

Since 1964, we have supported the Columbia Basin Project and its future development. We protect its water rights and educate the public on the renewable resource and multiple-purpose benefits of the project.



View of Lind Coulee Siphon 2 from Lind-Warden Highway.

### OGWRP Progress Report

In an interview with CBDL, Craig Simpson, Manager of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) gave several updates regarding the ongoing Lind Coulee Siphon (LCS) construction. Construction crews are placing an average of two concrete sections a day. Each concrete section of the siphon is 25 feet long with 70-80 cubic yards of concrete. The process for placement includes excavating to the needed depth and putting in a foundation or rat

slab. Steel sections, called rebar cages, are assembled offsite then trucked over and set in the foundation. A form is placed inside the steel section before concrete is placed. Once the concrete cures, the forms are removed and the section is complete.

Through the summer, crews have a weekly goal of 6-8 placements. By

*Continued on page 2*



Workers prepare forms for concrete placement at Lind Coulee Siphon 1.

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### From the Chair

*Orman Johnson*

In our ongoing effort to educate the public about the Columbia Basin

Project (CBP), I joined CBDL staff members Sara Cornell and Mike Schwisow earlier this month at a meeting with the Spokesman-Review editorial board to provide an update on CBP development and specifically inform them of Odessa Groundwater Replacement Project (OGWRP) progress. This month we are planning a second Grand Coulee Dam Tour this year for potential recipients of water through OGWRP. A media tour of the Lind Coulee Siphon Construction site is also happening in July.

In addition to raising public awareness, CBDL is also committed to keeping stakeholders informed.

The passing of the Capital Budget allowed CBP construction to continue, Tom Tebb became Director of the Department of Ecology's Office of the Columbia River, the final rule on WOTUS was published, and new drought legislation is in the works in Washington. As CBP progress continues, many are already reaping benefits. Read about how the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is spearheading projects that address environmental and recreational benefits of the CBP.

### OGWRP Progress Report... *Continued from page 1*

mid-July, 30 sections have been completed. The summer heat can be a challenge since temperature can cause delays as the concrete sets. As placement continues, rebar cages are tested for soundness and crews continually take samples of the delivered concrete to ensure consistency and that it meets construction and structure specifications.

In the interview, Simpson also reported that ECBID is preparing to go to the bond market to secure funds for the East Low (EL) 47.5 pumping station, the first pumping plant and distribution system scheduled for development. The EL 47.5 pumping station will be the first pump plant south of I-90 that takes advantage of



*Exposed portion of existing Lind Coulee Siphon 1.*

water flow enabled by the Lind Coulee Siphons and Wasteway. Finalizing the engineering design for the station will allow bonding underwriters to move forward. ECBID has already secured an underwriter in Seattle and is aiming for a November completion date for the EL 47.5 pumping station design.

The 47.5 station will have pipelines for distribution of water to 10,000 acres designated for groundwater replacement. Recent changes determined landowners to modify the station's capacity design will generate a significant cost savings. When the Bureau of Reclamation conducted a feasibility study, they referenced the capacity of operating pump plants serving over 5000 acres. They defined average flow as serving 90% of those acres at 7.5 gallons per minute which is more than what is needed by the acreage served by the 47.5 station. Landowner operations and



*Lind Coulee Siphon 2 emerging at bottom of Lind Coulee.*

crop usage offer more flexibility since some crops require less water and less frequent watering. The station's rate will be reduced to 6.75 gallons per minute and possibly even lower. The reduction in the rate of flow requires smaller pumps and pipes resulting in an estimated 22% decrease of overall cost at the 47.5 pumping plant.



*Placement of rebar cage at Lind Coulee Siphon 2, a portion of interior form is already installed.*

### **CBDL Membership Online**

The League's website offers the choice to pay membership online. New members can also sign up at the site. Offering the ability to sign up online is just another way we are trying to better serve our members.

Go to [www.cbdl.org](http://www.cbdl.org) for more information.

