

Turnbull Wildlife Refuge



Winter 2015 4th Quarter

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Volume 18 Issue 4

Message from the President

No Child Left Inside Act Succeeds!

Molly Zammit

A couple of years ago, I referred to the No Child Left Inside Act of 2009, which fought to enhance environmental education in our nation's schools. It was in reaction to No Child Left Behind (NCLB). As educators sought more classroom academic time so children could reach the testing levels mandated by NCLB in reading and math, 'frivolous' subjects such as environmental education, social studies, and the arts were shortened or done away from the school day along with field trips and recess. In spite of ample research showing that recess, field trips, the arts and environmental education classes actually enhance and boost academic achievement in science and other subjects, we cut off our proverbial noses to spite our faces.

On December 10, 2015, NCLB was replaced with The Every Student Succeeds Act, which passed the House on December 2, 2015, with a vote of 359-64. It passed in the Senate on December 9, 2015, with a vote of 85-12. The prioritization of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) activities includes "hands-on learning" and "field-based or service learning" to enhance understanding of STEM subjects. These may provide additional opportunities for environmental science education programs.

Meanwhile, the Friends of Turnbull has supported the Environmental Education Program at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge for nearly 20 years. The funding for the program has come from grants, donations, and the fundraising efforts of the Friends group. Last year, Sandy Rancourt and the interns reached over 8,000 K-12 students in Eastern Washington either on the refuge or through the Winter Outreach classes!

One of my favorite quotes is by the anthropologist Margaret Mead: Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. Thanks to some

150 Friends members, we have made a difference for over 8,000 children this past year. That is something to celebrate! The Board of Directors is grateful to each and every one of you, our members, for your support in reaching this milestone! Your volunteer hours, monetary donations, support and belief in the EE Program made it possible to reach these children. A heartfelt thanks to all of you for your support!



Students do a stream study during the Cheney HS Stewardship Program at the Refuge. (Photo, Sandy Rancourt)

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Friends of Turnbull Nature Store

Marian Frobe

Our 2015 sales were \$5433.07 and our expenses were \$3463.89, so our net profit for 2015 is \$1969.18, one of our best years. Winterfest gave us a boost in sales in December. In 2015 the store also took in \$180.00 in memberships and \$510.00 in donations, most of which were attributed to different activities during the year. The Nature Store will be reopening the first weekend in April this year. I will be reordering in the next few months so things will be ready for the opening. I am also looking for someone who might be interested in helping learn the store operation. It isn't very difficult and doesn't take a great deal of my time, but as I have been doing this for a long time, it may be time for a fresh look at how things are done. Let me know if this interests you.

We have a wonderful core of volunteers that are willing to spend part of their weekend helping us out. However, our volunteer numbers have dwindled and we could use a few new people to help out. If you would like to volunteer to help out at the store, please call me, Marian Frobe, at 328-0621 or at rrfrobe@msn.com; or Lizzie Riesenberg at 991-2604 or lizzieries@gmail.com. Or check the "I want to volunteer" box on your membership form and we will contact you.

FOT Activities Spring 2016

Lorna Kropp

Community Planting. April 30, 2016 Turnbull NWR. 9-12.

See details on page 10.

Wild Refuge Dinner and Auction. March 5, 2016.

Saturday. 5:00

Wren Pierson Community Center
615 4th St
Cheney, WA 99004

See details on page 8.

Beginning Bird Watching classes

March 12

April 9

May 7

June 4

Contact Lorna Kropp activities@fotnwr.org for details and reservations.



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www.fotnwr.org

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John Barber pattiandjohnbarber@hotmail.com

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Kelissa Owens Kellisa.Owens@hotmail.com

An open email from: The Staff of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

To: Our Friends, Partners, and the American Public

Dear Friends,

Many have asked us to comment on the ongoing situation at Malheur NWR. We have refrained because we care deeply for the community, and want to ensure our words do not inflame an already heated situation. However, we believe it is important that our views and position are known.

We believe many in the media (as well as those sympathetic to the illegal occupiers) were surprised to hear that the community--while frustrated with the Hammond situation--did not leap to the support of the militants. We are not surprised.

