

2010 Wildlife  
**YEAR IN REVIEW**



*Fremont-Winema National Forest*



FREMONT-WINEMA NATIONAL FOREST  
1301 SOUTH G STREET  
LAKEVIEW, OREGON

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/frewin/>

# KLAMATH AND CHILOQUIN RANGER DISTRICTS

## Lower Fourmile Creek Restoration, Pelican Guard Station, Bat Conservation, and Environmental Education

The Fremont-Winema National Forest moved forward in 2010 on several projects to restore wetlands and provide natural resource education opportunities

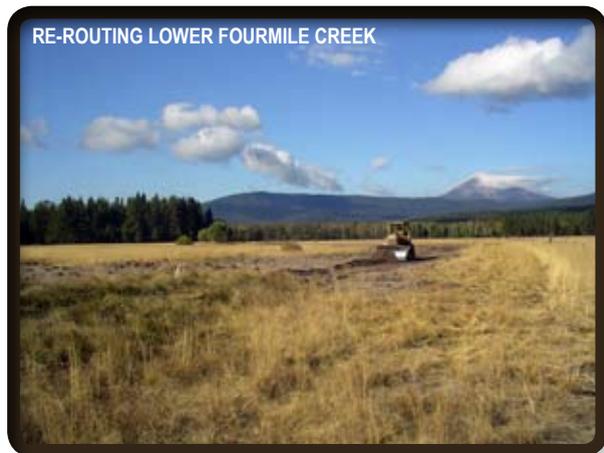
The current channel was drastically altered from its natural path years ago in efforts to drain a 200 acre meadow to increase forage production. Current work

has consisted of re-routing the creek to natural meanders, filling in the existing ditch, planting willow and cottonwood trees and seeding grass. Klamath Bird Observatory is conducting baseline bird monitoring before and after restoration to assess the value of this type of wetland project to avian

function, this should provide for improved wetland wildlife habitat and wildlife viewing opportunities.”

The Klamath Ranger District has also secured funds from the Western States Federal Highways Program to create a Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byways interpretive site at the historic Pelican Guard Station adjacent to the meadow restoration. These funds would restore the guard station cabin, remove the old garage and create a day use area and information kiosk at the site.

Prior to beginning work at this historic site, Wildlife Biologist Jennifer Sanborn coordinated with the Bureau Land Management (BLM) to conduct bat surveys. This effort revealed that three species of bats are using the buildings as a summer roosting and maternity site. Given the increasing threat from white-nose syndrome, a recently introduced fungus which



in and around the historic Pelican Guard Station, which is located near Rocky Point, Ore., on the Klamath Ranger District.

One project helping to re-establish this area is the Lower Fourmile Creek Restoration Project. Restoration activities on the creek

diversity and abundance. “By eliminating the artificial ditch and restoring the creek’s natural channel, it was our intent to slow water movement through the meadow, trapping sediment in the wetlands and retaining surface water on the meadow for a longer period of time

“Upon completion, the area will be an extraordinary community asset providing increased opportunity for the public to experience and enjoy a special place on our Forest.”

› Lance Lerum, Natural Resource Staff

and wet meadow, which is on both private and U.S. Forest Service lands, were completed in October 2010 through a partnership with the private landowner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust.

throughout the summer,” said Lance Lerum, District Natural Resource Staff.

