

# **WENAHA WILDLIFE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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(Updated December 2017)**

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## **Executive Summary**

Demand for big game hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities has traditionally been high in northeast Oregon. The favored game species, and arguably the most viewable, are elk, deer and bighorn sheep. Although summer forage for deer, elk and bighorn sheep is abundant throughout the Grande Ronde and Wenaha drainages, populations of these species may be limited by available winter range.

Because heavy snows cover forage at high and mid-elevation areas during winter months, elk and deer migrate to lower elevations along the Wenaha and Grande Ronde rivers. These areas are predominantly private lands managed for cattle and production of agricultural crops.

Elk and deer migrating to these areas in winter have caused conflicts between landowners and wildlife dating back to the late 1940s. Elk and deer damage haystacks, grain fields, hay fields, and other agriculture crops, and utilize pasture forage intended for domestic livestock. Extensive damage to fences also occurs.

Since 1953 several management plans have been developed for the wildlife area. The most recent long range management plan was adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in December 1993. This 2017 Wenaha Wildlife Area Management Plan is a revision the 2007 plan.

The 2017 Wenaha Wildlife Area Management Plan offers a comprehensive vision and action plan for the next 10 years.

This plan describes issues and appropriate actions. These actions will be implemented during the life of this plan, but are subject to funding and personnel availability. The management plan will be reviewed in 2022 to gauge the implementation progress and make necessary revisions and revised in its entirety in 2027.

## **Introduction**

### **Purpose of the Plan**

This document is a long range plan designed to guide the management of the Wenaha Wildlife Area (WWA) for the next 10 years. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's management planning process for wildlife areas involves the development of broad goals for the areas, formulation of specific objectives and management strategies to achieve those objectives. The purposes of this plan are:

- To provide clear direction for the management of the WWA over the next 10 years;
- To provide long-term continuity in wildlife area management;
- To communicate the Department's management priorities for the WWA to its neighbors, visitors, and to the public;
- To ensure that management programs on the WWA are consistent with the original mandate and purpose of the area when it was first established;

- To ensure that management of the WWA is consistent with Federal, State and local plans, and;
- To provide justification for staffing, operations, maintenance, and capital improvement needs on the WWA.

### **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Mission and Authority**

The mission of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is the only state agency charged exclusively with protecting Oregon's fish and wildlife resources. The state Wildlife Policy (ORS 496.012) and Food Fish Management Policy (ORS 506.109) are the primary statutes that govern the management of fish and wildlife resources.

### **Purpose and Need of the Wenaha Wildlife Area**

The WWA is managed primarily for the purpose of providing natural and supplemental forage for Rocky Mountain elk, mule and white-tailed deer, and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep as well as minimize big game damage to adjacent private agricultural crops. The wildlife area also is managed to enhance habitat for indigenous fish and wildlife species and to provide wildlife oriented recreational opportunities for the public.

The natural resources on the WWA need to be managed in such a manner as to protect, maintain, enhance, and restore fish and wildlife habitat to support optimum population levels of all species for the enjoyment of present and future citizens.

To protect these natural resources, management programs and strategies utilized on the WWA will meet or exceed habitat protection policies and standards set by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The vision for the WWA is as follows:

*The Wenaha Wildlife Area provides habitat for all beneficial wildlife species, reduces wintering big game damage to private lands in the lower Wenaha/Grande Ronde River basin, and provides quality wildlife oriented recreational opportunities for public enjoyment.*

### **Wildlife Area Goals and Objectives**

Wildlife area goals are broad, open-ended statements of desired future conditions that convey a purpose but do not define measurable units. In contrast, objectives are more concise statements of what the Department wants to achieve, how much the Department wants to achieve, when and where to achieve it, and who will be responsible for the work. Objectives derive from goals and provide the basis for determining strategies, monitoring wildlife area accomplishments, and evaluating the success of strategies. The goals and objectives for the WWA are:

**Goal 1: To protect, enhance and restore habitat diversity for all beneficial wildlife**

**on the area.**

**Objective 1.1:** Maintain, develop, and enhance winter habitat diversity to provide for up to 1,400 elk, 600 mule deer, 150 white-tailed deer and 150 bighorn sheep.

**Objective 1.2:** Maintain, develop, and enhance habitats for other beneficial fish and wildlife.

**Objective 1.3:** To maintain and enhance wildlife area facilities, structures, and equipment to facilitate habitat management and public use projects on the wildlife area.

**Objective 1.4:** To promote ecologically sound land uses with those responsible for administering adjacent public and private lands.

**Goal 2: Minimize or alleviate conflicts caused by elk and deer to privately owned lands and agricultural crops.**

**Objective 2.1:** Develop and maintain habitats to attract and hold wintering elk and deer.

**Objective 2.2:** Provide a supplemental winter food source for elk and deer to reduce damage.

**Goal 3: To provide a variety of quality wildlife oriented recreational and educational opportunities to the public which are compatible with Goals 1 and 2.**

**Objective 3.1:** To provide approximately 10,000 hunting, trapping and angling use days annually.

**Objective 3.2:** To provide approximately 25,000 wildlife oriented recreation, education and interpretation use days annually.

### **Wildlife Area Establishment**

The development of the WWA began in 1953 with the acquisition of five parcels of land consisting of 4,400 acres. The Department continued to purchase additional lands, acquiring 1,670 acres in 1954 and another 760 acres in 1955. From 1961 to the present the Department has purchased or received another 4,219 acres. The wildlife area currently consists of 12,379 acres. In addition, management agreements with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) were written for 1,329 acres within or adjacent to the wildlife area.

The WWA was established in response to continuing complaints from landowners concerned with elk damage on private lands during winter months. Over 18,000 acres near the initial wildlife area purchase has been identified as critical big game winter

range. A small resident population of elk and deer summer in the Wenaha basin; however the problem stemmed primarily from elk which summered in Oregon and Washington and then migrated down the Wenaha River drainage into the Troy area in early winter months. Elk remained on private lands until April when they returned to summer range in the Wenaha basin, on lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service in both Oregon and Washington.

Mule deer were the primary species using the wildlife area when the first purchases were made by the Department. Small populations of whitetail deer were also present; however white-tailed deer were listed as uncommon or rare in the early 1950s. Except for the occasional garden damage complaint, deer were not considered a problem.

## **Description and Environment**

### **Physical Resources**

#### **Location**

The WWA is located approximately 50 miles north of the town of Enterprise in Wallowa County, Oregon, adjacent to the unincorporated community of Troy. The Grande Ronde River borders the wildlife area on the south and east. The Umatilla National Forest Walla Walla Ranger District borders the wildlife area on the north and west. Private lands also form the eastern and northern boundary.

**Figure 1** shows the location of the Wenaha Wildlife Area and its key features.

#### **Climate**

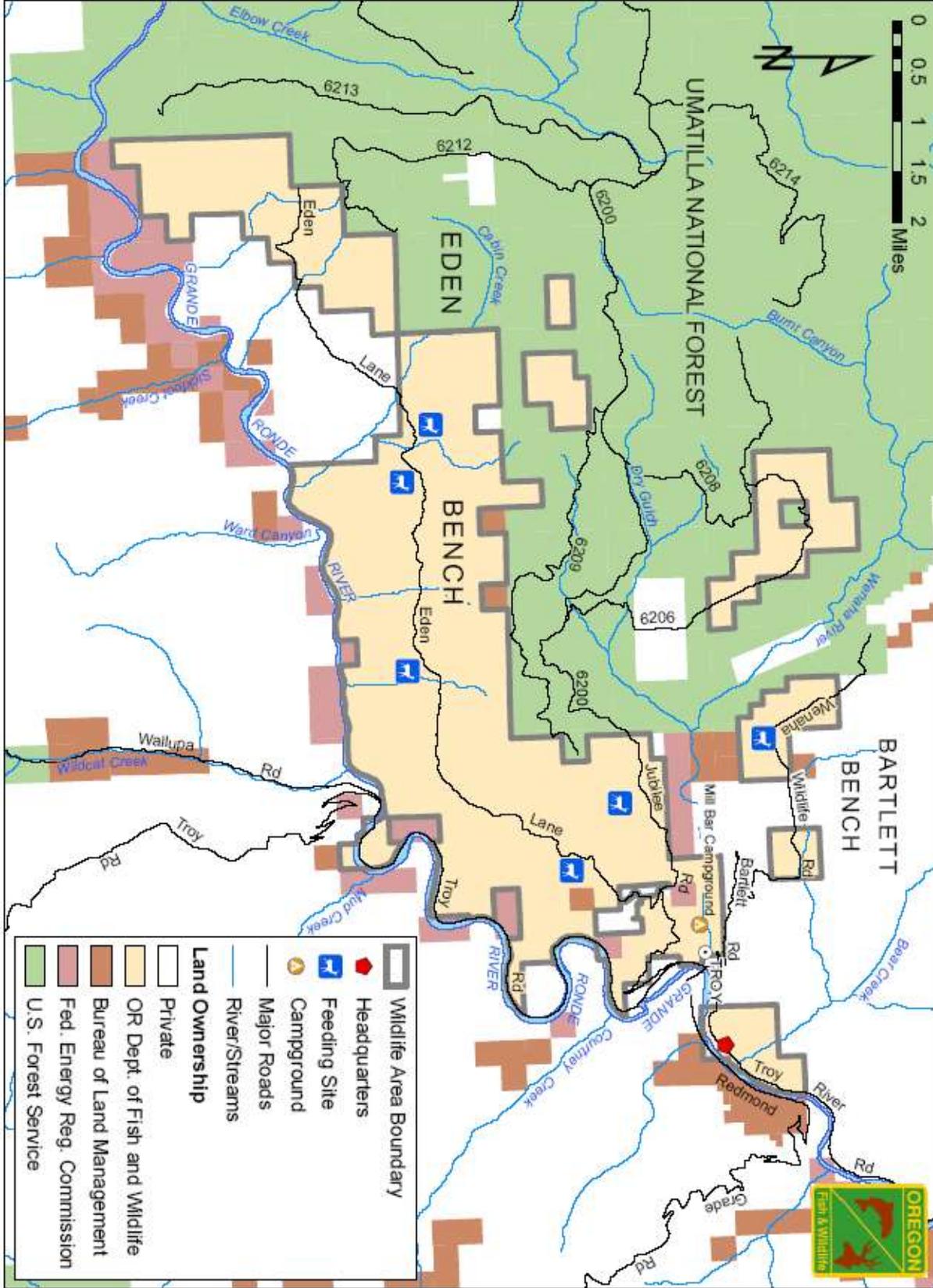
The WWA has a "lower montane" climate typical of areas in northeastern Oregon at elevations of 1,400 to 4,000 feet depending on aspect. The wildlife area receives 16 to 20 inches of precipitation annually, mostly in the form of snow. Temperatures range from a low of -30°F to a high of 110°F. Snow may accumulate anywhere on the area, however most snow fall occurs at the 2,000 feet elevation and higher. Snow pack may reach a depth of five feet but averages approximately two feet.

#### **Topography and Soils**

The elevation of the wildlife area ranges from 1,400 feet along the Grande Ronde River to 4,000 feet on upper Bartlett Bench.

