

## WAG Sept 30 - Oct 1, 2015

- 12:00 Welcome & Overview
- 12:30 WDFW Update & LUNCH
- 1:00 Q&A
- 1:30 Break
- 1:45 Identify threats/opportunities
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 Mutually beneficial individual  
producer plan
- 5:30 Close

## WAG - Oct 1, 2015

- 7:45 Morning Check-in
- 8:00 Continuation of Individual plan
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Fundamentals of Process.  
Design
- 11:30 WAG Process decisions  
& Lunch
- 1:15 Break
- 1:30 Additions to & Sequencing of  
Topics
- 2:30 Public comment
- 3:00 Close

This is the original WAG agenda for September 30 – October 1, 2015. It was amended to include a discussion of the existing checklist. As a result, the sessions on “process design” and “additions to and sequencing of topics” will be covered at the next WAG meeting.

# Threats to LPs

- **Regulatory agencies** / aggregation
- Concentration of processing industry above LPs.
- **Opportunities** (written vertically)
  - Sep. b/w livestock producers & beef producers
  - wolf-friendly beef hard b/c of processing level process/industry
  - only nominal \$ gain
  - Market / Buyer
  - Bill - mobile slaughter house
  - Distributing & marketing - enviros do it
- **Rural sprawl** State Dept of Agric
- Plan + compensation + goal

Hunting - - Need WAG group leaders

1) NOT ABLE to PASS on that Hunting HERITAGE - do this (WAG style) on Big level!

2) list of items that ARE chipping away at Access, location, #s, COSTS **habitat!** CARNIVORES / MORE things

3) Hunting "public perception!"

A) long distance travel with Bambi in Hood - HAS SHIFTED PERCEPTIONS -

- Internal disagreement about this list.

B) Hunters tainted by poachers -

- Change in behavior and interactions w/ other groups.

C) in public mind - subsistence Hunting is NOT REAL.

D) Trophy Hunting

FOCUS ON COMMON GROUND / GREATER

4) Hunters feel that their support for wild life thru lic. fees ~~paid~~ is PERSONAL INVESTMENT in PAST SUCCESSSES - is UNDER THREAT.

5) population growth into Hunting AREAS - GOOP

6) Hunting losing voice

overcoming perceptions &

7) Anti gun laws -

(Dec. 13th) having courage to speak truth

Each stakeholder group already has many threats facing their way of life. The conflict over wolves exists and is amplified within this larger sphere of threats. WAG and WDFW explored these threats for all three groups.



- ### Threats to "Enviro"
- Consolidation of economic & political power (at policy level)
    - how \$ influence elections & violations of laws
  - Failure to achieve goals
  - Misperception that defeating the opposition will bring victory

- ### Threats to Enviro
- Lack of understanding of time table for recovery
    - how long it's take
  - Perception that some enviros are wingnuts
  - Too much emphasis on control vs. recovery
  - Keeping wildlands wild / protecting habitat
    - concern abt fracturing (20' acre)
  - Concern that LPs are in control of Federal grazing policy - only one user group get to use them
  - Concern: overuse of public lands by recreationists
  - Continuing decline of species + loss globally

- ### Threats to Enviro
- blaming humans / overpopulation
  - how social media is used on both sides
    - torturing of wildlife leads to further fracturing of groups
    - especially wolves.
  - ineffective implementation of regulations
    - hard to come up w/ balanced approach.
  - LPs didn't go into LP to go to table / have meetings
  - perception that LP is a threat to enviro.
  - John Wayne is even better (vs. Johnny Appleseed)

Each stakeholder group already has many threats facing their way of life. The conflict over wolves exists and is amplified within this larger sphere of threats. WAG and WDFW explored and shared these threats for all three groups.

## Opportunities ? for collaboration

- Habitat for ungulates
- Youth - Nature deficit disorder  
Conservation - Hunting  
find creative ways to address societal Δs
- Development in rural communities (20 acre issue)
- More dialogue on public policy issues w/ nontraditional partners
- Diversify funding sources to/for WDFW  
lack of funding for non-game species that could also help game/hunt habitat access

## Opportunities for Collabor

- Need guaranteed market

• Need WAG-style dialogue (civil discourse!) on a broader scale

- how do we scale this up?

## Opportunities for collaboration

- Separate ESA from other wildlife <sup>State Reform</sup> in diversity division  
\* Incentivise endangered species <sup>threat/ endang. species</sup>  
stuff for LPs + hunters.  
predictability - dont penalize the LPs w/ <sup>good</sup> habitat.  
<sub>so success</sub> <sub>going out of business</sub>
- Habitat - Build it & they will come  
(More holistic management  
Reward "If they are on your land, you're doing sth right")

Within the context of these threats, WAG and WDFW explored opportunities for mutual support and collaboration.



