

Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

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April 15, 2017



10610 66th Ave E.
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Letter from the President

Habitat, Hunting, Legislation, Legal

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Chair Scott O'Day (360) 966-4112
Yakima Valley Chapter
Chair Abel Cortina (509) 786-9196

Greetings Members,

I have a few topics in the mix for you this month.

Below you will find a list of Wildlife areas provided by the WDFW as a result of a **Public Disclosure Request (PDR)** made on behalf of the WWA by WWA member and Washingtonians for Wildlife Council representative Jim Goldsmith.

These wildlife areas were all or in part purchased and maintained by **Pittman-Robinson Federal Funds**: Asotin Creek, Big Bend, Chehalis, Chelan, Chief Joseph, Colockum, Columbia Basin, Johns River, Klickitat, L.T. Murray, Methow, Mount Saint Helens, Oak Creek, Olympic, Scatter Creek, Sherman Creek, Shillapoo, Sinlahekin, Skagit, Snake River, Snoqualmie, South Puget Sound, Sunnyside, and W.T. Wooten.

Wildlife areas utilizing Pittman-Robinson federal funds: Asotin Creek, Big Bend, Chehalis, Chelan, Chief Joseph, Colockum, Columbia Basin, Johns River, Klickitat, L.T. Murray, Methow, Mount Saint Helens, Oak Creek, Olympic, Scatter Creek, Sherman Creek, Shillapoo, Sinlahekin, Skagit, Snake River, Snoqualmie, South Puget Sound, Sunnyside, and W.T. Wooten.

It is the WWA's position that since these wildlife areas have been purchased and maintained with **Pittman-Robinson (PR)** funds, then the WDFW should rightfully reimburse those PR funds should they continue with their
(President's letter continued on page 3)

Mission Statement

To Preserve, Protect and Promote Waterfowl, Waterfowl Habitat, & Waterfowl Hunting in Washington state

EVENTS CALENDAR

2017 Events

April 20 **Yakima Valley Chapter monthly meeting** at the Warehouse in Zillah at 6:30pm.

April 25 **Southwest Chapter monthly meeting** at the Tacoma Sportsmen’s Club at 6:30pm.

April 26 **Seattle Chapter monthly meeting** at the Kenmore Gun Club. Shooting all afternoon. Pizza and soda at 6:30 p.m. A representative from the **Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation** will speak.

April 27 **Lower Columbia Chapter monthly meeting** at the **Vancouver Trap Club** at 6:30pm.

May 6 **Moses Lake Chapter Annual Nest Count and Oyster Feed BBQ.** Be sure to RSVP and bring a dish to share. **See page 13 for more info.**

May 6 **WA Brant Festival and Puget Sound Working Decoy Carving Competition** in Burlington. **See page 12 for more info.**

May 9 **NW Chapter Meeting** at Conway Fire Station at 7pm.

May 24 **Annual Youth Mentor Shoot** at the **Seattle Chapter** monthly meeting at the Kenmore Gun Range. **See page 15 for more info.**

June 24 & 25 **Oregon Waterfowl Festival** at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in St Helens, Oregon. Volunteer with the **Lower Columbia Chapter.**

**Be an Active Member
and
Attend one of these
GREAT Events!**



Letter from the President continued...

President Letter from Page 1....

plans to destroy **Shillapoo Wildlife Area**.

The **WWA/WWC** intends to file another **PDR** seeking the exact amounts of PR funds spent in the purchase and maintenance of the aforementioned wildlife areas.

John Arrabito, Jon McAninch and I recently met with representatives of the **WDFW** including **Mick Cope** of the waterfowl section. Our **WWA** position in the meeting was that the **WDFW** is doing nothing for hunters in Washington in general. But specifically, they continue to compromise access and opportunity to the public lands waterfowlers use while ignoring our concerns. **Jon McAninch** expressed his concerns that the **USFWS** and **WDFW** have destroyed the wildlife areas and refuges in their pursuit of salmon restoration, while overlooking the fact that the purpose for those areas being created was for the benefit of waterfowl and shorebirds. Citing the **Nisqually NWR**, **Jon** pointed out that waterfowl counts have dropped most dramatically as there is no longer feeding opportunity for the waterfowl on the Refuge.

With the ongoing and demonstrated view that "if it doesn't have fins, it doesn't matter"; perhaps the **WDFW** should change its moniker to the **Washington Department of Fish (WDF)**.

Be sure to read: "**Sparks fly during, after Senate committee meeting on Fish and Wildlife budget**" by Dan Hammock, Daily World, Gray's Harbor County on **page 4-5**

This fight is not over.

You are going to see or hear this mantra until I depart, a year from now.

If you believe **WWA** is a worthwhile organization that promotes waterfowling while emphasizing the need for conservation within Washington, you have to recognize the fact that the **WWA** needs leadership on both the local and statewide levels.

Corporate **WWA** has traditionally held elections in

the springtime for the election and replacement of Directors and Officers; the chapters have traditionally held elections for their office holders in the same month. I want to make a few points here:

- a. In order to keep fresh ideas and enthusiasm within **WWA**, a rotation of leadership from time to time is necessary; and more importantly, such a rotation assures the chapter of ongoing growth as opposed to the death of the chapter when the current leadership calls it quits.
- b. I can't tell you how many times I hear from chapter members and officers: 'I'm just waiting for "Joe" to step down and then I'll run for Chairman; or, 'I don't like the way our chapter is running'; or 'No-one comes to our meetings or functions anymore'. *Hellooooh!?*
- c. Does anyone think that even great leadership runs out of gas after a few yearslet alone five, ten, or fifteen years.
- d. It's in the best interest of the **WWA** and the continuation of Washington waterfowling for discussions to be held on the direction and leadership in all locations this coming month, **corporate is seeking nominations for the position of Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary as well as Director positions**

Upcoming Vote by the General Membership on Proposed Changes to the WWA By-Laws:

There are a number of proposed changes to the By-laws on **page 6 of this newsletter**. Some of these changes are fairly innocuous; others are not: a) having to do with the allowed changes to the by-laws by a super majority of the Board of Directors; and b) having to do with the dissolution of assets of chapters and/or corporate should either circumstance occur.

