



## Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area

### August 2025 Newsletter

Summer is here and things are hot on Craig Mountain. Idaho Fish and Game habitat crew has been hard at work getting ready for the heat. We completed our annual maintenance at all our facilities and remote cabins. This includes general maintenance and establishing fireproof buffers around each structure. In addition to fireproofing structures, due to fire risks, we have closed the gate at the Gaiser Ranch that goes to a popular shooting area. Please do not shoot firearms behind the gate or in the parking areas.

In addition to preparing for the heat, this spring our Craig Mountain crew was able to complete several other projects. Coordinating with the Bureau of Land Management and The Nature Conservancy, we completed the first step of a large restoration project in the Cave Gulch drainage. The goal of this project is to provide high quality forage for wildlife in a secure area and restore old hay fields back to native grasslands. We will continue to work on this project for the next several years.

Another important habitat project is spraying weeds across the mountain. This spring we treated 400 acres and 15 miles of road for weed control. Our primary targets have been whitetop, rush skeletonweed, scotch thistle, yellow star-thistle, bur chervil, and oxeye daisy. Please make sure to check your boots, gear, and ATV's before and after recreating on Craig Mountain. Bur chervil has a small black seed with a little barb on it that sticks to everything! It is starting to spread very quickly and is common in the Redbird area. Please do what you can to not spread this to other places in Idaho. Additionally, we ask that you watch out for rush skeleton weed. We have started to notice it more, especially around the river. When this plant becomes established, it is very difficult to keep from spreading.



Along with planting and spraying, we have been busy repairing and replacing our boundary fence lines. We worked with a contractor to rebuild about 3/4 mile of fence and have fixed about 9 miles of fence so far this year.

We are working hard to manage Craig Mountain WMA for wildlife habitat and public use. Please help us by cleaning up after yourselves and not driving off the main roads. Off-roading has started to become more of an issue in the last couple of years. Driving off the main roads damages the habitat, causes soil compaction and erosion, disturbs wildlife, and damages the area. Please help us by staying on the main roads and only pulling off to the side when you are wanting to get out and explore. Just a reminder, this includes ATV's, UTV's, dirt bikes, and e-bikes. E-bikes are considered motorized and are not allowed off-roads or behind gates.

We greatly appreciate all those who follow our rules and help us keep Craig Mountain a beautiful place. We want to thank the Back Country Horseman Club for the work they continue to do every year to help us maintain the Dough Creek Cabin. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help remove fence or work on other projects, let us know and we can put you on our contact list.

Coming up soon we will be doing a firewood sale on IDFG lands on Craig Mountain. It will open this fall once fire season passes. Permits are required and must be with you during harvest. Permits cost \$10/chord and are limited to 5 chords. Just a reminder, you are required to know who's land you are cutting on. This permit only allows firewood cutting on IDFG lands so do not harvest wood if it is on BLM, IDL, private property, or Nez Perce Tribe property on Craig Mountain.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jessica Barker at the regional IDFG office, 208-799-5010.

