

# **Game Management Plan 2015-21**

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# Purpose of the Plan

- Encourages and facilitates public involvement in defining the major issues for WDFW in terms of game management
- Guides Three Year Hunting Season Development
- Drives Division Priorities
- Guides Work Plan Priorities for HQ/Regional/Field Staff

# GMP 2015-21 Process

- Scoping – Dec 12 to Jan 3rd – 8057 participated
- Survey of the General Public – May 20
- Comment on Draft GMP – June 9 to July22 - 1689 participated
- Six Public Meetings - June 17 to 26
- Commission Briefing and Hearing – Aug 8 & 9
- Survey of the Hunters – August 26
- Update the Commission – September 25
- Completed Revision of Key Plan Elements– October 15
- **Public Comment on the Revised Plan October 15 to November 21 – 200+ commented – revision**
- Commission Consideration for Adoption – December 12

# 2015-21 Major Issues

- Predator – Prey
- Wolves
- Recruit, Retain, Reactivate Hunters
- Non-toxic Ammunition
- Hunter Access
- Wildlife Conflict
- Disease – Elk Hoof Disease
- Ethics: Baiting & Equipment Technology



# Comments Received on Final Revision of GMP – November

- Predator/Prey Relationships
- Wolf Management
- Private Lands Access for Recreation
- Wildlife Conflict
- Non-toxic ammunition
- Baiting



# November Public Comment

## Predator-Prey Management

- Met with GMAC members to address concerns
- Discussed changes with Wildlife Committee
- Amendments provide greater flexibility
- Few comments received after amendments



# November Public Comment

## Elk and Deer

- Concern about predation effects continues to be a common comment
- Few comments received with the edits in the final draft



# Public Comment-Major Themes

## Cougar and Bear

- Again, concern about predator numbers and effects on prey was a common comment
- After edits to address predator/prey issue & response by WDFW, we did not receive many new comments



# November Public Comment

## Wolf Management

- Modified the objective to implement the wolf plan
- Included a strategy to develop a management plan for wolves after delisting
- Limited comments received after modifying language



# Public Comment-Major Themes

## Hunter Access

- The greatest concern continues to be the fee access issues in western Washington associated with industrial timberlands
- This confirms the Plan Objectives



# November Public Comment

## Wildlife Conflict

- The greatest concern was bear damage issues with industrial timberlands
- We met with WFPA to develop language
- Fee access to timberlands for spring hunts continues to be an issue



# November Public Comment

## Non-toxic Ammunition

- Still some concern that we are not going far enough
- Also concerns about additional regulations without evidence of population level impacts
- Confirms the Plan objectives to use voluntary means to encourage use of non-lead ammunition and address problem areas



# November Public Comment

## Baiting for the Purpose of Hunting

- We received many comments about baiting
- Related to 2015-17 Hunting Regulations
- Helpful for rule development



# Finalization of GMP Process

- Issues and strategies have been refined over time with stakeholders
- Public comments have helped refine the Plan
- We received fewer comments with each revision of the Plan
- The Plan is prescriptive, but also adaptive and flexible
- The GMAC reviewed the final version at its meeting Dec 6 and unanimously recommends adoption by the Commission

# Floor Changes

- We missed one significant addition related to hair slip disease and blacktails that needs to be included
- Page 64: after the sentence ending in “...population fluctuations” add: “Where black-tailed deer populations are struggling, hair loss disease is likely one of the contributing factors.”
- Page 67: after the sentence ending in “...past two decades.” add “The suggested decline in black-tailed deer, particularly in coastal regions of the Olympic Peninsula, has been related to low winter survival of fawns afflicted with hair loss disease (McCoy, et al. 2014). Range-wide there are probably additional factors, as listed above, affecting localized population declines or increases.”

# Finalize GMP

- We are ready for adoption of the plan

# Questions?