## Benefits / Goals

- ~~Overall / could / potentially~~ Reduces # livestock Killed; Reduces # wolves Killed.
- Nick "all species live in harmony"
- Learning/outreach opport. for LPs
- Staying in business means we stop fracturing of landscapes
- Can't guarantee success; but we can use this to learn + build success
- Learning + evolving about livestock protection measures - what works / is needed

## Benefits / Goals

- Less <sup>Learning about: access to grazing land + resilient range land</sup> hysteria on all social sides + less spin
- benefits to landowner Same? + grazing
- Shows Commission & legislature that this process works
- Also shows WAG that WAG can do sth successfully. (even failure can be success)
- Providing certainty to LPs!!
- We have a LP that stays in business

## BENEFITS / GOALS

- what is the reasonable balance
- Building trust b/w mbrs of WAG & b/w WAG + affected LP
- Gives certainty to all stakeholders
- Gives credibility of WAG
- Really using / high quality preventive measures put in place in advance
- when you get to lethal control, it is widely accepted as necessary / Not "one more thing"
- hunters - broader certainty that protocols are being followed

WAG and WDFW brainstormed benefits and goals of a pilot project to develop individual livestock producer preventative plans.



What does Individ. P. Plan look like?

- difference b/w sheep + cattle
- Checklist is insufficient
- WAG will stay out of "private property" issues but clarity around conditions needed
- Customizing non-lethal via conflict specialists = plan in
- bringing in best practice expertise as part of plan so its producer + enviro
- site specific, customized, not prescriptive, doesn't equal "science"
- water + land

What does this look like?

- Dept of Agric - bring them in to identify land?
- Not just developing plan but also support through implementation?
- Project manager (per pack?)  
WDFW
- (Are there other models for implementation?)
- Template - hard ~~to~~
- Focus on process + what leads to policy
- Recovery goals ↔ "heart attack" when it happens what happens?

What does this look like?

- Assess individual LPs situation
- Outline preventative measures that LP implements to prevent conflict w/ wolves.
  - Quality tools
  - what is enough?
  - funding
- Criteria?
- Identify defensible grazing
  - what do we have?
  - How do you define defensible?
  - Where tools can be used

WAG and WDFW explored what these plans might look like and what they need to consider going forward.

## Individual Producer Plan

1. Assess indiv. operation
    - a. dialogue w/ producer about operation & current methods; their assessment of what works/doesn't/needs
    - b. technical advisory group that enviro/WAG is comfortable with + matches indiv. prod. needs.
    - c. determine culturally appropriate rules of engagement
    - d. WDFW-WAG-technical folks - producer goal: build trust + transition to WDFW
    - e. (Producer #1: Next 6 weeks find land.)
- Get on land/walk the land w/ experts
- & quality of measures.

- ## INDIV. PRODUCER PLAN
2. Messaging b/w WDFW - public/LPs - who does LP go to + how to ensure receptivity
  3. Adaptive mgt post-grazing season not in the middle of season/crisis - communication & opport. to step up w/ support if tools/resources needed mid-season (ie herder breaks ankle)
- learning & evaluation
- Quick response → to step up w/ support if tools/resources needed mid-season (ie herder breaks ankle)

1. f → tech group comes back to WAG w/ assessment/plan + explanation for mutual learning
- g. get into details on this pilot

## Indiv. Producer Plan

1. g. Define/shared definition of preventative as part of assessment
  4. Can we do 2 pilot projects at same time? Doodles + Giggles or 3 so opportunity is available for those LPs not on WAG
  5. How do you advertise/recruit/communicate to potential #3? - outreach committee
- w/ cattle at risk + non-WAG

6. Research committee - lessons learned elsewhere
- Funding - sustainable or seed

- ## 7. Public grazing/USFS
- enviro + LP
- interagency disc w/ WAG
  - bunching up vs. dispersing

- 4. #3 + #4
- w/cattle
  - at risk
  - most affected or NE or anticipatory? Blues
  - Non-WAG
  - #4?

WAG and WDFW developed a draft process for the individual producer plan, including ensuring that producers not on WAG have equal opportunity to participate.



# Quality Practices

- Do this w/ tech group & producer & conflict specialists
- customized
- Non lethal tools
- \*Grazing practices  
walk carefully (bunching up).....
- husbandry practices

9.

## Taco Bell Menu

### Range Rider

- "Recommended where applicable" - too vague; too optional

WAG and WDFW noted that quality preventive measures were important. The "taco bell menu" reference was made to recognize that while there are a standard suite of tools, they need to be customized to the realities and unique nature of each producer, where applicable.



