

## Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas

### Chief Joseph / Asotin Creek Advisory Committee Meeting

March 7, 2017

Clarkston Branch – Walla Walla Community College

6:00-8:30 pm

#### AGENDA

6:00

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Purpose of the meeting
- Review of previous meeting

**Wildlife Area Advisory Committee**

- Charter, Volunteer Registration

6:20

**Wildlife Area Issues**

7:00

**Wildlife Areas Planning - Goals & Objectives Review**

7:50

**Questions/Wrap-up**

- Comments
- Next WAAC meeting

## Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas

### Chief Joseph/Asotin Creek Wildlife Area Advisory Committee

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 6:00-8:00 pm  
Walla Walla CC – Clarkston Branch, 1470 Bridge Street, Room 187

#### Attendees

Joseph Ford, Cal Cox, Megan Stewart, Bud Scott, Jim Ross, Danette Baker Studer, Stan Wilson, Sam Ledgerwood

WDFW Staff: Bob Dice, Kevin Robinette, Patricia Jatczak, Lynn Helbrecht

#### Wildlife Area Updates

Bob gave an update about some current issues on the wildlife areas.

- ❖ Asotin Creek Shooting Range – Asotin County Sportsman’s Association provided a donation for security cameras which has helped keep down misuse. Toilets are needed but no money.
- ❖ Green Gulch – Access for 4-wheelers is between October – November. The end gate will be moved from its current location to an area near Lime Point this spring/summer.
- ❖ Smoothing Iron Ridge - Agency is burning to promote grass growth. Looking at 3D fence to temporarily keep elk off fields until crops mature.
- ❖ RMEF - Long-term volunteers. Annual project/potluck weekend May 4-6, 2018. Projects could include pulling fence, clean troughs, tree and shrub planting, etc. All are welcome to attend. Contact Bob or RMEF for details.
- ❖ Grazing on the 4-0 - Lots of discussion on this topic. Post meeting, Bob sent out the Eastside and Westside maps and grazing management plan. It is still under agency review. Concern was expressed that it may be hard to get a bidder under the stipulations.
- ❖ Wolves – WDFW has confirmed the third wolf pack in the area, called the Grouse Flats Pack. Agency staff plan to manage wolves across the landscape without regard to ownership.

❖

Questions Bob is looking into for the WAAC. These mostly pertain to the upcoming grazing permits on the 4-O Ranch Wildlife Area.

1. Why isn't WDFW using water quality standards similarly used on USFS lands for a move trigger for livestock? Why not take water samples and identify factors such as turbidity, fecal content, or other impurities as move triggers? What are WDFW's water quality goals?
2. Why is WDFW using 6" stubble height near water sources as a move trigger?
3. Is there an opportunity for WDFW to re-evaluate end of season monitoring to see if grazing seasons can be extended on the wildlife area?
4. There was much interest in asking RMEF volunteers to build fences around water features identified as important on the 4-O. We are looking into this.

### Advisory Committee Business

Members that are not paid by their employers to participate in the Advisory Committee need to sign up as volunteer with WDFW. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

Patricia distributed the WAAC Charter. It was distributed earlier and no comments were received. The charter will be in effect unless anyone brings up any concerns or issues before the next meeting.

### Wildlife Area Planning

Patricia gave a brief presentation on what the committee covered at the first meeting including the wildlife area planning process and timeline. She provided a brief overview of the key topic areas in the goals and objectives (action plan). Comments included:

- ❖ The plan doesn't identify costs and funding
- ❖ Lots of discussion on weed management. The weed management plan will be an appendix to the main plan. Prioritizing border lands was mentioned. Bob said we must prioritize on BPA funded land.
- ❖ There was interest in the Forest Management Plan, so Patricia will send out.
- ❖ The responsibility of maintaining fencing between FS and State land was discussed.
- ❖ Pack goats were discussed and the concern on the wildlife area is that they carry the same diseases as sheep and that has to be kept out.
- ❖ The Asotin Creek geomorphic assessment should be referenced in the plan.
- ❖ Hunting on the 4-0 was discussed. Deer and elk hunting is by permit only. There are few opportunities. This needs to be discussed with District Biologist Wik.
- ❖ Trails were mentioned as being of interest, and those connections on the 4-0 are moving forward.
- ❖ It was noted that the presence of loggers, ranchers, and farmers on the land provide more "eyes on the ground" – people out on the land see things and can report to the agency

