Rendezvous.
- Established pollinator gardens at the Prairie City District office and Humboldt elementary school.
- Participated in Free Fishing day at McHaley pond attended by 67 adults and 97 children.
- Restored 4 guzzlers to working order.
- Assisted ODFW with Bighorn sheep, Mtn. goat surveys and turkey trapping.



Teaching the salmon life cycle at McHaley Pond.



Guzzler apron construction

## Accomplishments

<u>Acres</u>	<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Activity</u>
5907	NFXN	Mule Deer Initiative, guzzler repair
3273	CFLN	OYCC crew, fence maint., road closure
3516	RMEF	Aspen restoration, juniper removal, road closure
1575	NFWF	Road closure
14271	Total	

Partners/Cooperators: RMEF, OHA, OYCC, ODFW, BMEI

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

Contact: Clark Reames @ 541-575-3474,  
creames@fs.fed.us



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# National Forest

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

### MULE DEER INITIATIVE PROJECT

Funding was provided by the Mule Deer Foundation to ODFW to be used for mule deer habitat enhancement that was earmarked for use in the Malheur wildlife management unit. The Malheur N.F. entered into an agreement with ODFW for use of that funding for habitat enhancement on the Malheur N.F. Projects include Mt. Mahogany enhancement, aspen and juniper treatments.

Emigrant Creek Ranger District conducted approximately 650 acres of aspen enhancement and juniper removal. Prairie City Ranger District completed 86 acres of conifer removal for aspen enhancement. Project will be completed in Spring of 2017.

Photos show the removal of encroaching lodgepole pine from riparian areas and meadows to promote and enhance the restoration of aspen.



Aspen enhancement and meadow restoration



After lodgepole removal



Before lodgepole removal

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

Contact: Clark Reames @ 541-575-3474,  
creames@fs.fed.us



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# Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie

In 2016 the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest successfully improved wildlife habitat and provided wildlife information to the public.

## Accomplishment highlights include:

3,543 acres of wildlife habitat improvement through conifer thinning to promote huckleberry growth, installing a bat friendly mine closure, and decommissioning roads to increase grizzly core and wolf security habitat.

Wildlife information shared with approximately 10,800 individuals at public events: Skagit River Salmon Festival, Stillaguamish Festival of the River, and Issaquah Salmon Days.

Darrington STEM program – curriculum developed with 2 middle school student groups/evening presentation by all students at school.

Conducted Bumblebee inventory at 7 sites.

Cooperated with National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service on North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Recovery Plan/EIS.

Cooperated with National Park Service and Washington Department of Wildlife on the Mountain Goat Management Plan/EIS for Olympic National Park.



Figure 1. Todd Griffin, Forest Geologist, at Damon Mine bat-friendly closure.



Figure 2. Phyllis Reed, District Wildlife Biologist, with pollinator display at the Stillaguamish Festival of the River.

## 2016 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
1,505	CMLG	Grizzly Core Habitat Improvement – Road Decommissioning
2,000	NFMG	Bat Friendly Mine Closure
38	NFVW/ NFWF	Huckleberry Habitat Improvement
<b>3,543</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	

## Partners/Cooperators

Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Swinomish Tribal Community, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Skagit River System Cooperative, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group,

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



Contact: Jesse J Plumage 425-873-6031

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# National Forest

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

# MEADOW AND HUCKLEBERRY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The Swinomish Tribal Community and Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to enhance 38 acres of huckleberry fields for tribal gathering in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Huckleberries are valued by western Washington Tribes as a subsistence ceremonial and cultural resource, and most recently, as a traditional food that is believed to aid in the prevention of adult onset diabetes.

Wild mountain huckleberries are sacred to northwest tribes, but traditional gathering areas have suffered from generations of fire suppression and forest management activities favoring old growth forests that don't support mountain huckleberry species.

This huckleberry enhancement project was developed and was made possible through regional challenge cost share funds. The purpose of the project was to remove competing vegetation (trees) from around Big-leaf huckleberry so as to promote greater berry production. Project design was informed by the previous Segelson Ridge Huckleberry Enhancement CCS Project whose monitoring results indicate treatments have been effective in increasing huckleberry production.

Forest Service personnel worked together to identify ecological treatment criteria: areas that had a high diversity but low abundance of flowering species, LSR allocation, occurred in the upper montane zone, and had a moderate to gentle slope. In the areas identified, it was observed that meadows were typically dominated by huckleberry species with a fireweed association, and were visited by a diversity and abundance of pollinators during the flowering season. The tribes identified project sites that met the ecological criteria, and were also historic huckleberry collection sites identified by tribal elders.



Figure 3. Meadow and Huckleberry Enhancement project, Iron Mountain site.

This project also enhances terrestrial habitat for various wildlife species including bears, coyotes, chipmunks, ground squirrels, grouse and other birds. For example, huckleberry enhances food sources for pollinators such as butterflies and Western bumblebee (R6 Sensitive); bears utilize all huckleberry parts (berries, stems, leaves and roots); elk and deer feed on young leaves, and the berries provide an important food source for ruffed grouse. Huckleberry shrubs also provide hiding and resting cover for many smaller birds and mammals.

Partner	Contribution
Swinomish Tribal Community	\$25,000
Sauk-Suiattle Tribe	\$27,000
Forest Service	\$26,000

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



Contact: Jesse J Plumage 425-873-6031

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## Accomplishment highlights include:

- Completed Northern spotted owl surveys for 2 large planning areas: Polallie Cooper & Crystal Clear Restoration.
- Surveyed 22 sites for Western Bumblebee.
- Completed 5,185 acres of mollusk surveys.
- Camera surveys for potential Fisher reintroduction in partnership with PNW Research Station and OSU.
- Continued to partner with Hawkwatch International at Bonnie Butte.
- Collected native plant seeds for pollinators.
- Presented several wildlife themed education programs in the David Douglas School District.
- Adjusted range allotment procedures for protection of Oregon Spotted Frog.
- Contributed to a streamlining strategy for consultation documents for the North Coast & Willamette Level 1 Wildlife Teams. A detailer supported by shared funding will help develop programmatic NLAA disturbance and habitat documents with no expiration date.



### 2016 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
494	SSCC	OHV Trail Closures
794	SSCC & KV	Snags/Downed Wood
320	CMRD	Road Decommission
4141	TM,WF,H F,VW	Thinning & Haz Fuels reduction
6600	NFVW	Range improvement
1678	VW,SSCC	Invasive Plant Control

### Partners/Cooperators

Hawkwatch International, Cascadia Wild, Oregon Hunters Association, PGE, NW Ecological Research Institute, Clackamas Stewardship Partners, ODFW, Portland Water Bureau, BARK, OSU

# National Forest

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

# LANDSCAPE LEVEL WILDLIFE PROJECT

### Hunter Planning Area Integrated Resource Project

- The Hunter Planning Area is an Integrated Resource Planning Area on the Clackamas River Ranger District and is comprised of the entire Upper Clackamas River 5th field watershed of 100,557 acres. It includes 34,200 acres of LSR of which 58% is in Critical Habitat for the Northern spotted owl with 47 historical NSO territories.

### Wildlife related activities include:

- LSR Variable Density Thinning in stands 40-70 years old to enhance NSO habitat.
- Forage Creation and Enhancement – creation of early seral habitat within Deer & Elk summer range.
- Thinning in 80-120 year old fire originated stands for NSO suitable habitat.
- Road Management
- Aquatic Habitat Restoration
- Evaluation Plantation Fence Removal



## Accomplishment highlights include:

In fiscal year 2016, the Ochoco NF exceeded its HBT-ENH-TERR target by accomplishing 21,587 acres.

A few of the program highlights include:

**Milkweed for Monarchs** – Five Monarch butterfly waystations were created across the Ochoco NF and Crooked River National Grassland by planting nearly 1,100 rooted plugs of locally collected milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*). Planting was completed with the assistance of volunteers from the Monarch Advocates of Central Oregon (MACO), Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Friends and Neighbors of Deschutes Canyon (FANS), and students in the Crook County High School Natural Resources Program.



Figure 1. District Biologist and project leader, Dede Steele, and MACO volunteers planting milkweed for Monarchs.

**Carnivore Surveys** – The Ochoco NF assisted ODFW biologists with the implementation of annual Bear Bait Stations which included assisting in setup and take down of remote sensor camera traps and bear bait at over 30 stations across the Forest.

**Conservation Education, Interpretation, and Community Engagement** – Biologists continue to engage students and connect people to nature and public lands through a variety of events including the annual Fur, Fin, Fire and Feather event, Eagle Watch, and field and classroom presentations. More than 1,200 K-12 students were reached in FY'16.

**Partnership Work** – The Ochoco NF was successful with numerous grant applications including to the Regional Challenge Cost Share program, Blue Mountains Elk Initiative, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Western Hummingbird Project, bringing in \$90,250 for wildlife habitat enhancement work. A successful supplemental fuels proposal yielded additional wildlife habitat restoration work, benefitting the Greater sage grouse.

**OHA Volunteer Projects** – Volunteers from the Oregon Hunters Association determined the condition and maintenance needs of 207 of 484 exclosures; rebuilt and removed post-settlement juniper within two guzzler exclosures. On a weekend work party, 28 volunteers from five OHA chapters thinned 2 acres of encroaching conifers, rebuilt a 5-acre exclosure around a large upland meadow, and rebuilt a burned-over wildlife guzzler.



Figure 2. OHA Volunteers working on the Mud Springs Meadow Protection and Enhancement Project.

Figure 3. Acres HBT-ENH\_TERR accomplished by type.

