

Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area

Wildlife Area Advisory Committee

Wildlife Areas Advisory Committee Charter

Introduction

Sunnyside-Snake River is one of the 33 wildlife areas owned and managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Management of these areas is guided by a Wildlife Area Management Plan. These plans are being revised to reflect current conditions and management objectives to support the agency's mission: *To preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.*

Purpose

The advisory committee will provide guidance and advice to the department on the management of the wildlife area. The advisory committee also will assist the department with the development of the new Sunnyside-Snake River Management Plan, which will guide the actions on the wildlife area for the next 10 years. The plan is developed with input from the public, tribes, and interested stakeholders, including the Wildlife Area Advisory Committees (WAAC). This charter includes the purpose and responsibilities of the Sunnyside-Snake River WAAC and agency staff.

The 15 units of the wildlife area are: Bailie, Benton City, Byron, Esquatzel Coulee, Glover, Sunnyside, Hope Valley, I-82 Ponds, Mesa Lake, Rattlesnake Slope, Thornton, Vance-Ferry Road, Thompson Seeps, Whitstran, and Windmill Ranch.

Wildlife Area Advisory Committee (WAAC) Membership

WAAC members represent a range of users, tribes, and stakeholder groups who have interest in management and activities on the wildlife area. Represented groups can include sportsmen, conservation, hiking, agriculture, horseback riders, and other personal interests.

A roster of members and alternates is included at the end of the document.

WAAC Role & Responsibilities

The role of the advisory committee is to provide tribal, public and stakeholders' perspectives in WDFW wildlife area planning and management activities.

Responsibilities include:

- Identify an Alternate for your seat on the WAAC.
- Review information, discuss issues with staff and other committee members, and provide input during the development of the wildlife area planning goals, the draft plan, and biannual updates.
- In addition to the plan, the WAAC can be used as a forum to discuss on-going wildlife area issues.

- Share information and collect feedback from the larger groups represented, to share with the rest of the committee.
- Attend all WAAC meetings or send alternate.
- Communicate about agency goals and wildlife area activities outside of WAAC meetings.
- Act in an advisory capacity, providing input to staff that will be considered in the department's decision-making process.
- Participate in other wildlife area planning public outreach opportunities such as public meetings.

Term Limits

This advisory committee does not have term limits. Members can serve as long as it is mutually beneficial.

Removal of Members

Members can be removed if two consecutive meetings were missed, either by the member or the alternate. Members should discuss with the Wildlife Area Manager any concerns about their ability to participate.

WDFW Wildlife Area Planning Team Role & Responsibilities

The WDFW Wildlife Area Planning Team consists of staff from the Sunnyside-Snake River wildlife area, from the regional office in Yakima, and WDFW headquarters in Olympia.

The role of WDFW staff relative to the advisory committee is to facilitate effective WAAC input in wildlife area planning and management activities. WDFW will develop the new Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area Management Plan, and will seek the committee's advice and guidance about plan objectives, proposed actions, and planned management activities.

Responsibilities include:

- Develop productive agendas that clearly outline the desired outcomes of each meeting.
- Facilitate effective meetings and dialogue with advisory committee members.
- Develop materials and work products for WAAC review.
- Develop and distribute WAAC meeting materials and summaries
- Post agendas and meeting materials on the Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area Advisory webpage ([link](#))
- Consider and utilize WAAC input in making sound and informed decisions.
- Engage in discussion, answer questions and be transparent about department processes, policies and decision-making.

WAAC Operating Guidelines

The following guidelines are recommended for productive discussion and forward progress. Committee members are expected to:

- Attend all WAAC meetings or have an alternate.

- In addition to local views, bring a regional perspective to the table.
- Outside of WAAC meetings, represent your personal views and/or views of your respective agency or organization, not views of entire WAAC.
- As necessary, coordinate the participation of WAAC alternate members when not able to attend meetings, briefing and prep alternates in advance.
- At WAAC meetings, discuss issues and concerns in a productive manner:
 - All members are expected and encouraged to participate
 - Everyone’s perspective is valuable
 - Refrain from side conversations
 - Stay focused on meeting purpose
 - Keep comments short
 - Keep an open mind

Public Comment at WAAC Meetings

The purpose of WAAC meetings is primarily for committee discussion. This can be supplemented and enhanced with input from other members of the public and interested parties. WAAC meetings open to the public and an opportunity for brief public input will be provided at each meeting.

WAAC Contribution

While not a voting group, the WAAC will provide valuable input for agency consideration. Through facilitation, the planning project team will solicit and listen to input, identify and understand the root of divergent opinions, and work towards group agreement. While consensus is not required, the group will have more impact on shaping the plan if they are able to reach agreement.

Meeting Schedule

The WAAC is expected to meet 2-3 times during the wildlife area planning process. The meetings are typically 1) Intro and Overview (Spring 2018); and review draft action items and plan (Winter 2019). After the plan, WAACs typically meet twice per year or as appropriate.

Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area Advisory Committee

February 2019

Name	Representing	Alternate
Mike Estes	Richland Rod and Gun Club	Paul Kison
Suzanne Sullivan	Ducks Unlimited	
Randy Cline	Pheasants Forever	
Kathy Criddle	Lower Columbia Basin Audubon / Native Plant Society	
Betsy Crysel	Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board	
Jeff Knutson	Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board	
Jed Pauley	Agricultural Producer	
Rachel Voss	Mule Deer Foundation	
Craig Adams	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	
Dave Solem	South Columbia Basin Irrigation District	
Danny Chapel	Backcountry Horsemen's Association	
Dave Blodgett	Yakama Nation	
Dennis Dauble	Columbia Basin Fly Casters Association	
Vic Reeve	Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board	

WDFW Staff:

Phillip Buser

Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area Manager