

# Chelan Wildlife Area Advisory Committee Meeting

## Final Meeting Notes

March 6, 2018  
WSDOT, Wenatchee  
6:00-8:30 pm

### Attendees:

#### WAAC Members:

Sam Lain  
Graham Grant  
Von Pope  
Eric Ellis  
Paul Willard

#### WDFW Staff:

Ron Fox  
Rich Finger  
Lauri Vigue  
Melinda Posner

### Welcome and Introductions (Rich)

Rich Finger, Lands Operations Manager welcomed everyone. Lauri Vigue, Planning Project Manager, explained the focus of the meeting is to provide the highlights of the wildlife area planning process, WAAC roles and responsibilities and timeline; and gather comments from the WAAC on the draft management plan. The plan is consistent with the WDFW mission statement.

### Chelan WLA Draft Management Plan (Lauri and Ron)

The draft wildlife area management plan was sent to WAAC members and the tribes on Thursday, March 1st for a two week review. Comments are due back to Lauri on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### Planning Timeline:

SEPA – 30 Day notice	Early April
Public meeting	April 12, 2018 (Chelan Fire Station)
Final Management Plan	Summer 2018

Ron presented the draft vision for the wildlife area plan:

*The vision of the Chelan Wildlife Area is to maintain and enhance native habitats, to support and recover fish and wildlife species on the wildlife area now and into the future; and provide opportunities for appropriate recreational experiences.*

No comments were received.

Ron provided highlights of the draft plan, including success stories and emphasized that the plan itself is built on the draft goals and objectives, and they interact nicely. The existing goals and objectives list was built on input from the WAAC and the public.

The bighorn sheep reintroduction has been successful, it was a goal for the wildlife area 20 years ago. Every unit on the wildlife area has a page on eBird except for the Entiat Unit, highlighting the success of wildlife viewing. Franks Pond juvenile fishing pond has been successful and is well used by the local community. Wenatchee Sportsman have been volunteering on the wildlife area for over 20 years. Only two reptiles have been documented on the wildlife area which heightens the need for future wildlife surveys.

There will be an appendix for shrub-steppe restoration in the final plan. An outline will be provided, for public review, until the appendix is complete. The appendix will give a history of restoration efforts on the wildlife area including lessons learned.

### Recreation Outreach Process (Rich)

(See attachment)

Background: The draft Recreation Outreach Process was developed by the WDFW regional staff based on the Elephant Head trail proposal. WDFW recognizes the demand for non-traditional uses on WDFW lands, which may increase conflict with wildlife. This process will include a public review phase, the WAAC will have the opportunity to review and comment on a draft proposal before it goes public. WDFW regional management team will review and make the final decision.

Comments:

- WDFW needs to consider the multiple jurisdictions in the area for recreation planning. BLM, Chelan County, PUD and DNR also own adjacent lands on Chelan Butte. Each jurisdiction may have their own respective recreation planning processes that may conflict with our proposal. It is important to coordinate early in the process.
- Consider a multijurisdictional MOU, when this occurs.
- Need to broaden the WAAC. Include a representative from DNR and Chelan County.

- Von said the draft proposal was good.
- The Swakane Canyon Birding Trail will be a good project to start with, a field trip will be setup in May with the WAAC to discuss different uses (target shooting, birding trail and quail hunting) and develop a proposal
- Emphasize working collaboratively early in the process.

#### Tasks:

- Rich will send out draft recreation outreach proposal to the WAAC for additional comments
- Lauri will send out a Doodle Poll to schedule a field trip in May to the Swakane Unit.
- WAAC Members, provide comments on the draft plan by March 16th

#### Lands Showcase / Recreation Strategy (Melinda)

##### Objectives of the Lands Showcase Process:

- Increased public and political awareness of WDFW lands
- Increased visibility of lands values
- Increased support for operations and maintenance funding
- Effective technology investments and improved business processes

Components ultimately include improved visitor maps and website content. The WDFW website re-design is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The recreation strategy is an important component of this process.

#### WAAC Comment

- Has WDFW done an analysis of where funding comes from, to ensure lands are managed consistent with original funding source? Answer: yes, funding strings are listed in the wildlife area management plan; it is an important component of the new plan.
- It is important that WDFW realize the increase in popularity of recreation sites once they become developed, often times they can develop into a commercial venture. Which may result in exceeding capacity on WDFW lands. SEPA should help address this demand issue when developing new recreation proposals.
- Several hunting easements are located on the Entiat Unit. These need to be corrected in WDFW Landscape Information System. Chelan Butte has county road easements (undeveloped) too. Easements are a challenging issue. This is a statewide issue with the

agency. It is important to develop a process for prioritization. If the agency fails to take action, the public loses.

- Reference to PUD management plan is quite long. Needs to be resolved.
- Fix appendix reference listed on page 51 (list of rare plants).
- Add to weed table, bouncing bet, Russian olive.
- Add Ute ladies tresses to species table.