



Swanson Lakes, Reardan Audubon Lake  
and Revere Wildlife Areas

## Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area Wildlife Area Advisory Committee Meeting

April 28, 2014

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## Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions
- Roles and Expectations
- Wildlife Area Planning Process
- Overview Wildlife Areas
- Draft Plan Objectives
- Public Comment
  
- Questions?

## WDFW Mission Statement

*To preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.*

## WDFW Strategic Plan

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Goal 1 | Conserve and protect native fish and wildlife  |
| Goal 2 | Provide sustainable fishing, hunting, and other wildlife-related recreational and commercial experiences                                     |
| Goal 3 | Promote a healthy economy, protect community character, maintain an overall high quality of life, and deliver high-quality customer service. |
| Goal 4 | Build an effective organization by supporting our workforce, improving business processes, and investing in technology.                      |

## Roles and Expectations

*The purpose of the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee is to provide input for the development of the new Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area Plan.*

## WAAC Benefits

- Represent the views of interested stakeholders
- Communicate with larger stakeholder community
- Identify issues and concerns
- Provide local expertise and insight
- Key tool to involve the public

## WAAC Responsibilities

- Attend meetings
- Review information, ask questions, discuss issues
- Speak for respective interest group
- Bring regional perspective
- Identify and brief alternate
- Become familiar with WDFW mission and WLA planning and management goals
- Work in a collaborative manner

## Planning Team Responsibilities

- Lead the process and WAAC meetings
- Prepare and distribute materials
- Answer questions
- Promote transparency
- Consider WAAC input in WLA plan decisions
- Work in a collaborative manner

## Decision-making

- Who makes decisions?
- How are decisions made?
- What is the WAAC role in decision-making?

## Discussion Guidelines

- All members are expected and encouraged to participate
- Everyone's perspective is valuable
- One person talks at a time
- Refrain from side conversations
- Stay focused on meeting purpose
- Keep comments short – 30-second big ideas'
- Keep an open mind
- Turn off cell phones

## WAAC Planning Milestones

Meeting	Topic	Timing
Meeting 1	Orientation Introduction to planning process Review objectives	Apr
Meeting 2	Review draft plan Provide input prior to public meeting 2	Jun/Jul
Meeting 3	Consider public input Review final plan Provide final input	Sept

## WLA Management Planning Purpose

- Articulate to WDFW staff and the public management direction of WDFW lands, including new acquisitions and restoration projects.
- Guide WDFW in prioritizing activities to achieve WDFW's mandate and strategic plan, while meeting the original objectives of the funds with which the lands were purchased. This prioritization will be used to support WDFW in funding requests.
- Identify funding constraints and needs
- Provides transparency regarding decision making process

## Wildlife Area Planning Process Overview

### Agency Initiatives

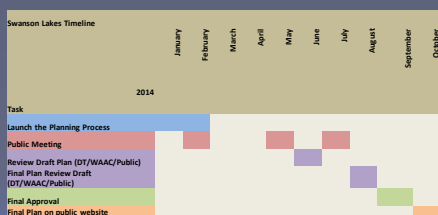
- Wildlife Area HCP
- Recreation Planning
- Wildlife Area Ecological Integrity Monitoring
- Road Management Planning
- Expanded public outreach

Public user friendly document

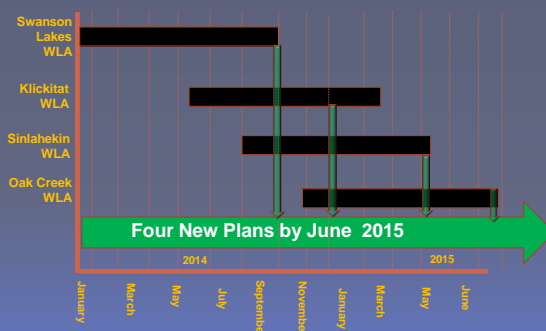
## Overarching Document

- *Demonstrates to the public and provides guidance on how WDFW lands fit into larger planning landscape*
- *Provides overview of funding sources for purchasing and managing lands*
- *Provides an overview of agency initiatives and their application to WDFW lands*

## Swanson Lakes Timeline



## WLA Planning Timeline



## Swanson, Revere & Reardan – three separate units in Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area

### Overview of each area

- Purpose of property
- Acquisition/funding requirements
- Current objectives

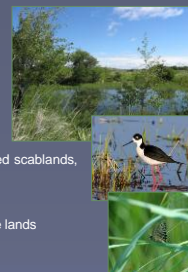
## Lands 20/20 Proposal Reardan's Audubon Lake 150 Acres

### Conservation Values

- Protects Palouse prairie grasslands, channeled scablands, wetlands and vernal pools
- Used by more than 100 species of birds
- Important site for migratory birds
- Connected to Department of Fish and Wildlife lands

### Recreational Values

- Wildlife Viewing
- (Washington Birding Trail)
- Nature photography



## Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area Swanson Lakes Unit



## Swanson Lakes Unit

*21,000 acres - shrub-steppe and riparian habitat.  
Critical habitat for sage grouse and sharp tail grouse*

- Purpose:** Mitigation habitat for sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse and mule deer
- Funding source:** Bonneville Power Administration and RCO 1990's, fixed annual BPA funding
- Current objectives:** Habitat restoration, grouse translocation

## Swanson Lake Issues

- Funding sources for ongoing restoration activities
- Grazing (pressure from local landowners and trespass cattle)
- Weed Control – sheer size of this unit requires diligence
- Z-Lake - access and type of fishery

## Revere Unit

*2,291 acres primarily shrub-steppe and Palouse grassland habitat*

- Purpose:** Mitigation habitat for upland birds/mule deer
- Funding source:** Army Corps of Engineers 1992
- Current objectives:** Upland birds and mule deer summer range

## Revere Issues

- Hunting management – deer hunters can crowd the unit, but limited entry is not a good solution

## Reardan Audubon Unit



## Reardan Audubon Unit

*277 acres - contains wetlands, vernal ponds, Palouse grasslands and channel scablands. Supports more than 200 species of birds.*

**Purpose:** Preserve upland and waterfowl habitat from urban sprawl, bird watching

**Funding source:** RCO 2006

**Current objectives:** Access development and habitat restoration

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## Reardan Audubon Issues

- Herbicide drift – to and from the unit
- Noise/dust/potholes – visitor traffic vs. south side neighbors
- Restoration complete in 5-10 years, currently considered “weedy” – mostly south side
- South trail beautification – more screen vegetation, signs, benches

## Draft Objectives for Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area

## Public Comment

## Next Steps

- First draft plan out for review June
- Next WAAC Meeting July