



ODFW Field Reports

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, November 14, 2008

NORTHEAST REGION

Bruce Eddy, Grande Ronde District Manager

Feed Canal Dam Fish Passage

Steelhead are again available to anglers in a large segment of the lower Umatilla River. Feed Canal Dam, located at Umatilla River Mile 29, became impassable this spring when high flows cut the river bed below its fishway entrance. After determining that the fishway was impassable, ODFW and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation biologists began trapping salmon and steelhead at Threemile Dam and trucking them to the Barnhart Cliffs, approximately 40 miles upstream. This removed steelhead from this section of the Umatilla River, much to the disappointment of many anglers.



Working through the Umatilla Managers Monitoring Evaluation and Oversight Committee (UMMEOC), ODFW and tribal biologists, and Bureau of Reclamation engineers were able to devise temporary modifications to the Feed Canal Dam fishway to make it passable. These modifications were installed this fall by Bureau of Reclamation. After inspection by ODFW and tribal biologists it was determined that this temporary fix had restored fish passage. Steelhead and salmon were again released directly to the Umatilla River from Threemile Dam to make their way up through the Umatilla River and past Feed Canal Dam. Biologists will continue to monitor operation of the temporary

modifications through the winter to ensure fish are able to pass Feed Canal Dam efficiently. ODFW biologists and engineers are working together through UMMEOC to devise a more permanent solution.

Daly Creek Ranch

Idaho Power Company (IPC) purchased the Daly Creek Ranch in late 2006 as part of their Hells Canyon Complex Hydroelectric Project relicensing effort. A new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license hasn't been issued for this project yet so no one is sure what mitigation will be required. IPC purchased the Daly Creek Ranch with the expectation that it could play an important part of their wildlife mitigation program, regardless of what the eventual license requirements would be.

The Daly Creek Ranch is located south of the Powder River arm of Brownlee Reservoir. It contains approximately 10,030 acres of upland and 182 acres of riparian habitat, some of which is quite unique, and some of the best cottonwood galleries in this area. The Ranch contains a heron rookery, bald eagle nest and roost, and is home to variety of waterfowl. It is located in some of the best chukar and Hungarian partridge habitat of the state. The upland sage-brush steppe of this area is an important wintering area for mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk.



The Daly Creek Ranch was owned by an absentee landowner for some time and was leased to a series of different individuals on a short term basis. The ranch was heavily grazed which lead to degradation of both range and riparian conditions. Since obtaining the ranch, IPC has hired a resident ranch manager and spent more than \$1.5 million in an effort to rehabilitate degraded habitats, treat weeds and upgrade farm operations. ODFW is looking forward to working with IPC on a habitat management and public access plan.

Northeast Oregon Wolves

The number of reports of wolves in Oregon continues to increase. Most reports are of sightings in northeast Oregon. From January 2008 through the end of October 2008, ODFW has received 153 reports, surpassing the 122 reports received during all of 2007. While some reports are more reliable than others, in a growing number of reports ODFW staff have been able to confirm wolf activity through location of tracks, scat or howling. A few reliable reports of two wolves running together have been made in Union, Baker, and Wallowa Counties.

ODFW and US Fish and Wildlife biologists are still attempting to locate, capture, and radio-collar wolves from the Wenaha Unit wolf pack discovered in July 2008. This pack represents the first confirmed breeding of wolves in modern Oregon history. Recent reports of howling suggest the pack is still in this area.

We are continuing to monitor B300, the radio-collared wolf from Idaho found along the Imnaha River last year. There is some evidence of a second wolf in the same area as B300.

Winter snow provides an opportunity to track wolves. This winter ODFW will be increasing our field effort to monitor wolf activity in northeast Oregon. This should help locate areas of higher activity and get a sense of whether a sighting represents a single animal, a pair or a pack.

No wolf depredation of livestock is known to have occurred in Oregon to-date. ODFW staff has responded to two reports of wolf depredation and one of a wolf in close proximity to livestock. One of the depredation reports was a report of a calf killed by a coyote, while in the second report we were unable to determine why

the calf died and no evidence of wolf activity was found. Northeast Region staff were very thorough in the investigation of a report of a wolf in close proximity to livestock. While the investigation appears to confirm that this was a wolf, the animal left the area and hasn't been observed since.