The vote on the proposed changes will take place in May.

**For the Resource,
Jim Cortines**

News for the Flock

Sparks fly during, after Senate Committee Meeting on Fish and Wildlife Budget

By: Dan Hammock

Tue Apr 4, 2017 of the [The Daily World](#)

Summary: A hearing at the Senate Ways and Means committee in January regarding the Department of Fish and Wildlife's proposed budget — including significant raises to most fishing and hunting licenses — led to some harsh words for the department's Director Jim Unsworth from Ways and Means committee chairman Sen. John Braun, R-Centralia, and later, criticism from another Republican lawmaker calling into question Unsworth's ability to lead the department.

Unsworth came into the hearing claiming to have broad public support for his budget and the license fees it included. Braun strongly disagreed after listening to Unsworth's testimony, going so far as to accuse Unsworth of misleading the committee.

"These are the comments that I understand came from your online survey, and I can't find a single positive comment in them," said Braun. "In addition to that, this is a section of letters you say are in support of your proposal but if you read the letters many of them raise serious questions about your proposal."

It didn't end there. Braun continued: "I take real issue with you showing up in our committee claiming you have broad public support when your own survey and the letters you sent us don't show broad public support. So I understand you have a funding issue and a big challenge to take on, and I'm happy to help you with that, but I will not accept you showing up and misleading this committee. Thank you for your service and have a good day, sir."

When the Senate budget was released in late March, Sen. Kirk Pearson, R-Monroe, chairman of the Senate Natural Resources and Parks Committee, released a statement March 21 to address the budget as it related to Fish and Wildlife, going so far as to call the department "an agency in crisis" and saying the Department of Fish and Wildlife has "a leadership problem."

The release read, "The release of the Senate budget proposal today marks the beginning of a positive turnaround

of the troubled Department of Fish and Wildlife. The budget provides safeguards for crucial agency functions, such as hatcheries, while initiating the rebuilding of an agency in crisis."

Pearson noted the agency's proposal to address budget shortfalls by increasing the cost of fishing and hunting licenses, and his opposition to it.

"The agency wanted to correct this by initiating a hefty increase in hunting and fishing license fees without the promise for more opportunities," said Pearson, adding the problem with the department "is not a money problem, it's a leadership problem."

The Senate budget provides \$5 million from the general fund to protect hatcheries and core agency functions while bringing in outside performance and management support, according to the release.

"It's important that we provide stability to the agency while we begin a much-needed overhaul that will help protect and grow the state's hunting and fishing opportunities," said Pearson. "This budget keeps the core of the agency in place while we correct the past problems that placed the agency in this situation and help them get on stronger footing."

The budget proposal also provides funding for an outside consultant to identify and fix management and organizational issues while running a zero-based budget exercise to address ongoing budget issues.

"This budget reflects the needs of an agency in crisis," said Pearson. "Dwindling fish populations, diseased and scattered wildlife and animal conflict problems have set back the Department of Fish and Wildlife's mission over the past few years. By giving them the tools they need to be successful, we can protect and grow hunting and fishing opportunities both now and in the future."

Unsworth responded in an email widely distributed throughout the agency the following day, addressing Braun's budget proposal and comments made by Pearson.

Continued on page 5...

News for the Flock

Continued from Page 4 “Sparks Fly”....

“**Senator Braun’s** proposal contains a few positive elements, including a \$5 million one-time increase and \$1.5 million for wildlife conflict transformation, both from the State General Fund. But overall, it would not enable us to continue current service levels,” he wrote. “It’s important for us to recognize that this proposal represents just one early step in the budget development process. While it presents significant challenges, we are used to responding to budget proposals that require revision.”

He went on to say he found **Pearson’s** comments “in some ways more concerning.”

“Without citing any evidence, it describes (this Department) as an ‘agency in crisis.’ It calls into question our performance and claims that we have proposed large license fee increases ‘without the promise for more opportunities.’

Unsworth said in the memo that all hunting and fishing license fee proposals “were developed to ensure the department has the funding needed to maintain and expand commercial and recreational opportunities in the future. It is simply wrong to suggest otherwise.”

The director said the **Department of Fish and Wildlife** has made “remarkable strides” in recovering from deep budget cuts dating back to the ‘Great Recession,’ telling staff that their efforts have led to “performance improvements in every area of our operation.”

He went on to praise the people within their departments, citing their commitment to the “people and resources of this state,” and the contributions their efforts make toward the economy of the state, the health of communities and “our identity as Washingtonians.”

He continued, “Of course there’s always room for improvement, which is one of the primary reasons we initiated the **Wild Future** initiative. And some of the one-time funding proposed by **Senator Braun** might make it possible for us to conduct targeted performance reviews, such as an efficiency evaluation of our hatchery operations.”

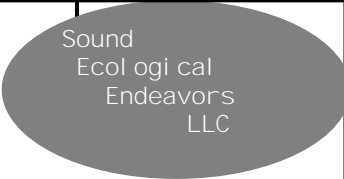
Unsworth summed up the memo by again defending his department and the work they do.

“We know the state faces a very difficult budget challenge, and that some spending cuts are quite possible,” he wrote. “But it’s not right to justify budget cuts by criticizing the people who deliver important services.”

Have thoughts about this article or other issues associated with WWA?

Then send your Letter to the President:

Send your letters to the President and Membership by emailing **Jim Cortines** at wawtrfwlr@comcast.net.



