

# Game Management Plan

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# Questions for Committee

- Recommend to full Commission the shift in GMP direction proposed by Wildlife Chair?
- Recommend to full Commission to not renew existing GMP?
- Shift priority of conversations at Wildlife Committee from GMP to development of Wildlife Policies?
  - (GMP discussions and review will still occur at WLC)
- Discuss 3-Year Season Setting



# Purpose of Game Management Plans

- Guide the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's management of hunted wildlife.
- Provide the public an opportunity to weigh-in through a formal process on high level game management issues.
- Identify data gaps and future research and monitoring needs.
- Identify existing and potential limiting factors affecting game populations.
- Give broad direction on addressing known limiting factors.
- Provide a basis for work planning.
- Identify funding needs.
- Provide direction on sustainable hunting management recommendations.



# Slightly Modified Path Forward

- Current GMP will not be renewed and will be allowed to expire
- The new GMP will be written as one document and undergo the appropriate SEPA Review
- Commission will contemplate policy considerations that may inform or supersede the GMP
- Wildlife Committee/Commission will provide case appropriate review during the internal review process prior to public SEPA review
- The GMP is not action – hunts go thru Commission Rulemaking process, GMP content informs and guides resource allocation



# Progress

- Drafted and internally vetted issue statements for GMP
- Drafted, refined, and categorized Guiding Principles
- Reviewed alternative format and content proposals
- Drafted Possible Policy language
- Drafted and refining Agency and Commission Authorities
- Drafted and refining Overarching Issue statements
- Drafted Waterfowl and Migratory Game Bird Chapter
- Process for tracking progress internally and externally



# Refined Policy Topics

1. Game Species Conservation Principles
2. Carnivore hunting policy
3. Structuring sustainable hunting opportunity and providing guidance regarding how to maximize public recreational hunting opportunities in the full context of RCW 77.04.012 and associated legislation
4. Potential topic: Furbearer/Beaver management



# Next steps

- Continue working with the Wildlife Committee on the policy topics
- Present Issue Statements for GMP to the Wildlife Committee as chapters are being drafted
- Continue working with Wildlife Committee to identify additional policy topics in subsequent chapters
- Internal plan review including Wildlife Committee
- Comply with SEPA process
- Seek Commission approval on plan when completed



# Questions?

