WEST KOOTENAY LAND MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS
ONGOING TASK W95L009
SUMMARY OF 2003/2004 ACTIVITIES

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Prepared For:
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program

July 2004
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The following report outlines the land management activities undertaken in the West Kootenay on the various lands owned by Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (MWLAP) and Nature Trust and jointly managed by Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (CBFWCP) during fiscal year 2003/04. The time period covered runs from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004. The properties were purchased from BC Hydro or other private landowners as compensation for lost wildlife habitat associated with BC Hydro hydroelectric development in the Columbia River Basin. The various activities undertaken are listed by geographical area.

1. Pend d'Oreille Valley (POV) (Figure 1)
   - CBFWCP summer students removed from 903 m of old 4-strand and 409m of 3-strand barbed wire fencing from various locations in the POV.
   - 200 yellow pine and 100 Douglas-fir seedlings were planted in May 2003 on Lot 8076 (MWLAP/CBFWCP property in the lower Charbonneau Creek drainage) by CBFWCP summer students. Seedling protectors (eco-tubes) were installed to prevent browsing white-tailed deer from damaging the seedlings. The protectors will be inspected annually for 4 to 5 years. This was necessary to repair or remove protectors from seedling large to be able to withstand some browsing.
   - The annual maintenance of the protectors installed on ponderosa pine planted in 2001 on DL 9182 was completed in April (Photo 1). This site is located near the confluence of the Pend d'Oreille and Salmo Rivers on MWLAP/CBFWCP property.
   - The slash pile leftover from the Douglas-fir bark beetle logging in January 2003 on DL 8077 (MWLAP/CBFWCP property near Seven Mile Dam) was burned in October 2003. In March 2004 grass seed was mixed in the remaining ash after the area was hand scarified.
   - In June/July 2003 the Creston Valley Beef Growers Association was contracted to use the herbicide Tordon to treat the noxious weed spotted knapweed on MWLAP/CBFWCP properties in the Nine Mile Creek, Charbonneau Creek and Limpid Creek drainages. Specific areas treated included portions of the Heinz, Matthill, Atco, and Berukoff fields. The 500kV-transmission line right-of-way between Tillicum and Limpid Creeks and the edges of a portion of the Limpid Creek access road were treated as well. The total area treated in 2003 in the POV under Pesticide Use Permit 139-0730-2001-03 was 10.71ha versus 6.6ha in 2002. The expanded spotted knapweed treatment program was based on the positive results from the Tordon/spotted knapweed trial in the Matthill field in 1999 and 2000. Here spotted knapweed densities were drastically reduced – Matthill vegetation monitoring...
data is stored under West Kootenay Enhancement. Maps of areas treated with herbicide are stored along with the pesticide use follow-up reports.