Wetland Delineation & Creation
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Rone Brewer, M. S.
President / Senior Ecologist

193253 32nd Avenue N.W.
Stanwood, WA 98292-9029

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SEE RESULTS

All Chapter Meeting Summary

Hi-Lights from the WWA All-Chapter Meeting:

Held April 6th at the Bass Pro Shops, Tacoma, WA

Present:

Scott O'Day and Brian Duim, Whatcom Chapter
Bruce Burns, Southwest Chapter
John Arrabito, Seattle Chapter
Rick Billieu, Northwest Chapter
Kurt Snyder and Jon McAninch, Gray's Harbor Chapter
Bruce Feagan, Moses Lake Chapter

Also Present, WWA Officers and Directors:

Earl Mikkelsen, Rod Boyer, Howard Hicks, and Jim Cortines

Guests: Steve Dacey & Bill Montgomery, WDFW
Jim Goldsmith & Mark Pidgeon, WWC & HHC

Discussion points:

- What makes for a successful chapter?
- Improved communication thru newsletter
- Local spots on hunt & fish radio & TV shows
- Improvement of the web-site
- Effectiveness of the Apricot system
- Chapter meetings and events
- Membership, Leadership & Churn
- Development of future leaders
- Community involvement, self promotion, hunter education programs
- Growing or Shrinking?

By-Laws and Proposed Changes:

- Chapter chair or his appointee afforded one seat on BOD, should chapter not elect to execute, BOD will appoint to the seat
- Provides for attendance through electronic means as well as voting via proxy
- Clarifies the qualifications for eligibility to hold office as a chapter officer, BOD member, or corporate officer
- Allows a 60% (super majority) vote by existing Directors to amend the By-Laws
- Provides language for the disbursal of assets in the event of the dissolution of either a chapter or corporate organizations

National Hunting and Fishing Day – Guest: Steve Dacey, Bill Montgomery, WDFW Hunter Ed:

- North Central Hunting and Fishing Day, September 23
- Boy Scout Camp Pickett, Monroe, WA, 0900-1600 hrs
- **WWA** attendance, waterfowl display
- 500 kids planned

WWA's Relationship with State agencies – Guests: Jim Goldsmith, Mark Pigeon

- Upcoming **WAG** meeting topics to include waterfowl die-offs, ongoing access issues, reduction of staff for other than salmon recovery
- Failing relationship between WA State Legislators and the **WDFW** Director and Agency
- Lack of respect for the state's hunter and especially the waterfowling community
- **WDFW's** request for higher fees when all money goes to Salmon
- **Shillapoo**, is this just another step in the State's agenda
- Continued inquiry of **WDFW** moves via **Public Disclosure Requests (PDR's)**
- Increased use of the State Legislature to control direction of **WDFW** and its lack of responsiveness to the state's sportsmen and sportswomen

See the current By Laws at:

<https://goo.gl/Uftpki>

OLD SKAGIT GUN CLUB

14933 Josh-Wilson Rd
 Burlington WA 98233
 (360) 757-4326



Dane Widen
 (360) 424-9234
 dw687eell@msn.com

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Update

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife News

By: Ella Rowan
Assistant District Wildlife Biologist

What's Going on in Frenchman Hills?

WDFW has been working on increasing and improving hunter opportunity at numerous sites in the Moses Lake area over the years, including establishing 3 Regulated Access Areas at **North Potholes, Winchester, and Frenchman Hills**. We are about to begin some major enhancements in the **Frenchman Hills** area this spring, and we plan to undertake more enhancements in the **Winchester** area next year.

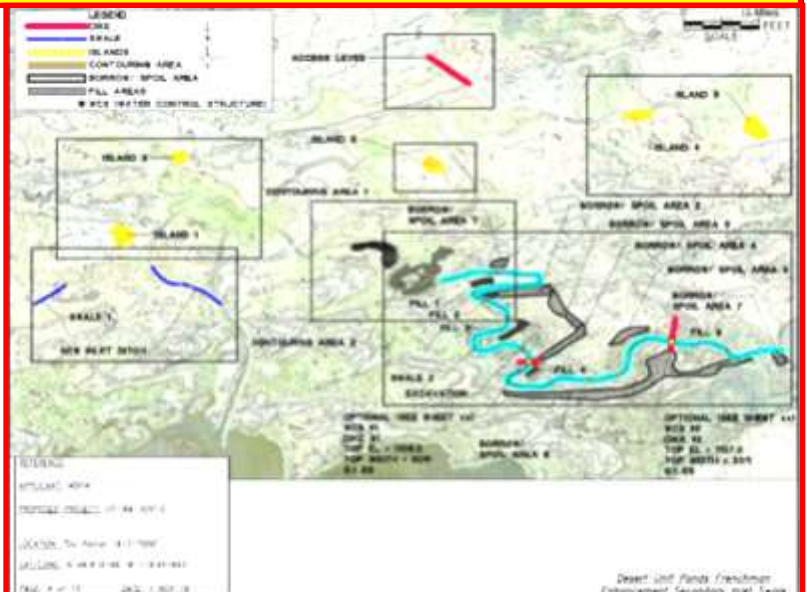
Hunters familiar with this part of the state know the lakes and wetlands are primarily man-made by the **Columbia Basin Irrigation Project** which was initiated back in the 1950's. Numerous dams and hundreds of miles of canals and irrigation wasteways were built, creating water reservoirs such as Banks Lake, Moses Lake, Potholes Reservoir and a great deal of wetland habitat. Waterfowl takes advantage of these sites, although fighting vegetation succession within the wetlands is a constant battle for WDFW. Prior to European settlement and extensive habitat alteration, wetlands in "natural" environments would have had a suite of species and climate conditions holding succession in check. Here, we have mostly man-made wetlands, we don't have all of nature's tools, and we must rely on human-powered methods.

WDFW, in collaboration with **Ducks Unlimited (DU)**, has applied for and received **Washington Duck Stamp and Print** funding to enable us to perform wetland enhancements in Frenchman Hills during 2017. This work will benefit waterfowl by creating more open wetlands, enhancing islands for loafing, and improving wetland-adjacent habitat for nesting. These conditions will also benefit a myriad of other animal species, wildlife-viewers...and hunters!

Working in wetlands requires a lot of prep work, including collecting preliminary data to devise methods and help with project design, obtaining permits from many entities, and ensuring neighboring lands will not be negatively impacted. **WDFW** and **DU** have done all of this preliminary work, and we are ready to break ground next month. Consider coming out this winter or next year to see the results!



Frenchman Hills Regulated Access Area is located just west of Potholes reservoir and southwest of Moses Lake town center.



Site map created by Ducks Unlimited depicting anticipated wetland enhancement work to commence in the Frenchman Hills area May 2017.