## **Capital Budget Keeps OGWRP Construction on Track**

*Mike Schwisow, Government Affairs Director*

At close to midnight on June 30th, the Washington legislature passed and Governor Inslee signed 2EHB 1115, adopting the Capital Budget for the 2015-2017 period. This avoided costly interruptions and allowed work to continue on state funded construction projects, including the Lind Coulee Siphon (LCS) project.

Unlike the two year Operating Budget, the Capital Budget funds long term projects that may not be completed for several budget periods. Each new Capital Budget contains sections authorizing the startup of new construction projects, appropriating funds for the budget period, and projecting additional funds necessary for project completion. Subsequent Capital Budgets include "re-appropriation" sections that authorize the use of unspent funds needed to complete ongoing projects.

In the 2013-2015 Capital Budget, the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) Columbia River Water Management Program appropriated funding for the LCS. Ecology then provided East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) with a \$26 million grant to expand East Low Canal capacity to convey adequate water supplies to all seven anticipated pipeline systems. In the new 2015-2017 Capital Budget, a re-appropriation section allows this construction to continue. The legislature also provided a new appropriation section for the Columbia River Water Management Program. The section will use the last of the original \$200 million bond authorization provided by the Columbia River Act in 2006 and appropriates \$19 million for new Office of Columbia River projects all over Eastern Washington.

The legislature discussed funding for needed water infrastructure but no consensus was reached. Some legislators expressed concern that the State of Washington was committing to large water infrastructure projects without fully understanding the scope and funding required. The legislature requested additional information on proposed water infrastructure projects so proviso language was added to the appropriation section. Provisos are used to direct funding or place conditions on projects. The added proviso language is listed below and must be prepared for current projects, including the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program, and future proposals. The LCS project is already fully funded by current grants.

(3) In any future requests for project funding under the Columbia River Water Supply Development Program, the department must prepare and submit with the budget request an analysis that estimates the total costs of developing and delivering water through the project. For each project, the department must:

- (a) Identify the project beneficiaries;
- (b) Estimate the project timeline, from feasibility through water development and delivery;
- (c) Delineate the total estimated public and private costs and fund

## ...OGWRP Construction on Track... *Continued from page 3*

- sources for developing the water; and
- (d) Delineate the total estimated public and private costs and fund sources for delivering the water.
- (4) The department must prepare and submit the same analysis as required in subsection (3) of this section for existing water development projects, including those in the feasibility phase.

## New OCR Director Hits the Ground Running

In June, the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) Office of the Columbia River (OCR) welcomed Tom Tebb as their new Director. CBDL had the pleasure of interviewing him to hear about his first days on the job and his plans for the future of the OCR.



*Tom Tebb, new Office of the Columbia River Director.*

Tebb is a native of Yakima Valley and graduated from Western Washington University with a degree in environmental geology. He joined Ecology 23 years ago to work on the nuclear waste program at the Hanford site. As a geologist and hydrogeologist, Tebb worked for Ecology on a number of large projects before serving as the Water Resource Section Manager implementing state water resource laws and regulations.

Since 2008, Tebb has been the Regional Director of Ecology's Central Regional Office in Yakima where he served as Ecology's primary spokesperson. He represented previous Ecology Director, Derek Sandison, while maintaining collaborations with the local, state, and federal government, Canada, environmental groups, and the general public. As the Regional Director, Tebb studied closely under Sandison, ensuring OCR projects were coordinated with the rest of Ecology. In a CBDL interview, Tebb

stated that "it has been a personal challenge and personal reward to serve under Derek's leadership." Through these various roles, water has been Tebb's life for the last 10 years. His background gives him the ability to work from the technical side of things and his time as Regional Director made him well versed in the policy and politics of water related issues.

