

2016 RR Wildlife Monitoring Summary

A total of \$8,764.30 was charged to the RR wildlife surveys account.

Winter BAEA: 3 surveys were planned for Nov, Dec 2015 and January 2016. The November survey canceled due to weather. The December and January surveys were completed with a total of 87 eagles observed. Of these, 77 were BAEA, 9 were GOEA, and 1 was UNID EA. Peak numbers of eagles were observed during January 2016, when a total of 48 bald eagles (0 golden) were observed; (24 SA, 24 A). The 8 January 2016 survey was conducted during the National Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey time frame. On average, eagles were more frequently observed in the area between Spencer Canyon and Knapp Tunnel, and also in the Howard Flats vicinity.

Over a period of 28 years, (winter of 1988-89 to winter of 2015-16) the average numbers of bald eagles observed wintering along Rocky Reach Reservoir has increased from an average of 16.1 bald eagles/survey (1988-89) to 38.5 bald eagles per survey (2015-16).

A total of \$3,377.84 was charged to the RR account for winter bald eagle monitoring, including 2 reservoir surveys, data entry and submission to the National Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Count, and report writing.

Nesting BAEA: A total of 7 nest territories were monitored. All 7 were classified as occupied. 4 territories were successful, producing a total of 6 fledglings. The remaining 3 were classified as breeding unknown, as the adults were observed in the vicinity, but no breeding activity was documented at known nest sites within their territory during 2016.

A total of \$1,161.91 was charged to the RR account for nesting eagle surveys, which included 9 surveys (20 hours + vehicle charges) conducted for nesting eagles and report writing (2 hours).

Canada goose nesting along RR

A total of 4 surveys were conducted. During 2016, there were 63 Canada goose nests (339 eggs total). This is higher than the long-term average of 55. Seventy-six percent of all the eggs laid hatched. Eighteen nests were attempted in 20 available goose tubs. Fifteen of those nests (83%) were successful in producing goslings (n = 84). No hybrid geese were observed nesting.

Success was greater in man-made structures (82%) compared to success at natural sites (73%). However, production was higher from the natural nests due to the higher proportion of natural nests relative to the tubs. Thirteen of the 14 nests were documented as being destroyed by mammalian or avian predators and one was found to have unhatched eggs (unknown if eggs were infertile or abandoned for unknown reasons).

A total of \$4,224.55 was charged to the RR account for 1 prep day filling tubs, 4 nest surveys, and report writing.

Noxious Weeds

Biological control agents were released at multiple locations within the Rocky Reach Wildlife Area (RRWA) in the areas affected by the Chelan Complex Fire. The total number of biological control insects released during 2016 was 19,726.

A total of 10,500 *Mecinus janthinus* (stem-mining weevil) for Dalmatian toadflax, 2,100 *Larinus minutus* (seed head feeder) and 166 *Cyphocleonus achates* (root weevil) both for both diffuse and spotted knapweed were released at various locations within the project area. For the first time, Russian knapweed was targeted within the RRWA by releasing a new biological control agent, known as *Japiella ivonikovi* (gall midge). A total of 6,960 of these were released.

The total invoice for weed control approved in the 2016 Integrated Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Plan is \$19,000 for the collection and release of biological control agents in the RRWA for 2016.