

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: January 11, 2019

Agenda item: Pronghorn - Briefing

Presenter(s): Rich Harris, Ph.D., Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, and Pronghorn Antelope Section Manager, Game Division

Background summary:

The pronghorn antelope is classified as a game species in Washington but there is no season because, until recently, the species was effectively extirpated from the state. Primary management goals in the current Game Management Plan are:

1. As time and funding permits, monitor existing fragmentary pronghorn populations to anticipate the point at which more active management may be necessary.
2. As time and funding permits, work with private land-owners to ensure that conflicts with agriculture are minimal.
3. As time and funding permits, work with interested private parties to investigate the biological, social, and economic feasibility of landowner-driven pronghorn reintroductions.

Since the plan was adopted both the Yakama Nation and Colville Confederated Tribes have translocated pronghorn into the state. Initial release was on tribal lands. Population monitoring has demonstrated moderate population increase with approximately 1/3 of the animals occupying lands where WDFW has management jurisdiction. WDFW now proposes to begin engaging the public and developing long-term plans, ideally in close coordination with Tribes that have sponsored translocations to date.

Staff recommendation:

- 1) Continue close coordination with Tribes.
 - 2) Engage formally with the public regarding future options for pronghorn management outside Reservations.
 - 3) Draft preliminary plans, outlining WDFW approach toward pronghorns.
-

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Briefing only.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

No fiscal impacts beyond the status quo.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Briefing only.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

None
