

Wolf Advisory Group Meeting

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Jamison Event Center, 605 E. Nelson Road, Moses Lake WA

June 22-23, 2022

For Virtual Participants--Zoom link/dial-in information:

- Virtual WAG members/WDFW Staff/Presenters: Your personal Zoom link is included in your calendar invitation to this meeting.
- Public/Others: ***While you are welcome to attend the meeting in person, we encourage you to attend virtually, due to continued concerns with COVID-19 transmission.*** Please visit <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/wag#meeting-calendar> for the June Zoom webinar link and dial-in information.

Meeting Objectives:

1. Receive an update from WDFW on WAG member recruitment, wolf management, proposed rulemaking, and other activities since the April 2022 WAG meeting.
2. Create a shared understanding of what is known and not known about the interactions among different species of ungulates, wolves, and other predators.
3. Discuss factors/tools that may indicate if/when wolves are adversely impacting ungulate populations.
4. Continue to identify initial, potential opportunities for common ground/collaboration that may address limiting factors for ungulate populations.

Wednesday, June 22

Time	Topic	Meeting Materials (✓ in meeting packet)
12:30 PM	Opening – Facilitation Team <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and introductions• Hybrid meeting mechanics• Meeting overview, including opportunities each day for public comment• Ground rules	Agenda ✓ WAG Ground rules April meeting summary
12:45 PM	Round-Robin Check-In—WAG Members and WDFW Staff	---
1:15PM	WDFW Updates— <i>WDFW Staff</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruitment update	---

Time	Topic	Meeting Materials (✓ in meeting packet)
(incl. 15 min break)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of proposed rulemaking • Status of Conflict Mitigation Plans and coordination with livestock producers/range riders • Wolf-livestock activity since the April 2022 meeting 	
3:30 PM	WAG and WDFW Reflections—All	---
4:00 PM	Public Comment (up to three minutes per person)	---
4:30 PM	Wrap up Day 1 – Adjourn	---
4:30-5:30 PM	Informal session with WDFW and the Public	

Thursday, June 23 – Focus on Wolf/Ungulate Interactions

(please see *Wolf-Ungulate Speaker/Panelist Biographies* on page 4)

Time	Topic	Reference Material/Speakers
8:30 AM	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcements—Facilitation Team • Round-robin check-in—WAG, WDFW Staff 	Agenda ✓ WAG Ground rules
9:00 AM (incl 15 min break)	State of knowledge about the interactions of wolves, other predators, and different ungulate species/communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we know about how wolves interact with ungulates in natural systems without much human interaction? • What do we know about wolf energetics? • What do we know about the relationship between the density of ungulates, wolves, and other predators and the implications? 	Presentations/Panel Glossary of Common Population Dynamics Terms Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. John Vucetich • Dr. Arthur Middleton • Matthew Metz Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Arthur Middleton • Matthew Metz • Dr. Ben Maletzke • Kyle Garrison

Time	Topic	Reference Material/Speakers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trent Roussin
12:00 PM	Lunch (Provided for WAG members and WDFW staff)	
12:45 PM	State of Knowledge of WA Wolf and Ungulate Populations – WDFW Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the state of WA wolf populations and ungulates herds? How will the predator-prey study help answer how wolves are impacting ungulate populations in Washington? What are WDFW plans for determining impacts, given what is known about the complexity of the interactions among ungulates, predators, and other environmental factors? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ungulate Monitoring (April WAG)— 2021 Annual Wolf Report ✓ Recorded presentation of 2021 Annual Wolf Report Update on the WA Predator-Prey Study
1:30 PM	Work Planning— <i>Facilitation Team</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives and topics Meeting logistics Future field trips 	Rolling Calendar
2:00 PM	Public Comment (up to three minutes per person)	
2:30 PM	Final WAG and WDFW Reflections/Closing—All	---
3:00 PM	Adjourn	

To keep current on Wolf Advisory Group’s progress, visit the WAG website at:
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/wag#>

To contact the WAG Facilitation Team: wagfacilitationteam@rossstrategic.com

June WAG Meeting: Speaker/Panelist Biographies

Dr. Matthew Metz

Dr. Matthew Metz is a Senior Research Associate with the Yellowstone Wolf Project. Matt has worked in various roles for the Yellowstone Wolf Project since 2002, including completing his MS at Michigan Technological University and PhD at the University of Montana. Currently, Matt's work primarily focuses on estimating wolf predation metrics, evaluating factors that influence variation in such metrics, and developing models that predict predator-prey dynamics.

Dr. Arthur Middleton

Dr. Arthur Middleton is an assistant professor of wildlife management and policy at UC Berkeley. He holds a master's degree in environmental management from Yale University, and a PhD in ecology from the University of Wyoming. Arthur's research group at Berkeley studies the effects of environmental change on the behavioral, population, and community ecology of wide-ranging wildlife, with emphasis on solutions to human-wildlife conflict. This work includes active field programs in the Northern Rockies and Southern Andes. Arthur is currently serving as a Senior Advisor for Wildlife Conservation at the US Department of Agriculture.

Dr. John Vucetich

Dr. John A. Vucetich is a distinguished professor at Michigan Technological University. He has studied the wolves of Isle Royale for nearly three decades. He has authored more than 100 scholarly publications on the biodiversity crisis, carnivore conservation, and environmental philosophy. He testified before Congressional committees about carnivores and the Endangered Species Act.

Dr. Ben Maletzke

Dr. Ben Maletzke graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin and shortly thereafter moved to Washington State. From 2002 - 2010, he completed his MS and PhD at Washington State University, researching habitat selection of lynx and the effects of hunting on cougar spatial organization in Washington. Since the completion of his graduate work, Ben has worked as a Wildlife Biologist with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife conducting research and management on black bear, cougar, lynx and wolves. He has served as the Statewide Wolf Specialist for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife since 2017.

Trent Roussin

Trent has worked as a wolf biologist in northeast Washington for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife since 2013. Prior to that, Trent worked with various large carnivores and ungulates in Alberta, Minnesota, Wyoming, Alaska, Northwest territories, and Russia. He is currently a graduate student at the University of Washington developing non-invasive monitoring techniques for wolves and looking at how different ungulate communities influence wolf recolonization.