

Dec 13-14 WAG Agenda

AGENDA - WAG DEC. 13th

- 12:00 WELCOME & OVERVIEW
- 12:20 WDFW UPDATE
- 1:00 FUNDAMENTALS OF
PROCESS DESIGN
- 1:45 BREAK
- 2:00 WAG & WDFW DECISIONS
ON PROCESS DESIGN
- 4:30 PUBLIC COMMENT
- 5:00 TRANSITION
- 5:30 HUNTER'S VOICE: PART 1
- 6:30 CLOSE

AGENDA - WAG DEC 14th

- 7:30 HUNTER'S VOICE: PART 2
- 9:30 LESSONS LEARNED IN
RANGE RIDING + DISTURBANCE
MEASURES
- 10:15 BREAK
- 10:30 INDIVIDUAL PRODUCER PLAN
- 11:30 DPCA'S / LUNCH / BREAK
- 1:45 TOPICS
- 2:30 PUBLIC COMMENT
- 3:00 CLOSE

WAG and WDFW working in small groups



KEY THOUGHTS

- concern: ^{technical} becoming a sport, not a relationship w/ nature + ^{spiritual}
- Value of predators undermined
Seen as competition
- Be careful not to assume you know what's really going on - research is valuable
ecological systems are complex
- Don't value resource if you don't see it
- concern over illegal activities + bad behavior
- Need more ethical, responsible behavior
- Hopeful abt young females
- Get back to origins of conserv. in hunting - end the "kill is end game"
- ~~Pre~~ Predators - heavy control or ^{Perception of role of competitors or key comp. of ecosystem} light touch on ^{Management}

KEY THOUGHTS

- Key to management is good data, good #s, mutual understanding
- Different perspectives group members have all seeing same program
- Caves - culturally this is ^{part of} all of us.
- Need more public awareness
- Hunting community is third leg on milking stool w/o them, conservation tips ^{over}
- landowner liability w/ hunters on land - need to address so ethical hunters can stay on landscape
- We've been here before - 1910 ESA.

WAG and WDFW "key thoughts" after hearing diverse perspectives from hunters (as part of a mutual learning and understanding effort for WAG and WDFW to hear from livestock producers, environmentalists and hunters)

KEY LEARNING

- Dad-Daughter connection is special / Family
- Importance of family having that shared experience
- * Youth-nature - need to foster their involvement
- * Hunting as gateway to conservation
- Being reminded of contribution history to conservation
- Tribal subsistence hunting - high #s
- Respect for the experience
- Urgency of hunting community getting smaller + relate to \$
- Perception of hunters (TV)

KEY LEARNING / PERSPECTIVES

- * Concern abt Rise in messaging around killing, not experience / ~~passion~~ passion
- how to change?
- * Need to change public perception / hunting reputation
- Tribal - historical, cultural, subsistence challenges
- We have National parks b/c of hunters + there is no hunting there
- human population growth
- hunter takes responsibility for animal
- different groups → same goals
- Youth engagement
- It is opportunity to connect w/ natural world

WAG and WDFW "key thoughts" after hearing diverse perspectives from hunters

MISSION

- Giving voice + balancing power across the state
- **land management**
- Advise the Dept on wolf cons + mgmt strategies that meets needs of E, LP, H + Rural Comm + balances power + fosters peace
- **Balances power - unpack:**
 - all perspectives are welcomed + heard
 - equal voice
 - creating understanding - allows for greater underst. b/w groups.
 - \$ on conservation not lawyers
 - Honors diversity
 - Both ways

MISSION

- Wildlife, social, economic issues
- **wolves are no longer a divisive issue anymore + resentful**
- Does + should go beyond the existing wolf plan
- **long term - beyond plan**
- Addressing underlying + identity social conflicts
- **can't ignore the social conflicts**
- providing a venue for a voice that otherwise doesn't exist in WA. (voice of rural eastern)
- **outreach from WAG to public provide the right information**

MISSION

- Achieve + maintain healthy populations of wolves + wild ungulates while minimizing livestock losses
- **Need to include rural communities in here**
 eliminating/avoiding
- **Keeping way of life in tact**
- resilient, vibrant rural communities
- **Keep livestock community whole**
 + hunting comm + environm. comm
- Balance
- **using best available science**
- Advising ~~WAG~~ WDFW, Commission, legislators so they can make it happen
- **to create a framework of dynamic + adaptive ~~plan~~ strategies to help WDFW achieve goals of plans.**

WAG and WDFW developed a draft mission statement for WAG

MISSION OF WAG

Diverse group of stakeholders
to implement wolf C+M
Plan (or 1, 2, 3, 4 of/in plan)

to advise WDFW to

Help producers achieve a
goal in a changing world
- viable business

Fostering
Improving the quality of public
dialogue, decision-making
+ knowledge around wolf/apex
predators/endangered species

