

# GMP Background and Timeline

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# WHAT IS THE GMP?

Why is it useful to the  
Department?

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Game Management Plan

July 2015 - June 2021

Extended through June 2023



Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**

# GMP purpose

The purpose of the Game Management Plan is to assess current issues for hunted wildlife and outline strategies to help WDFW prepare for the future. The emphasis in this plan is the scientific management of hunted species populations, harvest management (hunting), and other significant factors affecting game populations. The plan is dynamic, and it is designed to facilitate resolution of emergent issues and allow adjustment of priorities when issues are resolved. The issues and options in the plan are based on current management information. As new information becomes available, options may be modified or new ones developed.



# The Basis of the GMP

- The GMP is based upon and grounded in the Department's mission and mandate
- The Legislative mandate "...the Department shall preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage the wildlife..." and "The commission shall attempt to maximize the public recreational... hunting opportunities..."
- Planning helps the Department prioritize actions to ensure accomplishment of its mission and mandate.



# The GMP is Intended to:

- Provide the public an opportunity to weigh-in through a formal process on high level game management issues.
- Identify data gaps and future research and monitoring needs.
- Provide direction on sustainable hunting management.
- Identify existing and potential limiting factors affecting game populations.
- Give broad direction on addressing known limiting factors.
- Provide a basis for work planning.
- Identify funding needs.



# The GMP is Not Intended to:

- Establish rules or laws.
- Provide detailed methods for management.
- Provide specific hunting seasons and method.

Note: Many of the actions recommended within the plan require additional SEPA or rule making processes to achieve.



# Where are We Now?

- In 2020 the Department formally extended timeline of the existing plan in order to align the GMP process with the 3-year season setting process. This was discussed with the Commission and the current GMP, with the SEPA extension, is in effect until June 30, 2023.
- We initiated the plan revision process in the fall of 2021.
- We intend to complete the process by December 2022.
  - However, Current and future discussions may alter that timeline.



# Where Happens Next?

- We will bring the Wildlife Committee additional content information and discuss how the Commission would like to engage in plan development in April.
- We will bring the Wildlife Committee options for paths forward to consider in May.
- We hope to solidify that the path forward with a presentation to the entire Commission in June.
- In the meantime, staff will be working to edit the chapters that the Commission and the public will review.
- The timeline of this review date will be determined by the discussions we are currently having.





# Questions?