## PRINCIPLES OF INDIV. PLAN

- ENSURE WDFW, Range rider, producer know livestock/wolf locations — coordination
- Messaging — <sup>outreach/</sup>livestock guardian dogs w/ wolves vs no wolves
- # guard dogs = # in pack
- <sup>guard</sup> dog + herder business model
- guard dog liability issues
- # herders per band sheep — is there an industry std?
- Different checklist? for diff size operations?
- Range rider — economics — <sup>cost share</sup> long term

Narrative on →

## PRINCIPLES for Indiv. Plan

- Involve the local conflict Specialist
- **DONT** ~~use~~ get wolves used to eating livestock (carcasses)
  - No science; common sense?
- Don't encourage wolves (via sanitation/carcass) to stay near live livestock
- Timing issue: when WDFW knows where denning site is vis-avis grazing allotment plan
  - Strategy #1 — change plan
  - #2 — more human presence

WAG and WDFW developed a draft set of principles and considerations for developing and implementing the individual producer plan.



## Improvements?

- More herder / range rider?
- How much time range rider needs to be out there? <sup>what's realistic</sup>
- Having a Carter-type on <sup>24-7</sup> the ground to assess whether more defensible is possible
- Is there enough supply w/ range riders?
- herder  $\neq$  range rider
- cost - 2 hr. drive up
- Adapt human presence when wolves close/far

## Components... "Giggles"

- Conditions:
  - USFS / public
  - 1800-2000 head
  - 3-4 guard dogs
  - 3-4 herding dogs
  - 1 herder plus helper.
  - Sheep run in a band + salt
  - 50 acres dispersed
  - bring them in at night to bed down - moving nightly
  - 5-6 bells - diff tone
  - expectation of losses 1-2%
  - range rider
  - collar data
  - Squak box
  - Cooperative agreement
- Fladry
- challenge sheep don't like
- "transitory range" 4-5 yrs after logging = good for sheep
- Fox lights
- Rag box

The "components" flipchart outlines what one producer is doing currently. The "Improvements?" flipchart lists potential improvements and practical considerations in making improvements.



## CONCERNS/CHALLENGES

- Do you differentiate b/w different producers who "cooperate" vs. others OR do you take care/treat all equally + focus on building relationship/process?
- If pple don't feel treated fairly, take matters into own hands
- Can you incentivize based on # depredations?
- Are we offering a carrot or a stick?

## CHALLENGES/CONCERNS

- Cultural diff - handshake vs. agreement re: acceptability differs
- ~~other culture~~
- How does enviro trust what LP is doing to prevent depred when no engagement vs. privacy/utilization
- Current expectations (coop agree., checklist, permittee) vs. desired level of preventive
  - Not everyone fits in  the box
  - Public land + no coop. agreement = enviro reacts.

## CONCERN/CHALLENGES

- Gotta walk before you can run
- Trust in WDFW
  - Why get an agreement if I don't have a problem?
  - waffling vs. certainty
  - coop. agreement can feel like <sup>privacy</sup> getting approval on operation - doesn't feel good.
  - If problem, "solution" needs to mean both nonlethal & lethal + if more nonlethal works, it's a success (but may not be perceived that way by LPs)
  - sustainability over time (\$)
  - checklist - whats being done agreement - proactive

## CHALLENGES/CONCERNS

Is there a deficiency w/ existing livestock protection/non lethal protocol/checklist - if so, where + what?

→ start at beginning of grazing season = calmness.

- enviro groups <sup>need to</sup> put in human resource time/energy to provide support
- clock starts on depredation count after nonlethals enacted
- words matter
- documentation or not?
- third party validation irks some perception of whats being done

WAG and WDFW had an honest discussion about their concerns and challenges. They discussed quality, cost, incentives, equity, cultural differences, and humility in going forward.

## NICK'S OPERATIONS

- Calving / lambing areas:  
if one <sup>small group</sup> gets away -
- Can conflict specialist be called in to help - if feasible?  
- OR -
- extra helper? cost effective?  
- OR -
- Is this good enough -  
balance ↗
- consider the cost of herder.

Turn-out - do you  $\Delta$  this  
Section to capture wdfw -  
producer dialogue  
Black sheep, bells, etc -  $\Delta$  checklist for sheep  
↘ Relevance to denning site

## NICK'S OPERATION

- #3 on range rider:  
Managing grazing livestock nr  
core areas...  
From recommended  $\rightarrow$  essential  
on care taken /
- Range rider section:  
From all being recommended  
to more being essential  
 $\Delta$  This is the piece that's  
impt to enviro
- Additional range rider from  
range rider coop?  
- how to make it cost  
effective - creative solns
- Herder  $\neq$  range rider + training  
to be de finer  $\rightarrow$  what about when no collar?

WAG and WDFW explored one producer's operation. They also went through the existing checklist to see where there were gaps in their shared understanding and where potential changes may be needed, as well as what was realistic and practical.