This summer, Tebb plans to review the scope and scale of OCR's work by visiting every project site to build a comprehensive understanding of their status and OCR's commitments. This will give him a broader sense of the work to identify areas where he can be most helpful. He has already toured the Lind Coulee Siphon construction and witnessed the value of the project firsthand. He said, "These infrastructure improvements are essential to building a fuller and more robust system. They provide a flexible and essential system for distributing water supply. *Public money allocated to the Lind Siphon is spent wisely and addresses an urgent need.* The current construction is an incredible way to begin facilitating a long term solution."

As he tours project sites and gets started in the job, Tebb hopes to pinpoint challenges and start building a plan to overcome them. Identifying long term funding sources will be one of his biggest challenges. Funding is tight but he believes repairing infrastructure already in place is important and will require the right balance of priorities and partners. Public private partnerships are essential as well as discerning where water users can afford what they want delivered to them. Tebb said, "Viable funding sources need to include repayment." He also plans to collaborate with stakeholders and legislators while building relationships with the federal government.

Another challenge will be to balance interests between the CBP and the Yakima Project. Tebb stated, "Both projects are key to the success of Washington's economy and environment." These projects will require his full attention and resources to ensure success. He is committed to spending time in both areas. Great staff is in place that has established relationships and worked with the communities and irrigation districts involved. Tebb's vision is to continue working with those groups to identify critical paths while facilitating a collaborative and collegiate atmosphere.

Water supply projects bring their own unique challenges. They are costly, large in scale, and don't usually follow the same timeline as election or funding cycles. As Director, Sandison played a major role in developing water supplies such as the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Project (OGWRP). Tebb will continue to focus on these projects and is committed to seeing them through to completion. He plans to "work with folks that have a long term view and interest, including CBDL and irrigation districts." He views CBDL as a critical partner and advisory body. He will work closely with the CBDL in the long term and plans to start by attending the next Board of Trustees meeting and establishing regular communication with the board and CBDL's Director of Govern-

## New OCR Director ... *Continued from page 4*

ment Relations.

Another challenge specific to the CBP is keeping it in the public eye and interest. Tebb plans to work closely with CBDL to “highlight success and show how projects are coming in on time and under budget. It is essential to demonstrate the success of ongoing projects such as the OGWRP which is a critically important program to Washington’s economy and environment.” Four or five years from now, he hopes to be in a place to think bigger and broader, to build sustainability and resiliency in the Columbia Basin.

Tebb’s approach to the job stems from his years of experience throughout the agency. He states, “As a regulatory agency, Ecology has a strong framework to build upon and work within moving forward.” One of Tebb’s strengths is his ability to look for opportunities to solve problems within the regulations and constraints of each situation. He brings an optimistic problem solving attitude and skill set to the job. He will focus on transparency by providing a clear accounting of public money and by communicating information in a “predictable format.”

The Office of the Columbia River has many ongoing projects throughout the state. Tebb believes this diversity is one of its greatest strengths. He hopes to fulfill the mission of OCR and go beyond expectations that are singularly focused on the Columbia. He said, “All roads lead to the Columbia. All of eastern and central Washington is struggling with water supply. The program is free to think and solve the problems in big and small communities in a way that will benefit the overall Washington economy and environment.” Excited to begin, Tebb appreciates the full extent of his new responsibilities. A lot is on the line and he is ready to put his heart into it.

## WOTUS Response and New Drought Legislation

*Ian Lyle and John Crotty, Water Strategies LLC*

On June 29, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officially published the final rule defining the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) for the purpose of expanding Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. That same day, thirteen states filed a lawsuit against the federal government claiming the new rule wrongly expands federal authority and brings numerous isolated bodies of water under the jurisdiction of the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Fourteen other states have filed three additional multi-state lawsuits involving a total of twenty seven states including: North Dakota, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota, Wyoming, the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, South Carolina, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, and Michigan.

If the court does not intercede, the rule will take effect on August 28, 2015. The U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate Environment and

Public Works Committee have weighed in by passing H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Protection Act and the S. 1140, the Federal Water Quality Protection Act respectively. Both bills would require withdrawal of the WOTUS rule. It is not clear yet when the Senate will bring these bills to a vote. Securing the 60 votes needed could prove challenging.