The wildlife area contains reaches of two major rivers. As mentioned previously the Grande Ronde River flows along the southeast boundary approximately 16 miles and the lower three miles of the Wenaha River flows through the northeastern portion of the area. Both river canyons are characterized as steep, shallow soil slopes with numerous outcrops and vertical rim rocks.

Figure 1 - Wenaha Wildlife Area Features and Ownership



Bartlett Bench lies along the northern edge of the Wenaha River: Eden Bench lies along the southern edge and separates the Wenaha drainage from the Grande Ronde. The Wenaha River enters the Grande Ronde River at the community of Troy. Lands found on both Bartlett and Eden Benches consist of flats interspersed with many steep, short drainages that produce intermittent water courses which flow into one of the two rivers.

More than 20 soil types have been identified in the basin. These soil types have developed as a result of various geography and weather extremes. Soil depths range from several feet on flat benches and stream banks to less than one inch on some of the steep, south facing slopes. Soil fertility is highly variable, with deep soil sites capable of growing many vegetation types, while the shallow soils only support annual grasses and small forbs.

### **Habitat Types**

Many of the natural plant communities in the WWA have been altered from their original condition by various types of human activities and introduction of non-native plants. The WWA was logged in the past by both prior landowners and the Department. Ridge tops and north facing slopes have good timber producing potential and have second growth stands of Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), grand fir (*Abies grandis*), western larch (*Larix occidentalis*), lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) and white fir (*Abies concolor*). Historically, native bunchgrasses were found on the slopes and benches. Overuse by domestic livestock occurred prior to the Department purchases and conversion of deep soil communities to hay and grain production, limited the stands of native grasses to soils too rocky to farm or too steep for livestock usage. Good stands of bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*) and Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) can be found at more remote sites. The abandoned farm and grazing lands are currently stocked with invasive species including cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), bulbous bluegrass (*Poa bulbosa*), sulphur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*) and other noxious plants. Over the years several hundred acres of abandon farm lands and pastures have been seeded by the Department to desirable forage species. Most common species established include orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), fescues, smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*) and legumes. Plantings of alfalfa (*Psoralea* spp) and Burnett (*Sanguisorba* spp) have also been established.

Another very important habitat are the remnant fruit orchards planted by homesteaders and past private landowners of the WWA. These orchards consist of apple, prune, crab apple, wild plum and cherry trees.

The wildlife area also has many shrub and browse plant species such as ninebark (*Physocarpus malvaceus*), black hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*), ocean spray (*Holodiscus* spp.), elderberry (*Vaccinium* spp), woodrose (*Rosa* spp.), huckleberry (*Vaccinium* spp.), blackberry (*Rubus discolor*), alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), water birch (*Betula occidentalis*), cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), and several varieties of willow (*Salix* spp.).

The area has approximately 174 acres that are managed for hay production: 141 acres producing alfalfa, 11 acres producing grass hay, and 22 acres of cereal grains. Of the 141 acres of alfalfa, 24 are irrigated and 117 are non-irrigated. The Department-owned irrigation system consists of four "Big Gun" cannons, flex hoses to connect the cannons to the buried irrigation lines and a 40 horse power electric irrigation pump. The Department owns no harvesting equipment; therefore grass hay is removed, through a lease agreement with an adjacent landowner. The Department's lease fees are collected in the form of barter. The barter is received in the form of goods (e.g. higher quality alfalfa) or services as directed by the area administration.

Currently there are no known threatened or endangered plant species that occur on the wildlife area. However there are three plant species that are federally listed as species of concern located in the lower Grande Ronde subbasin: Wallowa ricegrass (*Achnatherum wallowaensis*), Douglas clover (*Trifolium douglasii*) and Blue Mountain onion (*Allium diction*).

The wildlife habitat types and their approximate acreages for the WWA are shown in **Table 1**. The approximate acreages listed below include both Department-owned land and federally-owned land within the WWA.

**Table 1. Habitat Types and Approximate Acreages on the Wenaha Wildlife Area**

Habitat Type	Acres*
Eastside (interior) mixed conifer forest	4960
Eastside (interior) canyon shrublands	5350
Eastside (interior) grasslands	770
Agriculture, pasture and mixed environs	1000
Open water - lakes, rivers, streams	199
Eastside (interior) riparian wetlands	100
	<b>12,379</b>

\*These acreage amounts were derived from available geographic information system data, not from county tax lot information, thus there may be some discrepancies.

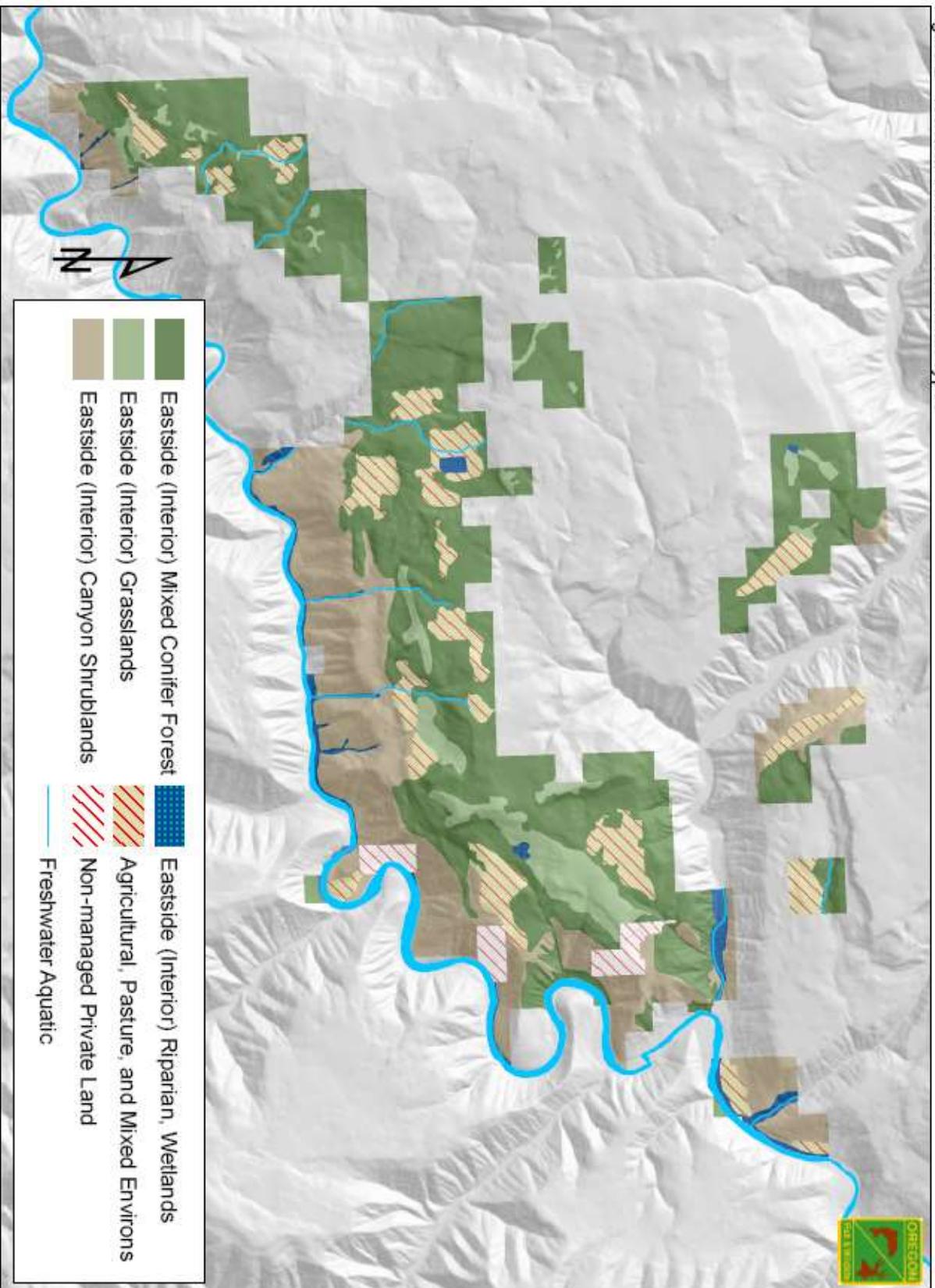
**Figure 2** shows the habitat types present on the wildlife area.

Some of the more common plant species found on the wildlife area are discussed below.

Conifer forest species consist of ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, grand fir, western larch, Engelmann spruce and white fir.

Deciduous tree or shrub species include black hawthorn, water birch (*Betula occidentalis*), alder (*Alnus* spp), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), willows, black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), and black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*). In the valley bottoms, there are scattered wet meadows and a relatively well developed riparian zone with black cottonwood, water birch and willows.

Figure 2 - Wenaha Wildlife Area Habitat Types



Grasses, legumes, and forbs include fescue, pinegrass (spp., wheatgrass, bluegrass (spp.), timothy, meadow foxtail (spp.), orchard grass, clovers (spp.), alfalfa and Burnett.

**Appendix A** contains a list of trees, shrubs, forbs, legumes, composites, and grasses found on the WWA. Formal botanical surveys to document and identify all plant species present in the area have not been conducted. Therefore, Appendix A provides only a partial accounting of the plants in the area.

### **Biological Resources**

The WWA is very diverse in elevation, habitat types, and water availability. With habitat types ranging from wet meadows, open pastures and shrub steppe to forest-covered ridges, the WWA supports numerous species of fish and wildlife. Management that benefits elk and deer also provides benefits for other wildlife such as furbearers, other mammals, upland game birds, waterfowl, songbirds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Currently 170 species have been identified on the WWA, including 97 species of birds, 37 species of mammals, 23 species of fish, six species of amphibians and seven species of reptiles. See **Appendix B** for a list of species.

### **Mammals**

The WWA is managed primarily for Rocky Mountain elk (*Cervus elaphus nelsoni*), mule and white-tail deer (*Odocoileus hemionus* and *Odocoileus virginianus ochrourus*) and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*). Although there are resident deer, elk and bighorn sheep that use portions of the wildlife area on a year-round basis, migrating elk and deer move to the area normally in late November or December. Supplemental feeding occurs in the winter to reduce damage. Most of the elk and deer move to summer range during the March-April period. Small mammals, furbearers and larger mammals use the WWA year-round. Cougar (*Puma concolor*) and black bear (*Ursus americanus*) are common on the area. Shiras moose (*Alces alces shirasi*) have moved to northeastern Oregon from Washington and Idaho and a small population has been found in the Wenaha management unit.

### **Birds**

Because of the many habitat types on the WWA, a wide variety of bird species can be found throughout the area and along the river corridors. Many species of song birds and waterfowl are migratory and only frequent the WWA seasonally during breeding and brood-rearing periods.

Dusky grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*) are common at higher elevations while ruffed grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*) are found along brushy creek bottoms. Wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), gray partridge (*Perdix perdix*), and chukar (*Alectoris graeca*) have been introduced to the wildlife area. These species as well as both species of grouse offer good opportunities for hunting recreation during the authorized seasons.

## Amphibians and Reptiles

Native reptile and amphibian species are plentiful on the wildlife area. No specific management for reptiles and amphibians exists at this time on the WWA. An inventory of reptiles found on the area was conducted in the 1970s and is included in Appendix B.

