



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Habitat Program: 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2534

**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS**

Name of Proposal: WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE GAME
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Description of Proposal: A comprehensive 6-year management plan designed to define management direction for Washington's game species (deer, elk, migratory birds, upland birds, cougar, moose, mountain goat, big horn sheep, black bear, rabbits, furbearers, and unclassified game animals).

Proponent: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Statewide

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

EIS Required. The lead agency has determined that this proposal may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) and will be prepared. An environmental checklist or other materials indicating the likely environmental impacts can be reviewed at our offices.

The project proponent is using an optional non-project review form created by the Department of Ecology as an attachment with this Scoping Notice.

The lead agency had identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS:

1. Manage populations for a sustained yield
2. Manage for a variety of recreational, educational and aesthetic purposes
3. Preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage wildlife and their habitats to ensure healthy, productive populations

Scoping. Agencies, affected tribes and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. The method and deadline for giving us your comments is:

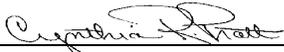
Written comments should be received at the address listed below no later than
June 28, 2002.

Please return your scoping comments, with this page, to the address shown below. If you have questions about the project, please contact Dave Ware, Game Division Manager, at 360-902-2509. If you have questions on the scoping process please contact Cynthia Pratt, at 360-902-2575 or e-mail prattcrp@dfw.wa.gov.

Responsible Official: Cynthia R. Pratt

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator

Address: Habitat Program, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

DATE: June 7, 2002 **SIGNATURE:** 

To conserve resources indicate if you would like to receive the Draft and Final EIS or be dropped from the mailing list. Please note in making your choice that the Full Draft and Final EIS will be available in regional public libraries and WDFW regional offices throughout the state.

Please complete the form below and enclose it with your comments or return it to the Department. If we don't hear from you we will keep your name on our mailing list and send you the Executive Summaries of the Game Management Plan and Final EIS.

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Request for Environmental Documents for

Send to:

Cynthia Pratt, SEPA/NEPA Coordinator
Habitat Program
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501

- Would like to receive the Draft EIS
- Would like to receive the Final EIS
- An Executive Summary of EIS and Game Management Plan or
- A written copy of Final EIS and Game Management Plan

- Please remove my name from the mailing list.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

**State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)
Non-Project Review Form (NPRF)**

1) Background

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Dave Ware; 600 Capitol Way N,
Olympia, WA 98501; 360-902-2509; (FAX) 360-902-2162;
waredaw@dfw.wa.gov

Dave Ware (Game Division Manager, Washington Department of Fish and
Wildlife (WDFW))

Name of Proposal, if any, and brief description: **Washington Department of
Fish and Wildlife Game Management Plan:** A comprehensive 6-year
management plan designed to define management direction for Washington
State's game species (Deer, Elk, Migratory birds, Upland Birds, Cougar,
Moose, Mountain Goat, Big Horn Sheep, Black Bear, Rabbits, Furbearers,
and unclassified game animals).

Describe the jurisdiction or area where the proposal is applicable. The Game
Management Plan addresses management on a statewide basis.

What is the legal authority or mandate for the proposal? Chapter 77.04 RCW
states that "Wildlife, fish, and shellfish are the property of the state. The
commission, director, and the department shall preserve, protect, perpetuate,
and manage the wildlife and food fish, game fish and selfish in state waters and
offshore waters." In addition, 77.04 RCW states that "The commission may
authorize the taking of wildlife...in manners or quantities, as in the judgment
of the commission does not impair the supply of these resources." and "The
commission shall attempt to maximize the public recreational game fishing and
hunting opportunities for all citizens, including juvenile, disabled, and senior
citizens."

Need and Objectives

Describe the problem to be addressed and the need for the action. Management
objectives and strategies for these game species are not defined in a
comprehensive manner for the 2002-2008 time period. In order to focus
management efforts a management plan is needed.

