

Sunnyside-Snake River WLA Advisory Committee

Agenda

February 7, 2019

- Welcome & Introductions
- Advisory Committee Administration
 - Decisions for Charter
 - Review and agree
- Review Draft Wildlife Area Plan
- Other wildlife area topics
 - Rattlesnake Slope trails
 - Agricultural leases
- Discussion & Comments
- Next Meeting

Decisions for Charter

❖ Alternates

- Agency guidance says alternate should be identified

❖ Term Limits

- Not set by Agency – Committees decides
- Possible options
 1. No term limits – serve as long as mutually beneficial
 2. 2 or 3 year limit – replace 1/2

❖ Removal of Members

- Agency guidance - remove after missing two meetings without an alternate
- Suggestion: “If you miss two meetings in a row with no alternate, talk to the wildlife area manager about your ability to continue on the committee”.

❖ Other?

❖ Review Red line charter – change or agree

Suggested Edits to Charter

Purpose

The purpose of the advisory committee is to provide input for the development of the new Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area Management Plan, which includes 15 units: Bailie, Benton City, Byron, ~~Clark Pond~~, Esquatzel Coulee, Glover, ~~HQ-Sunnyside~~, Hope Valley, I-82 Ponds, Mesa Lake, ~~Nipper~~, Rattlesnake Slope, Thornton, Vance-Ferry Road, ~~WB-10 Wasteway~~, ~~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 ~~other~~ stakeholders' perspectives in WDFW wildlife area planning and management activities.

Suggested Edits to Charter - 2

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.
- Register as a volunteer.

Term Limits

Removal of Members

Suggested Edits to Charter - 3

- **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); ~~Review wildlife area plan action items (Fall 2018);~~ and review draft **action items and** plan (Winter 2019). After the plan, WAACs typically meet twice per year or as appropriate.

Suggested Edits to Charter - 4

| Name | Representing | Alternate |
|-------------------------|---|-----------|
| Mike Estes | Richland Rod and Gun Club | |
| Suzanne Sullivan | Ducks Unlimited | |
| Randy Cline | Pheasants Forever | |
| Kathy Criddle | Lower Columbia Basin Audubon / Native Plant Society | |
| Betsey Crisel | 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 | 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 | |



Sunnyside – Snake River Wildlife Area

Draft Management Plan

Advisory Review Timeline

Feb 1 – Feb 22, 2019

Plan Sections

Part I: Wildlife Area Planning Overview

Part II: Management and Planning

Part III: Species and Habitat Management

Part IV: Appendices



Part I: Wildlife Area Planning Overview

Page 7 of the Draft Sunnyside-Snake River WLA Plan

❖ Planning Overview

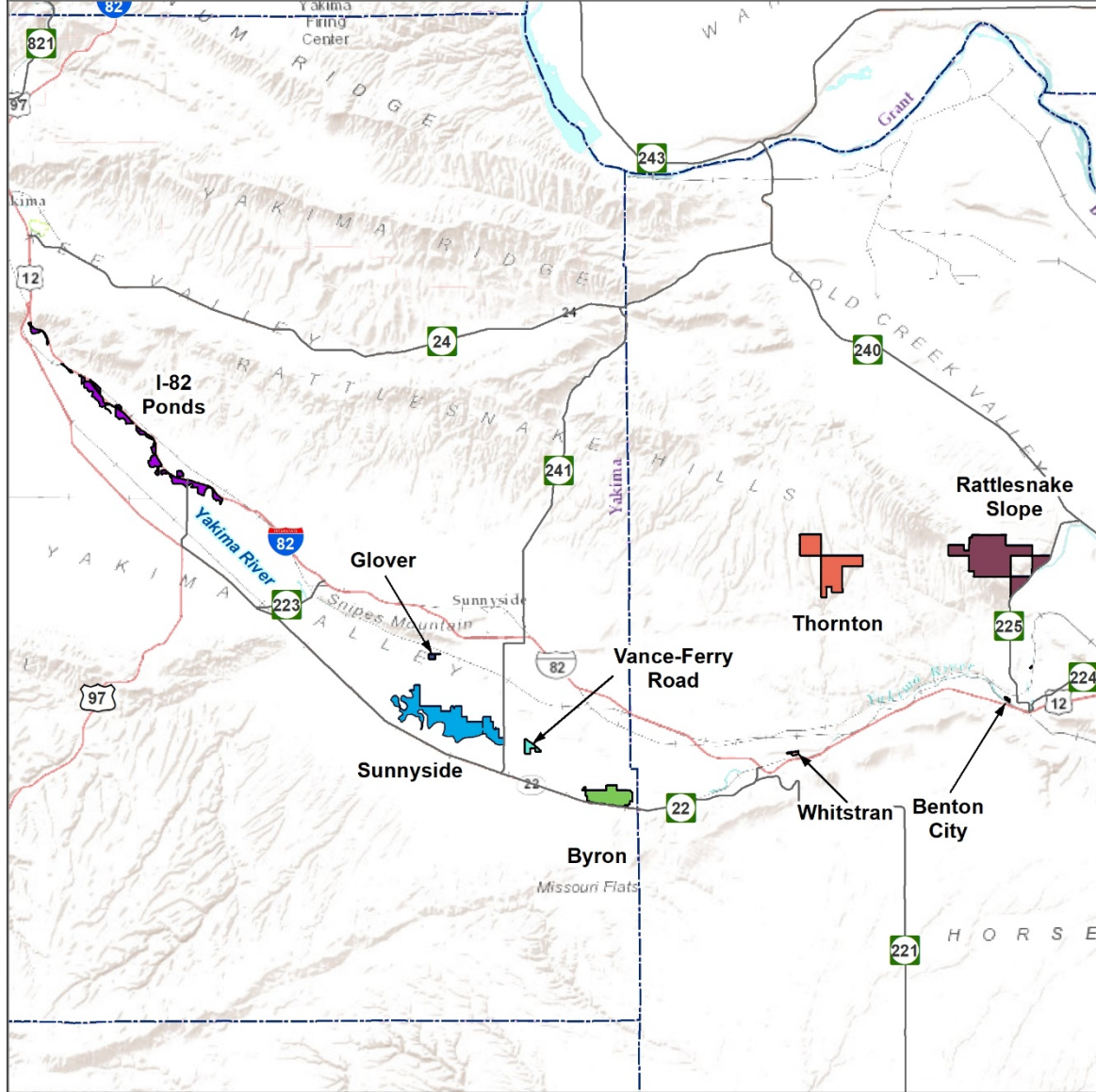
- Agency Mission, Plan Purpose, Statewide Goals, Public involvement process