Many amphibians and reptiles also exhibit seasonal movements within the area as water levels in the streams and ponds fluctuate. While migrating wildlife species leave the area during the cold winter months, the amphibians and reptiles go into hibernation.

## Fish

The WWA contains reaches of two rivers, the Grande Ronde and Wenaha, containing migration, rearing and spawning habitat important to a variety of fish species. In addition, it contains segments of Bear and Cabin creeks, tributaries to the Grande Ronde River. Because of their size these tributaries are generally limited in use to steelhead and rainbow trout spawning and rearing. The two major rivers however, provide year-around or seasonal habitat for a number of native and introduced species (**Table 2**) (Baxter 2002, in part). Species of special management concern on the WWA include bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), summer steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), spring and fall chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and redband trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Use of the wildlife area varies greatly with seasonal changes in river flow and temperature for a number of species. A number of species utilize the Lower Grande Ronde and lower Wenaha extensively in the cooler portions of the year and migrate out of the area as water temperatures increase. These movements often correspond with spawning and smolt migrations.

Estimated use by steelhead anglers on the WWA is approximately 2,000 to 4,000 angler days annually (Clark, 2017 with an additional 1,000 angler days for trout and smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) angling.

**Table 2. Fish species known to inhabit the Grande Ronde and Wenaha Rivers within the WWA (federal and state status, origin and relative abundance indicated)**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status - comments
Columbia basin Bull Trout	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	Federal ESA listed: threatened State listed: sensitive - critical
Snake R. Fall Chinook	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Federal ESA listed: threatened State listed: sensitive - critical
Snake R. Spring Chinook	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Federal ESA listed: threatened State listed: sensitive - critical
Snake R. summer steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Federal ESA listed: threatened State listed: sensitive - vulnerable
Inland redband trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Federal species of concern State listed: sensitive - vulnerable
Pacific lamprey	<i>Lampetra tridentata</i>	Federal species of concern
Northern Pikeminnow	<i>Ptychocheilus oregonensis</i>	Native, common
Largescale sucker	<i>Catostomus macrocheilus</i>	Native, common
Mountain whitefish	<i>Prosopium williamsoni</i>	Native, common

Chiselmouth	<i>Acrocheilus alutaceus</i>	Native, common
Torrent sculpin	<i>Cottus rhotheus</i>	Native, common
Speckled dace	<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i>	Native, common
Longnose Dace	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>	Native, common
Redside shiner	<i>Richardsonius balteatus</i>	Native, common
Bridgelip sucker	<i>Catostomus columbianus</i>	Native, uncommon
Piute sculpin	<i>Cottus belgingi</i>	Native, uncommon
Peamouth	<i>Mylocheilus caurinus</i>	Native, uncommon
Smallmouth bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	Introduced, common
Common carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Introduced, common
Brown bullhead	<i>Ictalurus natalis</i>	Introduced, uncommon
Channel catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	Introduced, uncommon
Bluegill sunfish	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	Introduced, uncommon
Pumpkinseed sunfish	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	Introduced, uncommon

### Species of Conservation Concern

There have been no formal surveys on the WWA specifically to document the presence of state listed or federally listed Threatened or Endangered species. However, nine federally listed Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate species and one Species of Concern are potentially present in the lower Grande Ronde and Wenaha River basins. Activities within the WWA are conducted within the guidelines of the federal Endangered Species Act to ensure no adverse effects impact listed species. These species are shown in **Table 3**.

**Table 3. Federal and State Listed Endangered, Threatened, Candidate and Species of Concern Potentially Present on the Wenaha Wildlife Area**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status
Columbia spotted frog	<i>Rana luteiventris</i>	Candidate	Sensitive - Undetermined
Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Endangered	protected
Canada lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Threatened	None
Bull trout	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	Threatened	Sensitive - Critical
Snake R. fall Chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Threatened	Sensitive - critical
Snake R. spring Chinook	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Threatened	Sensitive - critical
Snake R. summer steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Threatened	Sensitive - vulnerable
Pacific lamprey	<i>Lampetra tridentata</i>	Species of concern	Sensitive - Undetermined
Inland redband trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Species of concern	Sensitive - Vulnerable

Columbia spotted frogs (CSF) may be found in appropriate habitat throughout the subbasin but few formal surveys have been conducted. A 1997 USFS survey found 12 breeding sites in Wallowa County. This species is relatively aquatic and is rarely found

far from water. It occupies a variety of still water habitats and can also be found in streams and creeks (Hallock and McAllister, 2002). CSFs are found closely associated with clear, slow-moving or ponded surface waters, with little shade (Reaser, 1997). CSFs are found in aquatic sites with a variety of vegetation types, from grasslands to forests (Csuti, 1997). A deep silt substrate may be required for hibernation and torpor (Morris and Tanner 1969). In colder portions of their range, CSFs will use areas where water does not freeze, such as springs and undercut streambanks with overhanging vegetation (IDFG, et al. 1995). CSFs may disperse into forest, grassland, and brushland during wet weather (NatureServe, 2003). They will use stream-side small mammal burrows as shelter. Overwintering sites in the Great Basin include undercut banks and spring heads (Blomquist and Tull, 2002).

Since 1998 results of monitoring for CSFs in northeastern Oregon in Wallowa County indicates relatively stable, small local populations (less than five adults encountered) (Pearl, 2000). All of the known local populations of CSF in eastern Oregon appear to be functionally isolated (USFWS, 2002c).

Gray wolves are habitat generalists and are limited more by the presence and availability of suitable prey than by vegetative characteristics of the surrounding habitat. Thus, with its abundance of deer and elk, wolves might be likely to settle in the vicinity of the WWA. If, or when, that occurs, wolves will be managed according to the updated Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

The Wenaha pack of wolves are regular visitors to the WWA especially during the winter feeding months. Although wolf activity is seen at all feed site locations during the feeding months we have had very little disruption of animals on the sites. It is also suspected that a denning area may be present on the WWA however we have been unable to verify this at this time. There are also wolves located in SE Washington near the WWA and it is unclear if they are all part of the Wenaha pack, a new pack, or just individual animals.

In 2016 Eastern Oregon moved into Phase III of wolf management after ODFW staff documented a third year of seven or more breeding pairs in the region east of U.S. Highways 97, 20, 395 for year 2016.

A “breeding pair” is two adult wolves that produce at least two pups that survive through the end of the year. The eight packs that qualify as breeding pairs in 2016 are Meacham and Walla Walla (Umatilla County), Catherine (Union County), and Snake River, Chesnimnus, Wenaha, Minam and a group of unnamed wolves in the Imnaha Wildlife Management Unit (Wallowa County).

Canada lynx, if found in Oregon, are expected to utilize habitats above 4,000 feet in elevation and dominated by lodgepole pine, for foraging. Elevations on the WWA are below 4,000 feet, and the forested habitats are not consistent with those generally found

in states where lynx are present. The WWA lacks the young lodgepole pine-dominated forests favored by lynx and their primary prey, snowshoe hares. Hair snag surveys conducted by the USFWS and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), from 1998 through 2002, failed to detect Canada lynx in Oregon.

Bull trout utilize the lower Wenaha and lower Grande Ronde rivers as sub-adult and adult foraging areas from October through June. These fish migrate into the headwaters of the Wenaha and other Grande Ronde basin tributaries in late spring and spawn in September and October. After spawning and as water temperatures cool at lower elevations fish ranging in size to over 30 inches move back downstream. Maintenance of healthy populations of prey species of fish is important to bull trout which feed on these species.

Snake River fall Chinook salmon move into the Lower Grande Ronde system to spawn in October and November. Eggs incubate over winter and emergence occurs in spring. Juveniles begin moving downstream within a few months. Protection of spawning adults and redds is important for fall Chinook.

Snake River spring Chinook adults migrate through the lower Grande Ronde and lower Wenaha from May through early July. These fish are bound for colder water areas of major tributaries in the upper Grande Ronde basin and upper Wenaha River. Spawning occurs in August and September. Eggs incubate over-winter and fry emerge from the gravel in late winter and early spring. Juveniles rear for a year in these rivers then migrate to the ocean the next spring with smolt out migration peaking in mid-April. In general, river reaches within the WWA provide a migration corridor for spring Chinook. However, some downstream movement of juveniles occurs in the fall. These fish move from summer rearing locations in the upper basin to inhabit the lower Grande Ronde and Wenaha rivers during the winter.

Snake River summer steelhead adults begin arriving in the lower Grande Ronde in August and September. In general, adults move up, hold over-winter and then move into smaller tributaries spawn in the spring (including Bear and Cabin creeks). Adults are present in river reaches within the WWA from September through June. Juveniles spend from one to four years in fresh water before migrating to the ocean and adults return after one or two years in the ocean. Because of their higher tolerance for elevated water temperature juvenile steelhead are observed in waters of the WWA year-around. Although rearing densities during summer months are reduced relative to other times of year. Protection of spawning areas in lower Bear Creek and Cabin Creek is important to steelhead.

Inland redband trout are essentially resident steelhead. Adults spawn in tributaries in the spring. Like steelhead juveniles, juvenile and adult redband trout can be observed throughout river reaches any month of the year.

## Non-Native Species

Non-native fish and wildlife on the WWA include pest species such as the European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and introduced upland game species, such as wild turkey, chukar, gray partridge and California quail (See **Table 4**). However, they, along with native ruffed grouse and dusky grouse, provide many days of hunting during the authorized seasons. Fish such as the smallmouth bass provide many angler use days. At this time there is no management effort on the WWA aimed specifically at control of non-native wildlife.

**Table 4. Non-native Wildlife Species that May Occur on the Wenaha Wildlife Area**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>
		European starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Chukar	<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	Gray partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>
California quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	Rock pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Wild turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Bull frog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>
Smallmouth bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	Pumpkinseed sunfish	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>
Common carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Brown bullhead	<i>Ictalurus natalis</i>
Channel catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>

Non-native plants on the WWA include several that are on the Wallowa County noxious weed lists (see **Table 5**). These may be subject to control activities including mechanical, chemical and biological methods. In addition to those listed by the county, WWA personnel also controls bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) which is considered an exotic pest plant by the Pacific Northwest Exotic Pest Plant Council. There are a number of other non-native plants present on the WWA. Some have been cultivated in pasture areas, planted in historic orchards, and others have spread naturally to the area and are either beneficial as forage or have shown no serious deleterious effects on the habitat.

Continued research is being conducted on the WWA to gather information on sulfur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*). Areas have been sectioned off and different control measures are being tried.

