

Phase 1: Leque Island Alternatives Analysis and Design Project

Communications and Decision Plan

Objectives:

- To provide timely updates to the public, stakeholders, jurisdictions, tribal co-managers, and project partners on project status.
- To use a clear and transparent process to select the preferred design alternative for Leque Island.

Below is a narrative of communication pathways for stakeholders and project teams, as well as decision pathways for WDFW:

Open Public Communication

The general public will have several opportunities to become informed on project status and have opportunity to provide comments at multiple key decision making points in the project, including:

- Accessing project reports and materials posted on the WDFW website.
- Subscribing to an email list to receive periodic project updates (approximately monthly).
- Attending two public meetings; including one initial meeting prior to drafting design alternatives and one meeting prior to selecting the preferred alternative design.
- Completing two surveys; including one survey to select volunteers for the project Stakeholder Committee and one survey to advise selection of the preferred alternative design.

* Note – The public will be invited to meetings and informed of materials on the WDFW website through press releases and targeted outreach to known stakeholders.

Stakeholder Committee Communication

WDFW will organize a project Stakeholder Committee that will consist of representatives from known stakeholder groups, jurisdictions, and co-managers. Representatives of groups identified by WDFW (based on previous experience and survey results) will be invited to sit on the Stakeholder Committee. A goal of the Stakeholder Committee is to more closely examine issues that arise throughout the project and to collaboratively identify ways to address them. The Work Group will meet at least twice throughout the project, including:

- After close of the first survey period, likely in late November or December, 2013.
- After the second public meeting and close of the second survey period.

Project Management Team Communication

The project management team will consist of staff from WDFW, Ducks Unlimited, and other consultants determined necessary to complete Phase 1 – Leque Island Alternatives Analysis and Restoration Design. The project management team will collaborate to generate a work schedule to create the products necessary to have a permit-ready design at the end of Phase 1. The project management team will initiate, plan, and advertise for public meetings and complete studies and design work as approved by WDFW management per the attached communication and decision-making table. The project management team will meet as necessary to coordinate tasks, approximately monthly.

WDFW Internal Communication

The WDFW Restoration Projects Coordinator will initiate at least two *WDFW District Team meetings to review public survey results and project Stakeholder Committee recommendations. One meeting will occur prior to drafting of design alternatives with a goal of making a recommendation to the **WDFW Regional Management Team on which design options to advance as potential alternatives. A subsequent meeting will occur prior to selection of the preferred alternative with a goal of making a recommendation to the WDFW Regional Management Team on the preferred alternative to pursue to permit-level design. The WDFW Regional Management Team approvals or modified approvals will be communicated by the WDFW Region 4 Director to key WDFW Executive Management Team members, Director, and WDFW's legislative liaison.

The WDFW Restoration Projects Coordinator will keep the WDFW Regional Management Team and District Team updated on Work Group and Project Management Team activities and timelines throughout the project.

* The WDFW District Team consists of the WDFW Area Habitat Biologist, Skagit Wildlife Area Manager, District Fish Biologist, District Wildlife Biologist, Lands Agent, and Detachment 12 Enforcement.

** The WDFW Regional Management Team consists of the Region 4 Director, Wildlife Program Manager, Fish Program Manager, Habitat Program Manager, Hatchery Program Manager, and Enforcement Captain.