Project	Acres
Fence Removal	107
Invasive Plant Treatment	3,586
Non-commercial thinning	6,700
Commercial Thinning	1,537
Prescribed Fire	4,782
Riparian Planting	43
Riparian Restoration	15
Road Closure/Decommission	3,506
Wildlife Escape Ramps	10
Wildlife Guzzler	848
Vent caps	453
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,587</b>

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, Oregon State Police, Youth Conservation Corps, Monarch Advocates of Central Oregon, Friends and Neighbors of Deschutes Canyon, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Dorena Genetic Resource Center

## Ochoco National Forest

3160 NE 3rd St  
Prineville, OR 97754

Contact: Kevin Keown@541-416-6605  
kkeown@fs.fed.us



# National Forest

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

### OCHOCO NF & OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION IN PARTNERSHIP

**Ochoco National Forest and the Oregon Hunters Association** entered into a partnership in 2004 to enhance wildlife habitat. This partnership, located in Central Oregon, has led to numerous habitat improvement projects on the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland. Annually, volunteers from OHA Chapters across the state come to complete a variety of wildlife enhancement projects.

#### 2016 Accomplishments:

- Enhanced 7 acres of meadow and aspen habitat at Mud Springs
- Maintained 11 guzzlers, all of which were originally built by OHA
- Rebuilt Dry Corner Guzzler after 2015's Corner Creek Fire
- Determined the condition and maintenance needs of 207 of 484 enclosures
- Maintained and performed routine maintenance on a dozen fences across the forest that protect critical wildlife habitat
- Removed post-settlement juniper within two guzzler enclosures
- Felled 25 acres of western juniper to improve shrub and herbaceous vegetation on mule deer and pronghorn winter range



By removing old dilapidated barbed wire, OHA volunteers helped prevent deer and elk entanglements and fence-related mortalities.



Three generations of volunteers (above) work to put up wildlife-friendly fencing. Fencing includes a smooth bottom wire, appropriate wire spacing and a top wire height of 42". These specifications were implemented to reduce wildlife injuries and decrease fence damage.



A variety of projects and a great location ensures there is something for everyone to participate in.



Rebuilding the Dry Corner Guzzler (above) that was consumed in 2015's Corner Creek Fire. OHA volunteers from Bend and Capitol Chapters finished rebuilding the guzzler just before the rains came, a welcomed sight for a dry guzzler.



**Ochoco National Forest**  
3160 NE 3rd St  
Prineville, OR 97754

Contact: Kevin Keown@541-416-6605  
kkeown@fs.fed.us



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# Okanogon-Wenatchee

## Accomplishment highlights include:

In 2016 the Okanogon-Wenatchee National Forest working cooperatively with other resources & external partners accomplished over 61,800 acres of wildlife habitat improvement. Projects included:

- Non-native wildlife removal (STVA), Thinning, Road decommissioning, Weed treatment, Natural wildfire, Beaver reintroduction, Prescribed fire, Revegetation and plant restoration, Fencing, Bear-resistant garbage containers, Vault bird screens, Shrub planting, Meadow rest., Nesting/cavity structures, Pollinator seed collection, & many others (see chart).

Biologists continued on going & began several new inventory & monitoring efforts that resulted in some new & exciting information.

- All districts participated in rare carnivore survey. Wolverine were documented south of I90 on the Naches District for the first time in 30 years. Recorded pictures & scat detections of Cascade red fox.
- Highlights of habitat & known site surveys for raptors include: one new peregrine falcon eyrie; documenting two peregrine & three bald eagle fledged on the forest.
- Biologists monitored WA's largest myotis maternity roost & Townsend's hibernacula documenting 1,324 & 150 ind. respectively. We also tested & provided input on WDFW's draft maternity exit count protocol.

In 2016 the forest again facilitated numerous research projects & provided environmental education opportunities/ event to numerous interest groups.

- To combat the potential spread of White Nose Syndrome in bats the forest installed signs & decontamination measures targeting the approximately 30,000 yearly visitors to Boulder Cave.
- The forest also hosted the Leavenworth Spring Bird Festival (1,500 people), Bonaparte Lake National Fishing Day (125 kids), & numerous smaller presentations to school & communities.
- Biologists assisted with research/studies involving carnivores, climate change, survey detection methodologies, listed species management questions, & sensitive species status.



Survey & habitat enhancement continued for the Mardon Skipper pictured above. To the right is one of the 18 species & 1,285 individual hawks counted in 2016 at Chelan Ridge. This partnership with Hawk Watch & others has been counting & bands fall migrants for 19 years.



## 2016 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
18	WFPR	Prescribed fire
4,874	BDBD, WFHF	Prescribed fire, thinning
17,651	NFIM, NFTM	Nonnative removal
1,695	NFVW	Weed treat, Mardon Sipper hab.
1,772	NFWF	Beaver reintro, shrub planting, wetland imp., bear proof trash, meadow rest., aspen imp., fence rep., vault caps
31,112	NFXN, PTNR	All the above
675	NFRG, SPFH	Fencing, insect control
4,085	WFSU	Natural wildfire, road decomm.
<b>61,882 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.

## Okanogon-Wenatchee National Forest

215 Melody Lane  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Contact: Monte Kuk @ 509-664-9320,  
mkuk@fs.fed.us



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# National Forest

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

### BEAVER REINTRODUCTION PROJECT

Year ten of an ongoing, multi-partner project. To date we have trapped and relocated over 300 nuisance beavers to 60+ sites and created 48 new establishments.

- In 2016 we trapped and relocated 73 nuisance beavers to 27 sites creating 11 new establishments.
- Collected temperature data from over 100 stream loggers, as part of our long-term scientific study to document the effects of beaver establishments on water temperature.
- Reached 2785 visitors this year at the Winthrop National Fish Hatchery (where trapped beavers are housed temporarily prior to release). While viewing beavers, they learned about beaver restoration and benefits to streams, fish, other wildlife, fire recovery, and climate adaptation. Showed beavers at the annual Kids Fishing Day at the Hatchery (515 participants in one day).
- Mentored 3 college interns and taught students from elementary to grad school about beaver ecology, ecosystem process, benefits of this keystone species to forest and riparian health, and climate adaptation. (1470 students)



#### Major Project Partners and Supporters:

- Bonneville Environmental Foundation
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Douglas PUD Tributary Committee
- Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation
- RCO-Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- WA Fish & WL, Ecology, & Natural Resources Depts.
- Wildlife Conservation Society-Climate Adaptation Fund
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- USFWS



#### Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

215 Melody Lane  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Contact: Monte Kuk @ 509-664-9320,  
mkuk@fs.fed.us



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In 2016 the Olympic National Forest completed several habitat restoration and wildlife inventory projects, and continued to engage with our partners and the public.

**Accomplishment highlights include:**

- Collaborated with other federal and state agencies to inventory for Pacific marten (*Martes caurina*). 193 camera stations monitored across Olympic National Forest and Park and 397,049 photographs obtained; 1 marten documented.
- Participated in the multi-partner, Peninsula-wide fisher (*Pekania pennanti*) monitoring effort. >150 camera stations monitored across several ownerships and >50 survey polygons; fishers detected in at least 11 polygons.
- Continued recovery actions for Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha taylori*): 50 acres habitat improvement and 60 acres surveyed.
- Completed 20 acres of early seral pollinator habitat improvement.
- Installed 2 bee houses, benefitting 190 acres.
- Partnered with Wash. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and ONF recreation program in annual mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*) public outreach: 1,684 visitors contacted.
- Participated in public outreach: Dungeness River Festival, KPTZ “Nature Now” radio program.
- Continued snag creation in commercially-thinned stands. Created 150 snags by girdling and topping.
- Continued working with partners to improve elk forage in pre-commercially thinned stands (113 acres).



**Figure 1.** Volunteers planting host and nectar plants for Taylor’s checkerspot butterflies. Photo: Karen Holtrop



**Figure 2.** Eyes in the Woods volunteers during the April elk habitat improvement work party. Photo: Betsy Howell

**2016 Accomplishments**

Acres	Fund code	Activity
774	CWKV	Cavity nester habitat improvement
838	CMLG	Road decommissioning
113	NFXF	Elk habitat improvement
51	NFXF	Taylor’s checkerspot habitat improvement
217	NFWF	Pollinator habitat improvement
285	NFVW	Invasive weeds treatment
1273	NFTM	Pre-commercial and commercial thinning

**Partners/Cooperators**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Eyes in the Woods, The Mountaineers, Olympic National Park, U.S. Geological Survey, Oregon State University, PNW Research Station, Washington Conservation Corps

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

Contact: Susan Piper, 360-956-2435  
 spiper@fs.fed.us



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# National Forest

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

#### Taylor's Checkerspot: Inventory and Habitat Enhancement

In 2016, ONF and the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC), with funds from a USFWS recovery grant, USFS TES monitoring funds, and WDFW monies, accomplished Taylor's checkerspot habitat enhancement and monitoring. The habitat enhancement, consisting of cutting and piling encroaching vegetation, benefited 50 acres of butterfly habitat. Adult and larvae surveys resulted in the documentation of occupancy throughout the project sites. Pre-diapause larval surveys revealed 28 oviposition sites, of which 18 were in habitat restoration areas.



Figure 3. WCC crew cutting and piling vegetation. Photo: Darrell Borden



Figure 4. Young mountain goat pawing at urine along Mt. Ellinor trail. Photo: Kurt Aluzas

#### Mountain Goat: Public Outreach and Safety

In 2016, ONF continued to provide information on how to minimize human-mountain goat conflicts across the Forest and to other units. ONF staff contacted approximately 2000 hikers, revised signs, leveraged internet and social media, observed and interacted with mountain goats directly, and provided input to the ONP Mountain Goat Translocation EIS. ONF also partnered with recreational groups to spread the message to the public.