- All 2003 noxious weed activities including inventory, mechanical, cultural, and chemical activities were digitized onto the 1/20,000 POV orthophoto.
- CBFWCP summer students seeded orchardgrass on portions of the Matthill, Atco, Berukoff, and Heinz fields as well as portions of the 500kV transmission line right-of-way in the Limpid Creek drainage where was used Tordon to treat the spotted knapweed. The orchardgrass filled in the bare areas left behind after the knapweed died.
- 2 CBFWCP summer students continued the cultural/mechanical treatment of the noxious weed hound’s-tongue during June and July 2003 near Seven Mile Dam. Also, they monitored the 2 release sites for a biocontrol insect (weevil – *Mogulones cruciger*) released on hound’s-tongue in 2001. Adult weevils were noted on the plants at the release site near Seven Mile Dam, east of Nine Mile Creek in late April/early May. Larval root mining on hound’s-tongue rosettes in July west of Nine Mile Creek indicated that the weevil has started to spread out from the Seven Mile release site.
- 2 summer students weed whacked spotted knapweed in an effort to reduce the spread of the weed along 2km of roadway within lots 8076 and 7735.
- The summer students completed a detailed inventory of the weeds, hoary alyssum and orange hawkweed in the POV in July 2003.
- The status of the various noxious weeds in the Pend d’Oreille valley was updated in 2003 as part the POV Pest Management Plan (PMP) development process (#773-0001-2004/2009). The plan produced by the CBFWCP Pend d’Oreille Valley Noxious Weed Program covers a 5-year term. The status and treatment options for 20 noxious weed species were discussed. BC Hydro properties in the vicinity of Seven Mile Dam were also included in the POV PMP. Public, Stakeholders, Valley Residents, and First Nations consultation was an integral part of the POV PMP. The POV PMP and consultation reports are stored in the CBFWCP library in Nelson and are available electronically.
- CBFWCP summer students bucked up several Douglas-fir trees that had blown over on Lots 8077 and 8076 near Seven Mile Dam. The cut up sections were stacked on end in full sunlight in an attempt to kill the bark beetles that had invaded the trees.
- Bark beetle funnel traps (Photo 2) were set up and monitored on DL 8077 from May through early September 2003, in an attempt to reduce beetle infestation of the nearby mature Douglas-fir trees. A cursory bark beetle survey of DL 8077 in 2003 revealed lower levels of attacked trees.
- Selkirk College wildlife students rejuvenated browse values on white-tailed deer winter habitat on DL 8076 in the Charbonneau Creek drainage by slashing decadent deciduous shrubs on 2.54ha in late April 2003 – mapped under West Kootenay Enhancement (Photo 3).
- The Pend d’Oreille wildlife management plan (Woods 1983) and compartmentalized habitat enhancement plan (Woods 1980) are currently being revisited to encompass all wildlife species. These documents were written with only white-tailed deer in mind as directed by the terms of old Seven Mile Compensation Program. In order to
access funding of $15,000 from the Pend d’Oreille HCTF Timber Trust account completion of the revised plan has changed to fiscal 2005/06.

2. Deer Park (Figure 2)
- CBFWCP summer students manually treated a large patch of the noxious weed burdock, on Lot 400, in an effort to curtail further spread of the weed.
- CBFWCP summer students used weed whackers on the TU 1 landing area to mow spotted knapweed prior to bolting. This will hopefully reduce the risk of knapweed seed being spread into the treatment unit during winter logging.
- A NDT4 Stand Management Prescription (Schaeffer et al. 2001) was completed for 5 units totaling 27.53ha of Lot 400. The objective here is to rejuvenate wildlife habitat values by creating open forest habitat through thinning. On these sites that frequently experienced low intensity ground fire, forest fire suppression has allowed considerable Douglas-fir ingrowth. Treatment Unit 1 (TU1) and a small portion of TU 2 were treated in January/February 2004. The objective in TU1 was to reduce conifer stocking in the unit from approximately 1,275 trees/ha to 95, thereby creating open forest habitat – pre and post harvesting pictures (Photos 4 and 5) are attached to this document. Suitable winter conditions (frozen ground/sufficient snow cover) allowed the treatment to take place in 2003.
- A 3-person timber harvesting crew from Custom Dozing of Salmo undertook removal of the smaller Douglas-fir trees using a crawler tractor and excavator. Meadow Creek Cedar received 18 logging truckloads (oversize specifications) of the wood for processing, Kalesnikoff received 10 (sawlogs) and Pope and Talbot received 3 (sawlogs). The net proceeds from the harvesting of $35,973 were deposited with HCTF Arrow Timber Trust account. Post harvest slashing was completed in March, as was the landing area seeding. The slash piles associated with the harvesting activities will be burned in autumn 2004.
- CBFWCP installed 3 information signs at strategic locations on Treatment Units 1 and 2 asking the general public to help reduce the risk of spreading knapweed into the treated area by walking only.
- A meeting was attended on 13 February 2003, with representatives of the community of Deer Park, SE Fire Centre, Castlegar Fire Department and the Regional District of Central Kootenay regarding the fireproofing of the community of Deer Park. Our NDT4 habitat restoration plans for portions of the MWLAP/CBFWCP property adjacent to the village of Deer Park appear to fit nicely with the proposed fireproofing activities.

