• Canada geese observed 19 of the 23 survey days; 300-500

• Western bluebirds bred on site in 2018

• All 5 woodpecker species
FINDINGS: FISH AND AMPHIBIANS

- 4 species of non-native fish (primarily large-mouth bass); 1 native sculpin

- Existing water temperatures appear too warm to support native salmonids

- No native amphibian egg masses were detected (but bullfrogs and bass abundant)
FINDINGS: WETLANDS & WATER QUALITY

• The lakes are shallow, warm and nutrient rich, resulting in dense plant growth and oxygen depletion

• If people are accessing the water, regular monitoring for toxic blue-green algae is recommended

• Planting trees and shrubs adjoining lakes, streams, and wetlands would benefit habitat functions and water quality
Zylstra Lake Preserve Potential Restoration Areas

- Lake edges
  - Emergent vegetation
  - Riparian forest

- Stream corridors

- Isolated wetlands
OTHER OPPORTUNITIES
Ecological Resource Questions:

• What ecological features warrant special protection and management?

• How much effort should be devoted to habitat enhancement and restoration?

• How should we balance potential conflicts between ecological values vs. recreational or agricultural activities?
Agricultural Resources
Brief History of Ag Use

“Early homesteaders used the rich bottom land along False Bay Creek for raising grains such as barley, oats, and wheat; planted orchards of fruit trees on the mid-slopes; and grazed their livestock of cows, hogs, and sheep on the upper, drier pastureland. Eventually smaller holdings consolidated into larger farms, a pattern that continued until World War II. After the War and a period of decline, several large farms tried mono-crops such as strawberries and green peas for canning. When Fred Zylstra bought the property in the early 1960s, he ran pure-bred Herefords and planted holly as cash crops, as well as expanding the irrigation potential of his land and the surrounding area with the construction of Zylstra Lake. It was claimed at the time (1963) that 48-acre Zylstra Lake was the largest man-made body of water built by a private individual in the State Of Washington. It is certainly one of the largest lakes used for irrigation purposes in the San Juan County” (Boyd Pratt, 2016)

For the past few decades, the property has primarily been used and managed by Richard Lawson and Greg Black for grazing and haying.
SOIL RESOURCES

• Prime farmland soils need TLC

• 175+ acres of prime farmland soils (USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey)

• Baseline Soil Testing indicates that nutrient levels are currently in the mid to low range. pH is slightly acidic averaging 6.0, and organic matter is in the 5% range.

• Zoned as Ag Resource Land (ARL) and within San Juan Valley Heritage Plan.
Water Resources

“Zylstra Lake, which on the average supplies about 300 acre-feet, is the most important irrigation water reservoir in San Juan County. About 400 acres of farmland in San Juan Valley are irrigated with this water” (Geology and Water Resources, 1975).

• Agricultural Water Rights

  1. Reservoir Water Right for 285 acre-feet of water to be used for irrigation of 295 acres.

  2. The second is a surface water right of 80 acre-feet for irrigation purposes of 40 acres.

• No Potable water systems exist on the Preserve
Farm Infrastructure

- Majority of the historic farm infrastructure was separated off with the sale of ‘October Farm’ in 2016.
- 7 structures making up over 10,000 square feet of covered livestock structures with concrete pads, and two 4,000 sf concrete pads from collapsed structures.
- Structures are in fair condition needing repairs and improvements, but functional.
- RCO Grant may require removal of some or all of these structures.
## Ag Compatibility with Resources

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<th>Water</th>
<th>Soil</th>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>Recreation</th>
<th>Habitat</th>
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# Ag Compatibility with CE and Grant Restrictions

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<tr>
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<th>US Coastal Wetlands Grant</th>
<th>WA RCO Water Access Grant</th>
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