#### Pacific Marten: Distribution Study

In 2016, ONF received regional ISSSSP funds to work with Olympic National Park (ONP), U.S. Geological Survey, the PNW Research Station, and WDFW on a marten distribution study. A total of 108 camera stations were monitored for five months in ONP in coastal habitats, none of which detected any martens. However, 48 stations on the coast did detect fisher. For three months during the summer, an additional 85 camera stations were installed at high elevations in ONP and ONF. One station in the Upper Hoh watershed in ONP documented one marten. Numerous other species were also detected during both winter and summer efforts.



Figure 5. Pacific marten photographed in August in ONP. Photo: ONF

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

Contact: Susan Piper, 360-956-2435  
spiper@fs.fed.us



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# Rogue River-Siskiyou

## Accomplishment highlights include:

- In 2016, the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest accomplished many threatened, endangered, and special status species 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.
- Over 35,000 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 continues on the Forest in conjunction with other Forests in the Region for early seral pollinators including bumblebees and butterflies such as the Monarch butterfly and Mardon Skipper. Seed stock is 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.



Black Salamander (*Aneides flavipunctatus*). Photo by David Clayton 2016

To date, 39 fisher have been captured, 15 dens have been located, all but 2 in hardwoods. We will continue to monitor how these animals respond to the treatments in FY 2017 and 2018. The PNW small mammal trapping effort has had 2 years of pre-treatment sampling and 3 years of post-treatment sampling completed and a manuscript is being written at this time. Initial results seem to show a positive response by some species to the fuels work.

## 2016 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
13,912	CWKV	Road decomm/burns/snags
8,853	NFRG	Mine closures
364	NFRW	Bear exclosures
1,438	WFHF	Wildlife burns
682	NFWF	wildlife habitat impr
7,577	WFPR	Wildland fire use
2,200	NFVW	Invasives

## Partners/Cooperators

ODA, TNC, City of Ashland, OHA, RMEF, PNW, PSW, OSU, Native Plant Society.



Pallid Bat. (photo by David Clayton) 2016

**Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest**  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford Oregon

Contact: David Clayton @ 541-618-2054  
dclayton@fs.fed.us



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# National Forest

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

# MARDON SKIPPER DISTANCE SAMPLING PROJECT

**Rachael Vaughn, Gold Beach and Powers, wildlife biologist**

Windy Valley, in SW Oregon, is a small meadow surrounded by intact coniferous forests as well as remnants of the 2002 Biscuit Fire, which burned adjacent forests but not the meadow itself. This site hosts the largest known mardon skipper population in the coastal Oregon region. Prior to this project's launch in 2014, the highest one-day count at this site was 226 mardon skippers on June 13, 2013. In 2016, Xerces staff and Forest Service biologists were on site June 1 to retrain Forest Service Biologists in the Distance Sampling protocol. Surveys began May 11 and ran through July 11, 2016.

- Throughout the season, 58 skippers were observed at the Windy Valley site. The peak count for 2016 was on June 2, with 31 individuals counted. In the sampled occupied habitat, there is an estimated 333.47 mardon skippers per hectare (22.19 % CV), with a population estimate of 296 mardon skippers within the meadow (22.19 % CV, the habitat was 0.887 HA).



- Counts this year were significantly down from either of the past two years. While at first glance this would appear to be concerning, closer inspection of the survey data indicates that very few—if any—surveys were conducted during the peak of the flight season. The maximum count was on June 2, 2016 (31 butterflies), but additional surveys were not conducted over the next 18 days – likely missing the bulk of the flight season, and perhaps the true peak. As such, the low counts from this year should be tempered until additional years of survey data are collected.
- (Excerpted From the 2016 Xerces Society Report, photos by the Xerces Society)

**Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest**  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford Oregon

Contact: David Clayton @ 541-618-2054  
dclayton@fs.fed.us



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In 2016 the Siuslaw National Forest successfully re-analyzed all timber sales utilizing current owl survey data. Protections for nesting owls were implemented while thinning and restoration projects continued forward.

**Other accomplishment highlights include:**

- Successfully fledging plover chicks in a year when many other units experienced high predation losses.
- Initiated an education and outreach program designed to highlight our unique coastal species and habitats.
- Marten resting site study completed and a new denning study initiated.
- Managed Oregon silverspot butterfly habitat with a variety of treatments, conducted violet surveys for baseline data, and compiled 30 years of historic management into database to be used for adaptive management strategy.
- NSO prey studies have continued to lead us toward adaptive management of our plantation thinning.
- Created snag habitat in plantations and mature stands by topping, girdling, and felling for down woody debris.
- Pollinator specific plants were identified and collected from the forest and utilized in large-scale restoration efforts.



Cindy Burns and Crystal Mullins. Ready to deploy thousands of feet of ropes and signs for plover protection during the nesting season.



Maintaining coastal meadows.

**2016 Accomplishments**

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
2075	CWKV	Deadwood creation Invasive control
1140	NFTM	Plantation restoration
2315	Multiple	Habitat Restoration
3059	SSCC	Stewardship
650	NFWF	Butterfly/Plover habitat maintenance
213	NFVW	Invasive removal
<b>9452 TOTAL</b>		

**Partners/Cooperators**

Watershed Councils-Salmon Drift Creek, Siuslaw; RMEF, ORBIC, APHIS, FWS, OPRD, TNC, ODF&W, Cascade Pacific RC&D, Oregon Zoo, Institute for Applied Ecology, PNW Research Station

**Siuslaw National Forest**  
3200 SW Jefferson Way  
Corvallis, OR 97331

Contact: Deanna Williams @ 541-750-7013,  
deannawilliams@fs.fed.us



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# National Forest

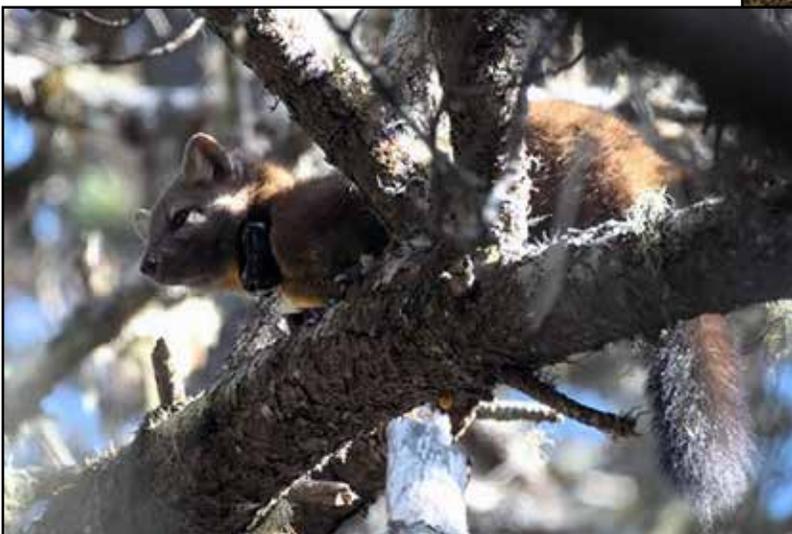
## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

### MARTENS ON THE DUNES

The Siuslaw National Forest and the Pacific Northwest Research station partnered together to document a unique population of martens living in the shrub and shorepine system of the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. This population appears to be limited to young forest (<60 years old) with diverse shrub and tree species, and only seems to be established on the coastal sand dunes west of highway 101.

In October 2015, we initiated a project to examine natural history characteristics of martens in dune forest. The study estimated density, home range size, rest site use, and movements (gap crossing of open sand). Remote cameras, live-trapping, and GPS and VHF collars, as well as ground based telemetry were used to re-locate collared martens. Crews collected data between October 1, 2015 and continued until March 31, 2016. In that time, 7 female and 4 male martens were live-trapped and radio-collared.

This data revealed that the dunes martens have the smallest territory size for marten in North America. Population sizes are estimated within the forested coastal dunes to be 30—60 females. The primary cause of mortality was vehicle strikes with one additional mortality of a radio-collared female attributed to great-horned owl.



**Siuslaw National Forest**  
3200 SW Jefferson Way  
Corvallis, OR 97331

Contact: Deanna Williams @ 541-750-7013,  
deannawilliams@fs.fed.us

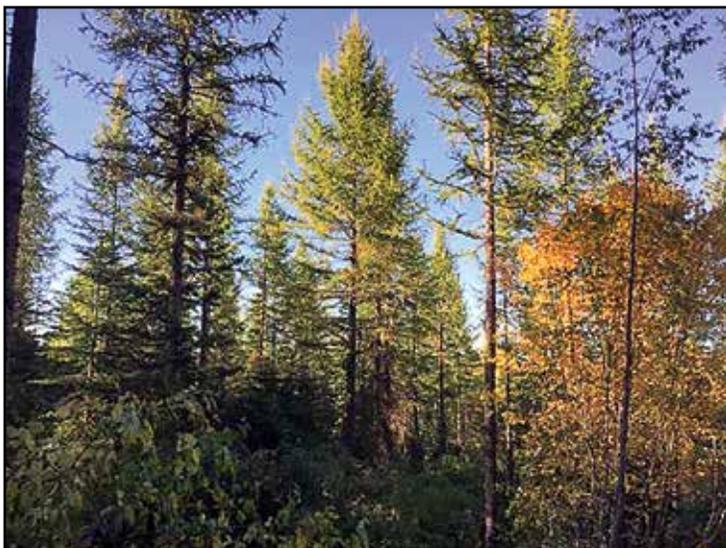


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In 2016 the Umatilla National Forest successfully implemented several integrated projects that provided benefits to wildlife and completed wildlife surveys and monitoring.