**Table 5. Wallowa County “A” and “B” List of Noxious Weed Species**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Rush Skeletonweed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	Hoary Cress (white top)	<i>Cardaria draba</i>
Bloodrop/ Pheasant Eye	<i>Adonis aestivalis</i>	False Hoary Allysum	<i>Bertaroa incana</i>
Bugloss, Annual *	<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	Common Burdock *	<i>Arctium minus</i>
Common Crupina	<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>	Canada Thistle *	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Common Bugloss *	<i>Anchusa officianalis</i>	Dalmatian Toadflax *	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>
Yellow toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Chicory *	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Scotch Thistle *	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>
Common Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Diffuse Knapweed *	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>
Meadow Knapweed	<i>Centaurea pratensis</i>	Western Waterhemlock	<i>Cicuta douglasii</i>
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	Burr Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus testiculatus</i>
Yellow Starthistle *	<i>Centaurea soltitalis</i>	Tansy Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Medusahead Rye *	<i>Teaniatherum caput-medusa</i>	Jointed Goatgrass *	<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>
Mediterranean Sage	<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>	Musk Thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
Perennial Pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Leafy Spurge *	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>
Bull Thistle *	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Sulfur Cinquefoil *	<i>Potentilla recta</i>
Italian Thistle	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Oxeye Daisy *	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>
Orange Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	Common Teasel *	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Meadow Hawkweed	<i>Hiericeum pratense</i>	Puncture Vine *	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>
Poison Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Common Mullein *	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>
St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Hounds Tongue *	<i>Cynglossum officinale</i>
Tall Buttercup	<i>Rununculas acris</i>	Field Bindweed *	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
Russian Knapweed	<i>Cantaurea repens</i>	Ventenata	<i>Ventenata dubia</i>
Bohemiam Knotweed	<i>Polygonum bohemicus</i>	Kochia*	<i>Kochia scoparia</i>
Giant Knotweed *	<i>Polygonum sachalanense</i>	Reed Canary Grass *	<i>Phalarsis aurundinacea</i>
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Myrtle Spurge	<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>

\*species known to be present on the WWA and subject to mechanical, biological and/or chemical control.

### **Monitoring**

Monitoring of all management activities will be completed by Department staff. Informal monitoring is also conducted by members of the public during their visits to the area and is submitted via feedback and suggestions to WWA staff.

### **Feed Sites**

One of the goals of the WWA is to reduce potential damage caused by elk and deer by providing supplemental feed during the winter months. The need for supplemental feed is determined by winter weather conditions and the number of deer and elk on the wildlife area. Feed is inspected before purchase to determine quality (palatability and weed-free). Sites will be monitored daily, during the winter feeding season, documenting amount of feed provided and estimating numbers of deer and elk using the feed sites. These estimates will be compared to periodic counts conducted at each site.

## **Big Game**

Northeast Region staff will monitor big game numbers and animal condition each year. Elk, deer and bighorn sheep will be classified as to sex and age. Surveys will be conducted monthly in the winter (December - February) while most elk are still at the feed sites and before they begin to leave for summer ranges. Counts will be used to determine how many animals are using each site and the condition of those animals, the number of animals documented and the amount of feed calibrated for each site. In addition, bull:cow and calf:cow ratios will be calculated. These counts and ratios will then be used, in addition to herd composition and population survey counts done annually by the northeast region wildlife districts, to help determine herd status relative to management objective, and the number of tags offered during the next year's hunting seasons. Management objectives for post season bull:cow and buck:doe ratios and winter elk and deer populations were set as part of a public process. These objectives were adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission as described in the Department's Elk and Deer Management Plans.

## **Other Wildlife**

Informal monitoring of other wildlife will be conducted incidental to other activities. Incidental observations of unusual wildlife (e.g. moose) by Department staff and members of the public will be recorded with the date, location and species observed. These sightings are forwarded to the local district biologist.

## **Fish**

Fish populations will be monitored through creel checks and stream surveys conducted by Oregon State Police (OSP) and Department staff. Monitoring will be conducted opportunistically and/or as scheduled by fisheries personnel.

## **Grazing**

Domestic livestock have grazed the area since the time of settlement. Prior to the department's purchase, most of area's land was grazed by cattle all, or part, of each year. Cattle grazing is currently used as a tool to improve the palatability and nutritional value of grasses prior to winter arrival of big game to the wildlife area. Currently the area has grazing agreements with three permittees for 1,200 AUMs. The grazing period begins in mid April and continues through October 15<sup>th</sup> depending on available forage conditions. With the presence of bighorn sheep on the area and the concern for disease transmission domestic sheep and goats will not be permitted to graze on the WWA.

Allotments will be monitored and evaluated throughout the grazing season by the area personnel. Forage produced and removed will be measured using the Natural Resources Conservation Service formula for calculation of forage removal (28 pounds of forage per animal unit per day).

Caged enclosures may be utilized to measure forage production. Irrigated pastures will be utilized to no more than 35 to 50% of available forage, and non-irrigated pastures will be utilized to no more than 35% of available forage.

## **Timber**

Forest stand conditions will be monitored to determine appropriate silvicultural practices to improve and increase wildlife habitat, improve forest health, control insect infested and diseased stands of timber, and reduce fire danger.

The current timber management plan was developed in 1981, and is useful in providing baseline data on timber inventories, stand type, soils, etc. The plan identified 4,895 acres of timber divided into 37 manageable units. The plan estimated the volume of timber in 1981 to be 24 million board feet. In 2016 ODFW entered into a partnership with ODF (Oregon Department of Forestry) to hire a wildlife area forester. This position will work 7 months for ODFW on forestry related issues and 5 months for ODF during fire season. This employee is currently working on a new forest management plan for the WWA. This position will work on both Elkhorn and Wenaha Wildlife Areas. During the summer of 1988, a wild fire burned an estimated 3,500 acres of grassland and timber in the Grande Ronde canyon and Eden Bench. Timber salvage from the WWA in August 1990 contained over 1.6 million board feet. Again a fire in 2015 burned an estimated 4500 acres of grass lands and timber on Dry Gulch, Bartlett bench, and along the 62 road. Over 7 million feet of burnt timber was salvaged from this latest fire. All portions of the wildlife area have been logged in the past; current, overall timber conditions are the result of previous landowners' management objectives.

Oregon legislative action in 2003 resulted in the passage of two forestry-related laws, HB 3152 and HB 2344, which impact management activities on the WWA. These laws are described below and in further detail in **Appendix F**.

HB 3152 requires the Department of Administrative Services to coordinate with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Department of Forestry, the Division of State Lands and other agencies with state forestland oversight responsibilities to adopt forest management plans or policies.

HB 2344 directs state agencies to develop plans for timber salvage operations to restore and recover forest lands burned by fire.

The new wildlife area forester is currently developing a new forest management plan for WWA. This type of long range plan would enable the Department to improve and increase wildlife habitat, improve forest health, reduce fire danger, and control insect infested and diseased stands of timber. These actions would not only benefit wildlife and the forest resource but would possibly produce revenue for the project area and the local economy. A revised timber management plan is needed to accomplish these goals. The plan may require an environmental impact study on the WWA to meet USFWS requirements related to timber harvest. At this time, funding limitations prevent implementation of such a comprehensive study and related reports

## **Water Use**

Water usage is monitored by wildlife area staff and the county water masters office.

Irrigation and domestic water use is monitored as it is consumed. Irrigation water will be measured as used and reported annually to the Oregon Water Resources Department.

### **Public Use**

Monitoring public use of the area will be conducted to determine if the WWA is providing the type of recreational opportunities and experiences desired by the public. Estimates of area use and needs will be recorded and used for informational purposes.

Consumptive use activity surveys will include: 1) interviews conducted at hunter check stations, hunting camps, fishing sites, by telephone, OSP wildlife officers and Department personnel; 2) counts of hunting camps within the WWA; and 3) creel surveys conducted by fish research personnel. Non-consumptive use of the area is estimated based on random counts of individuals on the wildlife area, and campgrounds, as well as informal interviews of users.

### **Cultural Resources**

Grazing, farming, hunting and logging are the known historical/cultural practices that have occurred on the WWA for many years prior to the Department's acquisition of the land.

Troy, in the far northeast corner of Wallowa County, is located at a ferry site where the Grande Ronde and the Wenaha Rivers converged. It was first homesteaded in 1898 by Bill and Emma Wilson. The town was named Troy in 1902 reportedly for a son of the Grinstead family. A post office was opened that same year and the town was officially platted in 1910. Troy was a trade center for farmers and ranchers who had settled in the region, in areas then called Eden and Paradise. Troy also became a logging center and in the late 1940s and early 1950s as many as 75 people lived there. By 1957, the mills were closed and the population declined.

The Department is responsible for coordinating with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on an annual basis, when applying for federal grants for all wildlife areas, to ensure that proposed area management activities comply with State and Federal cultural resource laws. Although following the 2015 Grizzly fire cultural surveys were conducted on all timbered areas affected by the fire prior to timber salvage operation. In 2016 all the remaining wildlife area land that contained timber was surveyed, reports were completed and submitted to all required agencies. No comprehensive cultural resource surveys have been conducted on the Wenaha Wildlife Area and no significant cultural resources have been identified on the area.

### **Social Environment**

#### **Demographics**

The WWA is located near the community of Troy, Oregon. The majority of the wildlife area's lands are located between the Wenaha and the Grande Ronde Rivers. The community of Troy is located at the confluence of these two rivers in the extreme northeast corner of the state near the border with Washington.

## Land Use

The wildlife area is surrounded by steep canyons on the east, south, and north with forested lands on the west. Private agricultural lands, located mostly to the east and southeast of the area, consist of pastures used for grazing and hay production as well as land farmed for cereal grains, and meadow hay. Forested lands, depending on ownership, are used for grazing livestock and for timber production. Along the Grande Ronde River and in Troy there are many rental cabins, cottages, and an RV park for recreational users. Fishing and hunting guides also operate out of the Troy area.

**Figure 3** shows the land uses surrounding the Wenaha Wildlife Area.

## Infrastructure

### Developments/Facilities

Numerous buildings on the area house personnel, equipment, materials and winter feed. Most of the buildings are located on the headquarters tract, with three winter feed barns located on Eden Bench, one feed barn on Bartlett Bench and one building at the headquarters. The facilities are described in detail in **Table 6**.

The Headquarters area consists of the headquarters facilities, which include the wildlife area assistant manager's residence, a maintenance shop, equipment storage sheds, an office, a barn, garage, storage lot, and three other small utility buildings. A new bunk house is purposed at the headquarters location to replace the mill bar cabin which was destroyed by the Grizzly fire in 2015. A camping area located along the Wenaha River near the Mill Bar cabin, has a disabled-accessible vault type restroom. The other campground is located near the headquarters along the Grande Ronde River. Both campgrounds are unimproved. There are 18 developed springs for wildlife use.

The Department also owns a house on Eden Bench. It was acquired by ODFW in a land trade for 10 acres in exchange for a life estate to live in the house. The tenets are required to pay the taxes and up keep on the house and maintain the yard and surrounding property and not graze sheep or goats.