In March 2008 the Northern Rocky Mountain Distinct Population Segment (DPS) was delisted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This DPS delisting included the eastern third of Oregon. Lawsuits were immediately filed by a consortium of wolf conservation groups objecting to the delisting. In July a court injunction was issued stopping the delisting pending resolution of the lawsuit. In September, USFWS asked the court to remand the delisting rule back to them for further consideration and rulemaking. On October 24, 2008 the USFWS reopened the public comment period on its proposal to delist the gray wolf in the northern Rocky Mountains. ODFW continues to work closely with USFWS on their delisting efforts.

HIGH DESERT REGION

Chip Dale, Region Manager

Miller Lake Lamprey

The Miller Lake Lamprey Conservation Plan was the first Commission adopted plan under ODFW's Native Fish Conservation Policy. The fish passage barrier installed in 1959 during the chemical treatment project on Miller Lake was removed in 2005 as directed in the plan. ODFW staff recently surveyed Miller Creek to document the presence of lamprey in the occupied reaches, and record upstream movement of the fish. Lamprey continues to be abundant in reaches where they were documented during the 2004 distribution surveys. Sub-adult lamprey were documented approximately 100 meters upstream from the previous reported observation. Currently, Miller Lake lamprey exist approximately six kilometers below Miller Lake. Klamath Watershed District staff will reconvene the Miller Lake Lamprey Working Group in 2009 to discuss current progress toward re-establishment of this unique species in Miller Lake.

Klamath/Malheur Mule Deer Seasons

Opening weekend success in the Klamath Watershed was better than expected considering the low fawn ratios measured in March 2008. Numerous comments were made regarding the lack of deer in the Warner unit, but overall hunter satisfaction was fair. OSP reported a lower number of violations than observed in years past. This was the last year for the Interstate Unit action plan, using decoys to measure non-compliance (hunting without a valid tag). OSP estimate a 10-15 percent non-compliance rate in 2008 which is an improvement from 33 percent non-compliance two years ago. The final action plan report will be completed by December 1.

Hunting pressure in the Malheur watershed appeared to be lower than expected, likely due to high gas prices and economic conditions.

2008 KLWD Opening Weekend Mule Deer Hunter Success			
WMU	Hunters Checked	Harvest	% Success
Keno	25	3	14%
Klamath Falls	0	0	0%
Sprague	12	0	0%
Beaty Butte	3	1	33%
Wagontire	0	0	0%
North Warner	14	4	28%
South Warner	37	3	9%
Interstate	55	7	13%
Silver Lake	249	34	14%
Fort Rock	209	11	11%
Watershed Total	604	63	10%

2008 MAWD Opening Weekend Mule Deer Hunter Success			
WMU	Hunters Checked	Harvest	% Success
Silvies	81	14	19%
Malheur River	101	19	16%
Beulah	22	1	5%
Owyhee	19	2	11%
Trout Creek Mts.	10	0	0%
Steen's	36	7	19%
Watershed Total	269	43	16%

Hunter success, as measured on the second day of the season, was average in the Silvies and Malheur River units, and below average in the Beulah and Owyhee units. Most hunters commented on observing high doe and fawn numbers, but struggled to find bucks. Opening

weekend success averaged 16 percent across all units sampled within the Watershed. As expected, many comments pertaining to the conspicuous absence of yearling bucks were noted due to poor fawn recruitment last year.

OSP reports LOP tag violations continue to be a substantial enforcement issue in the watershed, in spite of an action plan designed to increase compliance. The list of violations reported includes multiple false applications, hunting off deeded property, and hunting in a unit for which the tag was not valid. In particular the Trout Creek Mountains Unit, an area managed for trophy opportunity, has been the focus of enforcement efforts in recent years. There are only 50 tags made available to the public on an annual basis, while approximately 40 tags are issued through the LOP process.

Deschutes Watershed Deer Seasons

A mild rain the day before the opener and drizzle over opening weekend helped to improve hunting conditions throughout the Deschutes Watershed District, as the woods quieted down and the deer remained active longer. Hunter success in the White River unit appeared to be about average, with hunters taking the occasional deer. Hunters in the Hood Unit had the usual difficult time finding deer in the thick brush. In the west Biggs and Maupin Units hunters reported seeing and harvesting older age class bucks than in the past several years. The Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) hunter check station at Biggs Junction saw a slight decrease in samples collected as compared to the 2007 inaugural sampling season. This may be due to higher gas prices, or lower harvest success in the NE Region units by hunters from the valley area who were retuning home.