### Accomplishment highlights include:

- Assisted ODFW with wolf monitoring
- Bald and golden eagle monitoring
- Mid-winter bald eagle surveys
- American marten monitoring (2 camera traps)
- Enhanced habitat for big game forage and other wildlife on 1,464 acres through prescribed fire and fuels reduction projects
- Improved wildlife habitat by treating approximately 6,050 acres of noxious weeds
- Improved 704 acres of wildlife habitat through pre-commercial thinning and hazardous fuels reduction
- Built wildlife friendly fences around riparian habitat to exclude cattle; affecting 32 acres
- Built fence around 1 acre of mountain mahogany and 4 acres of aspen
- Installed 7 escape ramps on water developments



Thinned stand on the Walla Walla RD. A good example of “light touch” management – opening up the stand and reducing the risk of crown fire but leaving ample wildlife habitat and fire resistant species (larch) in place.

### 2016 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
1464	WFHF	Prescribed fire
6050	NFVW	Noxious weed treatment
704	NFTM	Thinning
37	NFRG, NFXN, KV	Riparian, aspen, mahogany fence
1	NFWF	Escape ramps
~10,000	WFSU	Grizzly Wildfire
<b>18,250</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	

### Partners/Cooperators

ODFW, WDFW, USFWS, Blue Mountain Elk Initiative, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, CTUIR, Hells Canyon Initiative (big horn sheep).

### Umatilla National Forest

72510 Coyote Rd  
Pendleton, OR 97801

Contact: Lizzy Berkley @ 541-278-3814  
elizabethberkley@fs.fed.us



# National Forest

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

### RIPARIAN FENCE MAINTENANCE PROJECT

- Integrated habitat management project between wildlife, fish, hydro, and range
- Partnered with CTUIR to reconstruct 2 miles of fence to protect riparian habitat
- Excluded livestock on 32 acres and 1 mile along two streams
- Photos (below) from 1987 to 2016 displays recovery of riparian habitat and the value of the fences
- Benefits include: improved water quality and enhances habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species
- Total Project Cost = \$10,000 (50% match by CTUIR)

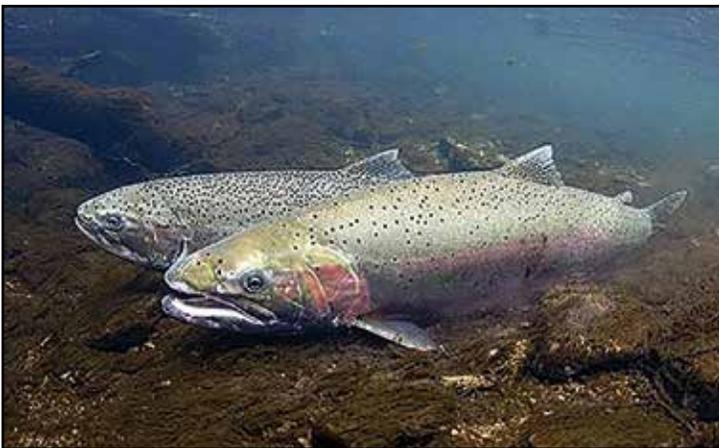
Yellow warbler; one of many wildlife species that benefits from riparian restoration efforts which provides cover, forage, quality water, and breeding habitat for many species.



**1987**



**2016**



Steelhead; this project benefits steelhead and other aquatic species by reducing erosion and run-off, decreasing water temperatures, and improving overall water quality.

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

Contact: Lizzy Berkley @ 541-278-3814  
elizabethberkley@fs.fed.us



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In 2016, the Umpqua National Forest successfully met and exceeded planned wildlife targets. Accomplishment highlights include:

- Along with partners and volunteers, monitored northern spotted owls, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, bats, carnivores, red tree voles, western bumblebees, gray-blue butterflies, mollusks, breeding birds and other wildlife species of interest.
- Closed 3 mines with bat friendly grates.
- With RMEF, OHA, MDF and NWTF, completed 26,708 acres of elk, deer and other wildlife enhancement by road closures, habitat openings and forage improvement treatments.
- Partnered with ODFW, RMEF, MDF to develop and conduct a Forage Production/Utilization Research Project.
- Commercially thinned 1,026 acres of second growth improve future habitat late-successional and other wildlife species.
- Implemented fuels treatments on 151 acres to reduce fuel loading and improve habitat after thinning.
- Completed 474 acres of snag creation.
- Provided environmental education programs for the Forestry Tour, Bat Week, Diamond Lake Campfire Talks and Earth Day.
- Lead efforts in creating a 10-year Regional Master Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the

Oregon Hunter's Association (OHA). This agreement opens up a large amount of opportunity for project support in Oregon.



Photo 1: Mine Closure on Cottage Grove RD.



Photo 2: Carnivore Bait Station near Windigo Pass. Mine Closure on Cottage Grove RD.

## 2016 Accomplishments

2016 Wildlife Enhancement Accomplishments		
Activity	Funding Code	Acres
Bat Gates - Mine Closures	NFMG	6,000
Big Game Forage	CWKV	101
Commercial Thinning	NFTM	1,026
Forage Study Data Collection	NFWF	10
Fuels Treatments	WFHF	151
Wildlife Water Source Maintenance	NFWF	19,200
Mowing for Forage	CWKV	20
Mowing and Fertilization	CWKV	27
Snag Creation	CWKV	474
Winter Range Gate Closures	NFWF	26,560
Environmental Ed Programs	NFWF	4 Programs
<b>Total</b>		<b>53,569</b>

## Partners/Cooperators

ODFW, RMEF, OHA, MDF, NWTF, Phoenix School, NABA, USFWS, BLM, Umpqua Valley Audubon, OSU Extension, Wildlife Safari, Umpqua Watershed Council, DFPA and Douglas County Schools.

**Umpqua National Forest**  
2900 NW Stewart Parkway  
Roseburg, OR 97470

Contact: Tiffany Young 541-957-3260  
layoung@fs.fed.us



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# National Forest

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

### WESTERN BUMBLE BEE SURVEYS

In 2015, bumble bee surveys were conducted throughout federal lands in southwest Oregon with the western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*) as a target species. A wide variety of habitat types, across a spectrum of elevations were surveyed, and dozens of *Bombus* species were encountered.

Further investigation was recommended, especially since 2015 was a very hot, dry year in which floral phenology was significantly affected. Additional funds were received to continue surveys in 2016, and as a result, further efforts were made to either re-survey areas from 2015 or survey new areas to document the presence of western bumble bee and other pollinator species. Results from 2016 surveys detected western bumble bee on the Umpqua for *the first time in decades*, along with higher detection numbers for other bumble bee species.

Three western bumble bees were detected in Skookum Prairie on the Diamond Lake Ranger District. This area is known for hosting a high amount of diversity in both plant and animal communities. This is also an area where large populations of western toad occur.

Future efforts include working with the Region and other Forests to collect seed and grow out plants for pollinator species. In addition, meadow maintenance and enhancement is planned to ensure that habitat for pollinators will continue to provide connectivity to other areas outside of the Umpqua.



Photo 4: Western Bumblebee Surveys – Holland Point Meadow.



Photo 5: A pond on Grass Mountain, the Umpqua-Willamette borderlands.



Photo 3: Western Bumblebee detected in Skookum Prairie.

**Umpqua National Forest**  
2900 NW Stewart Parkway  
Roseburg, OR 97470

Contact: Tiffany Young 541-957-3260  
layoung@fs.fed.us



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# Wallowa-Whitman

In 2016 the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest completed the following terrestrial wildlife habitat enhancement/restoration work:

- 4,440 acres of non-commercial, variable spacing thinning to enhance forage for deer and elk;
- Partnered with ODFW on implementation and enforcement of cooperative travel management areas;
- Applied prescribed fire to 5,500 acres to benefit elk, deer, and mature pine associated wildlife species;
- Beneficial results for wildlife were realized on 87 acres of wildfires;
- Surveyed 30 acres for western bumblebees;
- Maintained and monitored 24 great gray owl nest platforms;
- Monitored numerous nest sites of golden eagle, peregrine falcon, and goshawk;
- Surveyed for marten, wolverine, and montane fox at 8 remote camera sites;
- Provided education and outreach to numerous schools and community groups;
- Moved a gate in compliance with the settlement agreement for the Sled Springs OHV project, increasing security habitat on 133 acres; and
- Enhanced a spring for wildlife while providing upslope water for permitted cattle.



Forage enhancement through prescribed burning is focused on improving the seasonal distribution of elk within the Chesnimnus Wildlife Management Unit.



*Bombus occidentalis*, Union County, Oregon

## 2016 Accomplishments

Acres	BLI	Activity
4,440	NFVW/WFHF	Non-commercial thinning for WL
133	CMRD/NFWF	Gate install, elk security
87	NFSU	Wildfire enhancement from wildfire
5,500	NFWF/WFHF	Prescribed fire
1,800	NFWF	Owl platforms, aspen enclosure, water devel.

**11,960 Total**

## 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.

## Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

1550 Dewey Ave, Suite A  
Baker City, OR 97814

Contact: Mark Penninger 541 523-1285  
mapenninger@fs.fed.us



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# National Forest

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

### STARKEY WILDLIFE THINNING PROJECT

The Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) and Wildlife programs have partnered to enhance young conifer stands through non-commercial thinning in the southern portion of the Starkey Wildlife Management Unit. Large numbers of elk have become accustomed to remaining on their lower elevation winter ranges on private lands throughout the year. This has led to increases in damage complaints from ranchers and decreased opportunity for the public who wish to see or hunt elk on public lands.

Over the past three years more than 5,000 acres have been thinned to improve forage for deer and elk, and shift stands toward a more resilient species composition. The enhanced forage is largely within existing cooperative travel management areas where elk have access to improved forage in a setting with low disturbance from motorized vehicles.

Prescriptions are focused in stands with a high capability to produce quality forage. Variable spacing and unthinned hiding cover patches create a high degree of cover and forage interspersation. Slash is treated in a variety of ways, including mastication, broadcast burning, pile and burn, and lop and scatter.

