

Game Management Plan

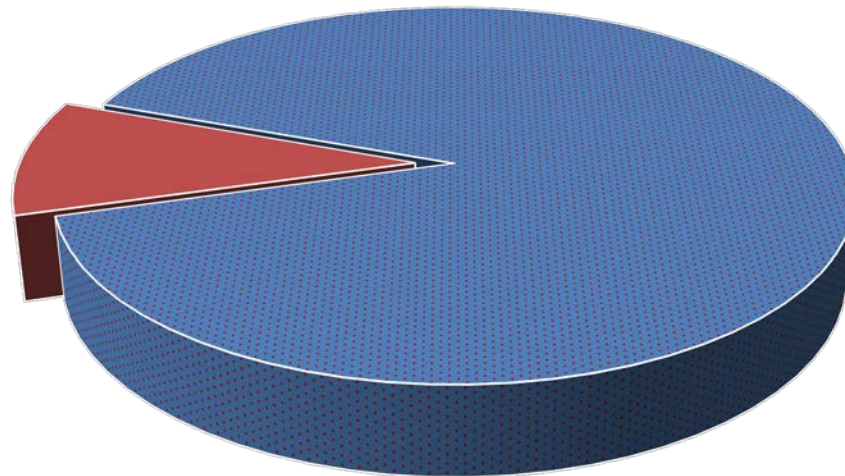
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Commission Policy and Dept. Guidance

Planning

**Formal
Commission
Policy directs
agency action or
rulemaking**



**Internal
operating
guidance for
agency
actions and
rulemaking**

■ Internal Guidance ■ Commission Policy



Commission policy development (what we've heard)

- Game Species Conservation Principles
- Spring Bear hunting
- Cougar guidelines
- Predator Prey management



Commission policy development (additional)

- How to structure sustainable hunting opportunity (general season vs. permit)
- The non-lead partnership



Policy documents:

- Frame rulemaking or can be rulemaking
- Purpose
- Definition and Intent
- General Policy Statement
- Conservation Objectives
- Management & Harvest Objectives
- Policy Guidelines
- Policy Review Frequency
- Delegation of Authority



Potential Plans (Guidance documents)

- Game Species Conservation Principles
- Predator Prey Management Guidelines
- Black bear
- Cougar
- White tailed deer (Plan exists but outdated)
- Elk (no stand-alone plan; Herd plans exist)
- Mule deer (Plan in place revise in future)
- Bighorn sheep
- Mountain goat
- Waterfowl
- Other migratory game birds (dove, pigeon, snipe and coot)
- Upland Game
- Small game and furbearers
- Wildlife conflict
- Private lands
- Pronghorn?



Game Spp. Conservation Principles

content:

- Introduction
- Public involvement expectation
- Commission and Department Authorities
- Identify high level policy issues to be considered
- What constitutes sufficient monitoring?
- Excerpt from current plan: "Hunting seasons and regulation recommendations should be based on good science. When biological information is lacking or insufficient, management decisions should be sufficiently conservative to ensure protection of wildlife resources. At no time should decisions favor income to the agency or recreational opportunity to the detriment of conservation wildlife populations."



Guidance document content:

- Brief background (status and trend)
- Habitat availability or limitations including climate change implications
- Monitoring
- Research
- Updated literature references
- Hunting opportunity and guidelines
- Other contemporary issues related to species or Guild
- Often lead to rulemaking (a form of policy)



Human Dimensions Surveys

- We have historically conducted a general population and a hunter survey
- The general population survey was just completed
- The Hunter survey will be completed soon
- These surveys will help in guiding objectives
- Additional surveys may be needed for specific species or guilds



Questions for the WLC

- Are you comfortable with this 2-prong approach?
- How will the WLC engage the Commission to determine policy topics & prioritization of work?
- Is the WLC the touchpoint for Guideline document development?
- Persuasive value of existing GMP diminishing over time



Discussion

