



# NEWS RELEASE



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## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Seeks Public Assistance in Locating Semi-Trailer Truck

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is asking for public assistance to locate a vehicle suspected of starting a fire along State Highway 12 near the Wallula Junction. The fire burned 500 acres of riparian and shrub-steppe vegetation in the McNary National Wildlife Refuge. An investigation located the fire's point of origin, and evidence linking it to a semi-trailer truck or similar vehicle with 'dualies,' or double wheels, in the rear of the truck. Semi-trucks often have racks above the rear axles for storing winter tire chains. It appears from the investigation that a loose tire chain was caught between two tires and dragged along the highway. Eventually the chain ejected hot metal scrapings onto the roadside, igniting the fire. Evidence indicates that at least one of the dual tires was shredded in the process, leaving a trail of tire parts along the highway as far as Pasco. Anyone witnessing a semi-trailer truck or similar vehicle dragging a chain or with a blown tire along Highway 12 between the Wallula Junction and Pasco on Saturday, August 2, at approximately 11:15 a.m., is urged to contact the Service's Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex Headquarters at (509) 546-8300.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).