3. Broadwater (Figure 2)
- Planning for the NDT4 habitat restoration activities for Broadwater continued. The intention here is to create a more open forest stand of large diameter ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir vets on 7ha through selective timber harvesting.
- In preparation for the habitat restoration all leave trees were measured (DBH only) and marked with blue paint.
4. Coleman Ranch (Figure 2)
   - Several mature Douglas-fir trees infected with bark beetles were bucked into small pieces and set on end in full sunlight in an attempt to prevent the emergence of adult beetles.
   - CBFWCP summer staff “weed whacked” spotted knapweed and burdock along the road (1km) leading from the access road along the south bank of Cayuse Creek to the backend of the Coleman Ranch. They also treated a patch of Canada thistle on the property as well (Photo 6).

5. Hamlin Creek (Figure 2)
   - Two ha of conifer release was carried out in the spring and fall of 2003. To date, 4.5 ha have been treated. The goal is to increase ungulate utilization while maintaining overstory stand structure.

6. Marsden (Figure 3)
   - CBFWCP summer students used gas powered weed trimmers to treat spotted knapweed on the access trail and various spurs through Lot 10427 (2km). The action was taken prior to bolting to reduce the amount of spotted knapweed seed deposited in the area in an effort to reduce plant densities.

7. Meadow Creek (Figure 3)
   - Fields on DL 881, 570 and 896 were illegally burned during the spring of 2003.
   - Minor clean up of windfall on DL 570.
   - A thistle survey of the fields on DL 570 and 896 in June determined that the response of the thistle to the burning warranted mowing prior to flowering. Mowing focused on areas of heavy infestations. Percentage of thistle ranged from 20% in the northern field to 40% in the southern field compared to an average of 60% last year. The area will be reassessed next spring.
   - A Meadow Creek contractor hayed approximately 10ha of agricultural land on DL 881 in August. The regrowth of the grass after haying was quite noticeable. This new growth provided considerable ungulate forage throughout the fall and again in the spring.
   - 2.5 ha of slashing on DL’s 570 and 16024 was tendered during the fall of 2003. Only one contractor bid on the slashing and his bid was determined to be too high. Work will be retendered during the fall of 2004.
   - Argenta Marsh Turtle Enhancement- a drift fence was set up to direct nesting turtles to the enhanced nesting area again during the spring. Evidence of ten turtles nesting this spring. All but one predated to date. Loaing logs have been extensively used. Ten turtles were observed on one log during the spring of 2003.
   - A bobolink survey completed in June 2003 on the field portion of DL 881, 17 bobolinks were tallied.
   - Concern over Duncan River erosion and potential impacts on DL 1884 if the river breaks through Wasdens property towards the Argenta Road. Currently in consultation with BC Hydro Water Use Planning staff concerning the issue.
Photo 1. Eco-tube protectors installed on ponderosa pine seedlings.

Photo 2. Douglas-fir bark beetle funnel traps
Photo 3. Selkirk College wildlife student slashing to enhance deer and elk winter browse values on lot 8076 – Pend d’Oreille valley
Photo 4. Pre-harvest at Treatment Unit 1 – Deer Park

Photo 5. Post harvest at Treatment Unit 1 - Deer Park
Photo 6. Weed whacking Canada Thistle at the Coleman Ranch – lower Arrow Lake
Pend D'Oreille Managed Lands
Total Land Area: 1488.38 ha
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program  -- March 9, 2004

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<th>Site Name</th>
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Scale: 1:100,000 - Map Projection: UTM Zone 11 - Datum: NAD 83

Figure 1.
Arrow Lakes Managed Lands
Total Land Area: 880.35 ha
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program -- March 09, 2004

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Managed Lands: 880.35 ha

Figure 2.