

Proposed approach for FWC review of grazing permits

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No proposed grazing permits today!

**Instead: mutual understanding of WAC
and expectations for future Commission
review of grazing permits**

WAC 220-500-200

[Certain] Grazing permits shall first be submitted to the commission, which may review the permits to ensure that they conform to commission policy [...] if, within thirty days, the commission has not disapproved a permit, the director shall be deemed authorized to issue that permit.

[...] A permit issued without commission review on acreage acquired by the department within the previous twelve months must not exceed an initial duration of three years, and may not be subsequently reissued before being submitted to the commission for review.

Significance of WAC:

For a permit requiring Commission review, following the 30-day period the Director may authorize the permit UNLESS the Commission acts to disapprove it



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For a permit requiring Commission review, following the 30-day period the Director may authorize the permit UNLESS the Commission acts to disapprove it

- We will only submit permits for your review that we support!
- We propose to provide annual reports to the Habitat Committee about grazing management, including requests for permits that are not granted.



Which permits could you review?

Scenario 1

Acres not previously permitted for grazing, OR, acres grazed under temporary permit that would transition to a multi-year permit



Which permits could you review?

Scenario 1

Acreage not previously permitted for grazing, OR, acreage grazed under temporary permit that would transition to a multi-year permit

Scenario 2

Acreage grazed under a 3-year post-acquisition permit that is up for its first subsequent renewal



Review Process:

Step 1 –

Department issues one or more temporary permits on acreage:

- a) without a permit history (“new” grazing)
- b) of recently acquired lands,

OR

Department issues one 3-year permit on newly acquired lands,

Then Department monitors and analyzes data

***NO COMMISSION REVIEW DURING THIS STEP**



Review Process cont.:

Step 2 – If the Department recommends a multi-year permit renewal on that acreage:

- a) Department presents permit concept and monitoring data to Habitat Committee
- b) Habitat Committee reports out to full Commission as desired
- c) Department concurrently sends permit materials to all Commissioners, which initiates 30-day review period



Review Process cont.:

Step 3 – 30 day review period:

Upon Commissioner request, Department would engage further and attempt to address questions/concerns

*Department would ensure that Commission has opportunity to act within the 30-day review period if desired (scheduled meeting)



Review Process cont.:

Step 4 – Department may issue permit UNLESS Commission acts to disapprove it within the 30-day review period



Information presented to Habitat Committee about any ~~purpose of acquisition~~ **proposed grazing permit:**

- Fund source requirements associated with acquisition
- Ecosystem type(s) and sensitive species
- Acres and AUMs
- Permit goals and objectives
- Ecological Integrity Monitoring results (if available)
- Relevant commitments or collaboration with local communities



Permit reviews on the horizon:

-Simcoe Mountains Unit Phase 5 (two years of monitoring on temporary permit, part of high-profile CRM): **Fall 2022**

-Big Bend Wildlife Area, acquisition of former DNR lease: **Winter 2023**

Consider consulting the Grazing Guidance and Grazing Management Tools and the Response to SEPA Comments that were provided last winter

13



Lastly: Proposed annual grazing report to Habitat Committee

of permit renewals

of permits requested/considered

of total permits issued

EIM results

of expected permits to be submitted for Commission review during following year (if known)





4-O Ranch Unit, Chief Joseph Wildlife Area



Questions?