1. *Describe the primary objective(s) of the proposal.* The primary objective of
this proposal is to develop a single document that describes WDFW's
management direction for the state's game species. This plan will have 3 main
goals:
 - a. Manage populations for a sustained yield.
 - b. Manage for a variety of recreational, educational and aesthetic
purposes including hunting, scientific study, wildlife viewing and
photography.

- c. Preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage wildlife and their habitats to ensure healthy, productive populations.

Are there any other objectives? An alternate objective is to expand public involvement in the development of game management priorities and direction.

What are the current known or anticipated key environmental issues or areas of controversy or concern? These issues will be identified in the Game Management Plan within each species' chapter.

Previous Documentation

Identify and similar or related plan, regulation, policy, etc. governing this geographic area. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has completed a statewide Elk Management Plan, Cougar Plan, Big Horn Sheep Plan, and a Black Bear Management Plan, all of which underwent critical and public review.

Is this proposal likely to result in an amendment to or replacement of such existing regulation, policy or plan? Briefly describe. This proposal will result in replacement of the aforementioned plans.

List any environmental documents (SEPA or NEPA) that have been prepared for items identified in 3a above. Identify the type of document, lead agency, and issue date. Elk Management Plan (Lead Agency: WDFW; EIS completion date: 1/28/97). Black Bear Management Plan (Lead Agency: WDFW; EIS completion date: 11/25/96). Cougar Plan WDFW, citizen reviewed, Final EIS unpublished) Big Horn Sheep Plan (Lead Agency: WDFW; SEPA completion date: July, 1995).

Do the SEPA documents in 3c adequately analyze any or all of the impacts from the alternatives being considered? (Impacts with previous adequate analysis need not be re-analyzed, but should be incorporated by reference into the NPRF.) No

Alternative Approaches

Briefly describe any legal or other mandate that requires a particular approach?
N/A

If there is no mandated approach, what type of approaches could reasonably achieve the objectives? Population Management, Habitat Management, Harvest Management, Surveys, Population Modeling, Damage and Depredation Management, Non-consumptive Recreation, Information and Education, Winter Feeding, Enforcement of game laws, and Research.

Why was the approach presented in the proposal selected? The approach selected utilizes many different tools to affect quality management of the target species.

Public, Agency and Tribal Involvement

Who are the known primary stakeholders? Hunters, conservationists, tribes, and public and private landholders.

What other jurisdictions are involved and for what reason? None known at this time.

What types of processes will be used for soliciting, evaluating, and documenting input from stakeholders, agencies, tribes and the public? Public meetings, Internet surveys, random telephone surveys, formal SEPA review and other written public comment.

If different from above, briefly describe the processes used in addressing the public's and other interested parties concerns and comments? Comments received will be categorized and reviewed. Comments will either be incorporated into the document or listed and addressed as to why the comment was not included.

Guidance #6: This response should describe those attributes of the area(s) likely to be affected by "on the ground" activities. The specificity will vary depending on both the nature of the anticipated nonproject action as well as the jurisdictional constraints. A nonproject action covering all contaminated sites should broadly describe whether or not most or many sites are in urban areas, near water bodies, in industrially developed areas, etc. A nonproject action for a one hundred-acre rezone will contain considerably greater detail-to the degree that the reader can visualize the area.

Existing Environment

Generally describe the existing environmental landscapes (i.e., status or quality of ecosystem) likely to be affected if the proposal is implemented. Include a description of the existing environment where resulting "on the ground" activities may occur and adjacent areas and facilities likely to be impacted. The following should be included, as appropriate:

Primary physical features

Development level and infrastructure

Percent impervious surfaces (approximate)

Unique features, including historic and cultural sites, potential or existing critical areas, resource lands

Endangered or Threatened Species in or near the area

This plan will address game species management on a statewide level, therefore the entire state of Washington should be considered the existing environmental landscape affected by the proposal. This does not mean that all portions of the state will be impacted by on the ground activities, however, specific locations are not known at this time.

Broad Impacts

In meeting the primary objective (identified in 2b of this form) is it likely that the non-project action will direct an agency to develop or construct projects? Describe. Yes. The Game Management Plan will likely result in WDFW developing and implementing many different projects related to habitat management, population management, public education, and research.

