

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities

RCW 77.04.15



Committee Members

Region 1 – Jerry Wood

Region 2 – Tom Baskin

Region 3 – Vacant

Region 4 - Chair

Albert (Bill) Vincent

Region 5 – Robert Vavla

Region 6 – Vice Chair

Burt Dezihan

At Large – Mike Quimby,

MISSION STATEMENT

The Advisory Committee will provide accurate and meaningful information to the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission regarding the needs of persons with disabilities as they seek to enjoy equal opportunity to access all the programs provided by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

What defines a Disability in Washington State for Hunting / Fishing

WAC 232-12-828 & WAC 220-55-065

- ✓ **LOWER EXTREMITY IMPAIRMENT** - A person with a permanent disability who is not ambulatory over natural terrain without a medically prescribed assistive device.
- ✓ **UPPER EXTREMITY IMPAIRMENT** - a person with a permanent disability who is unable to hold or safely use any legal hunting, fishing, or shell harvesting device.
- ✓ **BLIND / VISUALLY IMPAIRED** - State licensing regulations.
- ✓ **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY** – Per DSHS designation.
- ✓ **ADDITIONAL INCLUSIONS** - Permanent loss, significant limitation, or diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs the use of one or both upper or lower extremities.

SECTION 504 – Rehabilitation Act of 1973

** provide reasonable accommodations **

ACCESS WITHOUT BARRIERS

❖ HUNTING

Road Access Program, Special Permit Tags...

❖ FISHING

Ramp & Dock Access, Special Disability Fishery...

❖ WILDLIFE VIEWING

Viewing platforms, Blinds, Paths and Benches...

Committee Member Contributions 2002-2010

12,525 donated hours over the last nine years to support the Fish and Wildlife Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Annual cost for seven member Committee > \$4,000.

➤ Total cost over nine years - \$36,315.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2007-2010

- Changes to fishing rules regarding electric motors
- Changes to hunting rules regarding telescopic sights
- Assisted in the development of Goals & Objectives for ADA Program
- Provided on site evaluations of WDFW sites & facilities
- Recommended fishing access site upgrades, Lewis/Cowlitz Rivers
- Provided support on USFW Performance Audits
- Assisted in the development of criteria for motorized vehicle access
(Dept. of Justice ruling 28 CFR part 35, OPDMD)

Recommendations for 2012

- ✓ Recommend Committee participation in setting criteria for ADA access onto property acquired through Federal Grants for persons with disabilities.
- ✓ Recommend Committee participation in WDFW tag permitting process establishing permit levels for deer, elk, and moose to ensure reasonable accommodation.
- ✓ Recommend persons with disabilities not be recognized as “User Group” in WDFW tag permitting process.
 - ✓ Recommend Discover Pass exemption or reduced fee for persons with disabilities.
- ✓ Recommend Committee members receive Discover Pass to access State lands for purpose of committee work.

Summary

Data provided in this report illustrates a growing need for Committee assistance and support regarding hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing access, reasonable accommodations, facility design, regulation changes, permit availability and on going ADA issues.

Proactively working with WDFW assists the department with its commitment towards providing programs and access to all persons with disabilities.