

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: March 17-18, 2017

Agenda item: Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Area and Dog Training - Briefing

Presenter(s): Russ Link, Region 4 Regional Wildlife Program Manager
Melinda Posner, Planning, Recreation, and Outreach Section
Manager, Lands Division

Background summary:

The purpose of this briefing is to provide the Commission with an update on the status of bird dog training at the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area (WLA). Staff will 1) present a draft proposal for designating bird dog training areas at two of the six Snoqualmie WLA units; 2) describe ongoing coordination with local dog training interests, including an upcoming meeting to discuss roles and responsibilities for volunteer work to support the bird dog training proposal; and 3) explain how the dog training proposal coincides with the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Plan development.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

Staff is recommending a specific location and conditions for dog training at the Cherry Valley and Crescent Lake Units of the Snoqualmie WLA, which is consistent with the exception for year-round dog training as outlined in WAC 232-28-342 and the 2017 Washington State Migratory Waterfowl and Upland Game Season pamphlet.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

A dog training subgroup was formed and began meeting with staff in June 2016 to develop a proposal to support dog training interests and to meet the agency mission and WLA funding requirements. Four dog training meetings were held between June and December 2016, and these have coincided with development of the draft WLA plan.

The WLA planning process started with a public scoping meeting, held on April 11, 2016, which was attended by nearly 100 people interested in dog training. In addition, three advisory committee meetings have been held since the WLA planning process began (February, August, and December 2016). The membership of the group has been expanded to include a dog training representative in addition to three other new members who represent sportsmen/women, wildlife watchers, and agriculture. The WLA planning process will include another public and advisory committee meeting when the draft plan is ready for review, which is expected in April of this year.

From the first scoping meeting, staff learned that the dog training community was very interested and concerned about the outcome of the planning process with regard to how dog training is managed on the WLA. The dog training subgroup was formed because of this interest, and staff has been working with the subgroup and the internal cross-program planning group to consider dog training and management options, along with the other uses and requirements of the properties.

Action requested:

No action requested – briefing only.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Communications Plan:

Dog Training Proposal Review with Subgroup

SEPA Review of Draft WLA Plan – 30 day

- Advisory Committee
- Other Agencies
- Public – WDFW Website and Interested Parties List

Continued Signage on Snoqualmie WLA

Form revised 12/5/12