News for the Flock

Lower Columbia Chapter News

By: Doug Hargin

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Update:

The Hunt Program Committee met March 5th. **Chris Lapp, Eric Anderson and Alex Chmielewski** represented the **USFWS**. **WWA** members **Doug Lee, Arlan Hackett and Doug Hargin** were in attendance. Two large Deferred Maintenance Projects are scheduled for this summer. Placement of a new buried pipeline on the north end is planned into **Bower Slough, North Quigley Lake, Plantain Pond and Millet Lake**.

The new line will result in quicker and improved control of water into blinds #1 and #4. The second big project would build a low levy east of blind #18 in **South Big Lake**. This would improve control and filling of this area in the future. This has been a very wet year so far and the work will most likely run late. This will delay any flooding of blinds #18 and #19 this year. There is a high probability these two blinds won't have water until November.

The big **Federal Highway Administration** project in downtown Ridgefield to realign the boat marina and refuge access over the **Burlington Northern/Santa Fe** railroad tracks is currently under a time deadline of May 1st to have all easements in place to move forward. The Refuge hopes to include repair of slide damage on the current access road that occurred this winter. These repairs could run into the fall hunt season and impact week day hunting access. The group also discussed blind repairs and improvements for this summer. The hunt lottery will be the same program as last year administrated in house. Long time maintenance head and heavy equipment operator **Gary McNichols** has retired. He will be missed as his Refuge experience and skills will be hard to replace.

Oregon Waterfowl Festival June 24th & 25th:

Our chapter is supporting the festival as a **Lead Sponsor** this year. We invite all **WWA** members to join us that weekend at our booth. The event is billed as the *largest waterfowl festival west of the Mississippi*. The organizers are working hard to make this the best one yet. Check out their website at: <http://oregonwaterfowlfestival.com/>

Online Wood Duck Box Cams

By: Richland Rod and Gun Club



The wood duck nesting season has started. On April 2nd we checked a few boxes (based on hot tips from landowners) and found hens occupying a few nests. We have installed cameras in three boxes and have live streaming video from two boxes and hopefully we will resolve the off-line issue on the third soon. Additionally we have a lead on another box

for a fourth camera. Many thanks to the **Pacific Northwest National Laboratory** for their generous donation of two laptops that are essential to being able to broadcast the live streaming video.

To keep tabs on the status of the in-box cameras check our web page

<http://www.rrgcwoodducks.org/in-box-cameras>.

Kitsap County Chapter News

The **Kitsap County Chapter** is looking for a new Chapter Chairperson. Peninsula Waterfowlers, we need someone to step forward.

Spokane Chapter News

The **Spokane County Chapter** is looking for a new Chapter Chairperson. Inland Empire Waterfowlers, we need someone to step forward.



News for the Flock

Washington State Duck Stamp



The 2016-2017 Washington State Duck Stamp prints and stamps with the image of a Hooded Merganser, created specifically for Washington by **Doug Snyder** of Chicago are available for purchase. The date for complimentary duck stamp submittals has passed, but the prints with stamps are

still for sales for years 2012 thru 2016. **Order forms are on page 21** or are available online at <http://www.shuttlepod.org/duckstamp>

difference. *Imagine what we could do if we had six thousand members!*

Have fun on the turkey season and I'll get back with you next month! (*Turkeys are wildfowl!*)

Kurt Snyder
Kurtsnyder@outdrs.net

Grays Harbor Chapter News

By: Kurt Snyder

Goose Nesting Platforms with Families:

Hi all. Can you believe it's already Turkey season? I have barely recovered from the waterfowl season.

I'm happy to report that we had a good turnout for this years goose nesting project. All five (5) of our platforms on **Cedarville Farms** property have mommy geese setting on eggs!

Our three (3) platforms at **Mayfield Reservoir** are unused but all three have geese setting on ground nests close by. One mother goose was sitting on eggs right behind my blind. I hope they keep the water level low enough so her nest doesn't get washed out! We spotted six (6) nesting pairs there without them using our platforms. They might still get used...

We have scheduled our events this year so keep your eye peeled for the fliers in the next issue of this newsletter!

You've Made a Difference:

Many thanks to all that sent in their comments on the three active issues. First the **Willapa Bay eel grass spraying permit**, second the **Shillapoo Wildlife Area disaster** in the making and the **unrealistic raising of all the hunting and fishing permit fees**. With your support, we have a chance at being heard. Just us spreading the word about these issues can make a huge



These are a few of the Grays Harbor Chapter goose nesting platforms. The geese fight over them. The platforms give mother geese a 360 degree view of any predators or picture takers. We have seen a 100% hatching success rate in all platforms that get occupied. Thanks to Jon McAninch for the pictures.



News for the Flock

Hunt for Two Raffle

CEDARVILLE FARMS WATERFOWL CLUB



- **Drawing Date October 5th 2017 at the Evergreen Sportsman's Club**
- **Two Chances to Win with every ticket!**
- **Two Drawings and Two Winners!**
- **Hunts will be on the Cedarville Farms Waterfowl Club exclusive hunting properties or Puget Sound during the 2017/2018 waterfowl season.***
- **Overnight lodging included at the Cedarville Farms Lodge near Oakville Wa.**
- **Winner has choice of; *Inland waterfowl hunt or Puget Sound trophy Sea Duck hunt!***

Ticket price is \$5.00 per single ticket or \$20.00 for Five tickets.

Read the small print below

Need not be present at drawing to win. Proceeds benefit the Washington Waterfowl Associations' Individual Chapter projects like Youth Shooting Events and Youth Water-fowling education.

Contact your WWA Chapter Chairman for ticket purchase and contact kurtsnyder@outdrs.net or 360-485-9353 for purchase, raffle rules and information.

This raffle is sponsored by the Grays Harbor Chapter of the Washington Waterfowl Association

**Some exceptions may apply.*

News for the Flock

Northwest Chapter News

By: Rick Billieu

Thanks to Reb Broker:

In last month's Newsletter and Chapter meeting the NW Chapter's Chairman **Reb Broker** gave his farewell address to the membership. Reb and family are moving to Naples, Italy for the next two years and we wish them all the best.