“In addition to restoring hydrologic

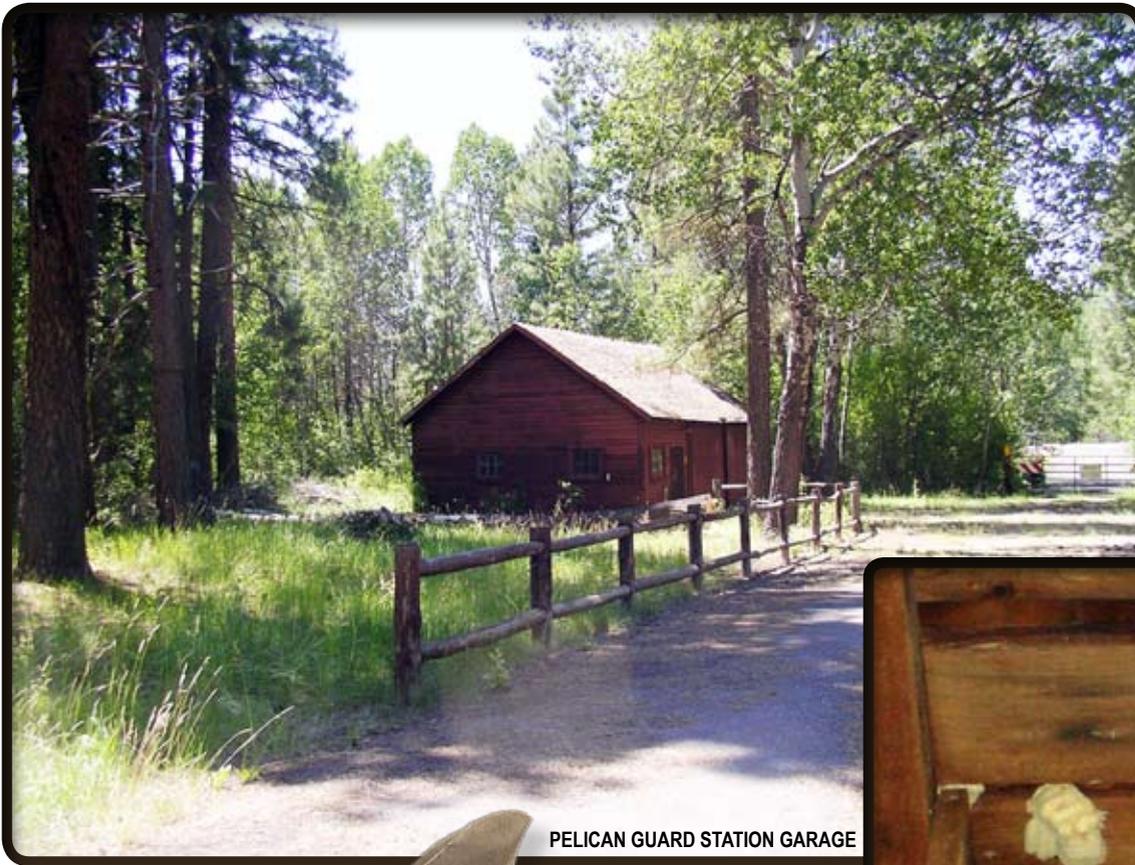


# SOUTHWEST ZONE WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROJECTS

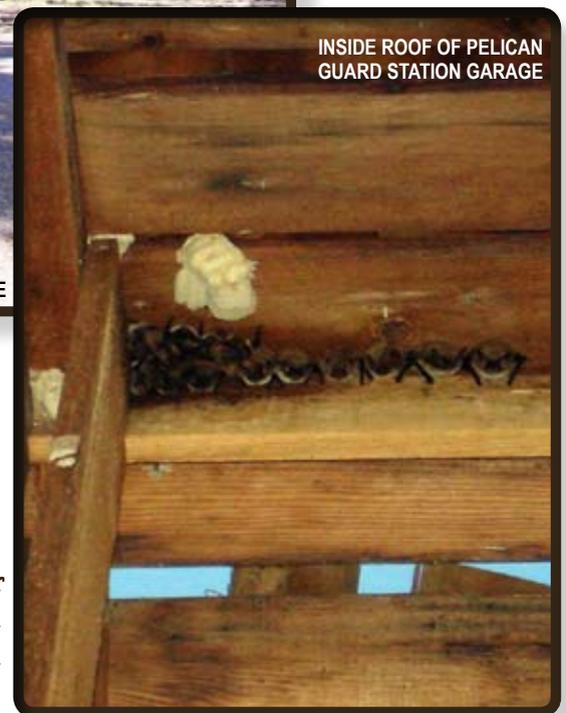
has resulted in wide-spread die-offs of communal roosting bats in the eastern and central United States, the District thought it prudent to retain the old garage as bat habitat and construct additional bat habitat for bat conservation. Interpretative panels will also be developed to educate the public about bat conservation efforts and issues.

Building upon the restoration work of the meadow and Pelican Guard Station, the Klamath Ranger District's wildlife, botany and recreation staffs are working with many community partners to develop plans to further enhance the site for environmental education and NatureWatch viewing opportunities.

“Tentative plans include additional riparian plantings, wildlife habitat structures, interpretive trails and panels, and wildlife viewing blinds,” said Lerum. “Upon completion, this area will be an extraordinary community asset providing increased opportunity for the public to experience and enjoy a special place on our Forest.”



PELICAN GUARD STATION GARAGE



INSIDE ROOF OF PELICAN GUARD STATION GARAGE

*Lance Lerum, District Natural Resource Staff  
Jennifer Sanborn, Wildlife Biologist  
Lisa Lyon, Assistant Wildlife Biologist  
Tom Gorman, Wildlife Technician*



# CHEMULT RANGER DISTRICT

## Restoring Old Growth Ponderosa Pine and Aspen Habitats

Wildlife, timber and fuels specialists on the Chemult Ranger District worked collectively to successfully apply prescribed fire on about 960 acres of old growth ponderosa pine habitat in 2010. This work was funded with wildlife, timber and fire appropriated funds and Title II dollars from the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act.

