



North Central Washington Audubon Society  
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February 22, 2019

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
600 Capitol Way North,  
Olympia, Washington 98501-1091

Re: WDFW Proposed Conservation Projects

North Central Washington Audubon Society, with approximately 500 members in Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan, and Ferry counties, would like to express support for WDFW's proposed Scotch Creek Addition, Mid-Columbia/Central Ferry Canyon, and McLoughlin Falls West Land Conservation projects.

We have reviewed the descriptions for each project and feel they offer excellent value. Each appears to be well thought out, and represents an important step forward to enhance the goals of their associated conservation units.

As you know, shrub-steppe habitat in Washington State has been greatly reduced, degraded, and fragmented over the past two centuries. This has been to the significant detriment of Sharp-tailed Grouse and Sage Grouse, as well as several shrub-steppe obligate songbird species.

Our concern for this habitat and the species that depend upon it may be best represented by our involvement with the Sagebrush Songbird Survey, which is now in its 7<sup>th</sup> and final year. The survey was designed and has been implemented in close coordination with WDFW and DNR with the intent to determine the occurrence of shrub-steppe obligate bird species in Washington State. Each of the three projects we're writing in support of would, if implemented, benefit this habitat and thereby the birds and other wildlife that depend upon it. We hope each will be funded and ultimately implemented.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide input to this process. Please feel free to contact us at any time if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Arthur Campbell  
President