For over 100 years, our Refuge employees have been members of this community. We study, worship, commune, and interact with our fellow Harney County citizens--not as a 'we vs. they'--but as an 'us.'

In a community with nearly 40% of working adults engaged in some form of government, we are all touched or involved in the public process. In Harney County, that means we talk. We have cups of coffee. We have arguments. Together, we knit our brows, and together we knit scarves. We understand what those currently occupying the Refuge don't understand---that Harney County isn't afraid of tough talk.

We can have effective disagreements, and either find resolution, find compromise, or simply agree to

disagree. But we do it with respect for the rule of law, and know that our areas of agreement and cooperation are infinitely more powerful than the differences we may face. Mostly, we face those differences together with open dialogue and open gates--not intimidation and threats. We have access to each other, because we are not afraid to confront difficult situations or have difficult conversations.

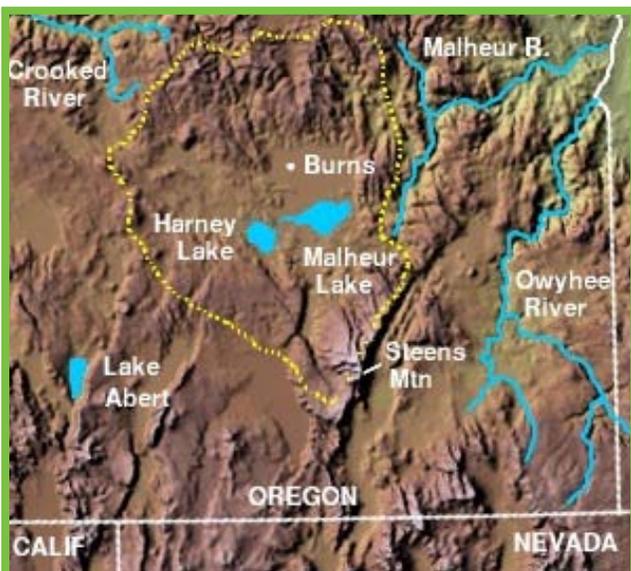
It pains each of us that we are missing our obligations to you--as church leaders, as 4-H advisers, as friends, and as school volunteers. We hope to be back soon and pick up where we left off.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your support. We know (as you do too) that it is not our Refuge that has been occupied; this is Harney County's and America's Refuge.

We are excited to be part of the eventual healing process for our community. We believe that this difficult situation will lead to even stronger bonds between the Refuge and the community that has supported us. We feel for you, because we are you.

We will get through this--because:
We. Are. Harney. County.

Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
36391 Sodhouse Lane
Princeton OR 97721



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

THE WASHINGTON POST

Refuge Happenings

by Sandy Rancourt
Visitor Services Manager

Environmental Education & Outreach

Environmental Education

Turnbull's Fall Field Trip Program blasted off with a 2-day environmental education stewardship program with Cheney High School followed by several standard field trips, Night Hikes, and 2 camps.

Turnbull & Cheney High School Stewardship Program

Cheney High School partnered for the 12th year with Turnbull on our 2-day environmental education stewardship program held during the fall. Over 300 sophomore biology students and 26, 5th grade students who teamed up with the honor students participated. We did things a little different this year. The students were rotated among 3 different study sites as usual but instead of planting native trees they planted milkweed seedlings in support of the monarch initiative. Three thousand milkweed seedlings were planted by staff, students, and refuge volunteers. Master Hunters James Gladden and Wayne Ward assisted the refuge biologist Mike Rule with drilling the holes to plant the seedlings. Mike also provided a talk about monarch butterflies and the important role milkweed plays in their survival. Marian and Russell Frobe spent 2 days assisting Mike at this study site. I led talks on aquatic invertebrates and their importance at the aquatic station and had great assistance from EE Contractor Kylie Gaard, Pathways intern Paul Reilly, AmeriCorps intern Colton Hodgson and long term refuge volunteers Linda Long and Chuck Kerkering. The high school students and even the 5th graders donned chest waders (that were way too large for the younger students) for a chance to catch the invertebrates. I also provided a valuable safety lesson to all on why not to run when I gracefully fell into the stream. The only causality besides my pride was the camera and my phone.... Paul, Colton and maintenance worker John St. Pierre prepped sites before the event by weed whacking, placing temporary bridges and putting in buoys to mark water levels. This year, we also had a