“One of the objectives of restoring old growth ponderosa pine is to improve habitat for old growth ponderosa pine dependent species, such as the white-headed woodpecker,” said Terry Simpson, Wildlife Biologist. “Another is to reduce the potential for uncharacteristic stand replacement fire adjacent to two Late Successional Reserves.”

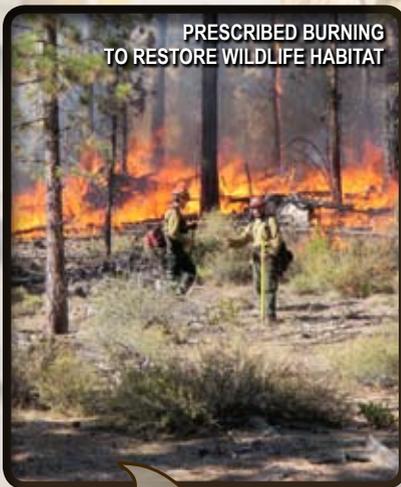
The Chemult Ranger District, with the help of Trent Seager, an Oregon State University graduate student, also restored aspen habitat that were being encroached by conifers due to decades of fire suppression. The District used a service contract to thin conifers within approximately 400 acres of aspen. This project was funded with wildlife and fire appropriated funds and Title II dollars.



WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER

“One of the objectives of restoring old growth ponderosa pine is to improve habitat for old growth ponderosa pine dependent species, such as the white-headed woodpecker.”

*Terry Simpson, Wildlife Biologist*



PRESCRIBED BURNING TO RESTORE WILDLIFE HABITAT



PRE-TREATMENT ASPEN RESTORATION UNIT

*Terry Simpson, Wildlife Biologist*  
*Lisa Lyon, Assistant Wildlife Biologist*

# SILVER LAKE & PAISLEY RANGER DISTRICTS

## Bridge Creek and Buck Creek Mule Deer Enhancement Projects

In 2010, the Winter Rim Zone continued to work on the Bridge Creek and Buck Creek Mule Deer Enhancement Projects to reduce the encroachment of both western juniper and conifer and improve riparian habitats. Much of this juniper and conifer encroachment is within mule deer winter range in the uplands and riparian zones along Bridge Creek and Buck Creek on the Silver Lake Ranger District.

In the project areas,

juniper and conifer have expanded to be more prominent in shrub-steppe communities,

ponderosa pine stands and riparian zones. Because junipers tend to dominate the nutrient cycles in an area and outcompete other plant species, there has been a corresponding loss of mule deer winter foraging habitat (primarily bitterbrush), mountain mahogany stands and riparian habitat including aspen.

The removal of encroaching juniper and conifer is important to reduce the loss of other resource values due to competition for nutrients

and soil moisture. The Bridge Creek and Buck Creek Mule Deer Enhancement Projects are helping reverse that trend.

“These two projects are reducing all juniper trees that did not exhibit old growth characteristics and small diameter conifers within riparian areas,” said Marilyn Elston, Wildlife Technician.

“These project areas will also be treated with low intensity prescribed burning. The idea is to burn in a way that reduces fuels but maintains a mosaic pattern of shrubs for mule deer forage.”

*› Marilyn Elston, Wildlife Technician*



## STREAMLINING DECAID ANALYSIS USING A SNAG MODELING PROCESS

DecAID is a decayed wood advisor for managing snags, partially dead trees, and down wood for biodiversity in forests of Washington and Oregon. Kris Hennings, Northeast Zone Wildlife Biologist, developed a model to derive an existing condition for snags on the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

The model uses GNN (Gradient Nearest Neighbor) data and the Pacific Northwest (Region 6) Forest Health Protection Aerial Survey Data. The model was built in ArcMap Model Builder so every year the aerial survey data can update the layer to show an estimate of existing snags densities on the landscape. The final output is a snag analysis that could be used Forest-wide or clipped and used for individual project areas.



*Kris Hennings,  
Wildlife Biologist (Former)  
Marilyn Elston,  
Wildlife Technician*

# LAKEVIEW & BLY RANGER DISTRICTS

## North Warner Shrub Restoration Project

Over the past five years, landowners in the Warner Valley have worked closely with the Forest, Lake County Watershed Council, BLM Lakeview District, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and USFWS to conduct habitat improvement projects on public and private lands. Clover-Snyder Creek project area, located at the north end of the Warner Mountains, provides valuable habitat for sage grouse. Due to increased juniper encroachment, this habitat has been negatively affected.

“The Clover-Snyder Creek Project is expected to improve habitat for sage grouse, as well as many

other wildlife species, including mule deer, elk, and ground nesting birds,” said Mike Ramsey, Vegetation Management Specialist. “The cumulative improvement of both public and private land treatments benefits sage grouse over a larger area than a private land project alone.”