In meeting the primary objective is it likely that the non-project action will encourage physical changes to the natural or built environment? Describe. It is likely that habitat management activities will encourage physical changes to the natural environment by increasing the quality of target habitats for specific game animals or birds. Changes to the built environment may also occur if habitat improvements necessitate removal of roads and/or buildings.

What is the location (geographic area) where changes will be directed or encouraged? Include the area directly affected, as well as adjacent or other areas where changes will be indirectly encouraged. Specific areas are not known at this time.

Will this action constrain certain activities or development, but not preclude all activities or developments? Briefly describe. It is possible that certain activities or developments may be constrained for purposes of meeting population or habitat management objectives (example: road abandonment for increasing wildlife habitat values).

Guidance #8: In the development of a nonproject proposal, preliminary decisions are made as to what direction or alternatives will best meet the objective(s). This section documents those issues, analyze the environmental consequences, and describes alternatives (particular to those with lessor adverse environmental impacts). For the selected preliminary decision, mitigation should be reviewed as to whether or not it is consistent with the objective(s). Documentation of the rationale such as, economics or constrained by existing law, for not considering other alternatives should be provided.

****Alternatives and impacts will be identified after public scoping.**

Key issues/questions, alternatives, impacts and mitigation.

Definition: Key issues/questions are those for which the solution may limit the range of alternatives or commit the agency to take a particular direction and that could have adverse impacts to the environment.

Identify key issue/question # 1. Include a brief statement of why this is a key issue/question.

Identify alternative solutions.

How would each alternative solution likely direct, encourage or enable:

New Development?

Redevelopment?

Changes in land use?

Changes in density of use?

Changes in management practices?

What are the likely impacts from the changes?

What are potential mitigation measures for these impacts?

Will the intent of the proposal still be met if these impacts occur?

What preliminary decision, if any, was made regarding this key issue?

Which alternatives will be carried forward for further analysis?

For those alternatives not carried forward please describe why not?

Key issue/question #2, 3,.....*Repeat above questions for each key issue.*

THE REMAINDER OF THIS FORM IS EXPECTED TO BE FILLED OUT AND COMPLETED AT THE FINAL STAGES OF THE PROCESS.

Guidance #9: Because of analysis of individual key issues will occur over time, there may be relationships between the preliminary decisions that could result in adverse impacts. Prior to the issuance of a draft proposal a review should be conducted and any such impacts be analyzed.

Total Proposal Evaluation

If there is a preferred alternative (draft proposal) or alternative packages, describe any additional impacts and mitigation (over and above those addressed in key issue analysis) when considering the total proposal.

Consistency of the proposal with other plans, policies and laws.

Definition: Consistency means that implementing the proposal would not result in conflicting requirements between the proposal and other applicable laws and rules you (internal) or other agencies (external)

Internal consistency

Is the proposal internally consistent with your agency's previously adopted or ongoing plans and regulations?

If there are internal inconsistencies, how does the proposal deal with them?
Identify any strategies or ideas for resolving inconsistencies with existing, and /or, anticipated future laws, rules, or plans.

External consistency

Is the proposal consistent with adopted or ongoing plans and regulations of adjacent jurisdictions and/or other agencies, if applicable?

If there are external inconsistencies, how does the proposal deal with them?
Identify any strategies or ideas for resolving inconsistencies with existing, and /or, anticipated future laws, rules, or plans.

Unavoidable impacts and impacts to be addressed later.

Identify what impacts have been left to be addressed at the project level (i.e., thresholds which trigger further environmental analysis at the project level).

For GMA actions, what impacts from the proposal have been designated as acceptable under chapter 36.70A RCW?

12) Monitoring and Follow-up

How will the completion of and compliance with mitigation measures be monitored and enforced? Who will do the tracking, how will it be done, etc.?

How will the impacts of the proposal be measured in relation to any benchmarks, performance standards and/or thresholds identified in the proposal?

What other non-project actions will be necessary to achieve the objectives of this action?