### Closure

Advisory members can provide written comments on the Goals and Objectives table. Send to: [BlueMntWLA@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:BlueMntWLA@dfw.wa.gov) Committee members will also get to comment on the Draft Wildlife Area plan before it is released to the public, and during the public comment period.

The next meeting will most likely be at the end of May or early June, or as soon as there has been internal WDFW review.

*Thank you Everyone*

# Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas



**Chief Joseph / Asotin Creek  
Wildlife Area Advisory Committee**

**March 7, 2018 - Clarkston**

# Agenda

- ❖ Review previous meeting
- ❖ Advisory Committee Roles
- ❖ Plan Outline / Review Process
- ❖ Goals and Objectives
- ❖ Other Wildlife Area Topics



# Review Previous Meeting

- ❖ Agency Mission & Goals
- ❖ Overview of committee / charter / meeting
- ❖ Wildlife area planning process
- ❖ Overview of the Blue Mountains WLA
- ❖ AC provided input; asked for materials/maps

# Advisory Committee

- ❖ Provide input to WDFW
- ❖ Review the Goals & Objectives
- ❖ Review Draft Plan
- ❖ Discuss with your constituents
- ❖ Provide comments

Adopt Charter



# Advisory Committee

## To Find Advisory Group Info:

1. Go to Asotin Creek Wildlife Area page

[https://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife\\_areas/asotin\\_creek/Asotin%20Creek](https://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/asotin_creek/Asotin%20Creek)

2. *Click on* Advisory Group

3. *Scroll down to:* Meeting Calendar and Agendas  
Latest meetings

Email: [BlueMntWLA@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:BlueMntWLA@dfw.wa.gov)



# Purpose of the Plan

- ❖ Sets vision for 8-10 years
- ❖ Guides activities
- ❖ Ensures lands are managed consistent with mission and funding obligations
- ❖ Identifies priority actions and plans
- ❖ Integrates Agency priorities

# Plan Sections

## Part I: Wildlife Area Planning Overview

- Management overview
- Intro to the Wildlife Area
- Wildlife Area Description

## Part II: Management and Planning

- Landownership and Management
- Management Setting
- **Goals, objectives, performance measures**



# Plan Sections

## Part III: Species & Habitat Management

- Physical
- Ecological
- Species
- Climate Change

## Part IV: References and Appendices

- Species & habitat
- Weed Management
- Fire Response
- SEPA comments
- Research and Studies



# Review Process

- ❖ 1. Agency Planning Team & Programs
- ❖ 2. Advisory Committee / Tribes
- ❖ 3. Public
- ❖ 4. Agency Leadership

*The plan is edited  
after each review.*



# Ecological Integrity

1. Focus on important areas to improve
2. Control weeds
3. Manage forest
4. Contain livestock and wildlife
5. Protect native prairie
6. Remove barriers to fish
7. Implement Tucannon Floodplain plan
8. Identify rare plants

# Sustain Species

1. Maintain healthy bighorn sheep populations
2. Reduce human/wildlife conflicts
3. Protect wintering wildlife
4. Improve fish passage
5. Develop species-specific actions

# Support Recreation

1. Provide info to public on opportunities
2. Improve hunting
  - Improve ADA opportunities
  - Assess opportunities to expand
3. Improve facilities
  - Trails, campgrounds, shooting range, restrooms
4. Improve water access sites

## Engage Stakeholders

1. Maintain the Advisory Committees
2. Work with volunteer groups

## Maintain relationships with partners

1. Use grazing and farming as management tool
2. Network with regional partners

## Safety

1. Increase patrols to reduce poaching