Through Reb's leadership the Chapter has reached new levels of accomplishments for Chapter sponsored events, local conservation activities, collaboration with state agencies and membership engagement. He has been an energetic advocate for promoting Waterfowl Heritage in our region and we thank him.

Arts and Crafts for Hunters- March Chapter Meeting:

At the March Chapter meeting the members constructed several new Wood Duck boxes. Originally planned for the Feb meeting that was cancelled with good foresight due to Valentine's Day. All Boxes were taken by members for placement in local areas. The Chapter has installed many Wood Duck Boxes in Skagit and Snohomish counties. Members recently completed annual cleaning and maintenance of Boxes and Nesting Tubes at various locations.

Chapter Calendar of Events:

The Chapters Calendar of events for the year will be reviewed at our next meeting as we solidify near term activities including, Blind clean-up and maintenance at some of the local Wildlife areas. This is also a good time to hone those shooting skills. The chapter will be planning some fun shoots at local ranges.

Decoy Carving:

Here's an opportunity to show off your decoy carving talent. The **Washington Brant Foundation** is hosting its annual Decoy Carving and Scholarship Auction. As an added bonus this year's event will also be the **DU State Championships!** There are entries in this event from carvers around the country. Carving contest rules can be found at <http://washingtonbrant.org>.

The event will be held on May 6th at Holiday Sports in Burlington (**See Flier on page 12**). If you want to enter a

decoy this would be the perfect event. I'm still at the sharpening the end of a stick level so, I'll be enjoying the fun. See you there!

Turkey Hunters Unite:

For all you Turkey hunters it's only a couple days until you can once again camo-up and sneak around in the woods in stealth mode pretending nothing can see you. This is one of my favorite times of the year, sitting under my favorite tree trying to keep Mosquito Repellant off my call. Good Hunting and Gobble-Gobble

Monthly Chapter Meeting:

The Northwest Chapter meets on the second Tuesday each month at the Conway Fire Station starting at 7pm. Our next meeting will be May 9. Hope to see you there!

Rick Billieu rgbillieu@frontier.com



NW Chapter Members working hard building and installing wood duck boxes throughout the Skagit and Snohomish counties.



News for the Flock

**WASHINGTON BRANT FOUNDATION
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER CELEBRATION**

2017

Puget Sound

Working Decoy

Carving Competition

Saturday, May 6, 2017

10:30 Judging Vendors Displays

12:00 Results Awards

12:30 Live Auction

Sponsor Raffle Scholarship Fund

Holiday Sports

Burlington, WA

Competition Classes:

... Brant Class

... Open Class

... Novice

... Youth (16 & under)

Brant Mini Class

Call Kurt Benson

425-231-6497

Kurt Benson 425-231-6497

Sponsored by the
**WASHINGTON
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WABRANT.ORG**



News for the Flock

Yakima Valley Chapter News

By: Roger Bennett

Boat Ramp Clean-Up:

YV-Chapter member, **Hugh Carney** and his son **Finn** spearheaded some much-needed clean-up at the **Buckshot Ranch** boat launch near **Desert Aire** this past month. Unfortunately, some of these out-of-the-way sites become dumping grounds for garbage and unwanted appliances. The **Carneys** were able to haul away multiple truckloads of junk. Thanks for going the extra mile to improve things for all of us!

April Meeting:

Our April meeting (normally the second Thursday of the month), has been postponed until Thursday, April 20th. We will be meeting at the **Warehouse in Zillah** at 6:30pm. For more information, contact **YV Chapter Chairman Abel Cortina** at 509-786-9196.

Southwest Chapter News

By: Bruce Burns

Wood Duck Boxes:

The chapter is still checking the Wood Duck boxes should be done with them this month.

Monthly Meeting:

This month's meeting at the **Tacoma Sportsmen's Club** on April 25 at 6:30pm.

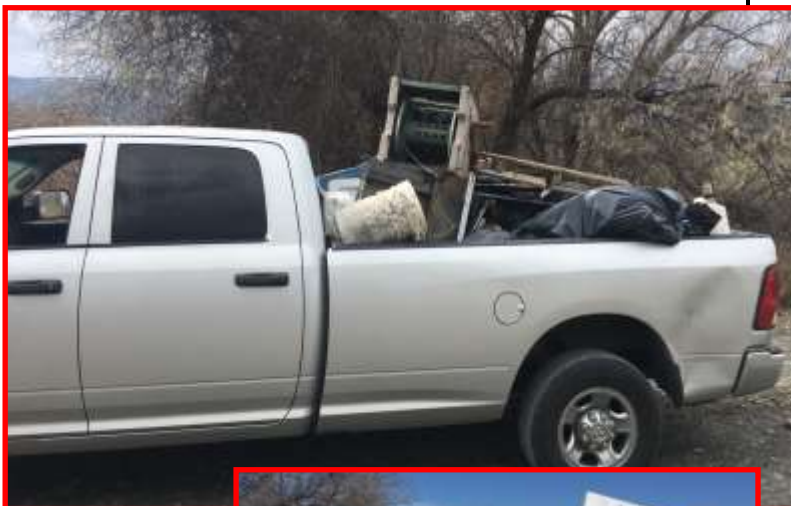
Moses Lake Chapter News

By: Dick Price

Goose Nest Count on Potholes Reservoir:

On Saturday, May 6, 2017, we will conduct our annual **Goose nest count on Potholes Reservoir**. Meet at 10:00 A.M. at the boat launch under the power lines. Turn left on the road to the Job Corp dike and go down the hill to the launch. Please R.S.V.P. to **Robin Hickok** at: rhood007@aol.com or 425-238-6292 or 509-765-3541 if you can make it so we will know how many boats we have and how many folks will be there. If you can bring a boat please be sure you have all the required safety gear, we don't want you to receive a ticket.

After the count gather at **Robin and Susan's** place for a **bar-b-que and oyster feed potluck**. Bring a dish to share with your fellow counters and exchange war stories of past season's successes and/or failures. The **Hickok's** home is located across the lake from the park on Valley Road at: **8206 Scott Road N.E., Moses Lake, WA 98837**



Thanks to WWA member, Hugh Carney and his son Finn for cleaning the Buckshot Ranch boat launch near Desert Aire!