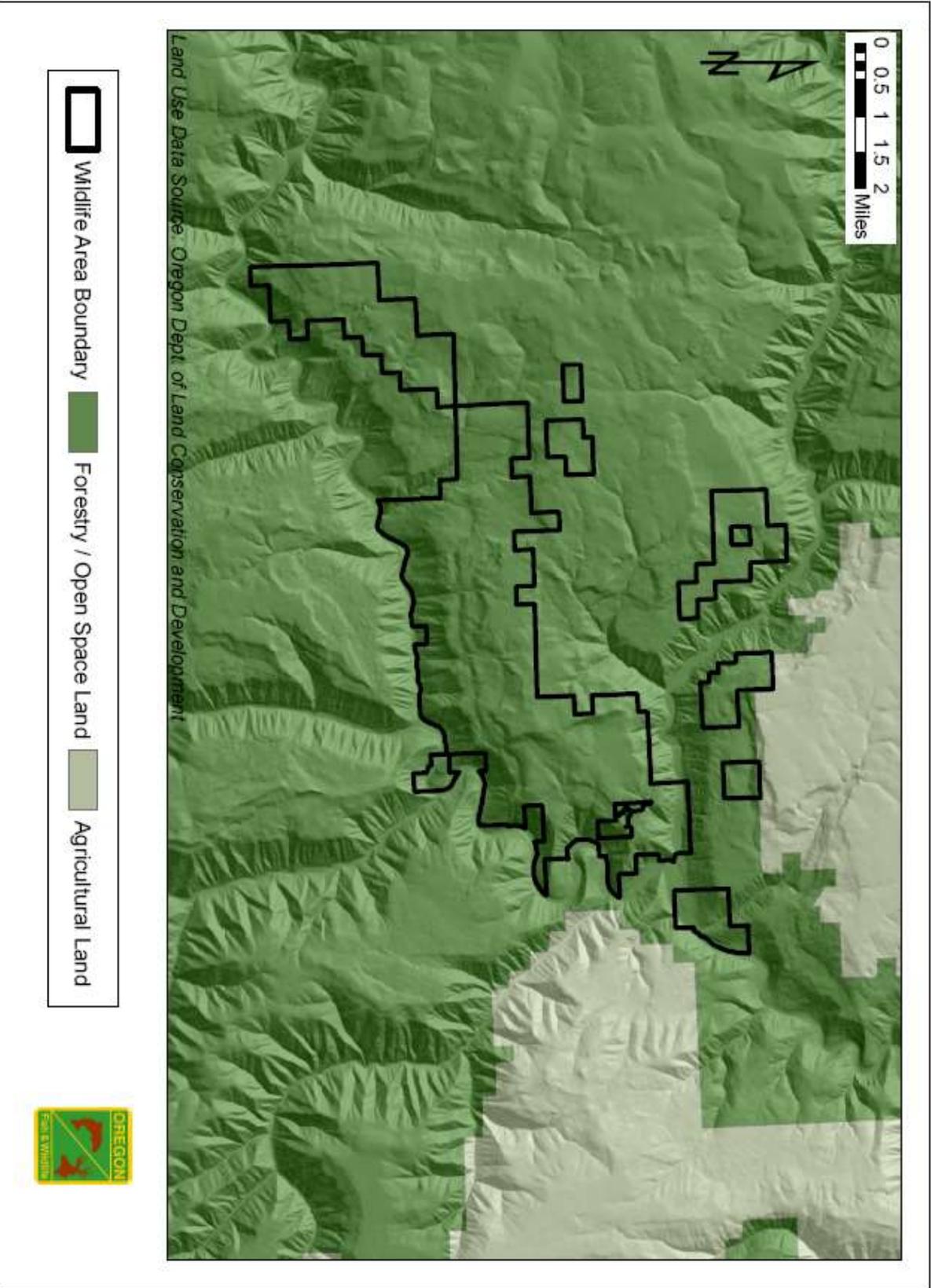
The WWA has over 50 miles of boundary and livestock fencing, 30 miles of roads and trails, and five winter feed sites four of which have hay storage barns located at the feed site itself.

**Table 6. Facilities and Developments on the Wenaha Wildlife Area**

<b>Development Type</b>	<b>Location/Tract Name(s)</b>
5 feed sites for elk and deer	One on Bartlett Bench and four on Eden Bench
5 hay sheds	Three on Eden Bench/ one on Bartlett Bench/one at HQ
1 storage area	Headquarters/Troy
Maintenance shop	Headquarters/Troy

Equipment shed	Headquarters/Troy
Office	Headquarters/Troy
2 residences	Eden Bench/Headquarters
30 miles of roads and trails	Throughout the Wildlife Area
4 campgrounds	Mill bar/ Grande Ronde River/Elkhorn springs/Canner
Trailer pad	Headquarters/Troy
Hay storage/Horse barn	Headquarters/Troy
Cabin	Mill Bar
Approximately 56 miles of boundary and livestock fencing (replaced old fences or upgraded to accommodate elk and deer migrations)	Throughout the Wildlife Area

Figure 3 - Wenaha Wildlife Area Land Use



### **Water Rights**

Water rights for diversion of water from Bear Creek and McNeil springs are on file and date 1912 and 1915 respectively. Water rights on eleven springs found on the area have been filed priority dates are 2 @ 1969, 1 @ 1970 and 8 @ 1993. The Department also has a water right to pump water from the Grande Ronde River for irrigation use on two alfalfa fields located at the headquarters. The pump is fitted with a screen that meets the NOAA Fisheries standards to prevent migrating salmonids from entering the system. Water use is monitored and reported to the Oregon Water Resources Department on an annual basis. Water rights are listed in **Appendix C**.

### **Easements/Access Agreements**

**Appendix D** lists the numerous changes in property owned, leased or managed under agreement since the original purchase in 1953.

There are 12 easements in effect on the wildlife area. Five were granted by landowners to the Department, and seven have been granted by the Department to benefit other landowners, land management agencies, Wallowa County and utility companies. Easements include power transmission lines, county roads, private property access, waterway access, fence access, and for recreational use access. These easements are listed in **Appendix E**.

## **Land Acquisition and Adjustment**

It is the policy of the Department to only acquire land or interests in lands, including easements and leases, from willing sellers consistent with statutory authority and the Department's mission. Acquisitions and adjustments must be for the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats and to provide fish and wildlife oriented public use for educational and recreational purposes. Land adjustments would allow for the sale, trade or exchange of land with willing landowners to enable the Department to consolidate wildlife area boundaries.

There are three categories of lands that may be considered for acquisition. These include: 1) Significant or unique habitats, especially those beneficial to threatened or endangered sensitive species; 2) Sites, or access to sites that provide wildlife-related recreational opportunities; and, 3) Properties to facilitate the performance of the Department's mandated duties (e.g. storage and warehouse or feeding barns).

At the current time no new land acquisitions are planned. However lands adjacent to or within current wildlife area boundaries that may become available and would enhance WWA operations or management capabilities will be considered on an individual basis.

## **Public Use**

### **Public Access**

The area also has many small unimproved camping and day use sites on the area,

three boat access sites, and one shooting range available for public use. The main access roads are open to the public; other unimproved roads are closed to public access to prevent wildlife harassment and protect wildlife habitat.

In 2017 a public access winter range closure was implemented to reduce harassment of wildlife on the feed grounds and others winter range areas located on the WWA. The closure prevents all public access from January 1 through March 30 annually. The public is still allowed access to portions of the WWA along the river corridors for camping and fishing activities.

**Hunting, Trapping and Angling**

Although the WWA is remote, it provides many recreational opportunities that are heavily utilized.

Big game hunting and angling are the most popular recreational activities. However an increasing number of people are using the area to observe and photograph wildlife, camp, swim, horseback ride, hike, raft, kayak and pursue other outdoor recreation opportunities (see **Table 7**).

**Table 7. Estimated Annual Hunting, Trapping, and Angling Use Days on the Wenaha Wildlife Area**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Annual Use Days</b>
Hunting	
Big Game	500
Upland Game	500
Unprotected Wildlife	250
Trapping	50
Angling	4000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5300</b>

**Non-consumptive**

As with consumptive use, the remoteness of the WWA does not deter use by those interested in outdoor recreation. With wild and scenic river designation for the Grande Ronde River corridor many people visit the area for rafting, hiking, swimming and other river orientated activities. Also with the numerous amount of wildlife along the canyon and on the WWA viewing opportunities abound. The Troy area and the WWA are also sites inventoried by wildlife observers on the annual Christmas bird counts conducted throughout the state. Activity levels are also high during the wild berry picking, mushroom, and shed antler hunting seasons of the year.

Non-consumptive use of the area is estimated based on random counts of individuals at wildlife viewing areas, the nature trail and campgrounds, as well as informal interviews of users (see **Table 8**).

**Educational/Interpretive**

Different locations on the wildlife area are also used at times for events sponsored by the Troy Muzzle Loaders, and tours at times for various school activities. The Muzzle

Loaders have an annual rendezvous at the former Mill Bar cabin site. This activity draws participants from the surrounding region as well as from other states.

**Table 8. Estimated Annual Non-consumptive Use Days on the Wenaha Wildlife Area**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Annual Use Days</b>
Wildlife Viewing	2,000
Photography	1,000
Hiking	1,000
Horseback Riding	1,000
Camping	5,000
Other miscellaneous (e.g. day use picnicking, swimming, rafting)	15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,000</b>

### **Objectives and Strategies**

#### **Objectives and Strategies**

As stated previously, objectives are concise statements of what the Department wants to achieve, how much the Department wants to achieve, when and where to achieve it and who will be responsible for the work. Objectives derive from goals and provide the basis for determining strategies. Strategies describe the specific actions, tools, techniques or a combination of these elements used to meet an objective.

The following objectives and strategies identify the management activities and priorities of the Wenaha Wildlife Area Management Plan:

**(Goal 1: To protect, enhance and restore habitat diversity for all beneficial wildlife on the area.)**

**Objective 1.1: Maintain, develop, and enhance winter habitat diversity to provide for 1,400 elk, 600 mule deer, 150 white-tailed deer, and 150 bighorn sheep.**

#### **Rationale**

Scientific knowledge and past experience at the WWA have guided development of wildlife management strategies. For example, Thomas and Toweill (1982), Wallmo (1981) and others have established the importance of hiding and thermal cover as components of habitat for elk and deer. Thus, maintaining those components was identified as a viable strategy to achieve the objective of maintaining habitats to attract and hold wintering deer and elk. Similarly, spring and summer livestock grazing has been shown to be a viable strategy to help condition forage for wintering wildlife and riparian fencing is a necessary component to avoid damage by livestock.

**Strategy 1.** Identify and maintain hiding and thermal cover habitats for deer, elk,

and moose.

**Strategy 2.** Survey and identify age class, stand type, and condition of timber stands on the area to determine necessary silvicultural practices to improve and increase wildlife habitat, improve forest health, control insect infested and diseased stands of timber, and reduce fire danger.

**Strategy 3.** Develop plans for forest management as well as timber salvage operations to restore and recover forest lands burned by fire.

**Strategy 4.** Continue the grazing program to manage grasslands, meadows and timber lands to provide high quality native and domestic grasses and legumes for deer, elk, and bighorn sheep.

**Strategy 5.** Conduct ground fertilization and renovation of meadows and fields on over 300 acres.

**Strategy 6.** Maintain 56 miles of boundary and cross fencing to manage livestock to condition forage for wintering wildlife and reduce resources damage from trespass livestock.

**Strategy 7.** Maintain noxious weed control on approximately 300 acres of pasture annually, including annual herbicide usage reports required by Oregon Department of Agriculture.

**Strategy 8.** Manage habitats using controlled burns and mechanical means to provide vegetation for big game use.

**Strategy 9.** Maintain developed springs and watering areas to promote dispersal of livestock and wildlife.

Strategy 10. Monitor and patrol winter range closure area to prevent wildlife harassment.

