

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

720 SW Washington Street, Suite 710
 Portland, OR 97205
 Ph: 503-228-8350 Fax: 503-228-6207
 www.resolve.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wolf Working Group Members (WWG) and WDFW Staff
FROM: Paul De Morgan, RESOLVE
SUBJECT: Action Items from the February 28-March 1 Meeting – Final Version
DATE: March 16, 2007

This memo includes action items agreed to during the February 28-March 1 meeting, a list of future meeting dates, and a brief summary of WWG discussions for your information.

Please note that action items may include some tasks applicable to all WWG members (highlighted in yellow). Please review the action item list for tasks assigned to you and/or the Working Group in general, and let us know if we missed any action items or if you have any questions.

Upcoming Meeting	When and Where	Suggested Agenda Items
WWG Meeting #2	Wed-Thur, May 9-10 <i>Ellensburg, WA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present and discuss legal issues • Review and finalize draft Operating Principles • Provide update on how tribes would prefer to engage in process • Review first draft of Sections I and II: Introduction and Background • Discuss Section III: Wolf Conservation • Strive for initial conversations on Section IV: Wolf-Livestock Conflicts

I. ACTION ITEMS

Task	Who	Completed by
1. Distribute copies of ID, MT, WY, and OR management plans and the USFWS FR notice and DPS background to the WWG	WDFW	COMPLETED

Task	Who	Completed by
2. Incorporate agreed-upon changes to draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Outline and distribute final version to WWG	WDFW (w/RESOLVE)	COMPLETED
3. Distribute instructions for completing travel reimbursement forms to WWG members	WDFW	COMPLETED
4. Finalize travel reimbursement forms	WDFW and WWG members	Friday, March 23
5. Create a meeting schedule complete with proposed agenda topics and share with WWG	WDFW (w/RESOLVE)	Friday, March 30
6. Incorporate the proposed changes to draft Operating Principles and distribute to WWG for review and consideration	WDFW (w/RESOLVE)	Friday, March 30
7. Create Technical Advisory Committee roster (<i>including name, organization, contact information</i>) and distribute to WWG	WDFW	Friday, March 30
8. Develop WDFW Wolf Conservation and Management Plan website and post appropriate documents (e.g., Outline) for public review	WDFW	Friday, March 30
9. Check in with tribes on how they want to engage in development of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan	WDFW	In advance of May 9-10 Working Group Meeting

II. OVERVIEW OF DISCUSSIONS

A. Welcome, Introductions, and Expectations

Harriet Allen, WDFW Endangered & Threatened Species Section Manager, welcomed the members to the kick-off meeting and thanked them on behalf of WDFW for agreeing to participate in the WWG. She then introduced the facilitator, Paul De Morgan of RESOLVE. A round of introductions was initiated (for a list of attendees see attachment A below).

Expectations for the various participants' roles and responsibilities were clarified as follows:

WWG Members:

- Strive to listen to each others' interests, achieve mutual understanding, and generate creative solutions;
- Provide input, and share consensus group recommendations when possible, to guide WDFW's development of a Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (the Plan); and
- Represent the diverse geographical and philosophical range of interests.

WDFW Staff:

- Provide substantive information to inform WWG discussions (and access to the TAC);
- Answer questions between and at meetings; and
- Draft the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

Facilitator:

- Assist with keeping the WWG on schedule;
- Work with WDFW staff to provide behind-the-scenes support and set the stage for productive, substantive discussions; and
- Help capture areas of agreement and disagreement to assist in framing future conversations.

Public:

- Observe WWG meetings and provide brief comments at the end of each meeting; and
- Participate in the public scoping meetings as desired to provide in-depth feedback.

Jeff Koenings, WDFW Director, handed out individual WWG appointment letters, noting the Plan is scheduled to be completed within 18 months. Given that wolves are entering Washington naturally from Idaho and Canada, WDFW intends to think carefully in creating a plan to ensure long-term successes in managing wolf populations as they become established. The underlying goal of the WWG meetings is to involve those directly affected by the outcomes of WDFW decision-making processes in creation of a plan that will work. He expressed appreciation for WWG members' commitment of time and energy to this process and stated his personal optimism that the WWG would achieve success.

It was noted that the US Fish and Wildlife Service released a proposal in February 2007 to create the Northern Rocky Mountain (NRM) distinct population segment (DPS) of Gray Wolf and to delist that DPS. The deadline for public comment is May 9, 2007 and the final ruling is expected within one year, though it could be longer. The current proposal includes a portion of Eastern Washington for federal delisting. If the Gray Wolf is de-listed under the Endangered Species Act in the proposed NRM DPS, jurisdiction would transfer to WDFW for that part of Washington. At that time, the species would be managed as state endangered in that part of the state and state and federally endangered in the rest of the state.

