

Minutes
Waterfowl Advisory Group
April 2, 2005 Meeting
North Bend, WA

Members and Guests Present: see attached list.

Meeting called to order by chairman Dave Sievers.

Introductions and Welcome: July 10, 2004 Minutes reviewed and minutes approved; concern expressed that one of the recommendations from the group was to allow the lands signed up under the grain program to not be hunted and that wasn't the case on any of the properties signed up last year; WDFW explained that it was not identified as a need or priority

Membership Renewal: Discussion regarding adding a member for Bellingham; also discussion about perhaps staggered membership term; what about dropping members who don't attend; perhaps ask those who haven't attended if they would like to continue; might be more efficient if the committee was a little smaller;

Motion to stagger the terms of reappointment of members to two or three years with a random selection of members for those terms; **motion passed with one opposed.**

Motion to create a term limit for members of two consecutive terms (members may be reappointed after a gap in service); motion failed unanimously after extensive discussion.

Motion that any member of the group who does not attend at least 50% of the meetings during their term would automatically be dropped; **motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion: the group should make sure that all WDFW administrative Regions are represented on the group; also encourage all members of the group to reach out to all parts of the state; need to get the information out to other duck hunters that WAG exists; could WDFW include information on the agency's web page and/or take comments that can be passed on to members; other discussion about including phone numbers or contact for members. **Members should inform WDFW by the end of April if they would like to continue on the committee. —**

Review of Migratory Bird Stamp Proposals: Presentation of priority proposals; bring up additional proposals by members if not included; project proponents should work harder at developing the proposal forms; rejected proposals should continue to be re-submitted; projects have been reviewed by WDFW staff committee and assigned a ranking; **WAG should provide ranking forms to WDFW by the end of April.**

Capital Projects

Telford Restoration: DU breeding habitat impoundment project in Lincoln County on BLM property; concern expressed about the use of cattle grazing on the site; additional information to be provided to members regarding grazing plans for the area;

Chehalis Valley Initiative: WDFW acquisition and impoundments; total of 1023 acres; most of the restoration funds will be provided by NRCS; 320 acres of moist soil mgmt;

Shillapoo Wildlife Area: DU impoundment project in Clark County; 80 acre seasonal wetland created with about 10 acres of brooding habitat; questions about cost/benefit ratio and long term plans for added restoration in the area;

Sunnyside Wildlife Area: replace center pivot circle irrigation; grows winter food for waterfowl; concern that other fund sources should cost share this project e.g. RMEF; this proposal only funds half of the total cost;

Stillwater Wildlife Area: DU water control structure; sculpting of upland areas for running treated water from the town of Carnation;

Tennant Lake Wildlife Area: DU impoundment project in Whatcom County; is on a fish stream (Tennant Creek) so will require ladder;

Cherry Valley Wildlife Area: DU water control structure in Snohomish County; restore creek contour and meander through the wildlife area as well as a seasonally flooded wetland (55 acres);

Union River: WDFW proposed acquisition of 11.3 acres;

Samish Wildlife Area: DU impoundment in Skagit County; construct a series of levees for moist soil mgmt, total of 330 acres in 3 to 5 cells;

Ebey Island Wildlife Area: no longer feasible because private landowner not interested in selling to public land mgrs.

Operating Projects

Chehalis Valley Conservation Initiative: WDFW proposal for funding habitat projects and hunter access;

Desert Unit Moist Soil Mgmt: WDFW proposal for the Col. Basin WA to purchase a tracked vehicle (dozer, brush mower, front loader, backhoe) for vegetation control/mgmt; questions about maintenance funding for this machine

Winchester Quality Hunt Area: WDFW proposal for moist soil mgmt funding for multiple cells of this developed site; questions about road access to the site; it is being worked on; discussion regarding the implementation of the quality area and concern that a reservation system is needed in the future;

Byron Ponds: Sunnyside WA proposal to conduct a feasibility study to determine if waterfowl use is restricted due to the presence of carp; develop a plan for carp control and a stable water supply;

Shillapoo WA: proposal for staff to operate control structures, wet soil mgmt, and other waterfowl mgmt activities on the WA; questions about using volunteers rather than hiring staff;

Seal Slough: WDFW project for acquisitions near Willapa Bay and mgmt of vegetation as part of larger project and cooperative funding; funding is for staff for survey, hunter access, etc;

Corn Stubble Retention Project: Columbia Basin irrigated agricultural area in Grant County; discussion on price paid to the farmer, process for completing contracts needs to be quicker;

Motion to give a farmer the option of hunting or no hunting and pay them more if they allow hunting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Columbia Basin Breeding Habitat Evaluation: designed to determine what the limiting factors to breeding are; the idea is that this will help refine the needs for future projects and funding; questions about how long it will take to develop useable information.

Cost of Migratory Bird Stamp: Discussion about increasing the cost of a migratory bird stamp to support added funding of projects; questions about security of the stamp funds and potential for use for other purposes; question about the split between capital and operating funding levels;

Motion to increase the cost of a migratory bird stamp from the current \$10 to \$20.
Motion fails 8 no to 5 yes.

Motion to increase the cost of a state migratory bird stamp to \$15 or equal to the price of the Federal stamp, which ever is higher. **Motion carried on a 15 yes to 2 no vote.**

2005 Legislative Issues

Hunter Access Bill: status of the bill

SW Goose funding: consider charging an extra fee for this area; perhaps resubmit the general fund proposal; also this group should look at writing a letter to federal legislators requesting funds;

Motion for the chair to write a letter to federal legislators requesting funds for the SW Washington dusky goose check station program. **Motion passed.**

Lead shot: two bills were proposed, but did not go very far this year

Members asked that we continue to keep them updated on the status of legislative bills and issues.

Updates on current waterfowl topics:

Columbia Basin Plan: postponed until next meeting

USFWS (Trost): USFWS considering reductions to cackling goose and brant seasons; further discussions about pintails; to date, it looks like problems continue for nesting in the prairie pothole region so potential for reductions in seasons next fall; some discussion about reducing from the current number of options within AHM from 3 to 2; Pacific Flyway model rather than mid-continent model for mgmt and regulation continues to be discussed;

Agenda Items for the Future Meetings:

- Brainstorm how to get the word out about the Waterfowl Advisory Group
- Columbia Basin Plan
- A presentation on moist soil mgmt
- Quality hunting areas and reservation systems on public as well as private areas
- Additional discussion about Snake River Waterfowl Closure

Next meeting on July 23rd in Moses Lake

End of Meeting 4:15pm

Attendance List
Waterfowl Advisory Group
Si View Community Center, North Bend, WA
April 2, 2005

Larry Boose
Chuck Bratton
Mark Burlington
Nina Carter
Chris Dorow
Ralph Engle
Scott Fink
Mike Franklin
Oscar Graham
Steve Herman
Chris Hyland
Frederick LeVering
Dick Price
Patrick Shearer
Dave Sievers
Bob Trost -USFWS
Dave Ware - WDFW
Don Kraege - WDFW
Greg Schirato - WDFW
Ron Friesz - WDFW
Steve Donovan - DU
Jim Tabor - WDFW
Mike Crowder – Barker Ranch
Rich Finger - WDFW