Funding for this work has been provided by the Wallowa-Whitman TSI and Wildlife programs in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and through the Blue Mountain Elk Initiative.

Dense, young conifers allow little sunlight to reach the forest floor. Grasses, forbs, and shrubs are largely shaded out.



Many species of migratory songbirds use the unthinned cover patches for nesting.



Thinning complete, slash hand piled and ready to burn.

#### Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

1550 Dewey Ave, Suite A  
Baker City, OR 97814

Contact: Mark Penninger 541 523-1285  
mapenninger@fs.fed.us



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In 2016 the Willamette National Forest exceeded planned wildlife targets. Highlights include:

- With RMEF, OHA, and other partners, completed 4750 acres of elk and deer enhancement by road closures, weed treatments, and forage improvement.
- Completed 1996 acres of snag creation and 1034 acres of downed wood creation.
- Commercially thinned 907 acres of second growth and planted trees in 351 acres of burned LSR to improve future habitat for northern spotted owls.
- With ODFW enhanced 6040 acres of anadromous habitat benefitting bald eagles, bears, and other riparian-associated wildlife.
- Surveyed for bats, bees, butterflies, 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.
- With USFWS and BLM, completed ESA consultation on numerous projects utilizing the Level 1 Team process.



McKenzie School's Eagle Pride Cooperative Nursery students planting berry-producing shrubs to enhance pollinator and elk foraging habitat, McKenzie River Ranger District.

## 2016 Accomplishments

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
5379	CWKV	KV Wildlife Treatments
1280	SRS2	PAYCO
2000	NFMG	Bat Gates on Mines
2002	NFWF	Wildlife Improvements
2780	NFTM*	Beneficial Timber Harvests
4022	PTNR	Partnerships (inc. NFXN)
351	RTRT	Fire Restoration
337	NFWW	Weed Treatments
<b>18150</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	

\*NFTM includes several fund codes for timber sale prep

## Partners/Cooperators

Boy/Girl Scouts of America, BPA, PGE, RMEF, NWTF, ODFW, OHA, NWTF, Northwest Youth Corps, North American Butterfly Association, USFWS, BLM, numerous watershed councils, schools & businesses



Pinegrass Restoration Project on the Middle Fork Ranger District has promoted pine savannah development in dry mixed-conifer plantations. The project has been heavily supported by numerous partners, including Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Hunters Association, Northwest Youth Corps and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

## Willamette National Forest

3108 Pierce Parkway  
Springfield, OR 97477

Contact: Joe Doerr @ 541-225-6433  
jdoerr@fs.fed.us



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# National Forest

## 2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments

### GRAY-BLUE BUTTERFLY SURVEY PARTNERSHIP

In 2016, the Willamette National Forest surveyed for gray-blue butterfly (GBB) (*Plebejus podarce klamathensis*), a Forest Service sensitive species, in partnership with the North American Butterfly Association (NABA), Springfield/Eugene Chapter. This long-standing NABA chapter is an important source for butterfly detections on the Forest. Recent surveys on the Umpqua NF had expanded the northern range of the butterfly to near the southern boundary of the Forest and, in 2015, Tanya Harvey found a single individual on the Willamette. In 2016, working with several NABA volunteers and one species expert (Dana Ross), we documented 5 sites of GBB on the Willamette NF and 2 on the adjacent Umpqua NF. Numerous negative surveys to the north and east of the detections helped identify the likely occupied range of the butterfly on the forest. It is unknown if the recent findings of the species on the Willamette are due to range expansion possibly related to climate change or long-established, but previously undetected populations. The 2016 surveys provide a baseline for future monitoring the species on the Forest.



Tanya Harvey. NABA member, botanist and long-time FS volunteer. Tanya and other NABA volunteers were invaluable to this project. Tanya has spent years surveying and photographing rare plants and other species in the Calapooya Mountains and surrounding areas. You can follow her adventures on her blog at <http://westerncascades.com>. She provided the photos below of a female GBB on western bistort and its habitat.

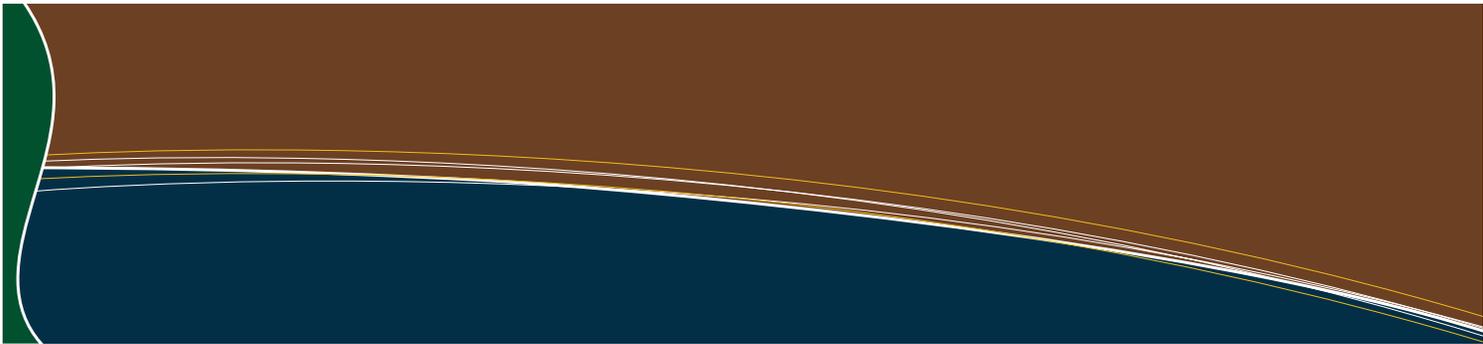


**Willamette National Forest**  
3108 Pierce Parkway  
Springfield, OR 97477

Contact: Joe Doerr @ 541-225-6433  
[jdoerr@fs.fed.us](mailto:jdoerr@fs.fed.us)



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*2016 WL / TES Program Accomplishments*

# CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

# 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.**

- Participated on the Species of Conservation Concern Work Group for the 2012 Planning Rule, collaborated with the Ecosystem Integrity Work Group to incorporate Avifauna as indicators of habitat types and the Monitoring Work Group advocate for integrated bird monitoring throughout the region.
- Co-wrote, and received funding for the second year of the Regional Pollinator Seed Collection Challenge Cost Share proposal. Secured funding from outside organizations totaling 15k in contributions.
- Continue to work with the Klamath Bird Observatory to produce DST’s to aid in habitat management for priority avifauna on FS and BLM lands. Projects include using avifauna as indicators of ecosystem health, species centric modeling and informative webex’s.
- Chair of the FS, WHP Committee a national cadre of individuals interested in hummingbirds. I schedule and facilitate quarterly conference calls to discuss ongoing hummingbird issues.
- Work with partners to develop and incorporate Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) priority avian species and assessment tools into our forest planning efforts. I participate on the team to develop a national node of the Avian Knowledge Network.
- Active participant on the Partners in Flight (PIF), National Steering Committee. We make recommendations to the Council for the Conservation of Mig. Birds regarding priorities for avian conservation nationally.
- Manage assistance agreements with Klamath Bird Observatory, the American Bird Conservancy, NW Wildlife Science, USGS, and the OR Eagle Foundation.
- Chair of the Western Working Group of PIF. The mission is to develop science based tools for bird conservation throughout the west. Our recent meeting focused on how partners can assist in the new 2012 Planning Rule.



Handing out education materials at an IMBD event. Photo by Mike Green, USFWS

- Suggested, co-wrote and received funding for a pollinator garden grant with the Antfarm, a local non-profit group in Sandy OR.
- Worked with USGS to write a ISSSSP grant for monitoring Purple Martins in the Willamette Valley to determine if there is a wild, snag nesting population.
- Worked with the American Bird Conservancy and BLM biologists to complete a OR Vesper Sparrow Conservation Assessment.
- Worked with the American Bird Conservancy to complete the re-write of the N. Rocky Mountain Bird Conservation Plan, applicable to the W-W, OCH, and UMA NF’s.
- Received 150k in BLM funds to develop Species Centric Habitat Models for Avifauna working with the Klamath Bird Observatory.
- Presented PIF “species centric habitat model” information at the Silviculturalist Certification Workshop.



**Barb Bresson, FS-BLM**  
Aviation Conservation Program  
Contact: Barb Bresson @ 503-808-2307  
bbresson@fs.fed.us



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# Region 6 Pacific Northwest

## 2016 DecAID Center of Excellence Accomplishments

### Organization:

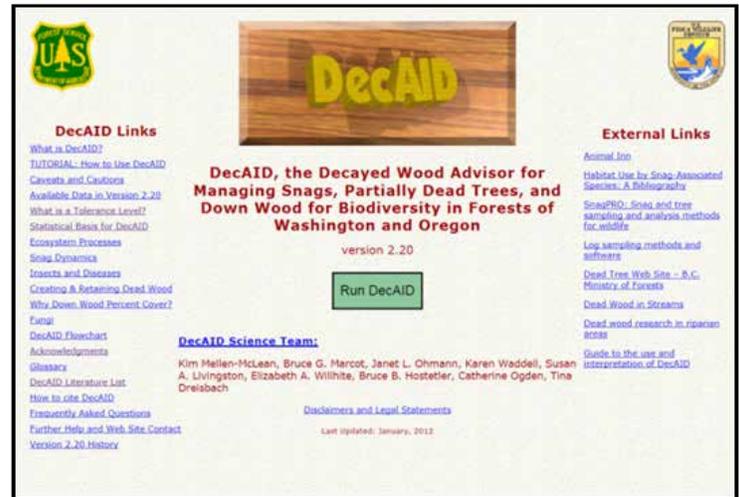
Steve Acker joined the team as another COE focusing on the vegetation portion of DecAID (data integrity and updates).