## **Objective 1.2: Maintain, develop, and enhance habitats for other beneficial fish and wildlife.**

### **Rationale**

State law, the mission of the Department and the Department's 2016 Oregon Conservation Strategy call for Oregon's wildlife to be "managed to prevent serious depletion of any indigenous species and to provide the optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits for present and future generations of the citizens of this state" (ORS 496.012). Thus, strategies are employed by the WWA to conserve habitat for all species.

**Strategy 1.** Explore the possibilities for developing an internship program with

colleges and universities to support education, recreation, inventory, and monitoring needs. Particular emphasis should be placed on documenting existing and potential habitats for threatened, endangered, and sensitive wildlife.

**Strategy 2.** Seek partnerships and cooperative funding from other agencies which have threatened and endangered species program responsibilities.

**Strategy 3.** Monitor and control noxious weeds on wildlife area lands, including annual herbicide usage reports required by Oregon Department of Agriculture.

**Strategy 4.** Identify habitat improvement projects that may include snag retention, timber harvest, nest structure development, and development of forage areas.

**Strategy 5.** Continue to maintain and enhance fish habitat including protection of riparian areas through fencing, stream bank stabilization, and seeding of slide areas.

**Strategy 6.** Maintain ponds and springs for wildlife and aquatic species.

**Strategy 7.** Continue to work with Wallowa Resources (non-profit entity) to cost share noxious weed control projects on the WMA and the surrounding area.

**Objective 1.3: To maintain and enhance wildlife area facilities, structures, and equipment to facilitate habitat management and public use projects on the wildlife area.**

**Rationale**

Facilities, structures, and equipment are integral to the overall operation of the WWA. All must be maintained and kept in good working condition to accomplish annual projects. Habitat management and public use are also identified in the overall mission of the Department, and in the goals of the Wenaha Wildlife Area.

**Strategy 1.** Conduct annual inspections and winterization procedures on facilities and structures and make repairs as needed.

**Strategy 2.** Conduct regular scheduled maintenance on all equipment and vehicles and repair as needed.

**Strategy 3.** Conduct annual inspections and winterization procedures on all equipment and vehicles.

**Strategy 4.** Continue current irrigation practices as allowed by WWA water rights, including annual water usage reports.

**Objective 1.4: Promote ecologically sound land uses with those responsible for**

## **administering adjacent public and private lands.**

### **Rationale**

The WWA is bordered by both public and private lands. These lands consist of federal Wild and Scenic river corridors, national forests and national forest wilderness. Partnerships with these land management agencies, as well as county governments, and private property owners will help ensure that the overall mission of the Department and the goals of the WWA are being achieved.

**Strategy 1.** Actively participate in planning processes for activities that may have a potential effect on the wildlife and their habitat.

**Strategy 2.** Continue to work with the Wallowa county weed board to control Noxious weeds on and off the area.

**Strategy 3.** Promote professional and open discussions with surrounding landowners and their representatives.

**Strategy 4.** Provide habitat improvement suggestions when appropriate to surrounding land owners.

**Strategy 5.** Work with USFS to improve wildlife habitat on lands bordering the WWA to include timber harvest, thinning projects, and controlled burns.

## **(Goal 2: Minimize or alleviate conflicts caused by elk and deer to privately owned lands and agricultural crops.)**

### **Objective 2.1: To develop and maintain habitats to attract and hold wintering elk and deer.**

#### **Rationale**

Native grasses and shrubs as well as introduced grasses and legumes provide important winter food sources for wintering elk, deer, and sheep. Encroachment by noxious weeds and other undesirable plant species can reduce available forage for wildlife. Habitat improvements for deer and elk also benefit many other wildlife species. Monitoring and control of noxious weeds is required of all landowners by the Wallowa County weed control ordinances in addition to being a sound land management practice. Further, scientific knowledge and past experience at the EWA have guided development of wildlife management strategies. For example, Thomas and Toweill (1982), Wallmo (1981) and others have established the importance of hiding and thermal cover as components of habitat for elk and deer. Thus, maintaining those components was identified as a viable strategy to achieve the objective of maintaining habitats to attract and hold wintering deer and elk. Similarly, spring and summer livestock grazing has been shown to be a viable strategy to help condition forage for

wintering wildlife and riparian fencing is a necessary component to avoid damage by livestock.

**Strategy 1.** Identify and maintain forage, hiding and thermal cover habitats for deer, elk, and moose.

**Strategy 2.** Survey and identify age class, stand type, and condition of timber stands on the area to determine necessary silvicultural practices to improve and increase wildlife habitat, improve forest health, control insect infested and diseased stands of timber, and reduce fire danger.

**Strategy 3.** Continue to work with the Wallowa county weed board to control noxious weeds on and off the area.

**Strategy 4.** Continue efforts to secure grant funding from conservation groups to have custom farming done on the area to renovate old homestead meadows and farm fields.

**Strategy 5.** Explore opportunities to remove seedling trees and brush encroaching on old farm fields and meadows.

**Strategy 6.** Continue efforts to find persons interested in removing meadow hay from fields on Eden Bench.

**Strategy 7.** Continue to work with federal, state and county agencies and with universities to explore research opportunities in noxious weed control.

**Strategy 8.** Work with grazing permittees to ensure cattle grazing rotations on the area are followed.

**Strategy 9.** Monitor and patrol winter range closure area to prevent wildlife harassment during the late winter and early spring months.

**Objective 2.2: Provide a supplemental winter food source for elk and deer to reduce damage.**

### **Rationale**

The strategies identified below have been selected based on winter feeding results on other state operated WMA's, and the guidance and direction found in the Department's Wildlife Conservation Strategy, the overall mission of the Department, the goal of the WWA and the standards of wildlife ecology and management.

**Strategy 1.** Provide supplemental feed for deer and elk at five feed sites. These sites are approximately 10 acres in size and are located along elk and deer migration routes. Four of the sites are located on Eden Bench and one site is

located on Bartlett Bench.

**Strategy 2.** Sharecrop or purchase hay to provide winter food for up to 1,400 elk, and 750 deer..

**Strategy 3.** Big game will be monitored for disease by visual inspections during daily feed trips. Any animals trapped will be blood tested and tagged or collared.

**Strategy 4.** When predator activity on the WWA becomes elevated to the point that the goal of the WWA and/or human and livestock safety are threatened, the offending predator(s) will be removed in such a way as to minimize disruption of wintering wildlife. While predation is a normal occurrence in natural ecosystems, harassment due to predation can disrupt the operation of the feed sites, causing big game to disperse to surrounding private properties, and thus defeat the goals of the WWA. In addition, because the feed sites are located near human habitation and cattle operations, predators attracted to the feed sites can pose a threat to humans and livestock.

**Strategy 5.** Continue research activities on the wildlife area.

**(Goal 3. To provide a variety of quality wildlife oriented recreational and educational opportunities to the public which are compatible with Goals 1 and 2.)**

**Objective 3.1: To provide approximately 10,000 hunting, trapping and angling use days annually.**

#### **Rationale**

This rationale is the same as for Objective 2.1: State law, the mission of the Department and the Oregon Conservation Strategy call for Oregon's wildlife to be "managed to prevent serious depletion of any indigenous species and to provide the optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits for present and future generations of the citizens of this state" (ORS 496.012). Thus, strategies are employed by the WWA to conserve habitat for all species when such strategies are not in conflict with the goals of the wildlife area. Currently, the wildlife area is maintained almost entirely by funds generated from hunters. The WWA staff, through its management efforts, is committed to providing wildlife-oriented recreational opportunities for the citizens of Oregon.

**Strategy 1.** Maintain 30 miles of roads and trails, four campgrounds, and signs to provide approximately 10,000 hunting, trapping and angling use days annually.

**Strategy 2.** Explore the possibilities for developing an internship program with colleges and universities to support education, inventory, and monitoring needs.

**Strategy 3.** Continue to provide access and area information to the public through brochures, maps, signs and hunting regulation booklets.

**Strategy 4.** Explore potential for improved hunting access for persons with disabilities.

**Strategy 5.** Continue to work to acquire fisheries funding for public use developments along the river corridor (i.e. vault toilets).

**Objective 3.2: To provide approximately 25,000 wildlife oriented recreation, education and interpretation use days annually.**

### **Rationale**

Again State law, the mission of the Department, and the Wildlife Conservation Strategy call for Oregon's wildlife to be "managed to prevent serious depletion of any indigenous species and to provide the optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits for present and future generations of the citizens of this state" (ORS 496.012). Because the wildlife area is maintained almost entirely by funds generated from hunters, it may be necessary sometime in the future to implement a system to charge a user fee to non-hunters. Non-consumptive recreation and education constitutes significantly more use on the WWA than hunting, trapping and angling. The WWA staff will seek to expand opportunities for interpretation and environmental education that will foster visitors' appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of the wildlife area's fish and wildlife species and their associated habitats

**Strategy 1.** Maintain hay sheds, five feed sites, 30 miles of roads and trails, viewing sites, four campgrounds, signs, fishing access, and day use areas.

**Strategy 2.** Prioritize and catalogue potential inventory, monitoring, habitat development, and recreation projects for educators interested in using the wildlife area as an outdoor classroom.

**Strategy 3.** Explore the possibilities for developing an internship program with colleges and universities to support education, recreation, inventory, and monitoring needs.

**Strategy 4.** Evaluate the potential for implementing a camping fee system to generate funds for development of recreation and education opportunities on the wildlife area.

**Strategy 5.** Work with department staff to provide wildlife count information as needed for population inventories.

## **Plan Implementation**

### **Funding**

Since its inception in 1953, funding for the operation and maintenance of the WWA has been accomplished through an annual federal grant under the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration (WR) Program. This program was created with the passage of the Pittman-Robertson (PR) Act in 1937. The PR Act authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to cooperate with the States, through their respective state fish and wildlife departments, to fund wildlife restoration projects. Eligible types of projects include restoration, conservation, management, and enhancement of wild birds, wild mammals and their habitats, and providing for public use and benefit from these resources. Funding for WR is derived from a federal excise tax on the sale of firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. Funding is then apportioned to states based on a mathematical formula of area of the state in square miles (50%) and total number of hunting licenses sold annually (50%). Under the program no state may receive more than 5%, nor less than 0.5%, of the total money available.

To be eligible, States must have assented to the provisions of the PR Act and passed laws for the conservation of wildlife that include a prohibition against the diversion of license fees paid by hunters for any other purpose than the administration of the state fish and wildlife department. Another major requirement is that states have to contribute up to 25% of the total grant cost since federal participation is limited to 75% of eligible costs incurred under a grant. The Department provides its 25% cost share from annual hunting license and tag revenues.

Over the past five years, funding for the operation and maintenance of the WWA has averaged approximately \$325,000 annually. To implement many of the management actions and achieve the objectives and goals of this management plan, the Department will need additional funding and staff to undertake the following types of projects: upgrades of existing facilities, construction of new facilities or amenities (orientation kiosks and interpretive signs), and species and habitat monitoring.

