

# GMP

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# GMP Background and History

- First GMP SEPA EIS document was completed November 2002
- There have been 2 Supplements to that initial EIS (2009,2015)
- The most recent supplement plan was intended to cover 2015 -2021



# GMP Background and History

- In 2019 The Department decided to extend the plan for 2 years
- This decision was related to multiple issues going on at the time
  - Three-year season setting process
  - Cougar rule revision off cycle



# GMP Background and History

- This was discussed with the Commission in October of 2019
- In August 2020 the Department formally extended timeline of the existing plan
- The 2015 GMP, with the SEPA extension, was in effect until June 30, 2023
- We initiated the plan revision process in the fall of 2021
- We intend to complete the process by December 2022



# GMP Background and History

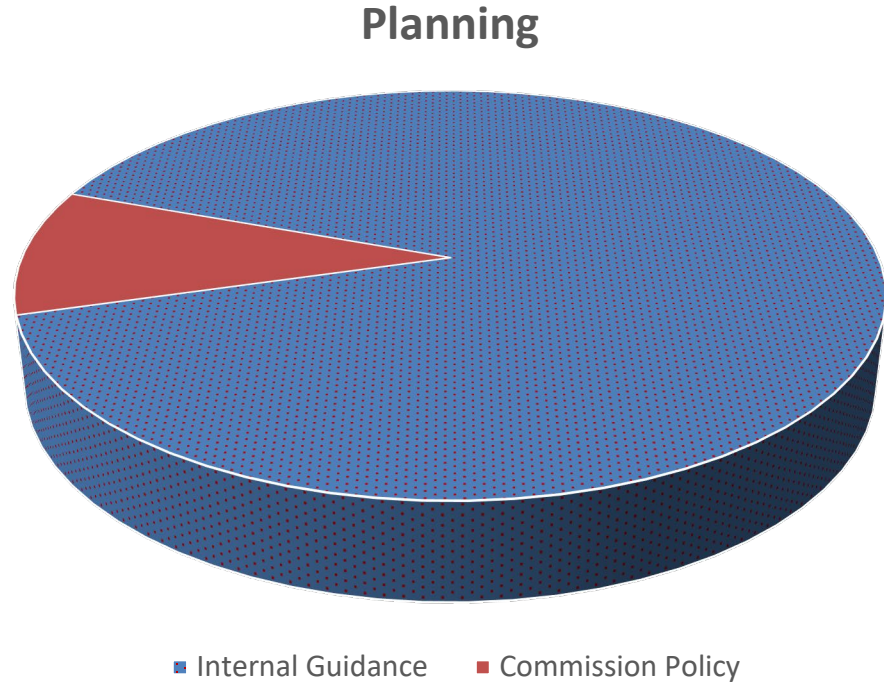
- During the revision process (Fall 2021) we determined that a more robust SEPA process may be required
- We started thinking about a new approach to get this project completed with sufficient SEPA review
- Staff continued working on content that included the draft issue statements
- We updated the wildlife committee in March of 2022
- We brought forward a proposed path forward to the Wildlife Committee May 2022





# GMP Background and History

**Formal  
Commission  
Policy directs  
agency action or  
rulemaking**



**Internal  
operating  
guidance for  
agency  
actions and  
rulemaking**



# GMP Background and History

Potential plans:

- Predator Prey Management Guidelines
- Black bear
- Cougar
- White tailed deer (Plan exists but outdated)
- Elk (no stand-alone plan; Herd plans exist)
- Mule deer (Plan in place revise in future)
- Bighorn sheep
- Mountain goat
- Waterfowl
- Other migratory game birds (dove, pigeon, snipe and coot)
- Upland Game
- Small game and furbearers



# GMP document content:

- Brief background
- Habitat availability or limitations including climate change implications
- Monitoring and research
- Updated literature references
- Hunting opportunity and guidelines
- Other contemporary issues related to species or Guild





# Human Dimensions Surveys

- We have historically conducted a general population and a hunter survey
- The surveys were completed
- These surveys will help in guiding objectives
- The survey results were posted online



# GMP Background and History

- October 2022 the commission gave the department the go ahead with the new approach (individual plans with policy set aside for commission to work on)
- November 2022 Wildlife committee and staff worked on guiding principles for the overarching chapter
- December 2022 Staff presented Issue statements for Migratory Game bird chapter and continued working on principles in the overarching plan



# GMP Background and History

- January 2023 Wildlife Committee proposed new direction related to the GMP
- February 2023 Migratory Game Bird Plan draft was completed and shared with the wildlife committee for review
- March 2023 continued work on overarching plan with the Wildlife Committee. Commission endorsed the outline for the overarching plan.
- April 2023 Identified possible policies that the Wildlife committee could work on



# New Commission Direction

## June 22, 2023 Seattle, WA

The Wildlife Committee Chair made the following recommendations that the Commission endorsed:

- Existing GMP would not be extended when it expires in June 2023
- New GMP should be a single document that would go through a new SEPA process as required;
- Shift priority of conversations at Wildlife Committee from GMP to development of Wildlife Policies;
  - High level updates and review of GMP will still occur at WLC
  - Policy discussion topics were refined to shorter list
- Staff will proceed with 3-year season setting process, at least for those rules that would be invalid otherwise.



# Decision Points for Process

- November 2002 – Original plan approved by Commission
- 2009 & 2015 - Supplements to EIS
- The most recent supplement plan was intended to cover 2015 –2021
- August 2020 - WDFW formally extended timeline
  - The 2015 GMP, with the SEPA extension, was in effect until June 30, 2023
- Fall 2021 – WDFW initiated the plan revision process in the fall of 2021
- May 2022 – WDFW recommended a new process
- October 2022 - Commission gave the department the go ahead
  - Individual plans with policy set aside for commission to work on
- January 2023 - Wildlife Committee proposed new direction related to the GMP
  - Single plan with identified policies
- June 2023 – Commission endorsed the revised process and revised the proposed Policy topics; Department allowed GMP to expire





# New GMP Timelines

Complete writing in two phases. SEPA process commences once writing is completed, Target SEPA completion by Dec 2024.

Chapters targeted for completion by November 2023:

- Overarching Chapter
- Migratory Birds
- White-tailed deer
- Elk
- Predator prey





# New GMP Timelines

Chapters targeted for completion by July 2024:

- Bear
- Cougar
- Black-tailed deer
- Moose
- Mountain goat
- Bighorn sheep
- Upland Game
- Small game and furbearers
- Mule deer
- Pronghorn





# New GMP Timelines

- November 2023, Share all the Issue statements with the committee for review
- November 2023, Share Overarching, elk and WTD draft chapters, Possible predator prey chapter, based on policy discussion
- Share bear and cougar drafts as soon as they become ready (January 2024?)
- Meanwhile, staff continue writing chapters to meet July deadlines





# Questions?