Tacoma Sportsmen's Club

16409 Canyon Rd. E.
Puyallup, WA 98375
(253) 537-6151

www.tacomassportsmensclub.com

News for the Flock

Seattle Chapter News

By: John Arrabito

More Goose Hunting Opportunity Coming to WA:

Maybe, just maybe, the **WDFW** Commission is starting to react positively to the multiple and more recent complaints of waterfowlers for "more opportunity." To speak on that topic and related issues, our program for April will be a talk by a member of the **Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation (WWC)** and **Hunters Heritage Council (HHC)**. See the **President's Letter** and the related story on page 4 of this month's **WWA Newsletter**

It's no secret that more and more waterfowlers from the State of Washington – waterfowlers that you know – have been opting in recent years to drive 18 – 24 hours with trailer loads of decoys to **Alberta and/or Saskatchewan, Canada** in September and October to hunt waterfowl. A week-long Provincial license plus the fee to bring your shotgun into the country and Canadian waterfowl conservation stamp costs about the same as an annual resident waterfowl license and stamp authorization in Washington.

However the opportunity is no comparison with daily bag limits of ducks, dark geese and white-fronted geese [Specklebelly geese] readily obtainable, and the daily bag limit of 25 snow geese gives the waterfowler just as much [or as little] hunting as one wants to partake of in a single day.

Commission Authorizes Increased Limits:

On Friday, April 14, 2017, the **WDFW Commission** authorized "rule changes to increase the daily limit for white-fronted geese and white geese in response to the growing abundance of those species," according to the **WDFW** press release of the same date. However the news release was silent as to the exact numbers, and before press time for this Newsletter that information was not available.

On Saturday, April 8, 2017, **WDFW's** citizen **Waterfowl Advisory Group (WAG)**, based upon the presentation by **Kyle Spragens**, **WDFW's** new **Waterfowl Section Manager** [replacing **Don Kraege** who retired from that position last July after 36 years with the Department] recommended a daily bag limit – both eastside and westside – of **4 Canada geese PLUS 6 snow geese PLUS 10 white-front geese!** Apparently **Spragens** was able to successfully promote that same recommendation to the Commission.



Ben Welton, a Vietnam Veteran working in DOD Intelligence, a sea duck waterfowl guide of 25+ years, and a WWA member, was the primary force behind WWA-Seattle co-sponsoring the first ever Youth Duck Shoot at the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge in 2015.
Photo courtesy of Michael Crowder

WA Loses Waterfowler and Conservationist Icon

In related news was the passing of **Ben Welton** of **LaConner** just three (3) days prior to the **WAG** meeting. **Ben**, a Lifetime member of **Ducks Unlimited (DU)** and a Lifetime member of the **WA Brant Foundation**, was the Chairman of the **WAG** for the past two years of 2015 and 2016. Most everyone in waterfowl conservation work in WA had a story about **Ben Welton**, and members of the **WAG** [many of whom are **WWA** members from around the state] had a chance to share those stories in member introductions before giving up their Saturday to conduct seven (7) hours of **WAG** business as unpaid volunteers.

Annual Youth Mentor Shoot at Seattle Chapter May 24th Meeting:

Larry and Kathy Gordon of **AMS Guns in Woodinville** will be putting on their 13th Annual Youth Mentor Shoot at our May 24th Meeting. The program has run upwards of 240 youth thru this program over the years, and their daughter, **Tricia Ring** and her husband **Royce**, have agreed to carry on this tradition from there!

See Flyer on adjacent page for details!

Annual Youth Mentor Shoot at Seattle Chapter May 24th Meeting: Larry and Kathy Gordon of AMS Guns in Woodinville will be putting on their 13th Annual Youth Mentor Shoot at our May 24ⁿ Meeting. The program has run upwards of 240 youth thru this program over the years, and their daughter, **Tricia Ring and her husband Royce**, have agreed to carry the torch forward from there!



WASHINGTON WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION & THE WILDLIFE COMMITTEE OF WASHINGTON INC. PRESENTS:



**13th ANNUAL YOUTH MENTOR SHOTGUN SHOOT
MAY 24, 2017 – KENMORE GUN RANGE**

This program is designed to instill in the student safe firearm handling, to learn shotgun shooting skills, and have fun.

FIRST TIME OR BEGINNING YOUTH AGE 16 AND UNDER WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOOT ONE ROUND OF TRAP FREE

PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE FREE:

- ⊕ FIREARM SAFETY TRAINING
- ⊕ ONE ON ONE INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION
- ⊕ SHELLS, RANGE FEES
- ⊕ USE OF SHOTGUN
- ⊕ WWA HAT AND DINNER

**PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A LEGAL GUARDIAN/PARENT/ADULT
CHECK-IN BEGINS AT 4:00 P.M. & PROGRAM RUNS TO 8:00 P.M.**

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 16TH (LIMITED TO 20 YOUTHS)

****REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED, NO WALK ON'S, NO EXCEPTIONS****

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:
AMS GUNS 425-483-8855**

CO-SPONSORED BY: WWA, WCW, AMS GUNS

Hunter Education Class Information: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/enf/huntered/basichuntered.htm>

.....
Mail to: AMS Guns, PO Box 477, Woodinville, WA 98072 Call: 425-483-8855

Adult Name: _____

Youth Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

*Do you own your own "Youth Shotgun"? Yes _____ No _____

*Are you a member of WWA? Yes _____ No _____

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Must attend "The Firearm Safety Training" at 4:30 p.m., to be ALLOWED to Shoot.

Youth Mentor Shotgun Shoot, May 24, 2017

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Renew Online at www.waduck.org

By: Ellen Satre

If you have not received your membership card or decal. Please contact Ellen. As well, if you have questions or changes to your address please contact Ellen at EllenSWWA@comcast.net or call 253.845.2398.