To date approximately 5,200 acres of juniper have been cut on adjacent BLM and private lands. The Forest also participated in this project in 2010 when it successfully competed for Challenge Cost-Share funding. This funding, along with fuels funding, allowed the Forest to cut 450 acres of juniper within the Forest Service part of the Clover-Snyder Creek project area. The Forest has identified approximately 2,000 acres of additional juniper to treat and will continue to pursue funding on an annual basis.



MULE DEER

“The Clover-Snyder Creek Project is expected to improve habitat for sage grouse, as well as many other wildlife species, including mule deer, elk, and ground nesting birds.”

› Mike Ramsey, Vegetation Management Specialist



Mike Ramsey, Vegetation Management Specialist

(Previous Wildlife Biologist)

Cheran Cavanaugh, Wildlife Technician



### BALD EAGLE MONITORING

The Forest collaborated with the USFWS, BLM Klamath Falls Resource Area, The Klamath Tribes, ODFW and individual volunteers to monitor approximately 65 bald eagle nest sites across the Forest and conducted eight midwinter bald eagle counts. This information allows the Forest to better manage habitat and protect the species from disturbance.

### PEREGRINE FALCON MONITORING

The two known peregrine falcon nests on the Forest were monitored by employees for nest success. This data contributes to a long-term dataset that allows the Forest to track nest success for this rare species.

### LEGACY DATA ENTRY

The Forest entered more than 975 records into the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) Wildlife Database. Putting this data into a spatial dataset allows the Forest to better manage habitat and to protect the species.

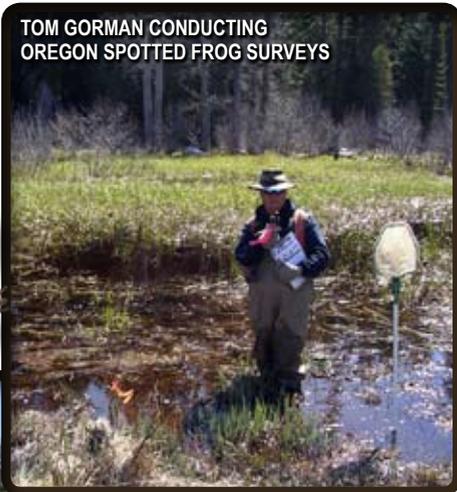
## Improving Habitat Through Integration

The Forest Wildlife Program is closely integrated with other resources programs, including fuels, timber and invasive species. When properly designed, timber thinning and fuels reduction projects can be beneficial to wildlife habitat by reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires or disease, thus helping to retain large tree structures at a large landscape level. These vegetation treatments are designed to develop and maintain stand variability (a desirable habitat

quality) within a very homogenous landscape. Thinning and prescribed burning also improve big game forage quality and quantity. To meet these objectives, the Forest treated 14,824 acres in 2010.



TOM GORMAN CONDUCTING OREGON SPOTTED FROG SURVEYS



OREGON SPOTTED FROG HABITAT AT SEVENMILE CREEK



OREGON SPOTTED FROG



## KLAMATH BASIN OREGON SPOTTED FROG CONSERVATION EFFORTS

In 2010, the Forest partnered with the USFWS, Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge and Lakeview and Medford Districts of the BLM to complete a Conservation Agreement for the Oregon spotted frog in the Klamath Basin of Oregon.

“The purpose of this Conservation Agreement is to formally document the intent of the parties involved to protect and contribute to the conservation of the Oregon spotted frog in the Klamath Basin,” said Amy Markus, Forest Wildlife Biologist. “Additionally, the Forest developed analysis techniques to better understand and articulate issues of connectivity within the Klamath Basin spotted frog populations.”

The Forest also continues to monitor all known spotted frog populations on National Forest lands and assist with a U.S. Geological Survey study by collecting egg masses for genetic samples.

“Providing habitat to the many wildlife species that abound across our Forest is an important part of our management responsibility and it assured by the close cooperation between fire, fuels, and vegetation management.”

› Fred Way, Fremont-Winema National Forest Supervisor



# Welcome and Farewell

- Mike Ramsey has moved to the Southeast Zone Vegetation Management Specialist position.
- Kris Hennings has moved to the St. Joe Ranger District on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.
- Cheran Cavanaugh accepted the Southeast Zone Wildlife Technician position.

## Thank You ...

This publication would not been possible without the help of

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
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| • Mike Ramsey    | Southeast Zone Vegetation Management Specialist (Previous Wildlife Biologist) |
| • Lance Lerum    | Southwest Zone Natural Resource Staff   |
| • Jen Sanborn    | Southwest Zone Wildlife Biologist   |
| • Kris Hennings  | Winter Rim Zone Wildlife Biologist  |
| • Terry Simpson  | Northwest Zone Wildlife Biologist   |
| • Amy Markus     | Forest Wildlife Biologist   |
| • Michael Durham | Photographer (for the exceptional bat photos)                                 |