- Real world tangible decisions
that all stakeholders can count on

3 Pronged:

- Keep agriculture whole
+ rural communities

- monitor

In WMP:

1. restore wolf pop. ^{viable} - sustainably
#1 maintain ^{well distributed}
50-100 yrs
2. manage wolf-livestock
conflicts in a way that minimizes
livestock losses while not
negatively impacting recovery
achieving (Needs to be broader)
3. Maintain healthy/robust ungulate
pops that provide abundant prey
for wolves/predators + ample harvest
opp. for hunters
4. Develop public understanding of
const mgt needs of wolves in WA.
for coexistence

Draft mission statement for WAG

quality process + discussion

Sufficient

opposition that you would work against the uphdd integrity decision process.

Can you live with it?
fully heard, respected
you were not in such

Consensus

likes specific of a #.

Define: 1 per interest group
unified message + supporting.

15% of quorum
Is it a number? or dont define #

circle back
or strong sentiment by some?

or if its all same side dissent
absent mbrs.

* Sufficiently discussed if

seen every angle gives ownership
variance on bench? recognition

stand aside = abstain fr. decision
but still fully engaged in dialogue

Not 3 on same side
allow people to disagree but
dont block the ~~vote~~ decision

Dont define #, every situation
is different

recognizing board groups
alone
in div.
but will actually try not to get group to talk action
- also care in comm/g rp

WAG developed and decided on a draft method for making decisions together based on "sufficient consensus"

- Lessons from Montana & Idaho ①
 IDAHO: 11 Non-lethal deterrents
- Sheep are abandoning animals - different than cattle
 - Tools - "Non-lethal pre-emptive"
 - Idaho - 13 yrs sheep + wolves
 - Tools have to be practiced & rotated
 - Turbo fladry can work 1 month at a time
 - Using a suite of tools is better than 1. ~~best~~
 - #1 deterrent is human presence eg. herder w/ sheep
 - Urinating around bedground
 - Don't make it easy for wolves to get to sheep
 - Losing ~~the~~ livestock is hard

- ② Non-lethal Methods
 Lessons fr. Idaho / sheep:
- Livestock guard dogs
 - Fladry / turbo fladry - at night;
 - its difficult to employ
 - its good
 - sheep go up; try to keep down
 - Alternative is to have two herders, alternate shifts
 - We're using less turbo fladry now b/c alternatives work well too
 - \$1250/month for herder
 - Carcass removal is huge - big attractant
 - Use helicopter to remove carcass instead of killing wolves - an idea
 - att to turbo fladry - high powered flashlight or FOX LIGHTS

- ③ Lessons - Idaho - Sheep
 non lethal
- Fox lights around bedground
 - solar options
 - new, more irritating versions
 - How many do you put up?
 - Is wind blowing? Put down wind?
 - Where?
 - Where to put human presence think wind-smell.
 - Shooting in air
 - High volume bad music
 - RAG boxes
 - Communication is important SAT phones + other: SPOT devices? & this is better newer tech thats even better than SPOT phone / device

Livestock producers from Idaho and Montana and a county commissioner from Idaho shared their lessons learned on coexisting with wolves

④ Lessons - Nonlethal - Idaho/sheep

- Not more than 5-6 guard dogs or they fight ea. other
- Important: dog lives w/ sheep, eats w/ sheep
- Air horns - rechargeable very helpful
- selling meat to public w/ brand ~ maintain integrity in nonlethal use

⑤ Lessons - Montana - Cattle in nonlethals /lethal

- Wishes they had process like WAG in Montana. WA is on the right track.
- When wolves fear humans, there's a bigger boundary
 - Boundaries need to be set
 - lethal removal is imp't for + bringing people together
 - all tools on table
 - commitment to each other whether pro/anti-wolf
 - producers came to table because lethal on table
- Lethal removal alone does not work
 - new wolves come in
 - producers need to take responsibility for prevention

⑥ Lessons - Nonlethal - Montana

- Community approach to preventive measures
- Goal is to minimize lethal to livestock/wolves
 - Need to accept some loss on both sides
- Range riders - most significant
 - ↑ strategic human presence
 - Early morning 4 ms
 - 5-10 pm again
 - haze wolves to teach them - valuable, though infrequent
 - get as close to every day - some once a day, some every few days.
- check health of cattle
- remove sick

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⑦ Lessons - Montana

- Important to find carcass as quickly as possible
 - Range rider: focus on what we can control - cattle. Lets make the cattle less vulnerable to predation.
 - Cattle should behave more like bison
 - Bison are not easy prey wolves won't eat many cows - in natural behavior are like bison
- DO NOT WANT CATTLE TO RUN OR BE ALONE
- Elk panic + run - wolves ♥
 - Bison mother up + stand their ground - wolves yuck. (they don't like this)