WWA Life Members

JOIN THE HERITAGE CLUB

\$500 Life Member; \$750 Sustaining Lifetime Member

WADUCK.ORG

#1 Gary Talbert	#2 Paul Bunn	#3 Austin Addicoat	#4 Rone Brewer	#5 Fritz Kimle
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#11 Rich Greenshields	#12 Mike Lovelace	#13 Reserved on Time Payments	#14 Jack Westerfield	#15 Bud Hufnagel
#16 John Arrabito	#17 Jenny Lutz	#18 Mike Lutz	#19 Reserved on Time Payments	#20 Brett Stark
#21 Earl Mikkelson	#22 US Rep Jamie Herrera-Beutler	#23 Ken Packard	#24 Jan Sabin	#25 Lance Kintrea
#26 Jim Kline	#27 Leon Kollman	#28 Derek Melton	#29 Dan Stearns	#30 John Hanson
#31 Mark Hackett	#32 Reserved 2nd Bud Hufnagel	#33 Mickey Clary	#34 Reserved for BQT Presentation (2017)	#35 Reserved for BQT Presentation (2017)
#36 Doug Graef	#37 Robb Stack	#38 Rod Boyer	#39 Paul Sullivan	#40 Jessica Dunn
#41 Dave Farley	#42 Will Goldsmith	#43 Shaunie Cochran	#44 Claudean Talbert	#45 William Dunlap
#46 Analise Arrabito	#47 Robert Zeka	#48 Ron Watkins	#49 Ken Boyer	#50 Henry Field
#51 Ric Wray	#52 Rich Phillips	#53 Ross Barkhurst	#54 Michael Bess	#55 In Memory of Anne Grichuhin



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News for the Flock

The **WWA** is based on volunteer efforts and donations from folks that care about the waterfowl hunting heritage. Our success rides on the shoulders of these volunteers and generous benefactors. Below in red is a listing of recent contributions to the six (6) primary funds established by the **WWA** since publication of the March 2017 Newsletter.

WWA Youth Fund — \$1,755

Monthly Recurring Donation — Jim Goldsmith, April 2017 — \$5

WWA Legal Fund — \$17,867

Monthly Recurring Donation — John Arrabito, April 2017 — \$5

WWA Habitat Fund — \$785

WWA Jay Koetje Memorial Fund for Skagit Farmed Island — \$1,975

Dollars used to buy a mower to help maintain the Farmed Island Unit of the Skagit Wildlife Area

WWA Heritage Lands Fund — \$10,957

WWA General Fund — \$154

You can contribute in so many ways to the **WWA**, from locally in your Chapter, to statewide, helping the **WWA** carry on! Many donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Waterfowler's Heritage.



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News for the Flock

TREASURER's REPORT (4-6-2017)

Corporate Checking (BAC)	\$ 13,342.90
Corporate Checking (Banner)	\$ 14,373.95
Funds to be Deposited	\$ 0.00
Duck Stamp Account (As of 3/1/17)	\$ 11,097.73
Merchandise Account (As of 1/5/17)	\$ 2,415.15
Corporate C.D.	\$ 17,629.01
Corporate Total	\$ 57,121.14

CHAPTER FINANCES

GH Checking (1-7-2016)	\$ 1,632.41
Kitsap Chapter (To Be Funded)	
LC Checking	\$ 25,383.99
ML Checking	\$ 26,046.43
NW Checking	\$ 18,941.64
SEA Checking	\$ 21,112.11
SEA CD Amount	\$ 9,754.48
SEA Robert Hickok Fund	\$ 1,317.21
SEA Total	\$ 32,183.80
SPO Checking	Closed 5/19/2014
SW Checking	\$ 6,671.94
Tri-Cities Checking	\$ 100.00
(Original Seed Money)	
WH Checking	\$ 5,388.37
YV Checking	\$ 2,513.56

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 TomElliott.JohnLScott.com

John L. Scott
 REAL ESTATE

With the referral from a WWA member that results in a sale, I will donate \$300 to Heritage Lands. Contact me today!

JOHN T. ARRABITO, P.C.

John T. Arrabito
 Attorney at Law

Phone: (425) 894-4080
 FAX (425) 775-8016
 E-mail: jarrabito@comcast.net

19303—44th Avenue W.
 Lynnwood, WA 98036

Classifieds— For Sale and Wanted

For Sale:

Livingston 11ft with 15HP Johnson/trailer/easy on/off marsh grass boat blind in good condition. \$950 total . Contact **John Hanson** john@all-mountain.com 425 343 3401

Orvis Old School Camo down jacket size Large \$60. Contact **James Meaux** at 206.735.1768

12 Gauge, camouflaged Mossberg 500 with extra chokes. \$350 & buyer pays transfer fee. vrmontr63@gmail.com 360-982-3127 Text or Leave message if no answer. NO TRADES

Beretta A300 autoloader Realtree camouflage 12 gauge, new in box, \$600 firm, **Jeff** 360 708 0585 or jeffblee98@yahoo.com.

Rifle. Savage Model III 300 Winchester Mag with Simmons 3 -9 scope. Black composite stock. 22" barrel. Very little use. Make offer. **Paul Stevick** (360) 509-7409 or paulstevick@hotmail.com

Hard sided double rifle transport case. Model 2SKB-5009 ATA. Locks with keys. Like new. \$125. (360) 509-7409 or paulstevick@hotmail.com

Wanted:

Grady White 208 Adventure. Looking for clean, well cared for 208 with 4-stroke engine, no bottom paint, galvanized trailer. Please contact **Mike Vandehey** by phone 360-920-1959.

Spinning wing mallard decoy. Original Zebco fishing reel driven with speedometer cable. Mathews Speedo. Any parts or pieces or broken works also. Price flexible. Contact 206-579-4129

**WWA Classifieds:**

WWA is dedicating a page in the newsletter for WWA members to sell hunting related items to their fellow members. No business ads please. That extra shotgun, waders, decoys or boat could get you some cash or trade for something another member has on hand.

Rules are simple:

- 25 words or less.
- Members only may advertise.
- For sale items only, not for business ads. (Businesses are welcome to purchase business ads from us.)
- Submit your classified ad each month (we have no way of knowing if you sold/purchased your item or not).
- Be sure to include your contact info. Phone and/or email.
- Send to **Matty Moore** at matty@vision-marketing.net or call 509.944.1009 by the 10th of the month.