Congress has also turned its attention to water supply and drought issues. On June 25th, Congressman Valadao (R-CA) introduced the Western Water and American Food Security Act, H.R. 2898, aimed at improving opportunities for water storage. Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-WA) is an original co-sponsor. The bill addresses a variety of California and west-wide water supply issues. It includes two titles with language from bills drafted by current or former Washington State members of congress. The Bureau of Reclamation Surface Water Storage Streamlining Act, H.R. 2097, introduced earlier this year by Congressman Newhouse and the Accelerated Revenue, Repayment, and Surface Storage Enhancement Act, introduced last year by former Congressman Doc Hastings. The first half of H.R. 2898 focuses on California and the broader second half incorporates a number of proposals introduced as stand-alone legislation.

The House Committee on Natural Resources is set to markup this legislation on July 8th and 9th. Portions of the bill, particularly in the California specific titles, may prove contentious but it is expected that the U.S. House of Representatives will eventually pass it. It is not clear if the Senate will move H.R. 2898 or focus on other proposals. Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chair of the Senate Energy Committee, is currently drafting a Senate western water supply bill.

## WDFW Initiatives in the Columbia Basin

*Rich Finger, District Wildlife Biologist, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

The Columbia Basin Project (CBP) offers multipurpose benefits to the surrounding area. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has contributed to those benefits by launching environmental and recreational enhancements in the CBP area. Specific projects include Supplemental Feed Route Enhancements, Artesian and Black Lakes Wetland Projects, and Northern Leopard Frog Reintroduction.

*Continued on Page 6*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

CBDL Board of Trustees Meeting - Thursday, September 17, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

ATEC Building, Moses Lake

SAVE THE DATE! CBDL Annual Conference - Tuesday, October 27

ATEC, Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake

## LOOKING BACK

CBN, March 30, 1960

### Will Mrs. May Cause Delay in Board Plan?

*(reprinted as originally published)*

Final approval of the Board of Review to study problems of Columbia Basin farmers, proposed by Washington's two Democratic senators, may face delaying action from Washington's first and only Congresswoman, a Republican.

This possibility came to light in a telegram to CBN from Rep. Catherine May of Yakima. Testifying before the Senate Subcommittee on Irrigation and Reclamation, she urged adoption of a two-year moratorium on drainage assessments, but she said the Board of Review proposal by Sens. Warren G. Magnuson and Henry M. Jackson should first be studied by the three irrigation district boards before any decisions are made.

Despite her comment, however, and despite the opposition of U.S. Reclamation Director Floyd Dominy, who testified in opposition to the Jackson-Magnuson amendment, the subcommittee approved the moratorium measure, which includes the amendment setting up the board.

Sen. Jackson, a member of the subcommittee, in a telegram to CBN said he is asking for a full committee meeting this week to clear the measure for action on the Senate floor.

Both Jackson and Sen. Magnuson urged immediate action in view of the May 1 deadline at which time the Bureau of Reclamation has indicated water will be cut off unless agreement is reached with water users or legislation enacted.

The subcommittee refused yesterday to adopt two other amendments suggested by the Bureau of the Budget, which urged that the moratorium be limited to one year and that "charges due and unpaid" would remain payable to the U.S. with interest, but the subcommittee did include an amendment to the effect that the board's report will not be considered as an arbitration of the dispute.

Mrs. May said after the subcommittee approved the amendment resolution that she feels "the farmers of the Columbia Basin have won the first round in their wishes for a moratorium." But she didn't say if she intends any action to delay the Board of Review proposal, pending a study by irrigation district directors.