new partner working with us who led the water quality station. Stacey Selcho, Education Coordinator for the Spokane Conservation District and her assistant Seth Flanders brought some new equipment for the water quality and soil lessons she provided including Hanna and Kestell instruments and Lamotte TesTabs. Students tested nitrogen, phosphate, dissolved oxygen, pH, and coliform bacteria levels, and had a lot of fun using the Kestell wind speed and air temperature instruments. Thanks to all our staff, volunteers and staff from Spokane Conservation District for making this another great year with the students.



CHS students sampling the wetland for aquatic invertebrates (S. Rancourt)



Stacey Selcho demonstrates water quality sampling techniques. Volunteers Linda Long and Chuck Kerkering assist (S. Rancourt)



Refuge Volunteer Marian Frobe assists students planting milkweed seedlings (S. Rancourt)

Camp Wooten

For the 12th year, Turnbull was invited to participate in St. Thomas More Outdoor Education Camp, a 2-day event for 6-8 grade students at Camp Wooten Environmental Learning Park near Dayton. We are invited back because of great reviews received from teachers in the past. AmeriCorps interns Colton Hodgson and Michael Ploegman instructed 91 students on aquatic ecology and invertebrates. The interns received free housing, good food and good company. Both members reported having a very rewarding experience with the students and teachers.

Winter Outreach Program

Our Winter Outreach Program is as popular as ever. I put out an announcement to teachers in the metro Spokane Area and beyond in late October, and we are already booked through April. Several teachers got a jump start and booked reservations for our spring field trip as well. During the winter months, we provide 11-age level programs for classes off refuge. The 11, age-leveled winter outreach programs were revised to keep up with the current technology. Pictures of habitat, wildlife, tracks, etc., were put into PowerPoints for each of the Winter Outreach Programs. These digital images will be used as visual aids instead of relying on hard copy photos. Our high quality environmental education programs are always well received, and they're free. The Winter Outreach Program offers a great opportunity for schools to connect with nature in the classroom especially during years with limited driving capabilities due to weather conditions and

receding budgets. Many of the schools we visit during the winter come out to the refuge in the spring for a field trip which complements our in-classroom lessons.

Outreach

Camp Cowles

Kylie, Paul, Colton, and Michael staffed a refuge booth at Camp Cowles at Diamond Lake in October. Over 600 people attended this Trailblazer Cub Scout Day Camp. The refuge had an information booth, touch table and aquatics activity. They were kept busy throughout the day as scouts and family members visited our interactive booth.

Friends of Turnbull Winter Festival

Friends of Turnbull held their annual winter festival in December. The refuge's environmental classroom was decorated with the holiday spirit for the event. Festivities included ample amount of food and drink, an animal track corner for children to make their own animal track, 2 elk tours provided by the refuge biologist, and a raptor program provided by West Valley Outdoor Learning Center. Looking at birds through binoculars is always a rewarding experience but it is nice for the public to get a close up look at live raptors in hand. The West Valley Outdoor folks brought a kestrel, Harris's Hawk and great-horned owl.

Turnbull's Photo Contest

Turnbull is hosting a photo contest this year that will highlight wildlife and habitats found on the refuge. The winning photograph will be selected for the 2017 annual refuge pass. For more information about contest rules, please visit our website @ <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Turnbull/>

