

# Washington's Wild Future

## *A Partnership for Fish and Wildlife*

### **Wenatchee Regional Forum (Region 2)**

August 9, 2016

The following public comments were offered by participants at an open forum on fish and wildlife issues sponsored by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) at the Wenatchee Regional Forum. Approximately 26 participants attended the event, one of six regional forums conducted around the state.

#### HUNTING

- Take a look at guiding fees to help answer the budget shortfall
- Institute a fee? Decal for WDFW Lands
- Separate from Discover Pass partnership to avoid subsidizing State Parks... Go solo

#### FISHING

- Accountability for fishing guides
- Fish regulations too complicated - simplify
  - Rules pamphlet too complicated
- Take a look at guiding fees to help answer the budget shortfall
- Look to make river fishing opportunities consistent for all species, not just summer chinook
- Better flexibility for rule changes, when errors made, after pamphlet published (local reference to Icicle Creek).

#### FISHING LICENSE FEE PROPOSAL

- RFEG's are critical! Education! Outreach! Habitat! (Cascade/Columbia FEG)
- Don't price kids out from participation
- Out of state licenses kept reasonable and competitive
- Support a more modest increase – 3% across the board
- Columbia River cards > expensive!
- Catch record card > recommend 1<sup>st</sup> maintain free. Up fee on the second card
- Make catch record card split East/West side.

#### COMMERCIAL FISHING

#### CONSERVATION

- Have non-consumptive users pay fair share ~especially trail users~

- What are we doing to reach non-consumptive users to have them contribute to conservation?
  - Look for a different way to tap non-consumptive users for using WDFW lands = (personal use)
- AIS Patrols needed -- Idaho uses volunteers Montana uses Techs – much cheaper