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## WDFW Initiatives in the Columbia Basin ... *Continued from page 5*

*Supplemental Feed Route* - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff have been working under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) - Office of Columbia River (OCR) to develop environmental enhancements associated with the BOR Supplemental Feed Route through Middle Crab Creek between the towns of Stratford and Moses Lake. This water delivery, or "feed", will run down the intermittent Crab Creek and directly through the Gloyd Seeps, a 10,000-acre unit of public recreation lands managed by the Columbia Basin Wildlife Area. Feed water will flow at a rate of 100 cubic feet per second (cfs) base rate with a 500 cfs feed rate during April 1 - June 30. WDFW has been preparing for the feed by stabilizing streambanks where soils appear susceptible to erosion. Both mechanical (rock bars and coir logs) and bio-engineering (willow plantings) stabilization methods are being used.

Supplemental Feed Route enhancements include the development of two wetland projects of similar size, totaling 225 wetland acres. These include the installation of four water control structures, 11 small islands, and one ADA (Americans with Disability Act) compliant hunting blind. Primary benefits of these wetland projects are improved hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities, quality nesting habitat for waterfowl, and an important roosting habitat for Sandhill cranes, a species which draws birdwatchers from around the state during the Othello Sandhill Crane Festival. Additionally, WDFW has partnered with local chapters such as the Washington Waterfowl Association and Pheasants Forever to establish over 200 acres of dense nesting cover and plant thousands of upland shrubs providing additional habitat for game and non-game species. These vegetation plantings are likely to continue for several more years.

*Artesian and Black Lakes Wetland Project Feasibility* - Through a partnership with BOR, OCR, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, Ducks Unlimited, and the Lincoln County Conservation District, staff from WDFW have been investigating the feasibility of constructing a wetland project at Artesian and Black Lakes. The project is funded by Washington State Duck Stamp and Print Program (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/waterfowl/stamp/>) and OCR. If constructed, this project would benefit wildlife and recreationists, and would contribute toward recharging the shallow aquifer in this area.

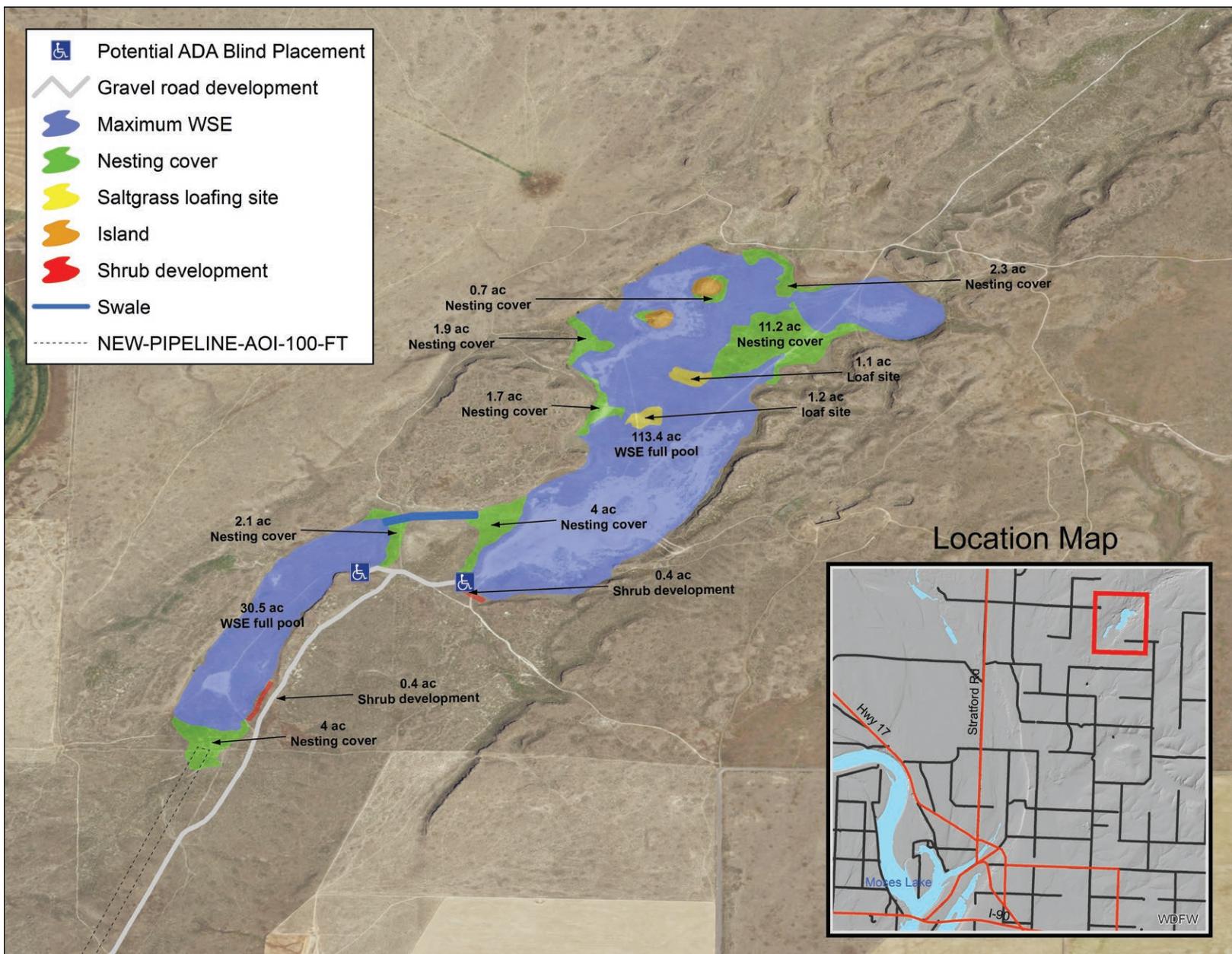
The image on [page 7](#) is a preliminary design of habitat improvement projects that could be established if the project proves feasible. This includes about 20 acres of quality nesting cover, 2 roost areas for sandhill cranes, 3 islands for Western Canada goose nesting, 2 ADA hunting blinds, and about an acre of shrub development for mule deer and upland bird benefits.