B. Discuss Expectations, Challenges, and Successful Outcomes

WWG members shared their individual thoughts and perspectives regarding expectations for this process; including foreseeable challenges as well as opportunities for success. They also discussed what success would look like from their varied, diverse perspectives. While a great range of interests

were expressed, a common theme emerged regarding a shared interest in creating a workable solution that is fair to all stakeholders and sustainable over time.

WDFW closed the discussion by stating the following summary points for WWG consideration:

- Active (rather than passive) management is very important;
- Funding is essential if the Plan is to be successful;
- Recovery must be considered as a starting point, then transition to management;
- Need to strike a balance of interests for the Plan to be effective; and
- WDFW is responsible for drafting the Plan, but to the extent that consensus agreements can be reached by the group, WDFW's drafting efforts will be strongly influenced by the WWG.

C. Overview Presentations and Discussion

Harriet Allen of WDFW shared an overview presentation regarding the current NRM Gray Wolf population, what WDFW hopes the WWG will accomplish, and the rationale for such expectations. The following list summarizes key points of the presentation:

- The WA Plan will only come into effect once the Gray Wolf is federally de-listed.
- If the wolf is delisted in the proposed federal DPS, the State plan will be implemented in that portion of the state, and not in the rest of the state.
- There is no need to “reinvent the wheel” given the other State plans in existence; rather the focus should be on tailoring existing language to best suit Washington's conditions.
- WDFW has convened a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to provide technical expertise in support of WWG deliberations on an as needed basis.
- Sideboards for the Plan's content are: 1) having zero wolves is not an option; and 2) reintroduction from outside the state is not an option.
- Information related to this process will be available to the public via the WDFW web site.

Madonna Luers of WDFW informed the group that the WWG membership and process is now part of WDFW's official message to the public. As such, WWG members should expect to be contacted by the media given the current heightened interest in this topic. She clarified WDFW staff would provide only WWG member names and mailing addresses only (not email and phone) in response to media inquiries and would provide notice to members of such inquires along with the particular media representative's contact information.

Following is an overview of how the WWG process fits in with WDFW public scoping process:

- WDFW will develop outreach and education materials in support of the Response Guidelines.
- WDFW will update the “Living with Carnivores” publication(s) to include wolves.
- The final WDFW Plan Outline will be distributed by early spring 2007 for public scoping process; results of these meetings will be shared with the WWG.
- The draft Plan will be released in late 2007 for public review; comments can be provided in written form and/or online; results will be shared with the WWG in a spring 2008 meeting (date TBD) to inform discussions regarding finalization of the Plan.

WWG members were encouraged to contact Ms. Luers with any questions regarding media relations and the public scoping process.

D. Legal Review

Due to weather conditions, Sheila Lynch, WA Attorney General was unable to attend the meeting. WDFW will strive to have Ms. Lynch give her presentation at the next WWG meeting.

E. Draft Washington Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Outline

The group reviewed the draft WA Plan Outline with the intent to identify what works well, what is missing, what does not work, and what should be changed. It was noted that the outline is intended to help guide the process but is not written in stone; adjustments to the content and structure of this document could be implemented throughout the WWG deliberations as needed.

Based on WWG feedback, WDFW staff captured proposed changes to the draft outline in redline strikeout and presented a revised version for review and approval on Day Two. The WWG members approved the revised version and indicated WDFW should implement the outstanding editing requests before it is finalized.

The group then discussed how to move deliberations forward regarding each section. In general, the members asked WDFW to develop language on background content in each section for review and concurrently to “set the stage” for the objectives and strategies conversation. Setting the stage could include describing options other states took, sharing additional background articles, identifying places in the Wolf reference book distributed, or proposing an approach from WDFW’s perspective. For some sections, it was suggested that no work needed to be done at present pending the deliberations on earlier sections.

- Section I: Background
 - WDFW begin drafting language for WWG review
- Section II: Wolf Conservation
 - Share information on modeling in advance of, and conduct presentation at, next WWG meeting – need something to react to/comment on
 - WDFW draft background and “set the stage” for objectives and strategies
- Section III: Wolf-Livestock Conflicts
 - WDFW draft background and “set the stage” for objectives and strategies
- Section IV: Wolf-Ungulate Interactions
 - WDFW draft background and “set the stage” for objectives and strategies
- Section V: Wolf Interactions with Other Species
 - WDFW draft background and “set the stage” for objectives and strategies
- Section VI: Wolf-Human Interactions
 - WDFW draft background and “set the stage” for objectives and strategies
- Section VII: Information and Education
 - Hold for now – driven by other chapters
- Section VIII: Evaluation and Reporting
 - Hold for now – driven by other chapters
- Section IX: Research and Information Management
 - Hold for now – driven by other chapters
- Section X: Timeline and Budget Estimates for Implementation
 - Hold for now – driven by other chapters
- Section XI: Economic Considerations

