

Grazing Decision Items

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WAC 220-500-200
Commission Policy C-6003

Path to Staff Recommendation

SEPA review of:

- WAC 220-500-200
- Commission Policy C-6003
- Draft grazing guidance/tools
 - Rationales
 - Protective Measures
 - Monitoring and Ecological Integrity
 - Wolf-Livestock Conflict Reduction



Path to Staff Recommendation

- WAC 220-500-200
- Commission Policy C-6003

Draft grazing guidance/tools

- Policy rationales
- Protective Measures
- Monitoring and Ecological Integrity
- Wolf-Livestock Conflict Reduction



Requirements – WAC 220-500-200

Current:

Consistent with desired
ecological conditions

OR

Strategic Plan

Recommended:

Consistent with desired
ecological conditions

AND

Strategic Plan,

Mission,

Management objectives



Requirements – WAC 220-500-200

Current:

Permits are submitted to Commission for 30-day review, except for

- Temporary permits
- Renewing permits

Recommended:

No change, except add an exception for:

- Permits on recent land acquisitions, (but Commission review needed after 3 years)



Requirements – WAC 220-500-200

Current:

5-year maximum term, then
renew/go to auction

Recommended:

No change, except add the
following option:

Discontinue (providing
notice by end of calendar
year of most recent grazing
season)



Requirements – WAC 220-500-200

Current:

Grazing plans for all permits except those < 2 weeks

Recommended:

“2 weeks” clarified to mean 14 cumulative days on site



Requirements – WAC 220-500-200

Current:

Provides for cancellation (habitat damage, noncompliance, etc.)

Recommended:

No change except that WDFW would provide as much notice as possible



Requirements – WAC 220-500-200

Current:

Permitted lands remain open to public recreation

Recommended:

Permitted lands remain open to public recreation consistent with applicable seasons and rules



Requirements – WAC 220-500-200

What else is staying the same?

- Temporary permits
- Grazing management plans





Recommendations – Policy C-6003

Roles of Grazing:

- 1) Managing manipulating vegetation for wildlife
- 2) Enhancing recreational opportunity
- 3) Encouraging conservation across multiple ownerships on landscape scales through coordinated resource management
- 4) Protecting community character



Big Bend Wildlife Area
(SGI rotation)



Recommendations – Policy C-6003

Retaining:

- Continue to require maintaining ecological integrity
- Continue to promote adaptive management and improvement



Methow Wildlife Area
(alternate pasture)



Recommendations – Policy C-6003

Adding or updating:

- Require consistency with acquisition/management funding
- Conduct, vs ~~develop~~, cross-program review for best available science



Sinlahekin Complex



Recommendations – Policy C-6003

Removing:

- Language redundant with WAC/statute
 - Grazing Plans



Oak Creek Wildlife Area
(elk)



Conclusion – staff recommendation

Adopt recommended amendments to WAC 220-500-200, including recommended adjustments

Adopt amended Policy C-6003



Questions?

