Presentation to

Provincial Review ISRP

March 2009

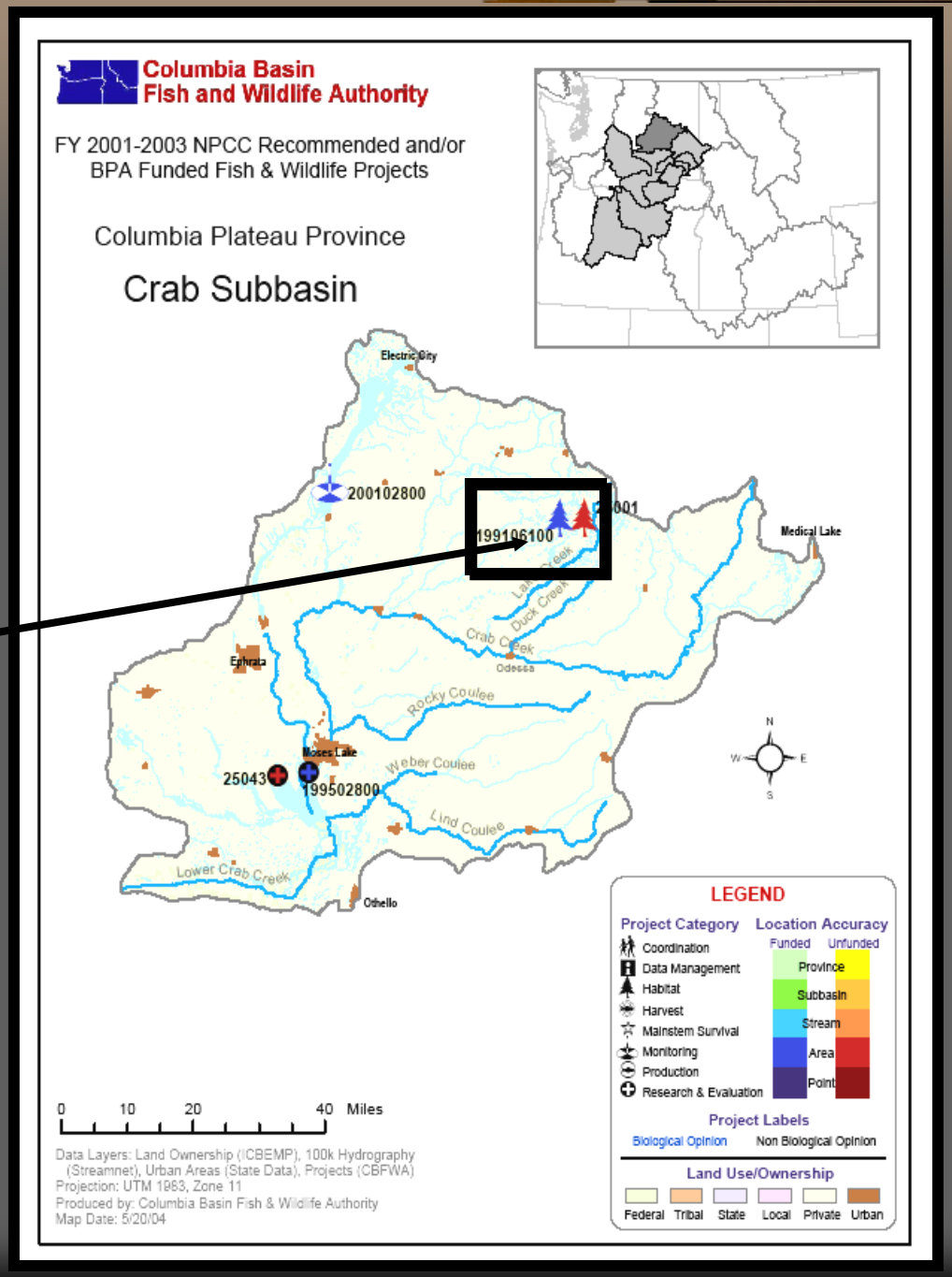
Juli Anderson, Project Manager

SWANSON LAKES WILDLIFE MITIGATION PROJECT PROPOSAL FY 2010, 2011 and 2012

Project # 1991 06100

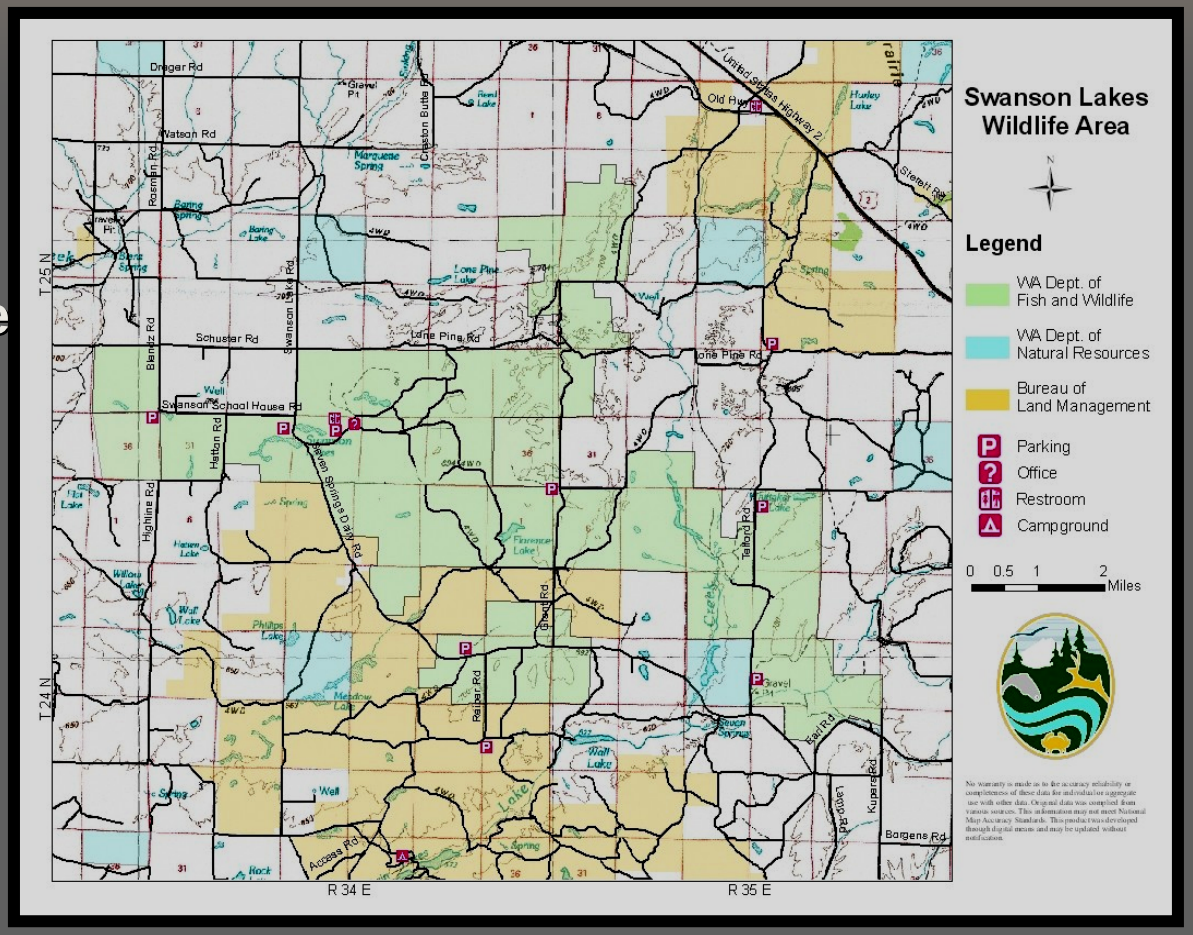
COLUMBIA PLATEAU / CRAB CREEK SUBBASIN

Swanson Lakes Mitigation Project: 1991 06100



PROJECT SITE

- 20,000 acres
- Central Lincoln County, 50 miles west of Spokane
- Within the Channeled Scablands
- Crab Creek Subbasin
- BLM: 50,000 acres adjacent / nearby



ACQUISITION HISTORY

PROPERTY	DATE	PURCHASER	ACRES*
Roloff	1993	BPA	12,000
Rustemeyer	1994	WDFW	925
Anderson	1995	WDFW	1,658
Nelson	1997	WDFW	792
Welch	1998	BPA	3,337
Various small Parcels	1993-2009	WDFW	1,288
TOTAL ACRES			**20,000**

* Approximate

GRAND COULEE DAM LOSS ASSESSMENT

Sharp-tailed Grouse	21,281	HU's
Sage Grouse	1,853	HU's
Mule Deer	15,219	HU's
SLWA Baseline	15,137.5	HU's
Credited in 2008	20,553.6	HU's
Increase	5,416.1	HU's