Volunteer Program and Outreach

Fall Community Planting Event

Our Fall Community Planting event on Saturday October 3rd was exceptional - a beautiful day that began with a light rain in the early morning to help keep the dust down and prep the ground. One hundred and twenty volunteers participated. Groups came from as far away as Pullman and included; snyamncut from EWU, EWU Service Saturday, EWU Emerging Leaders, SCC natural Resource, WSU Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Girl and Boy Scouts of America, Friends of Turnbull, Spokane Audubon Society, Inland Northwest Wildlife Council, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and JUB Engineers. Despite the large number of volunteers participating, everything ran like clockwork for a fun and incredibly productive day. Volunteers assisted refuge staff with 3 different projects. The GSA and several EWU students did a great job planting 1,000 milkweed seedlings in support of the monarch initiative. The students from the Wildlife Society erected 250 ft. of protective fencing. Other volunteers planted 100 native tree saplings in the lower end of Pine Creek. Friends of Turnbull provided the burgers, hotdogs and donuts, and FOT President Molly Zammit did a great job as usual cooking up all the meat. Thanks to all the volunteers for a great day all around and also to our long term volunteers who assisted refuge staff in making it so exceptional including: Marian and Russell Frobe, Peggy O'Connell, Joyce Alonso, Molly Zammit, and AmeriCorps interns Colton Hodgson and Michael Ploegman.

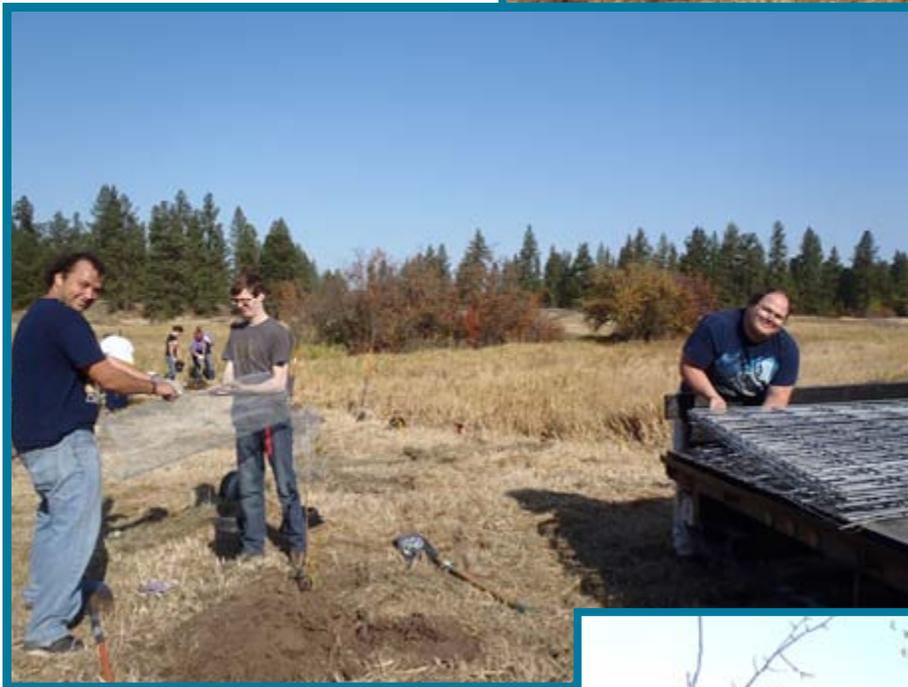


120 volunteers participated in our Fall Community Planting Event. (S. Rancourt)



Girl Scouts planting milkweed seedlings at the event (S. Rancourt)

Several organizations and clubs participated including EWU's Emerging Leaders (S. Rancourt)



This year's AmeriCorps interns Colton Hodgson (L) and Michael Ploegman (R) (S. Rancourt)

SAS member Joyce Alonso gives guidance to another volunteer (S. Rancourt)



Native Tree Nursery

With so much riparian restoration work going on at the refuge, our nursery was expanded in 2014 with the help of master hunter Bruce Lockrem to accommodate all the potted seedling stock. Because of this expansion we also needed 2 more sets of gates. Franz (Fess) Schultes did an incredible job building gates for the original nursery in the summer of 2011. Fess agreed to take on this project again as part of his master hunter volunteer requirement. Fess fabricated 2 additional pairs of metal gates for the nursery which will soon be installed. The nursery houses native seedlings used for future plantings in the refuge's riparian restoration units and private lands projects.

Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout candidate Dirk Ray from Troop 322 chose a very special project to complete his Eagle Scout badge requirement. The Collin Leech Memorial sign needed restoring. Dirk refurbished the sign by sanding and giving it a fresh coat of stain. He also built a solid bench which he and fellow scouts installed. Dirk and his crew weeded the path to the dedication restoration unit. Dirk did a very nice job on this project and it is greatly appreciated.



Eagle Scout candidate Dirk Ray (R) installing the bench. (S.Rancourt)

Dirk with finished project (S. Rancourt)



MARCH

5



FRIENDS OF TURNBULL
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
CHENEY, WASHINGTON



2016 WILD REFUGE DINNER AND AUCTION

**Wren Pierson Community
Center, 615 4th Street
Cheney, WA
5 pm to 9 pm**

Admission \$35/person; Family Friendly \$44/person with child care

Purchase tickets at: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2475808>

**or Friends of Turnbull, c/o 2016 Wild Refuge, PO Box 294, Cheney,
WA 99004-0294 or www.fotnwr.org for link to purchase tickets**

Please join us for the Friends of Turnbull's 10th annual 'Wild Refuge' fundraiser dinner and auction, our primary source of funding to support our mission. Donate new work gloves, shovels or pliers at the door to support the annual community work-party.

Questions or to make Silent/Live Auction Donations - Contact:

Kellisa Owens at 509-629-1826 or wildrefuge@fotnwr.org

Lorna Kropp at 509-448-2291 or activities@fotnwr.org

Our Mission: To support the mandate of the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge to protect and enhance wildlife and their habitats through education,

Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week



*with a Community Work Day
at Turnbull National
Wildlife Refuge!*



Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Spokane Audubon Society and Friends of Turnbull will host a community work party on Saturday, April 30, 2016. This is part of an ongoing community effort to restore native riparian habitat to benefit birds and other wildlife species. We have hundreds of native saplings to plant and fencing to erect to protect the trees from deer, elk and moose browsing.

Attention Groups: Please **call in advance to register**. It helps us in our planning if we know how many are coming. The Refuge will also host a “potluck” lunch. Please feel free to bring your favorite dish. Ask for Sandy (509) 235-4723 ext. 228.

Planting Time: 9 am to 12 p.m.

When: Saturday, April 30

Lunch: Potluck 12 p.m. (Friends of Turnbull will supply the hamburgers)

Where: Turnbull NWR Headquarters, 5 miles south of Cheney on Cheney-Plaza Road: turn left on Smith Road and drive 2 miles on gravel road to headquarters.

Clothing: Long-sleeved shirt, work pants, gloves, sturdy boots or shoes.

Equipment: (If you can) shovels and pliers.

Everyone is Welcome!





National Wildlife Refuge Association News from the Hill

Volunteers Needed!
March 5th, 2016

Friends of Turnbull is in need of volunteers for the annual **Wild Refuge Dinner and Auction.**

Set up:
 12 pm-4 pm

Filing & Food Set Up:
 4:30 pm-7:00pm

Silent Auction Pick Up & Clean Up:
 7:00pm-Close

Email Kellisa Owens at kellisa.owens@hotmail.com to reserve your spot today!

FRIENDS OF TURNBULL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
 CRENEY, WASHINGTON

House and Senate lawmakers reauthorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for three years and set FY16 spending at \$450 million in the FY16 Interior spending bill that was announced last week, a major boost in LWCF funding.

The Refuge System’s Operations and Maintenance budget was set at \$481 million, a \$7.2 million increase over last year’s budget. Overall, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service budget was set at \$1.5 billion, an increase of \$68 million.

The spending bill importantly does not include a ‘rider’ that would have allowed the construction of a road through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and its congressionally designated wilderness in Alaska, an amendment strongly opposed by the National Wildlife Refuge Association and refuge Friends groups nationwide.

Of the \$450 million for LWCF, the Refuge System will receive \$68.5 million for projects next year. Among the Refuge Association’s LWCF priorities that were funded:

- Recreational access for sportsmen and other users: \$2.5 M
- Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge: \$4.6 M
- Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge – \$2 M
- Bear River Watershed Conservation Area- \$2 M
- Dakota Grassland Conservation Area – \$6.5 M
- Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area – \$3 M

The agreement includes \$2.5 million for urban wildlife conservation as well as \$2.1 million for volunteer partnerships; an increase of \$500,000 over the FY15 enacted level, for costs related to ensuring that volunteers, who currently contribute 20 percent of all work done on refuges, maintain a robust presence at wildlife refuges.