Barbara Webb has taken on more implementation duties and Q & A, as well as helping with the website update and wildlife data portion.

Kim Mellen-McLean has been instrumental in overseeing and managing the DecAID Version 3.0 update. Working with DRM for the website platform and reconvening the original team for the inventory and information updates.

### Accomplishments

- Wildfire Salvage RAT Team participation on Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, Gifford Pinchot, and Malheur
- Worked towards Version 3.0 with original DecAID team members
- Support to project level biologists and other users on DecAID implementation
- Presentation of DecAID Distribution Analysis process to Deschutes/Ochoco Forest NEPA Team
- Updated examples on current website
- Updated DecAID GNN rasters into SDE layerfile:  
T:\FS\Reference\GIS\r06\LayerFile\Wildlife\WildlifeHabitatMaps\DecAIDRasters.lyr
- DecAID analysis using the Distribution Analysis templates for salvage successfully prevailed through all stages of objection process
- Worked with PNW, RO, and OSU colleagues to incorporate temporal trends in snag density in new tool based on GNN, and developed outline for paper on temporal trends in snag densities across the region;



**Version 3.0 will be available FY17 with new vegetation inventory data, a new web platform and updated look.**

**Stay tuned for Version 3.0 roll-out and scheduling of training sessions with this new platform**

### Barbara Webb

541-383-4788

[bswebb@fs.fed.us](mailto:bswebb@fs.fed.us)

Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District  
Deschutes National Forest

### Steve Acker

541-225-6447

[steveacker@fs.fed.us](mailto:steveacker@fs.fed.us)

Northwest Oregon Ecology Group  
Willamette National Forest

### Kim Mellen-McLean

503-808-2677

[kmellenmclean@fs.fed.us](mailto:kmellenmclean@fs.fed.us)

Regional Office



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# Ochoco National Forest



## 2016 Blue Mountains Elk Initiative & Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Center of Excellence Accomplishments

\$2,337,736 was spent on Elk habitat enhancement and research projects in Oregon in FY'16.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, through their banquet and fundraising efforts, provided \$260,000, funding 20 projects across the state,

The Blue Mountains Elk Initiative, a cooperative effort to improve habitat and management of elk and other wildlife in the Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington, had \$125,000 available from the USFS (\$95K), ODFW (\$10K), and Blue Mountains Habitat Restoration Council railroad mitigation funds (\$20K).

In FY'16, Kevin Keown, the Forest Wildlife Biologist on the Ochoco NF and Region 6 Center of Excellence for Elk and Blue Mountain Elk Initiative Coordinator, received the national Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Elk Country Partnership Award.



Figure 2. Senior RMEF Regional Director, Bob Bastian, presenting Kevin Keown, Blue Mountains Elk Initiative Coordinator, with the National Elk Country Partnership Award.

Figure 1. 2016 RMEF/BMEI Projects and Funding

Forest	# RMEF/BMEI Projects	RMEF Funding	BMEI Funding
DES	1	\$15,000	NA
FREWIN	1	\$30,000	NA
OCH	2	\$35,000	\$35,000
MTH	1	\$12,000	NA
MAL	2	\$11,000	\$12,000
UMA	1	\$10,000	\$15,000
UMP	1	\$9,000	NA
WAW	2	\$25,000	\$28,500
WIL	3	\$41,534	NA
Research	1	\$9,000	-
PVT Land	4	\$38,966	\$4,718
Tribal	1	\$3,500	\$3,500
Other	1	\$20,000	\$4,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$260,000</b>	<b>\$98,718*</b>

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

- Solicited RMEF project proposals from Forest Service units 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.
- Conducted site visits to 4 BMEI/RMEF projects.
- 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 45 proposals
- Assisted the OR RMEF PAC in the prioritization and selection of the projects to be funded.
- Facilitated the distribution of BMEI funds to successful applicants.

### Ochoco National Forest

3160 NE 3rd St  
Prineville, OR 97754

Contact: Kevin Keown@541-416-6605  
kkeown@fs.fed.us



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# Gifford Pinchot National Forest

## 2016 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Center of Excellence Accomplishments

### 2016 Duties and accomplishments

- Solicited RMEF project proposals from the Washington forests including Gifford Pinchot, Colville, Olympic, Mt Baker-Snoqualmie.
- Assisted project proponents in the development of habitat restoration projects and project proposals
- Served as Forest Service liaison and voting member of the WA RMEF project advisory committee (PAC) and represented the region at the WA PAC meeting.
- Reviewed and ranked proposals

The following proposals were recommended and funded in 2016.

Paradise 90 RX Fire – Colville NF

\$5,000                      619 Acres

Cook Creek / West Fork Humptulips Understory Thinning-  
Olympic NF

\$25,000                      400 Acres

Cowlitz Valley Elk Habitat Invasive Plant Treatment – Gifford  
Pinchot NF

\$4,000                      30 Acres

Mt St Helens Wildlife Area and Mount St Helens National  
Volcanic National Monument, Toutle River Invasive Weed  
Management – Gifford Pinchot NF

\$15,000                      150 acres



Wildlife seasonal gate closure Mt Baker-Snoqualmie NF



Toutle River mouseeared hawkweed treatment 2016 Gifford Pinchot NF

### 2016 Accomplishments

Forest	Project	RMEF funding
Olympia	1	\$25,000
Colville	1	\$5,000
Gifford Pinchot	2	\$19,000

### Partners/Cooperators

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Lewis, Skamania, Cowlitz  
County Weed Boards, WDFW, Retained Receipts.

**Gifford Pinchot National Forest**  
501 E. 5th St, #400  
Vancouver, WA 98661

Contact: Carol Chandler @ 360-891-5106  
cachandler@fs.fed.us



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# Mollusk Center of Excellence

## 2016 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.



Photo 1: Mystery Challenge – any guesses?



Photo 2: Wallowa-Whitman NF Mollusk Training Fall 2015.

### 2016 Accomplishments Include:

- Provided three Mollusk Identification Workshops serving the Deschutes, Wallowa-Whitman, Willamette, Umpqua, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests and Roseburg & Medford BLM Districts. These workshops provided biologists with an overview of mollusk anatomy, identification techniques and field survey techniques.
- 45 people total were trained.
- Provided field consultation to the Rogue River-Siskiyou, Umpqua & Willamette National Forests, along with Roseburg and Medford 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 35 snail and slug specimens collected in the field, reviewing 46 vouchers & providing feedback on identification results.

**Umpqua National Forest**  
2900 NW Steward Parkway  
Roseburg, OR 97470

Contact: Tiffany Young, 541-947-3260  
tayoung@fs.fed.us



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# Okanogon-Wenatchee National Forest

## 2016 Carnivore Center of Excellence Accomplishments



Fisher being released on Gifford Pinchot NF.

### Significant Carnivore Events in 2016:

- USFWS finds the west coast population of fisher does not require protection under the ESA; withdraws proposal to list as threatened..
- District Court vacates the USFWS withdrawal of proposed rule to list wolverine as threatened under ESA and remands for further consideration putting wolverine back in "proposed" status.
- USFWS finds the Sierra Nevada red fox to have 2 distinct population segments; the southern Cascades DPS which includes Oregon and northern CA, and the Sierra Nevada DPS. Determines listing the Southern Cascades DPS not warranted.
- Gray wolves continue to expand in eastern WA and OR with each state having approx. 20 packs/groups and 100 individuals. Lethal control of wolves following livestock depredation continues to make the news in both states.



Collared gray wolf on the Umatilla NF.

### 2016 Accomplishments

- Provided partial funding for 5 projects:
- Support for and coordination with WDFW during fisher reintroduction on the Gifford Pinchot NF.
- Baited camera station survey for fisher/marten/fox in project area on west side of Fremont Winema NF.
- Baited camera station surveys for fisher and fox on the Willamette NF.
- Live-trapping and radio-collaring of marten in the I-90 corridor on the Okanogon-Wenatchee NF.
- Humboldt marten connectivity evaluation in Highway 101 corridor on the Siuslaw NF.

### In addition:

- Fisher reintroduction to the Southern Cascades included 23 fishers released at the Cispus Center on the Gifford Pinchot NF. More planned for 2017.
- The installation of 27 food storage lockers was completed in developed campgrounds in the Selkirk Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone on the Colville NF.
- Provided support for final year of the WSU Wolf/Livestock Interaction research project on the Okanogon-Wenatchee and Colville NFs.
- Provided support for the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Restoration EIS. The OkaWen and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NFs make up 75% of the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone. Draft EIS due out for public review in January 2017.

### Partners/Cooperators

WDFW, ODFW, WSDOT, USFWS, PNW Research, Univ. Calif. Davis, Wildlife Ecology Institute, Cascade Carnivore Project, Wenatchee Fire Sciences Lab, Conservation NW, Cascadia Wild, BLM, OSU, PSW Research, Weyerhaeuser, Hancock, Plum Creek, WSU, Defenders of Wildlife, Kalispel Tribe, Pend Oreille County PUD, Scenic Canyons Recreational Services, Seattle City Light, Selkirk Conservation Alliance.