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contact us at (509)582-0190



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2016 Washington Migratory Bird Stamp Print Order Form

The Washington Waterfowl Association is pleased to present the 2016 Washington State Migratory Bird Stamp and Limited Edition Print created by Mr. Doug Snyder of Chicago, Illinois. Revenue received through this program will be used by the WWA and the WDGW to improve habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds in Washington.

Please send me:



1 2 3 4 (circle one) or more _____: unframed print(s)



1 2 3 4 (circle one) or more _____: unframed print(s) and stamp(s)

1 2 3 4 (circle one) or more _____: framed print(s) and stamp(s)



If available, the edition number(s) I would like are: _____

Please Ship Prints to:

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

I have included \$55* for each unframed print for a total of \$_____ .00

I have included \$70* for each unframed print & stamp for a total of \$_____ .00

I have included \$120* for each framed print/stamp for a total of \$_____ .00

*(Prices include shipping and handling)

Total Amount: \$_____ .00

Mail a check for the total amount to:

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FARMLAND AND PUBLIC ACCESS PRESERVATION

The WWA is launching a private land/public access program called *Heritage Lands*. The goal is farmland preservation and public outdoor recreation opportunity, with the initial implementation in the Skagit and Stillaguamish River valleys.

DON'T let your Heritage Lands Turn from this into....



This Program will **Purchase** Farmland, **Preserve** it, **Conserve** it, **Promote** it, **Maintain** it, and **Manage** it for Waterfowl and Public Hunting for you and the Next Generation.

We need your personal, corporate, or in-kind commitment to help us exceed our goal of \$300,000! We currently have a benefactor that will match the first \$2,000. Contact Rone Brewer to donate (206) 595-7481.

Every Donation Helps! WWW.WADUCK.ORG

For additional information please contact:

Rone Brewer, (206) 595-7481
nwducks@frontier.com

Skagit Valley Photos
Courtesy of Dave Honan
www.davehonan.com

WWA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Best Phone Contact: (_____) _____

Membership Type:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family (immediate family up to age 18) — | \$ 35.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular — | \$ 30.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Life — | \$ 500.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sustaining Life — | \$ 750.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior (65 or over) - | \$ 15.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Junior (under age 18) -- | \$ 15.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2-Year Regular | \$ 50.00 | (New) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2-Year Family | \$ 60.00 | (New) |
- (2-year memberships not available online)**

Chapter & Newsletter: (Please specify your preferences)

Newsletter by email or hard copy

- Grays Harbor/Chehalis Valley Chapter** meets the 1st Thursday of the month (Feb – Oct) at the **Evergreen Sportsmen’s Club**, 12736 Marksman Road, SW, Olympia.
- Kitsap Peninsula Chapter** — Dates and places TBD.
- Lower Columbia Chapter** meets the last Thursday of the month (Jan – Sept) at the **Vancouver Trap Club**, 11100 NE 76th Street in Vancouver.
- Moses Lake Chapter** – Dates and places TBD.
- Northwest Chapter** meets year round the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the **Conway Fire Hall**.
- Seattle Chapter** meets the 4th Wednesday of the month (Jan – Oct) at **Kenmore Shotgun Range**, 1031 – 228th Street SW, Bothell, WA
- Southwest Chapter** meets on the last Tuesday of the month (Feb – Sept) at the **Tacoma Sportsman’s Club**, 16409 Canyon Road E, Puyallup.
- Spokane Chapter** – Vacant
- Tri Cities Chapter** — Dates and places TBD.
- Whatcom County Chapter** meets the 1st Tuesday of the of the month (Jan – Nov.) at the **Tenant Lake Interpretive Center**.
- Yakima Valley Chapter** meets the 2nd Thursday of the month (Feb – Sept) alternating between restaurants in either **Prosser** or **Zillah**. See Page 2 for this month’s meeting location.

Pay with a credit card from our website:

www.waduck.org

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Mail with a check to:

WWA,
10610 66th Avenue E.
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A few facts about the WWA:

- Established in 1945
- Non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
- 10 chapters throughout Washington
- We spend all of our resources within Washington State

Our projects include:

- Working on behalf of Hunter’s Rights issues to keep public access open and available
- Administration of the WA Migratory Bird Stamp and Print Program
- Hosting and sponsoring the Washington State Duck Calling Championships
- Wood Duck Nest Box & Mallard Nest Tube, Goose Nest Pot & platform construction, installation, & maintenance
- Working with the Boy Scouts of America on Eagle Scout projects
- Hosting Youth Mentor shotgun shooting one-on-one instruction events
- Conducting NRA sanctioned Hunter Education classes for Youth & donation of funds to offset WDFW printing costs for youth gun safety classes
- Donation of funds to support high school shooting teams in Washington
- Teaching adults and youth decoy carving arts
- Working with thousands of children at Sportsman’s Show painting decoys, and with seriously ill youngsters on a decoy painting project
- Providing scholarships for boys and girls to attend a week at Youth Conservation Camp on Orcas Island, WA
- Working with the WDFW in the creation of premium quality hunt waterfowling areas
- Building and rehabilitating blinds in public hunting areas
- Distribution and planting of thousands of pounds of donated corn seed for waterfowl consumption
- Working with the Yakama Tribe in banding upland birds and waterfowl, and building duck “blinds” on tribal lands
- Goose and duck nest counts and banding of both with the WDFW and USFWS
- Working with the WDFW on dove counts & planting WDFW food plots in Eastern WA with WWA owned tractor and farming implements
- Sponsoring of the Annual NW Decoy Collector’s Show
- Participating in multiple Sportsman’s shows annually
- Donation of funds and volunteer man hours for Swan Mortality Mitigation Studies
- Donation of funds and man hours to WDFW for goose banding and satellite tracking
- Litter pickup projects at public hunting areas, boat ramps, and along highways; and conducting multiple fund raising banquets annually to pay for all of these “hands on” conservation projects.