In the Ochoco District harvest success averaged eight percent, slightly below the nine percent observed in 2007. Composition of bucks harvested was heavy to yearlings, which is typical. This year 420 hunters with 34 bucks were checked compared to 520 hunters with 45 bucks checked last year. Twenty-four (71 percent) of the bucks observed in the harvest were yearlings, spike or forked, which is virtually identical to the 71 percent and 69 percent yearling ratio observed in 2007 and 2006 respectively. Preliminary results from OSP checks in Rager TMA indicate violations were similar to recent years, with five operating motor vehicle closed area access (OHV), two ATV

operating with loaded firearm, three failure to validate (tagging), and one hunting with improper tag. Eleven CWD samples were collected as part of the disease monitoring effort.

In the Deschutes District last spring's fawn ratios in all units were decent, 33-50 fawns per 100 adults, resulting in fair numbers of yearling bucks available for hunters. In addition, all units on the District are at or above our buck escapement management objective, which translates to a good adult ratio of bucks available for hunters. However, population levels in all units are below population Management Objective established for the units, resulting in lower overall deer numbers than what is desirable.

Hunter success on opening weekend throughout the Deschutes District was nine percent, relative to ten percent in 2007. As expected, Metolius and Paulina units had the highest hunter success. Success in the Wagontire Unit was low but should increase as the season progresses, usually ending up in the 50 percent range. Overall hunter satisfaction was good in the Metolius, fair in the Paulina/Wagontire, and low in the Fort Rock and Upper Deschutes. This observation is subjective, and is based on hunter checks in the field and on telephone conversations with hunters. General observations in the Paulina/Wagontire indicated that hunters weren't seeing bucks, and in the Fort Rock/Upper Deschutes they weren't seeing deer. 2008 appeared to be a "typical" enforcement year, with many violations but nothing too atypical.

ODFW continues to have significant enforcement issues in the Metolius unit, and to a lesser extent in the Upper Deschutes and west Fort Rock units. The most common enforcement issue is hunters hunting units with western Oregon tags, or with the wrong tag, or no tag at all. ODFW has drastically reduced tags in the last few years in the Metolius, from 2000 to 500, in order to maintain buck ratios, but it is difficult to reduce illegal harvest which staff believes is substantial in this unit. Legal hunters continue to see reduced hunting opportunity due to these illegal activities. Preliminary data from the East Slope Cascades deer study units for the fall 2008 time period show that there were two collared deer harvested legally, and four collared deer harvested illegally; the Metolius is not one of these units. Thus far through the life

of the study, relative to legal harvest, illegal harvest has been a significant mortality factor of the collared deer.

2008 DWD Opening Weekend Mule Deer Hunter Success			
WMU	Hunters Checked	Harvest	% Success
Maury	62	6	10%
Ochoco	261	21	8%
Grizzly	97	7	7%
Paulina	233	24	10%
Metolius	69	18	26%
Fort Rock	208	10	5%
Wagontire	45	2	4%
Upper Deschutes	187	14	7%
Watershed Total	1162	102	9%

Harney County Wind Power Development

Wind energy project development continues to be a forefront issue in Harney County. Currently there are five wind development companies reviewing potential wind development at 10 different sites within the county, including six on BLM land, three on private land, and one on Department of State Lands (DSL) property. Of particular concern to ODFW are potential impacts to sage grouse from wind tower development on or very near lek and nesting sites. Many of the proposed sites on BLM land and at least one of the sites on private land are in close proximity to lek and nesting areas. Greater sage-grouse are a species of concern in Oregon due to declining abundance, distribution, and productivity over the past century. Greater sage-grouse have been petitioned for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act numerous times, and currently are under review with a decision scheduled for December 2008.