Thanks to Store Volunteers

Marian Frobe

Thanks to all our store volunteers in 2015. Our net profit was \$1969.18, one of our best years yet, partly due to having the Volunteer Services person, Deanna, keep the store open part of the time during the week. The staff is no longer able to sell things for us, due to the new Friends Policy, but Deanna was able to do this as a volunteer for the Friends. I am especially grateful to Lizzie Riesenberg, who stepped up to do the scheduling for us in 2015. The following people worked for the Store during 2015 and deserve our recognition and gratitude:

Joyce Alonso
Barbara Arnzen
John Barber
Kathy Barnard
Pam Carsey
Ivy & Mike Green
Pat & Jerry Johnson
Polly Kaczmarek
Barb Kehr
Cathy Lauritsen

Denise Mutschler
Kevin & Mary O'Reilly
Joanne Powell
Lizzie Riesenberg
Katherine Ryf
Luke Shoop & Elizabeth Witt
Richard & Sandra Sollie
Ken Swedberg
Jo Trilling



I hope I have not overlooked anyone. Thanks for all your help this year and I look forward to another year of everyone's help in keeping the store open for the public. Remember, if you or someone you know would like to spend time at the refuge helping the Friends and the public, give me or Lizzie Riesenberg a call, or check "I would like to volunteer" on your membership application. See the Store News for contact numbers

WinterFest December 2015

WinterFest was very successful; the weather was great! West Valley Outdoor Learning Center brought 3 raptors; a Red-shouldered hawk, a Great Horned Owl, and an American kestrel and gave a very interesting presentation with lots of Q/A interaction after the program. Sorry to say only one small child showed up so we need to let everyone know this is a family affair and children are welcome!

We had four entries for the chili contest and the winner was John Barber. It must have been the lamb, along with John's secret ingredient!

The morning tour was booked up but 4 people didn't show. The afternoon tour was full. The morning tour actually saw elk and a moose, along with the swan family.



WinterFest Moose

Photo by Carlene Hardt

Winter Wildlife Observations

Mike Rule

By mid-November, following the hottest and driest summer on record and the 2nd driest fall, nearly all of the refuge wetlands outside the Pine Creek spring fed impoundments were dry and what water was left was frozen by the end of November. Wetland bird sightings were scarce. Although we saw a few groups of tundra swans moving through numbers were down considerably for the refuge.

We spent almost 3 weeks running ATVs through some of the larger permanent ponds to map the bathymetry of the wetlands. We don't often get this chance. December brought us some relief from the drought with the fourth wettest December on record. The wetlands are slowly recharging, but recent surveys have found few with water levels high enough to measure at the outlet structures. This recent bout of rain could change that situation. We still have a long way to go before we see water levels in the spring that will boost our waterfowl breeding populations that have been in a slump since the last long-term wet cycle in the mid-1990's through 2000 (Figures 1 and 2). As I have said in the past drought is not all bad when it occurs at normal intervals. Wetland drying improves nutrient cycling and submerged plant growth and it can control invasive fish populations that compete with waterfowl for food and deplete on native amphibians. Let us hope we can get back to a sustained wet cycle that covers more than just a year or two.