Lessons - Montana ⑧

- ← main focus of approach
- ① Low stress holistic cattle husbandry makes cattle more like bison and wolves avoid.
 - Don't put young calves by wolf dens
 - They change grazing plans to avoid wolves.
 - not main focus.
 - ② Electric fence - tool in box
 - doesn't work in all circumst.
 - but very effective when herds in - keeps cattle in where they've been able to use it.
 - ③ Carcass removal - go
 - use time + space differently

Lessons - Montana ⑨

- got rid of bone pile
- bears + wolves in MT.
- remove carcasses - but hard to drag out in open range. Alternative: super high human presence instead of removal.
- Cattle are visual animals
 - if you work on keeping them bunched, they start to do it themselves
 - But in dense cover, if they can't see ea. other they don't bunch as well.
- Allan Savory - bite each plant once grazing approach

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- ⑩ Lessons - Montana
- USFS local - ^{open/flexible to} working w/ ranchers ~~doing~~ to adapt typical grazing plan to accommodate holistic/low-stress/one-bite grazing needs
 - Bud Williams approach "holistic"
 - took long time to get producers on board
 - basis to get folks on board: trusting relat. in community
 - community dinner + holistic approach speaker
 - a better way to go. once they overcame initial resistance producers see positive results + sticks

- ⑪ Lessons - Montana (RR)
- Definition of Range Rider:
 - Increasing strategic human presence
 - rekindle "bunching up / gathering" instinct
 - tracking/monitoring
 - cattle based range riding
 - timing of rides - finding quality time to RR
 - evening: settle cattle well + together
 - you can find them in a.m. easily

- ⑫ Lessons - Montana
- Funding - initially govt + NGO. Over time ranchers took on costs. Over time, costs go down. Low input operation. Helps w/ weather, grazing, predators, etc.
 - Some ranchers feel threatened by change - resistant to Δ .
 - Economically more efficient when community works together, shared tools/resources/RR.

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- * Dept of Agr WA
* Extension
* USFS
- Add'l
to table
- Have foxlights in hand
 - use when wolves close - WDFW to \$ + give to M. before grazing season.
 - Range Rider #2 during ramp up
 - WDFW to hire
 - Additional human presence
 - conflict specialist(s)
 - M + WDFW
 - M decides who beyond WDFW
 - 3 depredation events
 - event = one day
 - All tools in toolbox
 - relocation / USFS options
 - lethal control if Fed delist are in toolbox

- ## Quality + Inclusivity + Receptivity
- ### CLARITY OF EXPECTATIONS + DEFINITION OF METHODS
- Definition in forms, written
 - Indiv. conversations
 - Workshops - mandatory? Δ culturally approp?
 - Δ who to deliver?
 - . WSU Extension
 - . Wildlife Services
 - . Other
 - Broader set of workshops
 - not just DPCA folks
 - Manual developed + given w/ contracts
 - mandatory? Prob. not.

- ## QUALITY
- Not every tool needed/works for every situation
 - Systematic assessment of every operation to figure out baseline of what they're doing + what tools are appropriate, then come back w/ recomm.
 - Suzanne has form to share w/ WDFW

WAG, WDFW and technical resource guests shared their perspectives on creating conditions to prevent wolf-livestock losses

M Plan

~~list~~ - list of tools M can select from

- Environmentalists are supportive + calm if relocation/lethal is needed
No reactivity in crisis
- Adaptive Management / lessons learned process/discussions after crisis event.

Assess situation, select tools, implement
- herder → trained + practice ahead
tools w/ herder

Nick "During ramp up, we're going to try everything we can"
ref. to electric fence (optional) explore use.

Other Considerations

- timing of use of nonlethals
- Conflict specialists are critical resources/assets
- local level WAG-type process on prevention/\$.
- training protocol for those involved on ground - not just WDFW staff.
- Don't be too prescriptive
Assess 1st b/c not every tool works or in every situation

Specific applications of deterrence measures
for Producer M individual plan

CRITERIA FOR DPCA-L
+ inclusivity/receptivity

• Issues: June 30th
• Legislative friends - \$

- TRANSITION needed so people don't feel dropped
- PRIORITIZE RISK during transition - need to determine method for prioritizing risk.
- COMMUNITY BASED
Pool of funds for tools as needed + for assessing/self-police - community priorities future actions
- REWARD folks who came on board early but may not make the \$ priority cut
eg. If someone didn't do what promised

Quality + Inclusivity + Receptivity

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WAG, WDFW, and technical resource guests explored both criteria for and quality of DPCA-Ls