RELATED PROJECTS

- Scotch Creek Wildlife Area / WDFW
- Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area / WDFW
- Colville Confederated Tribes Habitat Mitigation (CCT)
- Spokane Tribe Habitat Mitigation (STOI)
- Telford & Twin Lakes Habitat Restoration / BLM
- Moses Coulee & Beezley Hills Preserve / TNC
- Sharp-tailed / Sage Grouse Augmentation / WDFW & BLM

CRAB SUBBASIN / SLWA GOALS

Crab Subbasin Goals	Recover populations of sharp-tailed grouse in the Crab Creek Subbasin to the level where populations are viable.		Use translocations of sharp-tailed grouse into Washington from populations in other states so that a population of at least 1,000 is supported in the Crab Creek Subbasin by 2010.	Conduct research on sharp-tailed grouse through 2005 to monitor population size, determine population viability, and evaluate population responses to habitat alteration.	Improve quantity, quality, and configuration of the shrubsteppe habitat necessary to support a viable population of sharp-tailed grouse by 2010.
SLWA Project Goals	Establish and maintain a viable sharp-tailed grouse population at the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area.	Protect, enhance, and maintain 20,000 acres of shrubsteppe habitat for sharp-tailed grouse and other shrubsteppe obligate species.	Increase the number of sharp-tailed grouse at SLWA to 400 by 2010.	Monitor wildlife and habitat response to protection, maintenance, and enhancement measures annually.	Implement habitat management activities and schedules described in the SLWA Enhancement Plan.

CRITICAL LIMITING FACTORS

Shrubsteppe Habitat

Lack of large contiguous tracts
Poor quality: thin soils / overgrazed

Activities to address problems:

Restore CRP/soil bank to shrubsteppe
Exclude cattle grazing
Coordinate with BLM for habitat improvement/continuity

Riparian Habitat

Little left, isolated patches
Poor quality: birch borer, overgrazing

Activities to address problems:

Restore hay flats to shrubs/trees
Initial watering and fencing required

PRIMARY MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS

Shrub-steppe Wildlife:

Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse

Mule Deer

Sage Grouse:

Locally extirpated in 1980's
Experimentally reintroduced in 2008

Pre-existing and Restored Native Habitats:

Shrub-steppe

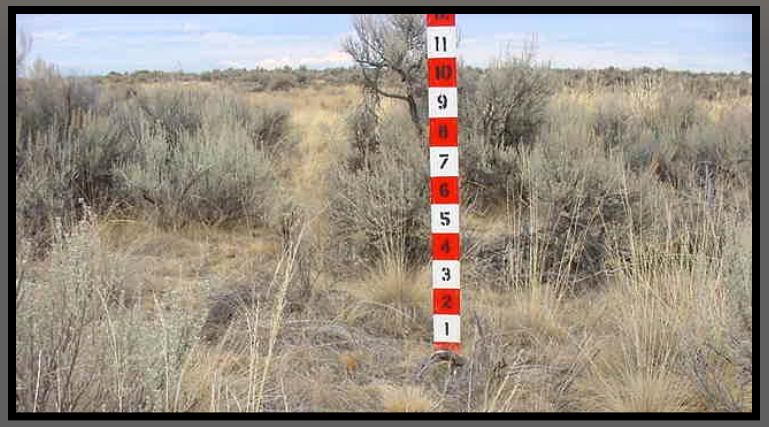
Riparian

FOCAL SPECIES

Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse
Mule Deer
Sage Grouse

MAJOR HABITAT TYPES

Shrub-steppe



Riparian

Wetland

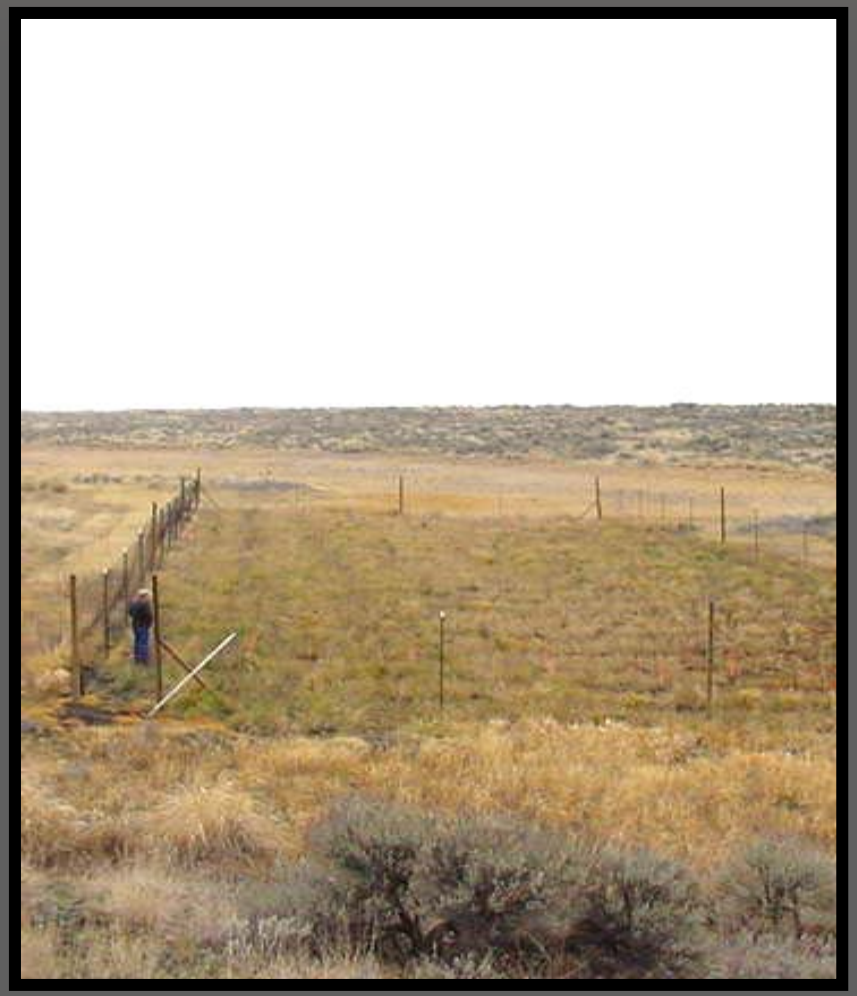
SHRUB - STEPPE ENHANCEMENT

BEFORE

AFTER

RIPARIAN ENHANCEMENT

BEFORE



AFTER

WEED CONTROL

On-going activities: annual, seasonal

Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Mechanical (tillage/pulling)
Chemical
Bio-control (beetles, weevils, etc.)

MONITORING

HEP Surveys

Wildlife Use

- Sharp-tailed Grouse lek surveys by SLWA staff
- Mule Deer surveys by WDFW district biologists
- Songbird and CRP studies by WDFW researchers

Vegetation Response/Survival

- Riparian tree/shrub plantings
- Weed Surveys

Photo Monitoring

HEP SURVEY DATA

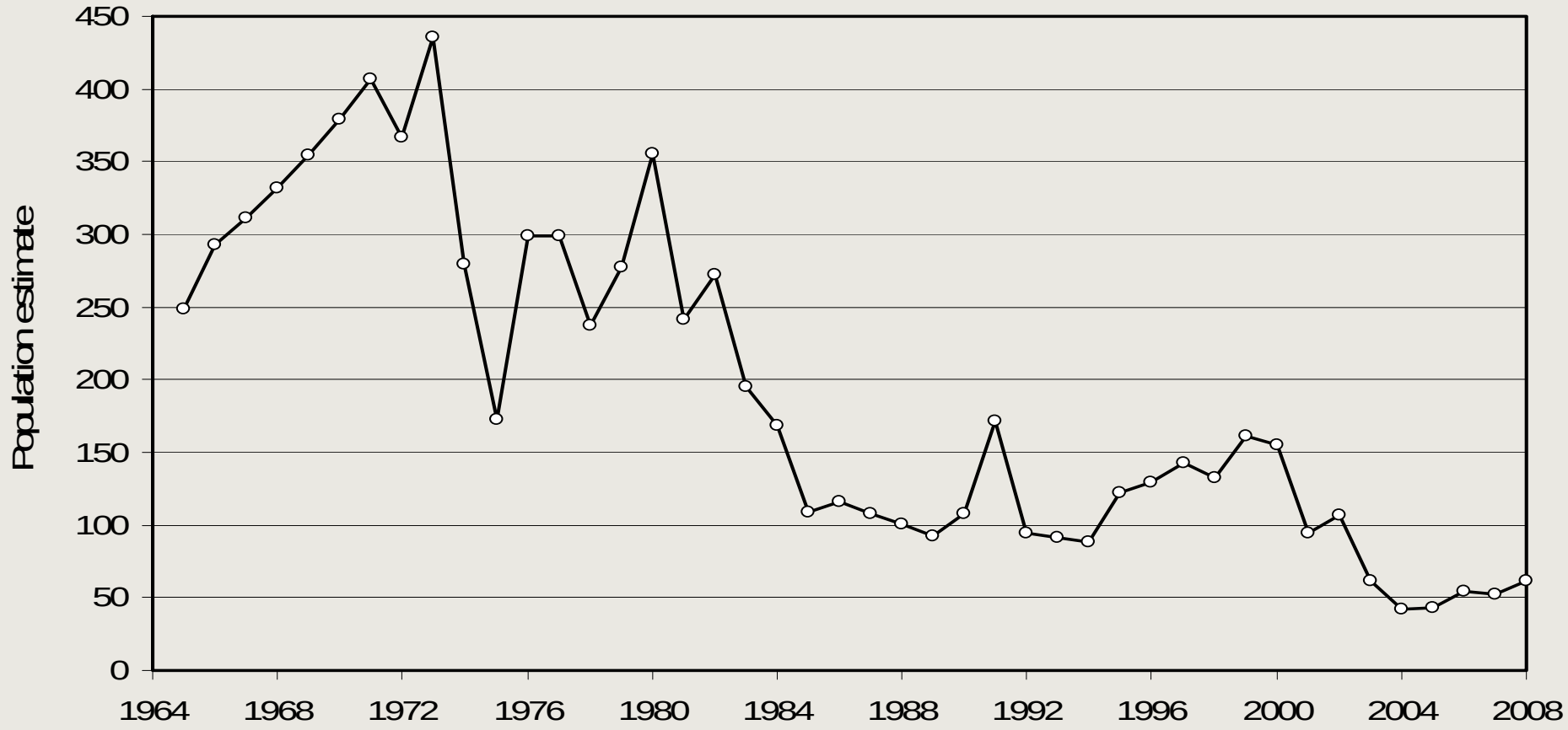
Preliminary transect summary, Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area

