

2024

Franks nest box project update

There are 162 nest boxes at this time scattered through a half dozen sites from the south side of Pine Mountain down to and including Summer Lake. We have replaced, added or repositioned boxes and about four dozen boxes have been built for the replacement part of route maintenance.

There are 138 nests in these boxes which is about 85%. Probably more than half of the Summer Lake boxes appear to be swallow nests, while most of the other locations appear to be pretty solidly bluebird nests.

This project makes me wonder how many nest boxes of different designs for different species of birds would provide all the nesting opportunities needed to cover the area considered East Cascades Bird Alliance territory. To do it, more than the two people doing it now would be needed.

Cabin Lake:

There are 20 nest boxes in the Franks project at Cabin Lake. They also have similar percentages of successful bluebird nests. The concern there is that it is and has been difficult to maintain a water supply from two guzzlers through the season. Deschutes Forest biologists seem to think it would be appropriate for the Forest Service to provide assistance such as a fire fighting rig to stop by with supplemental water which would be effective if done about twice a year. The problem is that it seems to end with the sentiments of the biologists and doesn't reach through the channel to a high enough level to give this supplemental effort approval. What to do? Bird Alliance members all contact the Forest Service with our several hundred members to lobby?

Report Submitted by Dan
Ankrom