As a result of these concerns, ODFW is recommending a three mile no development buffer around lek sites. Meteorological (Met) towers are currently in place on the private and DSL sites, as well as two of the BLM sites. Met towers are used to measure meteorological conditions to determine feasibility of producing wind generated electricity at a given site. A conditional use permit for development of a wind farm has been issued by Harney County for one of the private land developments; permits for the other two sites are pending. All three private land wind farm sites are on the northern slope of Steen's Mountain. Each site is proposed for 104 MW, just under the 105 MW criteria for Oregon

Department of Energy oversight. The BLM site on the north end of the Pueblo Mountains, near Fields, appears to be progressing toward development and could be the first wind farm created on BLM land in Oregon.

NORTHWEST REGION

Chris Wheaton, Region Manager

North Coast Spring Chinook Spawning Surveys for 2008

Biologists felt they achieved very accurate peak counts during this year's surveys. Overall, it looks as if things were very similar to last year. Eighty live fish were observed in the Wilson basin during the 2008 spawning season, almost identical to 2007 which was 79, carcass recovery was slightly higher. Fish held upriver early in the season, but appeared to drop downriver to spawn.

In the Trask basin we observed a total of 649 live fish during the 2008 season. This basin showed an increase since last year, with 162 more live Chinook observed and almost twice the number of carcasses recovered.

We saw 247 live fish in the Nestucca basin this season. The numbers were very similar to last year with nine more live fish observed, and four fewer carcasses recovered; however, the wild component seemed much smaller in 2008.

Fall Chinook and Coho Returns

Through November 1 a total of 6,572 coho, 3,721 adults and 2,851 jacks, have passed Willamette Falls. Jack returns are generally very high across the region, which often indicates good adult returns the following year.

Angling has generally been slow for fall Chinook along the North coast. Anglers did, however encounter abundant coho salmon. There were some enforcement issues with anglers mis-identifying large coho as Chinook. The wild coho fishery on Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes is in full swing as good numbers of coho are returning to the lakes.

On the Sandy River angling effort was very high during the peak of the coho run, with two hundred or more vehicles parked at the hatchery daily. Staff encountered many anglers with their limit of three fish. There was also some

enforcement problems as the river dropped to low levels and coho stacked up in Cedar Creek.

Artificial Redds

Fish Biologists tried their hands at constructing salmon redds with rakes on the McKenzie River above Trail Bridge Reservoir and in the Middle Fork Willamette above Hills Creek Reservoir. Adult salmon were not released into these areas in 2008 because of low returns and the need to maintain broodstock at hatcheries.

ODFW's initial work was in the McKenzie River with the assistance of Willamette National Forest biologists. Approximately 96,000 eyed eggs were placed in 14 "redds". After digging up all that gravel, staff has great appreciation for the work salmon accomplish with only their tails. Another 56,000 eggs were placed in "redds" on the upper Middle Fork Willamette. A cursory evaluation will be done in the spring to determine if any fry were produced.

Salmon or their eggs are released above these barriers because they are important to the diet of the bull trout in these waters. Salmon have also been found to emigrate through the dams with some success.

A Message from Steve Mamoyac:

"Our family extends its sincerest gratitude to everyone that held us in their thoughts and prayers during the search for our son Derek. We are forever grateful for your compassion and support."

Steve, Joy, Derek, and Sophia Mamoyac

SOUTHWEST REGION

Steve Denney, Region Manager

Gold Ray Dam Removal Project

ODFW received a project proposal from Jackson County to evaluate Gold Ray Dam on the upper Rogue River (RM 125) and explore dam removal or notching as the preferred alternative. Gold Ray Dam creates a liability and maintenance responsibility for the county, fails to meet fish-passage criteria, and likely

creates an overall negative impact on native fish populations that support economically important sport fisheries. Gold Ray Dam has been identified as one of the agency's top priorities for improvement to fish passage. The cost for

upgrading the facility to meet criteria will be sizeable.

Currently the primary use of Gold Ray Dam is for the ODFW fish-counting station. This station provides very good information for fish management on the upper Rogue River. However, ODFW feels that the benefits from potential dam removal outweigh the benefits of the count station. ODFW is exploring other methods for estimating fish abundance above the dam site.

The impoundment behind the dam has significant sediment buildup. Part of this evaluation will determine the potential impacts of releasing the sediment downstream. Experiences from the Marmot Dam removal will be able to provide some insight to this impact.