❖ Intro to the Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area










- Overview, name changes, Wildlife Area Vision
- Success Stories
- Vision

❖ Wildlife Area Description

- Overall, by wildlife area, unit by unit (west - east)
- Snapshot – acreage, purchase info, overview of species, habitat, management, and recreation
- Primary management objectives are in Goals & Objectives table



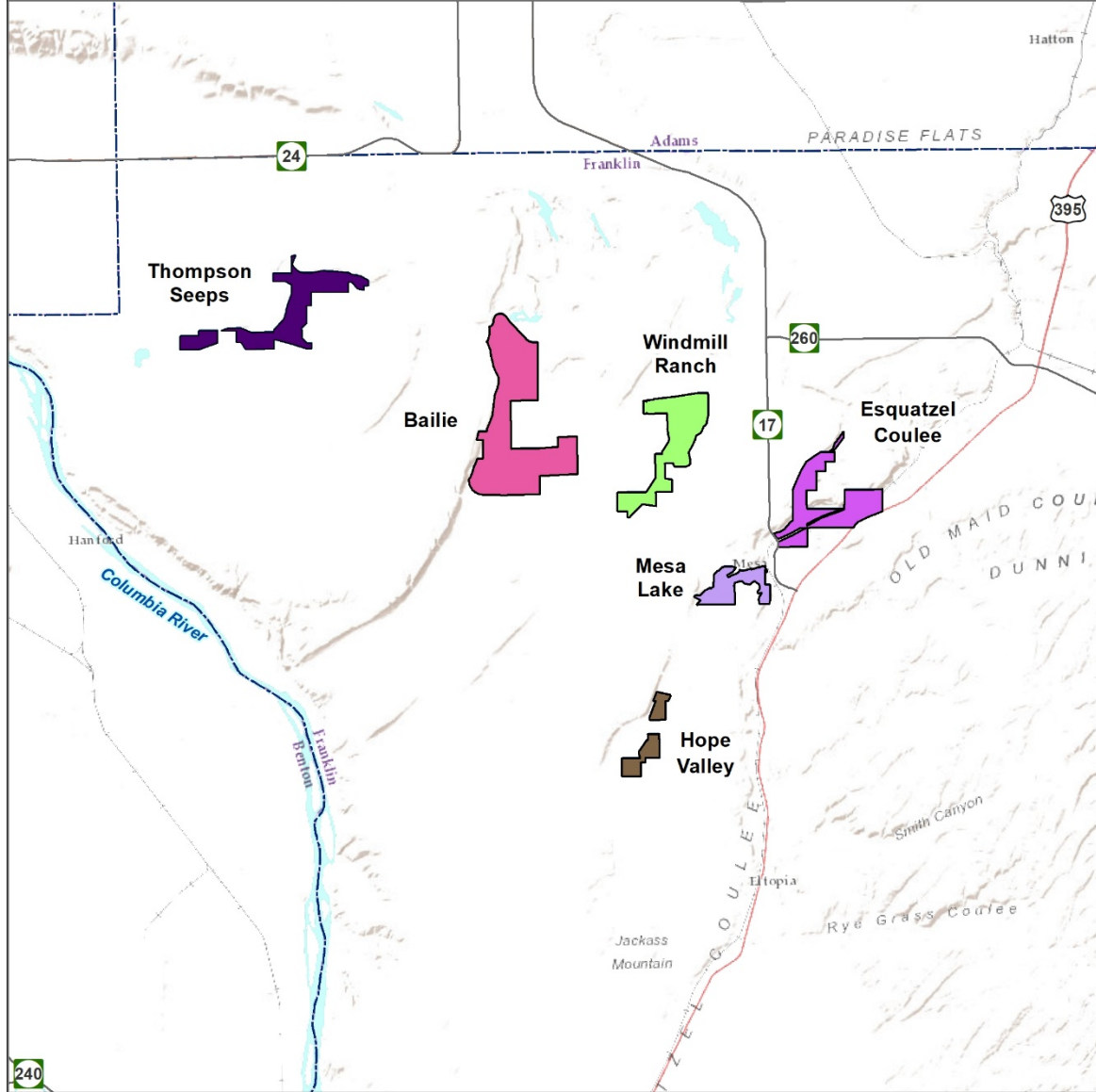
**Sunnyside - Snake River
Wildlife Area (West)**

