

Summary

Meeting dates: June 13-14, 2014

Agenda item: Cowiche Land Acquisition - Briefing and Public Hearing

Presenter(s): Mike Livingston, Region 3 Director

Background summary:

Not long ago, about 3000 acres came on the market in Yakima County. This very desirable acreage transitions shrub steppe to forest and brings closer the connection of the Cowiche Unit to the Tieton Township Area of the Oak Creek Wildlife Area, a complete wildlife migration corridor. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's first principle of conservation is "We practice conservation by managing, protecting and restoring ecosystems for the long term benefit of people and for fish, wildlife and their habitat." Acquiring this property would go a long way toward meeting this goal.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy worked together to lay out a plan that would achieve wildlife and conservation goals, while also addressing County and local community concerns over additional government owned property, retaining working lands available for agriculture, and public access for recreation.

The final of the six principals of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Conservation Initiative is "We collaborate with our conservation and community partners to help us achieve our shared goals." We believe the course set for the acquisition of this property will help us all achieve our goals.

This proposal has gone through the department's Lands 20/20 process.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

N/A

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

N/A

Action requested:

N/A

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Communications Plan:

N/A