While the upstream impoundment provides recreation and habitat benefits for numerous fish and wildlife species, this section of the Rogue River was likely used extensively by spawning Chinook salmon before the dam. Dam removal will also provide uninterrupted migration and rearing habitat for anadromous fish and will provide uninterrupted fishing access. To date two dams, Elk Creek and Gold Hill, have been removed or notched. Savage Rapids Dam is scheduled for removal in 2009. Removal of Gold Ray Dam will be the fourth dam removed in the Rogue River Basin.

South Coast Fall Chinook Conservation Plan

Rogue watershed personnel will begin work on a South Coast Fall Chinook Conservation Plan this fall as part of the Native Fish Conservation Plan. This plan will encompass all fall Chinook populations south of Elk River, but will not include Elk River. These populations are all south migrating populations and form one evolutionary significant unit. With the recent downturn in fall Chinook populations and other unique issues surrounding south coast Chinook populations, staff feels the timing is right to bring the public together to identify issues and craft solutions and management direction. Topics that will be addressed include angling regulations, low water closures, Chetco bubble fisheries, broodstock collection, hatchery releases, and supplemental stocking programs. Plans are to identify a public advisory group and begin holding meetings by late November with a draft plan out for public review by late summer,

and presentation to the Commission in the fall of 2009.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Roger Fuhrman, Administrator

Mentored Youth Hunter Program

The Mentored Youth Hunter Program continues to be very popular. By early November 3,147 youth signed up for the program as compared to 1,632 youth that participated in the program last year. In 2008, nearly 60 percent of the participants indicated this was their first hunting experience. Nearly all of them said they would be hunting with a parent or grandparent. Young hunters are asked to send in photos and letters about their successful hunts for posting on the ODFW website.

Dollars at Work

License Dollars at Work, a new feature available on the ODFW website, highlights some of the ODFW projects that benefit Oregon's fish and wildlife. ODFW field staff submit articles to Information & Education for posting on the ODFW website and inclusion in the weekly recreation report. Recent articles include research to determine the effect of introduced species on kokanee in Wallowa Lake; restoration of mountain quail in eastern Oregon; OSP/ODFW enforcement efforts during hunting seasons; and new hunting and fishing opportunities. In addition, some of the articles have been successfully pitched to local media outlets, resulting in positive coverage of ODFW efforts. For example, an article on the Sandy River Chinook program was also picked up by the Sandy and Gresham newspapers. All of the articles are available on the ODFW website at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/odfw_at_work/.

Lapsed Angler Marketing

A direct mail marketing campaign targeting lapsed anglers proved to be very successful. The campaign, conducted with the help of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF), mailed postcards to 38,876 lapsed anglers this spring. According to RBFF analysis, 14.9 percent of those recipients, 5,809 individuals, purchased some type of license which resulted \$206,358 in direct revenue to the agency. An estimated \$43,509 in additional funds will be generated through the federal Sport Fish Restoration program funding.

While the direct marketing project produced a positive return on investment, it also helped ODFW better understand its customers. The campaign targeted customer segments based on demographics and other characteristics. As expected, certain customer segments and tiers responded favorably to the mailers. Additionally, other segments and tiers responded more positively than expected. This will give ODFW valuable insight when crafting future direct marketing campaigns.

OREGON CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Holly Michael, Conservation Strategy Leader

Holly Michael represented ODFW at the National Conference of The Wildlife Society on November 8. One of the sessions focused on the role of state wildlife action plans in conservation and how state chapters of the Wildlife Society can do more to assist with support and implementation of the plans. Holly spoke to Oregon's success in involving the public in conservation action.

The Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Sub-committee of the Global Warming Commission completed an Adaptation Strategy report and recommendations for use by the Global Warming Commission and committees. Staff from the two sub-committee co-chairs, ODFW and Defenders of Wildlife, will brief the Fish and Wildlife Commission at an upcoming meeting.

The second round of Oregon 150 grant distributions, co-sponsored by ODFW and OWEB, have been announced. These grants focus on four iconic species in Oregon with Conservation Strategy-focused projects and research. Grants will be administered by OWEB, which is a strong supporter of the Conservation Strategy.