### **Staffing/Organization**

In total, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife manages 17 major wildlife areas statewide. The wildlife areas encompass approximately 200,000 acres and are found in both Department administrative regions; WWA is located in the East Region.

The WWA is currently staffed by three full time employees. Full time employees consist of the area manager, located at the Elkhorn Wildlife Area near North Powder, a Fish and Wildlife senior technician, and fish and wildlife technician located on site at the WWA.

### **Compliance Requirements**

This management plan was developed to comply with all Federal and State laws (ORSs), Administrative Rules (OARs), and Department policies. Full implementation of

all components of this plan will require compliance with the laws, regulations, rules, and policies listed in Appendix F.

Most of the guiding regulations complement the mission of the WWA. However, the requirements of some regulations may limit management options in a variety of ways. While the intent of the regulations is generally resource protection, the cost of compliance through significant research and reporting is often prohibitive and precludes action, including some habitat enhancement, on the WWA.

### **Partnerships**

A number of other state, federal, and local agencies and interest groups assist with management activities on the WWA. These partners play an important role helping the Department achieve its mission and the WWA goals. The Department will continue to rely on these and other partners in the future to help implement this plan and provide input for future updates. This plan identifies projects that provide new opportunities for existing or new partners. The Department welcomes and encourages more public participation in the administration of the wildlife area.

### **Adaptive Management**

This plan provides for adaptive management of the wildlife area. Adaptive management is a flexible approach to long-term management of resources that is directed by the results of ongoing monitoring activities and latest data. Management techniques and strategies are regularly evaluated in light of monitoring results, new scientific understanding, and other new information. These periodic evaluations are used over time to adapt both management techniques and strategies to better achieve the area goals.

Monitoring is an essential component of adaptive management in general, and of this plan in particular; specific monitoring strategies have been integrated into the goals and objectives described in this plan whenever possible. Where possible, habitat management activities will be monitored to assess whether the desired effects on wildlife and habitat components have been achieved.

### **Plan Amendment and Revision**

Wildlife area management plans are meant to evolve with each individual area, and as such each plan will be formally revisited after 5 years and updated every 10 years. In the meantime, however, the Department will be reviewing and updating this plan periodically (at least as often as every 5 years) based on the results of the adaptive management program. This plan will also be informally reviewed by area staff while preparing annual work plans. It may also be reviewed during routine inspections or programmatic evaluations. Results of any or all of these reviews may indicate a need to modify the plan. The goals and objectives described in this plan will not change until they are re-evaluated as part of the formal plan revision process. However, the strategies may be revised to better address changing circumstances or due to increased knowledge of the resources on the area. If changes are required, the level of

public involvement and associated compliance requirements will be determined by the Department.

### **Accomplishments**

In the past decade since the 2007 Wenaha Wildlife Area Management Plan implementation not only have the goals and objectives been met there has been some major accomplishments that have been summarized in this section.

1. A partnership with ODF has resulted in hiring a wildlife area forester.
2. Approximately 7 million board feet of burnt timber was salvaged of the WWA after the 2015 Grizzly fire meeting the intent of HB 2344.
3. Aerial seeding of cereal grains was done following the Grizzly fire to provide late fall/winter forage for wildlife as well as provide soil stabilization and suppress noxious weeds
4. In the spring of 2017 38,000 trees were planted in units where salvage logging occurred. Another 10-20 K will be planted in the spring of 2018 to complete the remaining logged areas.
5. The Mill bar cabin was burnt during the fire. Plans to replace it with bunkhouse near the headquarters are in place.
6. We are working with Wallowa County to acquire FEMA grant funds to complete fire related rehab projects on the WWA.
7. A partnership with ODF resulted in is a pumper unit and 3000 gal. Tender tank which was given to the WWA to help with any future fire suppression.
8. A new tractor was purchase for farming and hay handling.
9. A flatbed truck and trailer was purchase to for hauling hay and equipment.
10. A side x side UTV was purchased.
11. A new winter range public closure was put into place 2017 to reduce big game harassment and hold big game on WWA lands.
12. All feed site roads were improvements were made and six culverts were replaced.
13. Two old spring developments were brought back to life by installing new spring boxes. (Culputs, Cummings)
14. A Sulphur cinquefoil project is ongoing on the WWA to determine effective control measures.
15. New coop agreements with Wallowa Co. to continue noxious weed control on the WWA were completed.
16. The headquarters house was remodeled to enlarge main bathroom, add additional bathroom in utility room, new cabinets in kitchen, replace old plumbing, removed metal roofing replace sub roofing and reinstall metal roof, and paint the exterior.
17. The wiring was replaced in the office and garage and a new roof was installed on the office.
18. The septic tank at headquarters was replaced.
19. The old wooden gas house was replaced with a metal building.

20. Two sheds were removed from Moccasin Flat and the site was set up for a trailer house camping site.
21. A new conditional use permit was applied for and received from the county to allow continued use of Mill bar flat for Wenaha muzzleloader shoot and other club activities.
22. Cultural surveys were completed on all WWA timber lands.
23. We went from one FTE and one seasonal to two FTE located on site.

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## **Appendices**

**Appendix A. Plant Species Known  
to Occur on the Wenaha Wildlife Area**

<b>Conifer Trees</b>	Western larch ( <i>Larix occidentalis</i> )
Douglas fir ( <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> )	Ponderosa pine ( <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> )
Grand fir ( <i>Abies grandis</i> )	Lodgepole pine ( <i>Pinus contorta</i> )
White fir ( <i>Abies concolor</i> )	Engelmann spruce ( <i>Picea engelmannii</i> )

<b>Deciduous Trees and Shrubs</b>	Serviceberry ( <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> )
White alder ( <i>Alnus rhombifolia</i> )	Red Osier dogwood ( <i>Cornus sericea</i> )
Common chokecherry ( <i>Prunus virginiana</i> )	Rose ( <i>Rosa</i> spp)
Quaking aspen ( <i>Populus tremuloides</i> )	Currant ( <i>Ribes</i> spp)
Black cottonwood ( <i>Populus trichocarpa</i> )	Huckleberry ( <i>Vaccinium</i> spp)
Water Birch ( <i>Betula occidentalis</i> )	Elderberry ( <i>Sambucus</i> L.)
Black hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus douglasii</i> )	Blackberry ( <i>Rubus discolor</i> )
Red stem ceanothus ( <i>Ceanothus sanguineus</i> )	Snowberry ( <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> , <i>S. mollis</i> , and <i>S. oreophilus</i> )
Black locust ( <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> )	Mallowleaf ninebark ( <i>Physocarpus malvaceus</i> )

<b>Grasses</b>	Porcupine grass ( <i>Stipa spartea</i> )
Barnyard grass ( <i>Echinochloa crusgalli</i> )	Quackgrass ( <i>Agropyron repens</i> )
Western wheatgrass ( <i>A. smithii</i> )	Redtop ( <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> )
Intermediate wheatgrass ( <i>A. intermedium</i> )	Timothy ( <i>Phleum pratense</i> )
Kentucky bluegrass ( <i>Poa pratensis</i> )	Crested wheatgrass ( <i>Agropyron cristatum</i> )
Canada bluegrass ( <i>Poa compressa</i> )	Orchardgrass ( <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> )
Bulbous bluegrass ( <i>Poa bulbosa</i> )	Rough fescue ( <i>F. campestris</i> )
Bluebunch wheatgrass ( <i>Agropyron spicatum</i> )	Pinegrass ( <i>Calamagrostis rubescens</i> )
Smooth brome ( <i>Bromus inermis</i> )	Beargrass ( <i>Xerophyllum tenax</i> )
Tall Fescue ( <i>Festuca</i> spp)	Three-awn ( <i>Aristida longiseta</i> )
Idaho Fescue ( <i>Festuca idahoensis</i> )	Sandberg bluegrass ( <i>Poa sandbergii</i> )
Meadow foxtail ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> )	Needlegrass ( <i>Stipa</i> spp)

<b>Legumes</b>	
Alfalfa ( <i>Psoralea</i> spp)	Yellow sweet-clover ( <i>Melilotus officinalis</i> )
Alsike clover ( <i>Trifolium hybridum</i> )	Birdsfoot trefoil ( <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> )
Red clover ( <i>Trifolium pratense</i> )	Dutch white clover ( <i>Trifolium repens</i> L.)

<b>Forbs</b>	
Button weed ( <i>Malva neglecta</i> )	Evening primrose ( <i>Primula</i> spp)
Horse nettle ( <i>Solanum</i> spp)	Balsamorhiza ( <i>Balsamorhiza</i> spp.)
Buckwheat ( <i>Eriogonum</i> spp)	Milkweed ( <i>Asclepias</i> spp)
Burnet ( <i>Sanguisorba</i> spp)	Biscuitroots ( <i>Lomatium</i> spp.)

<b>Composites</b>	
Stinging nettle ( <i>Urtica dioica</i> )	Houndstongue ( <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> )
Western bracken fern ( <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> )	Scotch thistle ( <i>Onopordum acanthium</i> )
Cockleburr ( <i>Xanthium</i> spp)	Canada thistle ( <i>Cirsium arvense</i> )
Western ragweed ( <i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i> )	Iris ( <i>Iris</i> spp)
Common sunflower ( <i>Helianthus annuus</i> )	Bull thistle ( <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> )
Cattail ( <i>Typha latifolia</i> )	Common Teasel ( <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> )

## Appendix B. Fish and Wildlife Species Known to Occur on the Wenaha Wildlife Area

The following table and letter keys identify the species presence/sightability by season and relative abundances:

**W-winter, Sp-spring, S-summer, F-fall**      A-abundant, C-common, U-uncommon, R-rare,  
(If cell is blank, species is not present then.)

