

**MINUTES**  
**Waterfowl Advisory Group**  
**June 28, 2003 Meeting**  
**USFS, Cle Elum**

Members Present: see attached list

Guests Present: Ed Schaplow, Tracy Hames (Yakama Tribal Biologist)

Agency Staff: Dennis Beich, Dave Ware, Don Kraege, and Ron Friesz

Meeting called to order by Don Kraege

**1. Review of Minutes from May 3, 2003 Meeting**

Minutes reviewed: main subject was Migratory Bird Stamp project funding and approval; there were some questions regarding funding level and which projects ultimately were approved. The final project list was passed out and explained.

**2. Nominations for Officers of WAG**

Dave Sievers, John Bjorkman, and Pat Shearer expressed interest in being chair, through December 2004; each discussed their background and interest in being chair; **Pat Shearer elected chair.**

Nominations for Vice Chair: Dave Sievers, Chuck Bratton, and Mark Burlington; each discussed their background and interest in being vice chair; **Dave Sievers elected vice chair.**

Discussed the role of the Chair: facilitate the meetings; work with Don Kraege on agenda; be the lead on positions taken by the group to WDFW; represent the group to the Game Mgmt Advisory Council

Further discussion on how to make the group more visible and accessible to the public; talked about publishing list of members in a section of the waterfowl pamphlet, also perhaps a Web page; discussed development of a mission statement

**3. 2003-04 Waterfowl Seasons and Related Rules**

Don Kraege presented information regarding the way that regulations and management is organized/facilitated in conjunction with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Pacific Flyway. Powerpoint enclosed.

WAG member discussion: explain the use of brood counts and other surveys in development of hunting season regulations; current regulations developed on continent wide information and applicability; Pacific Flyway is working at developing separate models more applicable to flyways; when survey data is completed on July 1, the

information will be sent out via email to WAG members; much discussion about splits and other season timeframes;

**Recommendations:**

Game Reserves and Closures

Motion to support WDFW proposal to open lower Snake River north and east of Levey Park for waterfowl hunting passed unanimously, with discussion that area goose hunters would be consulted.

Motion to open the Umatilla area as proposed passed with one opposed.

General Duck Season Dates

WDFW Proposal: Oct 11-15 and Oct 18 through Jan 25

If Liberal Option:

Motion to open waterfowl season Oct 4 - Oct 12, reopen Oct 22 through Jan. 25; 9 support and 6 opposed

Moderate Season Option:

Motion to open duck season in E. Wash Oct 4-12 and Nov 1 – Jan 25 passed with 3 opposed

Motion: duck season in W. Wash Oct 11-18 and Nov 11 – Jan 25; 7 support and 6 opposed

Pintail

Motion: to open pintail season for nine days concurrent with duck season early dates and rest as late as allowed; passed unanimously

Penalties

Infraction vs Misdemeanor

Take of one bird in excess of the bag limit is different than multiple violations. Will be presented by WDFW enforcement for future agenda item.

Goose Season

Motion to open the goose season every day in Area 4 Dec 25 through Jan 1; passed unanimously.

Suggestion to extend the snow goose season once the 120,000 objective is reached.

Motion to extend the Area 4 goose season days to Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday; failed 8 to 6

#### Extended Pheasant Season

December pheasant season on western Wash release sites; discussion of conflicts, participation levels etc

Motion to oppose the expansion of December pheasant season in western Washington areas; passed 8 to 7

#### **4. Quality Waterfowl Hunting Areas**

Background provided by Dennis, Don, and Ron on proposal to provide specific quality areas.

Members encouraged WDFW to look at reservation system/permit hunt; concern about guides taking over the area; maybe need a system where all hunters in a vehicle must hunt together in the same blind; new areas should be looked at for providing low density hunting; should also look at additional opportunities for hunters with disabilities

Motion: Support WDFW's proposal for the 4 parking spaces and limited hunt days at Winchester project for 2003; passed unanimously

Motion: WDFW should look at Moxee Reserve as an additional quality area; passed unanimously; added discussion: carefully consider number of parties allowed; is this a priority area in the state;

#### **5. Public Access to Private Lands (Duck Stamp funding)**

Don explained the existing access programs of the Department. Main questions from WDFW: Is it OK to use duck stamp funds (or Art) for access to private lands, and how should we regulate access?

Discussion: Most folks felt that Feel Free to Hunt or Register to Hunt or even closed to hunting were valuable programs, the main concern is with the Hunt by Permission program. Landowner's ability to restrict hunter use on areas where WDFW has developed habitat and expended funds requires more accountability from the landowner. Priority may be focused on enhancing public lands; funds should not be available for hunt clubs, should develop a system that is specific to the level of access required then follow that up; written permission system is OK if it is fair; support for WDFW developing a proposal and returning to WAG for review.

Motion to accept existing programs for expenditure of funds assuming the contractual improvements; motion failed 9 to 4

Motion to accept existing programs without “no public access”; passed with 3 opposed; an amendment to also exclude Hunt by Written Permission failed with a split vote.

**Open Discussion:**

WDFW should consider developing regulations and license requirement for guides.

Develop a code of ethics for waterfowl hunters and publish in pamphlet.

WDFW should promote programs; provide maps, etc for access programs.

Should promote hunters and others purchasing additional stamps; or adopt an area type program to improve ownership and participation; WAG should become an advocacy group and promote key issues such as increased youth participation

Next Meeting Agenda:

February: to begin discussing duck stamp funding and other items identified in today's meeting.

WATERFOWL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING - 6/28/03

Attendance List

John Bjorkman  
Larry Boose  
Chuck Bratton  
Mark Burlington  
Chris Dorow  
Ralph Engle  
Scott Fink  
Mike Franklin  
Oscar Graham  
Steve Herman  
Chris Hyland  
Fredric Levering  
Mike Meseberg  
Dick Price  
Patric Shearer  
Dave Sievers  
Martin Taylor

Agency Reps.

Don Kraege  
Dennis Beich  
Bob Trost  
Dave Ware  
Ron Friesz

Others

Tracy Hames, Yakama Tribe  
Ed Shaplow