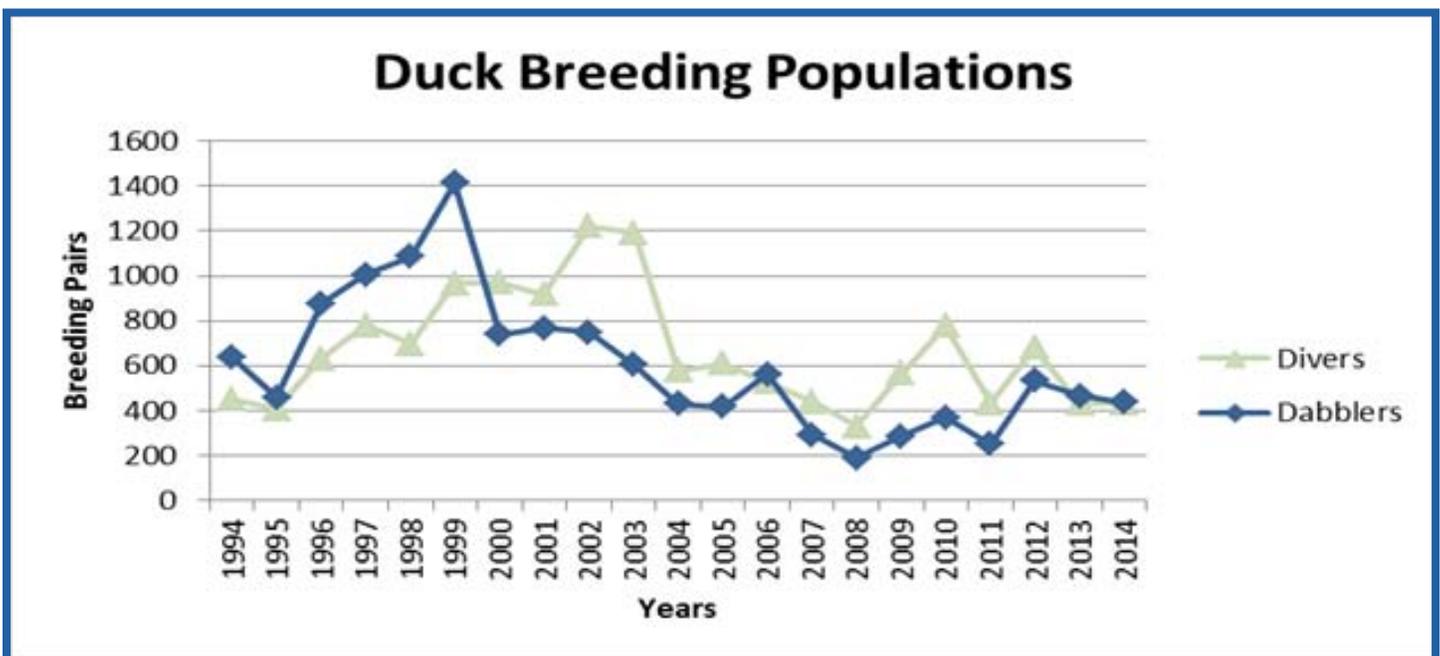


Figure 1. Dabbling and Diving Duck breeding populations 1994-2014

Turnbull Pair Survey Wetland Conditions in May 1994-2015

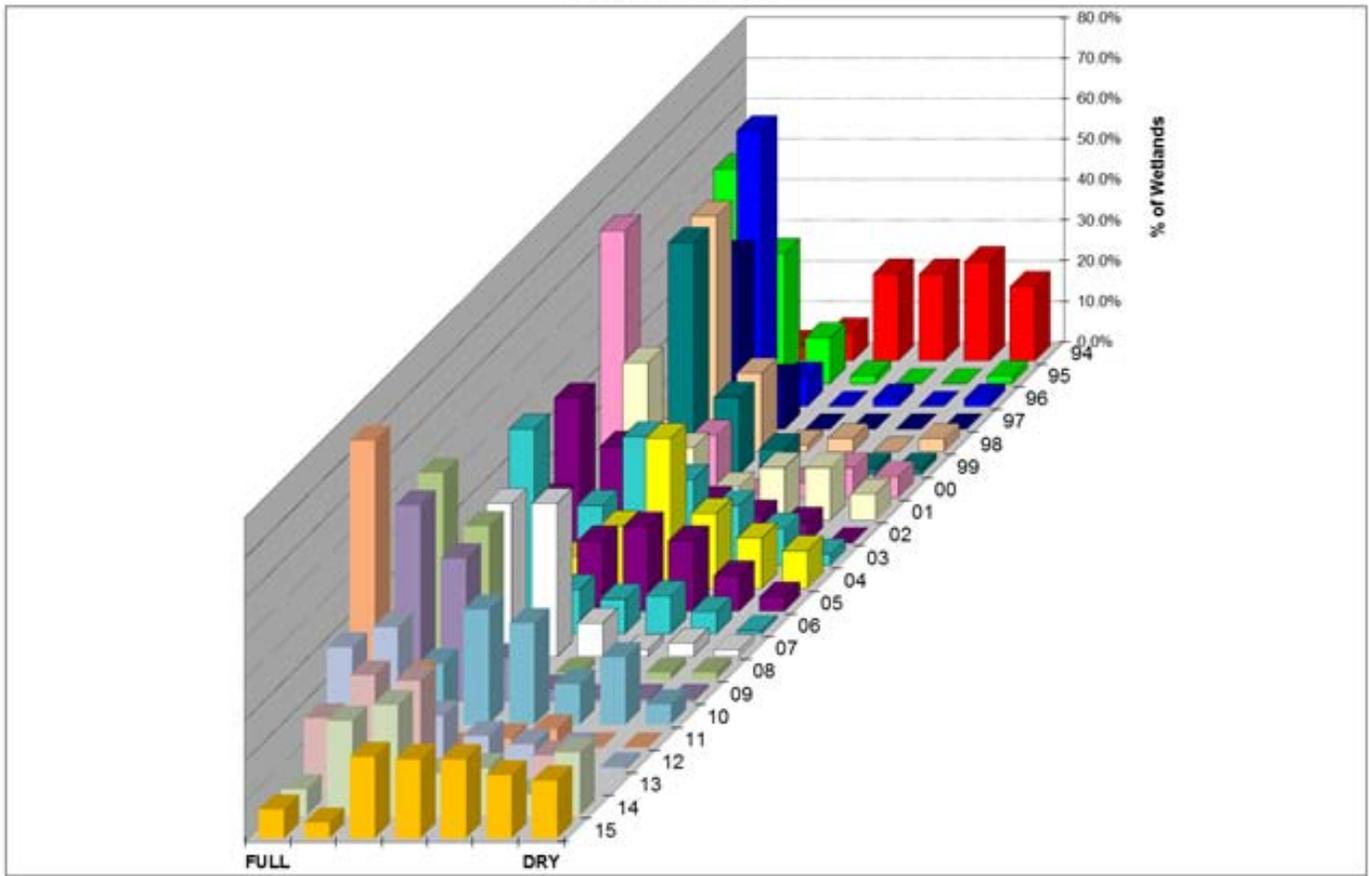


Figure 2. May wetlands conditions.

The greater height of bars on the right side of the graph indicates wetter conditions.

Recent rain and thawing brought our trumpeter swans back to the refuge. They have been observed on Windmill Pond and Cheever Lake.

A few bald eagles have been observed flying over the HQ area.

Turkeys have been abundant this winter as they search for grain and grit on the edges of the roads free of snow and ice. Near collisions have been almost a daily occurrence.

Numerous great-horned owls have been heard hooting in the early morning and evening hours as pair bonding ramps up for the nesting season.

Flocks of nuthatches and crossbills are still frequently seen and heard.



**Tundra Swans on the ice - Cheever Lake
(photo by Carlene Hardt)**

Friends of Turnbull NWR
P.O. Box 294
Cheney, WA 99004



The Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, a nonprofit organization, supports the mandate of the refuge to protect and enhance wildlife and their habitats through education, research, habitat preservation and restoration.

Got email? Add it to your membership form for quick activity updates!

Membership Application

YES! I want to support the Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge and its programs with my membership.

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, and Zip _____
Daytime Phone _____
E-mail _____

Annual Membership: (Circle one)

Individual \$15
Family \$25
Business/Group \$35
Patron \$100
Benefactor \$500
Donation \$ _____
Endowment Fund Donation \$ _____
Amount Enclosed _____

New _____ Renewal _____

I would like to volunteer _____
Nature Store _____
Committee _____
Environmental Education _____
Where needed _____

My check is enclosed payable to
Friends of Turnbull N.W.R.
P.O. Box 294
Cheney WA 99004