Common Name	Scientific Name	W	Sp	S	F
<b>Amphibians</b>					
Long-toed Salamander	<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum</i>	C	C	C	C
Great Basin Spadefoot	<i>Scaphiopus intermontanus</i>	R	R	R	R
Western Toad	<i>Bufo boreas</i>	R	R	R	R
Pacific Chorus (Tree) Frog	<i>Pseudacris regilla</i>	C	C	C	C
Columbia Spotted Frog	<i>Rana luteiventris</i>	R	R	R	R
Bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	R	U	U	U
<b>Total Amphibians:</b>	<b>6</b>				
<b>Birds</b>					
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>		U	U	
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	C	C	C	C
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	C	C	C	C
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	R	U	U	U
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	C	C	C	C
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	C	C	C	C
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		U	U	
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	C	C	C	C
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	C	C	C	C
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	U	U	U	U
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	C	C	C	C
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	R	R	R	R
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	A	A	A	A
Rough-legged Hawk	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>				C
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	C	C	C	C
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	C	C	C	C
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	C	C	C	C
Gray Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	C	C	C	C
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	C	C	C	C
Dusky Grouse	<i>Dendragapus obscurus</i>	C	C	C	C
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	C	C	C	C
Mountain Quail	<i>Oreortyx pictus</i>	R	R	R	R
California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	C	C	C	C
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	R	A	C	C
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	U	U	U	U
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	U	U	U	U
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	R	C	C	C
Western Screech-owl	<i>Otus kennicottii</i>	C	C	C	C
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	C	C	C	C
Northern Pygmy-owl	<i>Glaucidium gnoma</i>	R	C	C	R

Common Name	Scientific Name	W	Sp	S	F
Great Gray Owl	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	R	R	R	R
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	U	U	U	U
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	R	R	R	R
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>		C	C	C
Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>		C	C	
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	C	C	C	C
Red-naped Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>	U	U	U	U
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	C	C	C	C
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	C	C	C	C
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>		C	C	C
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	C	C	C	C
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>		U	U	
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>		C	C	
Northern Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	U	R	R	R
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>		U	U	
Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	U	C	C	C
Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	A	A	A	A
Clark's Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	C	U	U	R
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	A	A	A	A
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	A	A	A	A
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	A	A	A	A
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>		U	U	U
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>		A	C	
Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>		A	C	
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>		A	C	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		A	C	
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	C	C	C	C
Mountain Chickadee	<i>Poecile gambeli</i>	C	C	C	C
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	C	C	C	C
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	C	C	C	C
Pygmy Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>	U	U	U	U
Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	C	C	C	C
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	R	C	C	C
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	C	U	U	U
American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	C	C	C	C
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	C	C	C	C
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	C	C	C	C
Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	R	C	C	C
Mountain Bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	R	C	C	C
Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	C	C	C	C
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	R	R	R	R
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	C	A	A	C
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	U	A	A	A
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	C	C	C	C
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>		C	C	U
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>		U	U	R

Common Name	Scientific Name	W	Sp	S	F
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>		C	C	U
MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>		U	U	U
Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>		U	U	
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	R	U	U	U
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	R	C	C	C
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	C	C	C	C
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>		U	U	R
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	A	A	A	A
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>		U	U	
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	U	U	U	U
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	R	C	C	C
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	U	C	C	U
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>		R	R	R
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	<i>Leucosticte tephrocotis</i>	R	R	R	R
Pine Grosbeak	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	R	R	R	R
Cassin's Finch	<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>	U	C	C	U
Pine Siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	C	C	C	C
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	C	C	C	C
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	C	C	C	R
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	A	A	A	A
<b>Total Birds:</b>	<b>97</b>				
<b>Fish</b>					
Columbia Basin Bull Trout	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	C	C	U	U
Snake R. Fall Chinook	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>				U
Snake R. Spring Chinook	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>			C	C
Snake R. Summer Steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	C	C		C
Inland Redband Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	C	C	C	C
Pacific Lamprey	<i>Lampetra tridentata</i>	R	R	R	R
Northern Pikeminnow	<i>Ptychocheilus oregonensis</i>	C	C	C	C
Largescale Sucker	<i>Catostomus macrocheilus</i>	A	A	A	A
Mountain Whitefish	<i>Prosopium williamsoni</i>	C	C	C	C
Chiselmouth	<i>Acrocheilus alutaceus</i>	U	U	U	U
Torrent Sculpin	<i>Cottus rhotheus</i>	A	A	A	A
Speckled Dace	<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i>	A	A	A	A
Longnose Dace	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>	A	A	A	A
Redside Shiner	<i>Richardsonius balteatus</i>	C	C	C	C
Bridgelip Sucker	<i>Catostomus columbianus</i>	A	A	A	A
Paiute Sculpin	<i>Cottus belgingi</i>	A	A	A	A
Peamouth	<i>Mylocheilus caurinus</i>	C	C	C	C
Smallmouth Bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	U	U	U	U
Common Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	U	U	U	U
Brown Bullhead	<i>Ictalurus natalis</i>	U	U	U	U
Channel Catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	R	R	R	R
Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	R	R	R	R
Pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	R	R	R	R
<b>Total Fish:</b>	<b>23</b>				

Common Name	Scientific Name	W	Sp	S	F
<b>Mammals</b>					
Bats (Species unknown)					
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	C	C	C	C
Snowshoe Hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>	C	C	C	C
Yellow-pine Chipmunk	<i>Tamias amoenus</i>	U	C	C	C
Yellow-bellied Marmot	<i>Marmota flaviventris</i>	R	C	C	R
Belding's Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beldingi</i>	R	A	A	U
Columbian Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus columbianus</i>	R	C	C	R
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus lateralis</i>	A	A	A	A
Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	C	C	C	C
Douglas' Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus douglasii</i>	C	C	C	C
Northern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	C	C	C	C
Northern Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys talpoides</i>	C	C	C	C
American Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	U	U	U	U
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	A	A	A	A
Canyon Mouse	<i>Peromyscus crinitus</i>	C	C	C	C
Meadow Vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	C	C	C	C
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	U	U	U	U
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	A	A	A	A
Common Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	U	U	U	U
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	A	A	A	A
Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	R	R	R	R
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	R	R	R	R
Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	U	C	C	C
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	C	C	C	C
Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>	C	C	C	C
Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>	U	U	U	U
American Badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	C	C	C	C
Western Spotted Skunk	<i>Spilogale gracilis</i>	U	U	U	U
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	U	C	C	C
Northern River Otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>	R	R	R	R
Cougar (Mountain lion)	<i>Puma concolor</i>	C	C	C	C
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	C	C	C	C
Rocky Mountain Elk	<i>Cervus elaphus nelsoni</i>	A	A	A	A
White-tailed Deer (eastside)	<i>Odocoileus virginianus ochrourus</i>	A	A	A	A
Shiras moose	<i>Alces alces shirasi</i>	U	U	U	U
Mule deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	A	A	A	A
Bighorn Sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis</i>	C	C	C	C
<b>Total Mammals:</b>	<b>37</b>				
<b>Reptiles</b>					
Western Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	C	C	C	C
Rubber Boa	<i>Charina bottae</i>	U	U	U	U
Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	C	C	C	C
Ringneck Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	R	R	R	R
Gopher Snake	<i>Pituophis catenifer</i>	C	C	C	C

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>
Common Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	C	C	C	C
Western Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus viridis</i>	R	U	U	U

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**Total Reptiles: 7**

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**Appendix C. Water Rights Held by the Wenaha Wildlife Area**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Certificate</b>	<b>Quantity (cfs)</b>	<b>Quantity (AF)</b>
1	41176	0.0100	spring
2	41176	0.300	spring
3	47104	0.0100	spring
4	65539	0.6600	
5	74967		8 springs 5.76
6	80159		4 ponds 3.72

**Appendix D. Land Acquisitions and Transfers  
involving Wenaha Wildlife Area**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Cooperator</b>
<b>1953</b>	702.50	Acquired from	Cantor
<b>1953</b>	1,527.29	Acquired from	H. DeJean
<b>1953</b>	1,600.98	Acquired from	G. Knight
<b>1953</b>	320	Acquired from	C. Russell
<b>1953</b>	253	Acquired from	F. & E. Schultz
<b>1954</b>	1,110.12	Acquired from	S. & B. Cummings
<b>1954</b>	160	Acquired from	E. Cummings
<b>1954</b>	160	Acquired from	E. & R. Fisher
<b>1954</b>	240.32	Acquired from	D. Shafer
<b>1955</b>	160	Acquired from	F. & W. Shafer
<b>1955</b>	440	Acquired from	C. DeJean
<b>1955</b>	160	Acquired from	F. Peterson
<b>1961</b>	160	Acquired from	A. Colpitts Jr
<b>1961</b>	320	Acquired from	H. & G. Colpitts
<b>1961</b>	840	Acquired from	B. & C. Colpitts
<b>1963</b>	80	Acquired from	A. Knight
<b>1965</b>	3.83	Acquired from	W. Ellis
<b>1966</b>	935.32	Acquired from	Boise Cascade Corp.
<b>1966</b>	158	Acquired from	H. & M. Salvage
<b>1973</b>	674.20	Acquired from	L. Kiesecker
<b>1975</b>	54	Acquired from	H. & M. & C. Haugerud
<b>1984</b>	338.14	Acquired from	D. Peacock
<b>1987</b>	411	Acquired from	A. Jones
<b>1991</b>	160	Acquired from	Nature Conservancy
<b>1996</b>	70	Acquired from	Red Sargent
<b>1996</b>	10.7	Acquired from	R. Burner & R. Challis

**2006      11,049.4      Department- Owned Lands**

\_\_\_\_\_ 1,329.60      MOU agreement      BLM

**2006**      1,369.60      Lands administered but not owned

**2006      12,379      Total Lands Managed**

**Appendix E. Easements Held on the Wenaha Wildlife Area**

<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Beneficiary</b>
ODFW	Home site access	Raymond Brown
Raymond Brown	Public access	ODFW
ODFW	Well, Pump house, pipeline	Warren Jones
ODFW	Pipeline	Iris Couch
ODFW	Fence, pipeline, stock tank	USFS
ODFW	Temporary logging road	BLM
ODFW	Power line right of way	Clearwater Power Co.
ODFW	Road, stockpile, Landfill	Wallowa County
Boise Cascade	Public access	ODFW
Cecil Waldrop	Public access	ODFW
Edith Banks	Public access	ODFW
Leslie Biedler	Public access	ODFW

## **Appendix F. Legal Obligations Influencing Management of the Wenaha Wildlife Area**

### **Federal Laws**

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act  
Pittman- Robertson Act of 1937  
The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended  
National Historic Preservation Act  
National Environmental Policy Act  
Americans with Disabilities Act

### **Oregon Revised Statutes**

ORS 496.012 Oregon's Wildlife Policy  
ORS 496.138 General Duties and Powers; Rulemaking Authority  
ORS 496.146 Additional Powers of the Commission  
ORS 496.162 Establishing seasons, amounts and manner of taking wildlife; rules  
ORS 496.992 Penalties

### **Oregon Administrative Rules**

#### **Division 008 - Department of Fish and Wildlife Lands**

635-008-0015 Agreements to Restrict Motor-propelled Vehicles  
635-008-0040 Forage Removal from State Lands  
635-008-0050 Fish and Wildlife Commission to Post and Enforce Rules  
635-008-0005 Wenaha Wildlife Area

#### **Division 011 - Statewide Angling Regulations**

635-011-0050 Procedure of Promulgation of Angling Regulations  
635-011-0100 General Rule

#### **Division 50 - Furbearer and Unprotected Mammal Regulations**

635-050-0015 - Purpose  
635-050-0045 - General Furbearer Regulations  
635-050-0020 - Areas Open to Hunting or Trapping

#### **Division 051 - General Game Bird Regulations**

635-051-0000 Purpose and General Information  
635-051-0065 State Wildlife Area Regulations

#### **Division 053 - Upland Game Bird Regulations**

635-053-0000 Purpose and General Information

## **Division 065 - Game Mammal General Seasons and Regulations**

635-065-0001 Purpose and General Information

635-065-0625 Regulations on State Wildlife Areas, Refuges and Special Areas

**HB 3152:** Requires the Department of Administrative Services to coordinate with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Parks and Recreation Department, the State Forestry Department, the Division of State Lands and other agencies with state forestland oversight responsibilities to adopt forest management plans or policies. The bill also establishes provisions whereby state forestland plans may address excess fuels build up and forest health. Calls for efforts to determine necessary silvicultural practices to improve and increase wildlife habitat, improve forest health, control insect-infested and diseased-stands of timber, and reduce fire danger.

**HB 2344:** Directs state agencies to develop plans for timber salvage operations to restore and recover forest lands burned by fire.