Examples of the 14 projects:

Ash Creek Forest Management has a delta restoration project to restore historic habitat conditions at the confluence of the Sandy Channels and Columbia River by removing invasive vegetation and planting native trees and shrubs to benefit beaver and Chinook.

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation are restoring grasslands to benefit

the western meadowlark on the Wanaket Wildlife Area near Pendleton.

North Santiam Watershed Council has six habitat restoration projects to benefit Chinook salmon and beaver. The work includes wood placement, bank shaping and vegetated soil lifts on Stout Creek, a tributary of the North Santiam River.

Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District received two grants. One is the Omega Orchards project in The Dalles, restoring two acres of native grasslands to benefit the Oregon swallowtail butterfly on agricultural land. It will build on butterfly resources offered by nearby oak habitat.

Additional grants were awarded to: City of Eugene, Heritage Seedlings Inc., Institute for Applied Ecology, Mid Coast Watershed Council, Nez Perce Tribe, Oregon Trout, SOLV, South Santiam Watershed Council, The Nature Conservancy and Upper Sycan Watershed Council.

OCEAN SALMON AND COLUMBIA RIVER PROGRAM

Tony Nigro, Program Manager

White Sturgeon Conservation Plan

In July 2008, Department staff began work on a conservation plan for white sturgeon in the Columbia River downstream from Bonneville Dam. The plan is being developed under the Oregon Native Fish Conservation Policy because this population has "high public interest or economic or other impact on the local community." The white sturgeon population in the lower Columbia River provides significant commercial and recreational harvest opportunities. Commercial fisheries have harvested 1.25 million pounds of white sturgeon from the lower Columbia River between 2003 and 2007. During this same time, Oregon and Washington sport anglers have harvested nearly 150,000 white sturgeon. The conservation plan will provide a framework for managing this important species while ensuring sustainable harvest opportunities and other ecological and societal benefits.

The conservation plan will: 1) describe current species status and population dynamics, 2) develop explicit species conservation and

management objectives, 3) describe limiting factors and threats affecting sturgeon abundance and productivity, 4) develop strategies for dealing with limiting factors and threats, and 5) define research, monitoring and evaluation necessary to effectively manage the uncertainties relevant to species status and resource management.

To date, efforts have focused on describing the current status and population dynamics of white sturgeon in the lower Columbia River and documenting current measures related to population monitoring and fisheries management. We have also developed a preliminary list of limiting factors and threats, and critical unknowns that compromise our ability to confidently assess how white sturgeon are responding to changes in their environment.

We are currently in the process of establishing technical and policy advisory committees. The technical advisory committee will initially provide peer-review of our technical assessments and will eventually help refine conservation goals and objectives based on these assessments. The policy advisory committee will help refine management goals and objectives, and strategies and actions to deal with the limiting factors and threats. The first meeting of the technical advisory committee is scheduled for this month, while the first meeting of the policy advisory committee will occur sometime in January 2009. Ultimately, we plan to have a draft plan ready for public review next spring.

Throughout the initial phases of our conservation planning, we have worked closely with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to ensure its technical and policy perspectives are reflected in our efforts. WDFW has committed staff to work with us to develop the scientific and management foundation of the plan. They also intend to work with us throughout the planning process to help ensure the final product serves our shared management needs.

The three-year sturgeon fisheries management accord we have with WDFW expires at the end of this year. Because of our commitment to this conservation planning process and its importance to setting the context for fisheries management, we have worked with WDFW to develop a proposal to "roll over" the current accord for one more year. This will allow us to focus on completing the conservation plan. It will also provide an opportunity to base the next

fisheries management plan on well-defined and publicly-vetted conservation and management priorities.

In closing, development of a conservation plan is timely and important for responsible management of this ecologically and economically important species. The effects of new threats like predation by sea lions on large white sturgeon that serve as broodstock for the population, and on smaller white sturgeon that seed this broodstock, have not been fully considered and evaluated in current management plans. Continued expansion of sport fisheries throughout the lower Columbia River will increase pressure on the population. Although the most recent stock assessment data indicates the population has been relatively stable in recent years, there are some signs that this may be changing. The time is right for a fresh and comprehensive assessment of the population and our efforts to ensure it remains healthy, sustainable and robust.

**END OF FIELD REPORTS FOR
November 14, 2008**