- Hold for now – driven by other chapters
- Section XII (*new*): Land Management
 - Hold for now – driven by other chapters

F. Draft Operating Principles

The group reviewed the draft Operating Principles document and proposed the following changes:

- Section I: Purpose of the WWG
 - Incorporate recovery concept
 - Cross-check language with Director's memo
 - Incorporate sideboards as described during the meeting and in the Director's letter
- Section II: Participation
 - Address participation of alternates
 - Yes, should have this option
 - Clarify participation/role (primarily to share information back to WWG members)
 - Clarify responsibilities of WWG members in relation to alternates
 - No decision-making capacity
 - Timing – need enough time to prepare for meetings (e.g., share relevant information in advance)
 - Indicate that the facilitator has to take lead in ensuring alternates are functioning in a constructive way to the benefit of the group
- Section III: Organizational Structure
 - Describe role and membership of TAC
- Section IV: Meetings
 - No changes needed
- Section V: Decision-Making and Commitments
 - Outstanding question regarding definition of consensus (live with/no opposition)
- Section VI: Safeguards for the Members
 - No changes needed
- Section VII: Process Suggestions/Ground Rules
 - No changes needed
- Section VIII: Schedule
 - No changes needed

The changes requested will be incorporated into a redline/strikeout version that will be shared with the WWG in advance of the next meeting. The group agreed to reach closure on a final version at the next meeting.

It was noted that it would be appreciated if WDFW could confirm an approach for sharing information with members with dial-up internet connections (e.g., Art, Tommy, George H., Daryl)

G. WWG Meeting Schedule

The group discussed a number of items associated with the meetings: timing, location, dates. The group agreed that the two half-day approach worked well given the travel time and amount of work to be done over the next year. Some members suggested that moving meetings around the state

would be helpful or having one elsewhere, but everyone agreed that Ellensburg was a central location which balanced the travel challenges of many members. After noting that the public scoping meetings scheduled for later in the spring or early summer were going to be held around the state as well as the public meetings once the draft is developed, WDFW indicated Ellensburg would be the location for the WWG meetings. The dates for the remaining five meetings in 2007 were identified based on the results of the schedule availability forms:

- Meeting #2: Wednesday and Thursday, May 9-10
- Meeting #3: Thursday and Friday, July 12-13
- Meeting #4: Thursday and Friday, September 13-14
- Meeting #5: Monday and Tuesday, October 29-30
- Meeting #6: Thursday and Friday, December 6-7
- Meeting #7: *To be determined (spring 2008)*

H. Public Comment

Chuck Perry of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission expressed appreciation for the WWG members' time and energy serving on the group and his belief that their collective contributions will contribute to a robust Plan.

Jane Titland of MNRP Associates commented that the WWG should consider what mechanisms are in place to ensure each representative is connected to the broader constituency and avoid reflecting on just individuals' perspectives.

John Titland of MNRP Associates stated his opinion that the WWG should focus on avoidance strategies as recommendations for wolf-livestock conflicts rather than focusing solely on compensation measures. He added that with respect to compensation, the cost(s) to farmers and ranchers should be borne by the State.

Attachment A
February 28-March 1 WWG Meeting Attendees

WWG Members in Attendance:

- Daryl Asmussen
- John Blankenship
- Duane Cocking
- Jeff Dawson
- Jack Field
- George Halekas
- Kim Holt
- Derrick Knowles
- Colleen McShane
- Hon. Ken Oliver
- Tommy Petrie, Jr
- Gerry Ring Erickson
- John Stuhlmiller
- Arthur Swannack
- Bob Tuck
- Greta M Wiegand
- Georg Ziegltrum

WWG Members Not in Attendance:

- Paula J. Del Giudice

WDFW Project Staff and RESOLVE Staff in Attendance:

- Harriet Allen
- Rocky Beach
- Jennifer Bies
- Paul De Morgan
- Jeff Koenings
- Madonna Luers
- Donny Martorello
- Jerry Nelson
- Steve Pozzanghera

Other Individuals in Attendance:

- Dennis Beich
- Jennifer Evans
- Don Jacobs
- Bob Lamb
- Lynda Mapes
- Noah McCord
- Chris McCord
- Jim Murphy
- Chuck Perry
- Jane Titland
- John Titland
- White Wolf
- Roger Woodruff