*Northern Leopard Frog Reintroduction Feasibility* - By contract with OCR, WDFW staff have been working with Washington State University (WSU) to investigate the feasibility of reintroducing State Endangered Northern Leopard Frogs (NLF) into former portions of their range. The last known breeding population of NLF

## WDFW Initiatives in the Columbia Basin ... *Continued from page 6*

occurs on Potholes Reservoir, a water body created in 1949 to serve agricultural needs. Potential impacts associated with implementation of the Odessa Sub-area Special Study and subsequent changes to hydrology of Potholes Reservoir cannot be reasonably predicted. WDFW believes that the best way to protect NLF is to establish new populations within the historic range of the species to avoid the potential consequences of a localized event. Two sites are currently under consideration: the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, just downstream of Potholes Reservoir, and the Gloyd Unit of the Columbia Basin Wildlife Area, just upstream of Moses Lake. Both sites supported NLF in recent history.

The first step in assessing the feasibility of reintroduction is to determine the capacity of the source population at Potholes Reservoir to sustain removal of individuals for reintroduction. This is being completed through DNA testing, which gives researchers an understanding of the minimum number of breeders in the population and the resistance of the landscape to genetic movement (i.e. are frogs dispersing and spreading genes throughout the area or is inbreeding occurring?). The second step is to evaluate the health of the wetland systems at the proposed reintroduction sites relative to the source population. This is being accomplished using several methods. First, by sampling wetlands for environmental DNA (i.e. free-floating DNA associated with shed skin cells) for a fungus known as “chytrids”, thought to be responsible for amphibian declines worldwide, WDFW can assess the relative health of wetlands considered for reintroduction. Second, WDFW will work closely with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and WSU to assess habitat conditions and develop recommendations for land management actions to improve wetland habitats. This is typically accomplished through reduction of tall emergent vegetation, maintenance of short emergent vegetation for egg mass attachment, and water level manipulation (i.e. annual draining) to kill larval populations of the introduced and highly invasive American bullfrog, which is both a carrier of Chytrids fungus and a predator of NLF.



*Preliminary design of habitat improvement projects.*

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Port of Pasco

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