**Okanogon-Wenatchee National Forest**  
24 West Chewuch  
Winthrop, WA

Contact: John Rohrer, 541-996-4001  
jrohrer@fs.fed.us

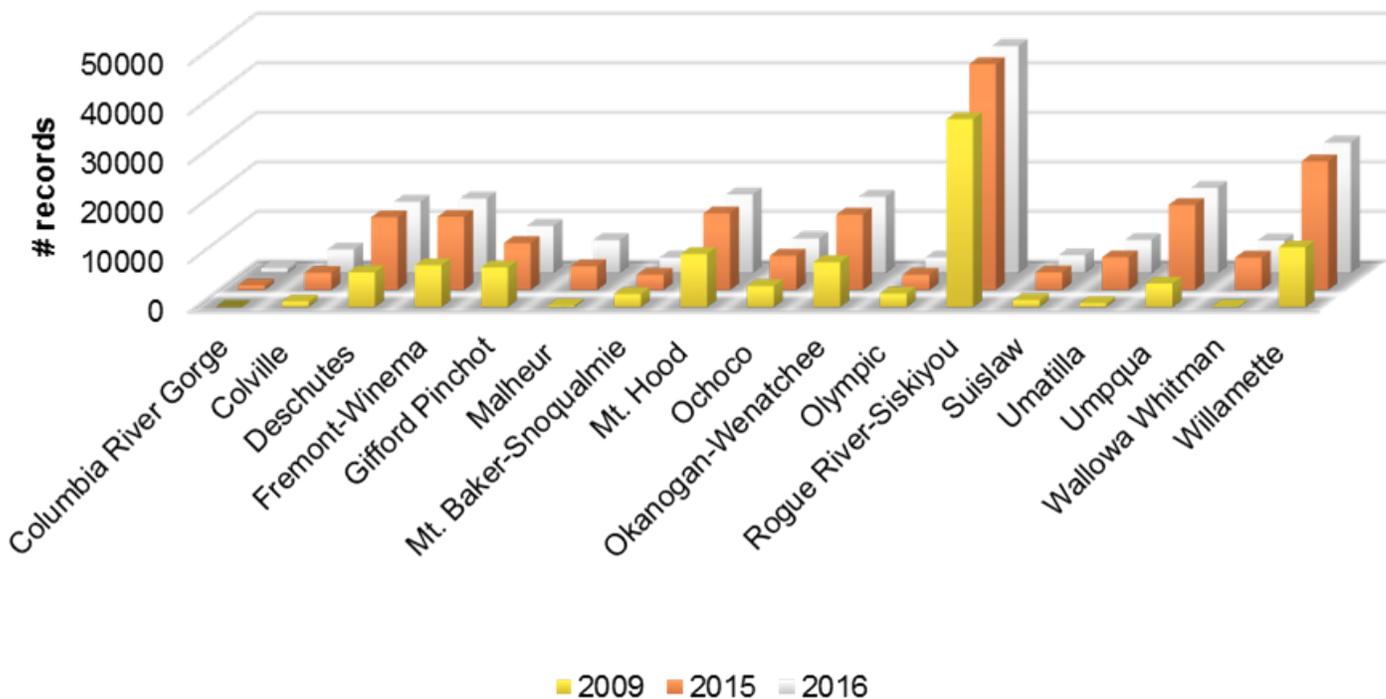


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# NRIS Wildlife

## 2016 Wildlife Program Accomplishments

### R6 NRIS Wildlife Observations and Sites



In 2016, R6 Forests made slow but steady gains in NRIS Wildlife data entry, with several Forests concentrating on clean-up of legacy data and schema issues. Almost 4,000 records were added to R6 NRIS Wildlife in 2016. Among the large datasets is the R6 white-headed woodpecker data. The 2013 and 2014 data was added this summer, and the 2015-2016 will be headed this winter.

Still on the horizon is a new version of the database. Originally expected to be introduced in June 2016, the new version is now scheduled for release sometime this winter. The new release will change NRIS Wildlife from individual Forest schemas to a National schema. It will also add a cave

flag, to protect sensitive cave data from accidental release in the event of a FOIA request, and fix some bugs.

One classroom training was held this year, and I would like to schedule another for winter 2016 or spring 2017, if the need is there. The Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area has graciously offered to host.

I will be working on quality control for the dataset this winter, checking Forest's records for draft/ready status, schema issues, etc. If you haven't reviewed data that was entered or migrated from off-forest sources (like the WHWO, bat or eagle data), it would be good to clean that up- Thanks!

**Ann Glidden**  
R6 NRIS Wildlife Center of Excellence  
Contact: [aglidden@555-541-553](mailto:aglidden@555-541-553),  
[aglidden@fs.fed.us](mailto:aglidden@fs.fed.us)



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# Olympic National Forest

## 2016 Amphibian and Reptile Center of Excellence

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 and also with the USFS COEs from other regions.



Long-time PARC member Chuck Peterson of Idaho State University with Keynote Speaker Jamie Reaser of the National Invasive Species Council. Photo: Jamie Reaser

### PRODUCTS/PROJECTS

- Organized the 9th Annual Northwest PARC Conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho: "Conservation Across Borders." This one-day symposium explored several themes and case studies pertaining to transboundary conservation and restoration mechanisms, examined current threats and policies surrounding legal and illegal wildlife trade, and highlighted the current knowledge on the spread of endemic and exotic pathogens. Presenters included individuals from the National Invasive Species Council, Idaho Fish & Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, San Francisco Zoo, Green Mountain College, U.S. Forest Service, Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Idaho Treasure Valley Herpetology Society, and Alberta Conservation Association. Fifty people attended the workshop.
- Continued to serve as co-chair for NW PARC, which includes being a member of PARC's Joint National Steering Committee, organizing quarterly NW PARC Steering Committee calls, coordinating the annual meeting, and managing the NW PARC website.
- Wrote an information sheet on Bsal, the salamander chytrid fungus, for National Forest websites: "Emerging Fungal Pathogens Threaten Wild Salamanders."

A screenshot of a Forest Service Learning Center webpage. The page title is "Emerging Fungal Pathogens Threaten Wild Salamanders". It features a sub-header "Fungal Pathogens: a New Threat to Salamanders" and two images of salamanders. The text discusses the threat of the chytrid fungus Bsal to wild salamanders and mentions a "challenge experiment" showing its rapid fatality to some North American salamanders. The page also includes a "View article as .pdf" link and a "Read Little Critter with a Big Influence" link.

Forest Service Home About the Agency Contact the National Office

### Learning Center

#### Emerging Fungal Pathogens Threaten Wild Salamanders

[View article as .pdf](#)

**Salamanders are Key Indicators of Forest Health**

Did you know North America is home to 50% of the world's species of salamanders? "Salamander" is the name for a scientific order of amphibians that have tails as larvae and adults. The Pacific Northwest is rich in many salamander species adapted to specific environments, including giant salamanders, unique to the Pacific Northwest, and torrent salamanders, entirely suited for life in fast-moving, cold water.

Salamanders are crucial as well in the process of forest carbon cycling! Researcher Michael Best's work has illuminated how *Ensatina* salamanders significantly help retain leaf litter on the forest floor reducing the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere. [\(Read Little Critter with a Big Influence.\)](#) [1]

**Fungal Pathogens: a New Threat to Salamanders**

Salamanders, like this rough-skinned newt to the left, are at risk from a number of threats, including habitat loss, wildlife trade, invasive species, and, most recently, fungal pathogens. In 2013, a chytrid fungus, *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*, or "Bsal," wiped out populations of wild fire salamanders (*Salamandra atra*) in Europe. [\(Read Deadly Fungal Threat.\)](#)

*Ensatina* salamander, by Natalie McNear.

Though Bsal is not known to occur in the wild in North America at this time, initial studies (called "challenge experiments") show that it is rapidly fatal to some North American salamanders. The Pacific Northwest's rough-skinned newt (*Taricha granulosa*), a salamander found in water and on land, was tested in the challenge experiments with fatal results.

With no effective means to control the spread of Bsal, if it becomes established in wild host populations, it could lead to rapid declines and possible extinctions in the world's richest and most diverse salamander populations. [2]



2016 NW PARC Annual Meeting, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Photo: Chuck Peterson

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

Contact: Betsy Howell, 360-956-2292  
blhowell@fs.fed.us



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# Full Curl Program & R6 Mountain Goat

## Center of Excellence 2016 Accomplishments

Mark Penninger performed the duties of Full Curl Program Lead and Field Biologist throughout FY16.

### Highlights of the Full Curl Program include:

- Assisted updating the MOU for the Hells Canyon Bighorn Sheep Restoration Initiative, secured signatures and delivered to all members of the Initiative;
- Technical assistance to the California Dept. of Fish & Game regarding mechanized work in wilderness areas;
- Technical assistance to the Umatilla NF, the Blue Mt Forest Plan Revision Team, and Shoshone NF regarding the state of the science on disease risks from pack goats;
- Technical assistance on a special use permit for the annual Rendezvous of the North American Pack Goat Association, and attended the event;
- Involved in the collaboration with APHIS-ARS on disease risks at wildlife/livestock interface;
- Provided updates from the Forest Service to the Bighorn Sheep Advocates group;
- Coordinated updating occupied bighorn/domestic sheep allotment maps;
- Provided guidance and consistency in the application of national direction from Aug. 19, 2011 and June 2012 national memos;
- Provided technical assistance and support to a variety of planning activities using the risk of contact tool, including a public meeting on the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF;
- Continued involvement with the WAFWA Bighorn Sheep Working Group, including attendance at the summer WAFWA meeting in Reno, NV, and North American in Pittsburg, PA;
- Attended the Northern Wild Sheep & Goat Council symposium in Moscow, ID;
- Keynote speaker at the Joint Annual Meeting of the Washington & Idaho Chapters of The Wildlife Society on the subject of collaboration in bighorn sheep conservation;
- Provided input for R-6 and from a national perspective for inclusion in a response to a Congressional request;
- Represented the FS on the Hells Canyon Bighorn Sheep Restoration Initiative;
- Organized and staffed state-of-the-art booth at the Wild Sheep Foundation's annual convention, providing exposure to >8,500 exhibit hall attendees; and
- Developed a program of work and proposed budget for the Full Curl Program for FY17.



Rocky Mountain bighorn ram in the Eagle Cap Wilderness, Oregon.