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  Benton City |  I-82 Ponds |  Thornton |
|  Byron |  Rattlesnake Slope |  Vance-Ferry Road |
|  Glover |  Sunnyside |  Whitstran |









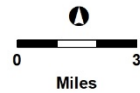
- Draft -





**Sunnyside - Snake River
Wildlife Area (East)**

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Bailie |  Mesa Lake |
|  Esquatzel Coulee |  Thompson Seeps |
|  Hope Valley |  Windmill Ranch |



- Draft -



Vision for Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area

The overall vision for the Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area is to restore, enhance, and maintain a variety of native and managed habitats to support a diversity of wildlife, which support quality waterfowl hunting, as well as birding, hiking, and a variety of educational and nature-based activities.



Success Stories

p. 15

- ❖ Wetland Enhancements
- ❖ Engaging Youth and Volunteers
- ❖ Clinics Teach Youth about Hunting
- ❖ Diversity of Hunting Opportunities



II: Land Ownership and Management

p. 45

❖ Land ownership and management

- Acquisition history, purpose
- Agreements (leases, permits)

❖ Management Setting

- Administration, staffing, operating funds
- Facilities and maintenance, roads, land use, cultural resources, enforcement
- Stewardship & volunteers
- Recreation table, overview
- Conservation & studies

Recreation

p. 53

❖ Hunting

- Primarily waterfowl and upland bird, turkey, small game, some deer and elk

❖ Fishing

- Bass, perch and other warmwater

❖ Nature enjoyment

- Bird watching, wildlife, flowers, river and ponds, scenery

❖ Walking, horseback riding





III: Species and Habitat Management

p. 71

❖ Physical Characteristics

- Geology, hydrology, climate

❖ Ecological Values

- Ecological integrity and habitat connectivity

❖ Species Management

- Species list
- Game, diversity (non-game), and fish

❖ Habitat Management

- Forests, fire, weeds, restoration

❖ Climate change approach

- Resource impacts, planning implications



Species and Habitat Management

- ❖ Species information starts on p.83
- ❖ Table 10 on p.84 lists the species that may be on the wildlife area that may be state or federally threatened (*as well as other statuses*).
- ❖ Game and non-game (diversity) species sections start on p.90
- ❖ Fish species and management starts on p.98 (Species Table 11)
- ❖ Habitat section starts on p.102
- ❖ Climate Change Approach p.105



IV: Appendices

p. 110

- A. Species and Habitat Information
- B. Weed Management Plan
- C. Fire Response Information
- D. Wetlands Restoration Plan
- E. Water Access Summary
- F. Cultural Resources Summary
- G. Public Response Summary

Goals and Objectives

Some of the actions in the plan are listed in the next few pages by overall goal. See page 60 of the plan for the complete table of goals and objectives for the wildlife area.

Ecological Integrity

- Establish ecological integrity baseline and goals to maintain and improve the ecological condition of the land
- Implement the Wetland Management Plan
- Implement Weed Management Plan
- Address habitat loss from recent fires

Sustain species through habitat and population management

- Conduct surveys for species with conservation need
- Develop regular occurring waterfowl surveys
- Enhance pollinator habitat



Enhance recreational experience through site development

- Focus enhancement and management of recreation at five priority units
- Install footbridge at Hope Valley
- Improve trails at Rattlesnake Slope

Improve fishing and hunting

- Assess the potential to improve lake fishing
- Identify opportunities to improve waterfowl hunting

Improve access and other opportunities

- Improve infrastructure at water access sites
- Maintain disabled hunter access program

Offer opportunities for engagement

- Coordinate WAAC
- Offer educational or service opportunities for youth
- Recruit new hunter and provide hunter education

Maintain relationships with community

- Assess project areas for culturally important plants
- Make boundary adjustments as necessary
- Evaluate agricultural leases

Properly equip for needs of WLA/Maintain facilities

- Identify reliable funding for maintenance and restoration
- Work with BPA on budget
- Maintain and upgrade water control structures
- Inspect fences and gages
- Clarify agreement with BOR

How to Comment

Advisory review period: Feb.1 – Feb. 22, 2019

1. Email: sunnyside-snakeriver@dfw.wa.gov
2. Call Phillip (509)545-2028
3. Call Patricia (360)902-2815