	Shrubsteppe		CRP		Riparian
Habitat parameter	1990-1996	2000-2006	1990-1996	2000-2006	1995
Number of transects	35	39	14	3	6
VOR (cm)	4.2	5.1	7.4	6.0	
Tree cover (%)					13.3
Shrub cover (%)	10.8	9.7	0.1	0.4	41.9
Shrub height (m)	0.5	0.5	0.2		
Herbaceous cover (%)	51.9	50.1	90.0		
Grass cover (%)	4.6	38.7	17.2	23.1	
Forb cover (%)	2.3	20.0	3.5	4.7	
Exotic cover (%)		10.8			

Source: Michael Schroeder, WDFW, 2009

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE NUMBERS

Estimated population, Swanson Lakes / vicinity, 1965-2008



Source: Michael Schroeder, WDFW, 2009

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE AUGMENTATION

- Goal: improve numbers and genetic diversity
- Since 2005, 12 to 20 birds released at SLWA each spring
- Source locations: BC, Idaho, and Utah
- Radio collared/tracked regularly
- Results:

  Grouse from different origins found in mixed groups
  Known chick production from newcomer hens
  Total STG numbers up since 2005

- 2009: up to 40 STG to be released at SLWA

SAGE GROUSE REINTRODUCTION

WDFW / BLM Cooperative Project

First release, Spring 2008: 10 Males 7 Females

Defective radio collars – not all birds could be tracked
Survivors: 1 female, possibly 1 female and 1 male

Second release, Fall 2008: 7 Males 17 Females

Survivors: 2 females

Third planned release, Spring 2009

Limiting factors?

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Shrub-steppe Restoration

Acres: 1000-plus

Number of fields restored: 12

Reestablished Riparian Plant Communities

Number of sites: 3

Start-up irrigation required: used existing wells

- *Two sites used existing windmills*
- *One site used solar panel / pump*

FUTURE

All BPA-Required Enhancements Complete

Project in Maintenance Status

- Weed Control
- Maintain Riparian Plantings
- Maintain Shrub-steppe Enhancements

Off-BPA Funding for Activities

- Riparian Plantings, SLWA and BLM
- Cooperative Weed Control Trials (Biocontrol)
- Shrub-steppe Enhancements, SLWA and BLM

FUNDING REQUEST

Provide personnel, goods and services to maintain project enhancements and features

FY 2010:	**$256,501**
FY 2011:	**$264,255**
FY 2012:	**$272,236**
Three Year Total:	**$792,992**

OUT - YEAR FUNDING ESTIMATES

FY 2013	$292,403
FY 2014	300,815
FY 2015	309,479
Three year total	$902,697
FY 2016	$318,903
FY 2017	328,095
FY 2018	337,563
Three year total	$984,561


THANK YOU
Photo: Bob Griffith


QUESTIONS?