### 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, Oregon;
- Assisted with the annual mountain goat census in the Elkhorn Mountains with ODFW;
- Responded to inquiries about mountain goats from hunters and hikers;
- Technical assistance on reintroduction of goats, and goat surveys on the Willamette and Deschutes NFs; and
- Provided technical guidance on mountain goat issues to the RO and other FS units on request.

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

Contact: Mark Penninger 541 523-1285  
mapenninger@fs.fed.us



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# Upland Game Bird

## 2016 Wildlife Program Center of Excellence 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 and accomplishments include:

### National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf)

**NWTf National Convention: Enhancing Collaboration Through Conservation Success** – Presented on R6 Collaborative Landscape Restoration Efforts, specifically the Blue Mountain Elk Initiative.

**State Agency / USFS Save the Habitat Partnership Workshop - Partnership Tools & Success Stories-** Participated in a panel discussion on Stewardship Agreement Success in Region 6, Chief Tidwell opened the discussion.

**Regional Update Presentation** – Presented on Regional Accomplishments associated with NWTf/FS initiatives.

**Making Tracks Steering Committee Member: Quarterly Meetings-** Organized by Making Tracks National Coordinator Tracy Grazia. For FY 16 assisted with information requests from other steering committee members on various partnership agreements. Assist with the development "Right Tool Right Place" direction on FS initiatives and streamlining habitat restoration in the west.



Courtney Prescribed Burn, CRGNSA. Photo by Brett Carre

### Partnership Development

Support the NWTf Regional Biologist with stewardship projects. Assisted the Umatilla National Forest with the Popple Aspen Stewardship Project.

**NWTf's Superfund habitat enhancement process:** Developed a new process to supplement project funding with ODFW Turkey Tag funds. In FY 2016 projects were funded on the Ochoco, CRGNSA, Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman (2). Acres improved; Direct 149 Indirect 890.

### Other Upland Game Bird Coordination:

- Coordinate with Director of Conservation at Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) National Headquarters to promote partnership projects in the Region.
- Work with local FS Wildlife Bios to provide RGS with potential volunteer projects that assist with habitat improvement.
- Work with Dave Budeau ODFW Game Bird Program Coordinator on upland game bird census.
- Provide region specific wing bee data from harvested grouse and mt. quail in Oregon to FS biologists.
- Working with the new WDFW upland game bird coordinator to facilitate work between FS and WDFW.

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

Contact: Monty Gregg 541-549-7724  
mgregg@fs.fed.us



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Courtney Prescribed Burn, CRGNSA. Photo by Brett Carre.

# Ochoco National Forest

## 2016 R6 Greater Sage-grouse Center of Excellence Accomplishments

In FY2016 the Ochoco National Forest hosted the "Center of Excellence" (COE) for National Forests in Region 6 with greater sage-grouse and their habitat. Sage-grouse habitat occurs on 5 National Forests within the state of Oregon.

During the fall of 2016 the sage-grouse COE was transferred to Malheur National Forest. During this transition period representatives from both Forests participated in:

- Representation of the Forest Service at the Oregon SageCon Partnership meeting.
- Assisting other National Forests in Oregon with sage-grouse by distributing relevant information.
- Engaging in interagency communication and support to implementation of habitat conservation actions
- Preparation for the 2020 status review.



Jackpot burning with low fire intensity and duration results in rapid recovery of vegetation

### Photos from Upper Beaver

#### Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project, Ochoco National Forest



By reducing the density of western juniper through thinning of conifers and burning of resulting fine fuels, forage and nesting resources for a multitude of wildlife species will greatly benefit.

SageCon Partnership Cooperators  
Oregon Office of the Governor  
Oregon Solutions  
National Policy Consensus Center (PSU)  
Burns-Paiute Tribe  
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs  
BLM  
NRCS  
ODFW  
USFWS  
ODF/RFPAs  
OWEB  
Oregon Cattlemen's Association  
Association of Oregon Counties  
Harney County  
Lake County  
Crook County  
Baker County  
Deschutes County  
Union County  
Malheur County  
Oregon LCDC  
TNC  
Defenders of Wildlife  
ONDA  
ODOT  
Audubon Society and many, many more partners

### Ochoco National Forest

3160 NE 3rd St  
Prineville, OR 97754

Contact: Dede Steele – 541-416-6605  
dsteele@fs.fed.us



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# Colville National Forest

## 2016 Woodland Caribou Center of Excellence

**SNOW PATROLS:** As in past winters, Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) completed weekend visitor contact patrols on snowmobile in the Colville National Forest (CNF) portion of the Selkirk Mountains Woodland Caribou Recovery Area. We completed 3 patrols in the winter of 2015-2016.

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

**HUNTER CONTACT PATROLS:** In Fiscal Year 2016, the East Zone Biologist and 3 other FPOs completed about 20 weekend hunter 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 2. Snow patroller.

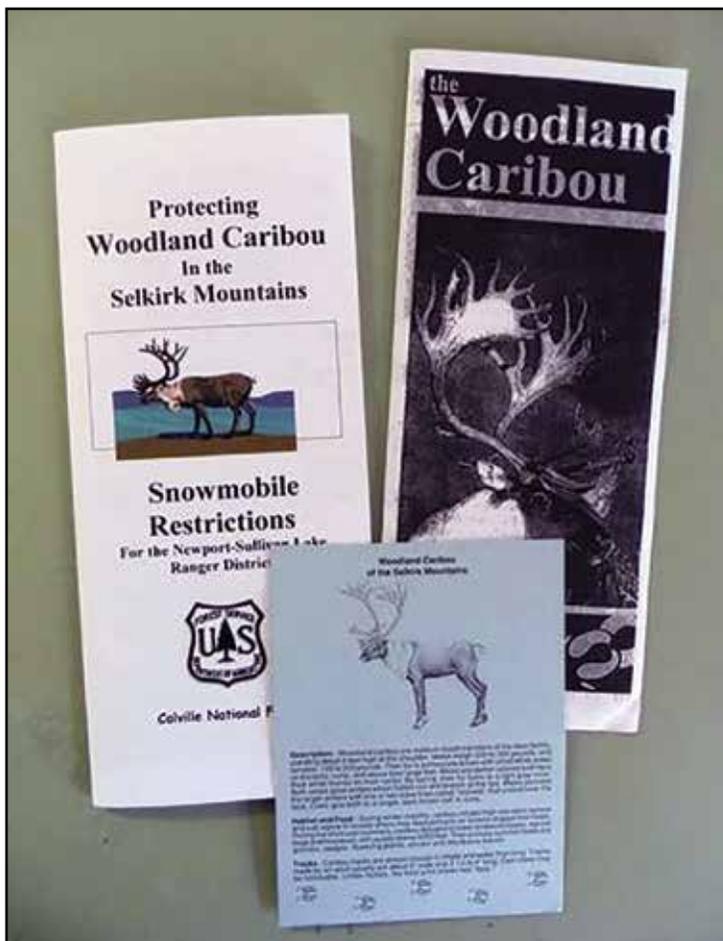


Figure 1: Informational materials related to caribou.

**CARIBOU MONITORING:** The winter census conducted by biologists in British Columbia (BC) found that 12 caribou remained in the South Selkirk Mountains herd. BC continued to monitor satellite collared caribou in an attempt to determine causes of mortality. The CNF contributed \$2,500 towards monitoring flight time.

**PREDATOR MANAGEMENT:** Methods to boost the caribou population are being discussed among the agencies and tribes involved with managing the herd. BC biologists continue to remove wolves to reduce predation pressure. Increasing the harvest of cougars in the ecosystem is being debated.

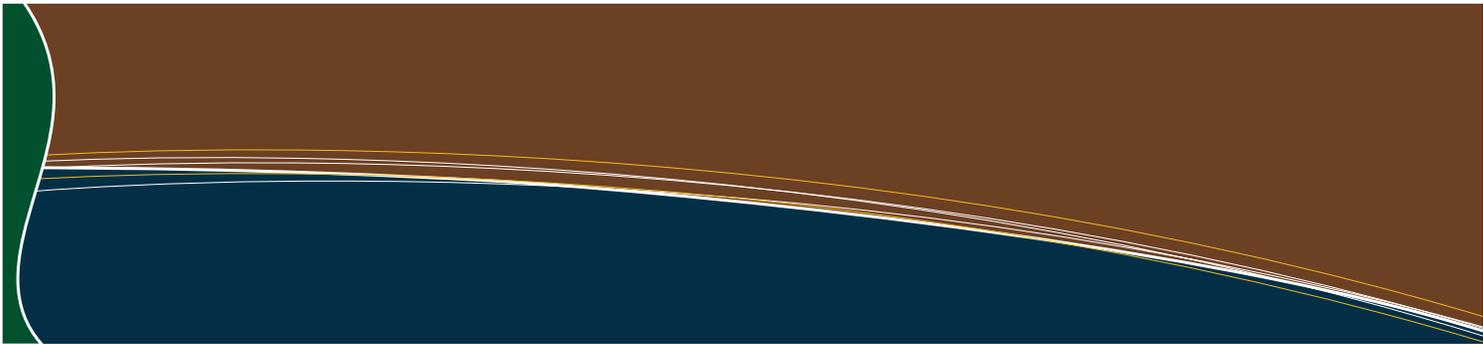
**MATERNAL PENNING:** This action would involve capturing and holding breeding females and their offspring until the calves are better able to escape predators. Some years ago the CNF assisted with the installation of a roughly 10 feet high by 200 feet long section of heavy fabric fencing hung from trees in Stagleap Provincial Park, BC. That project was a field test of fencing design, construction, and winter maintenance needs. If a maternal pen operation is initiated in 2017, we would assist with fence construction, lichen collection and / or other tasks as needed.

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

Contact: Mike Borysewicz – 509-448-7532  
Karen Honeycutt – 509-684-7224



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