



## Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

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**Meeting date:**

8/5/2022

**Agenda item:**

10-year Recreation Strategy for WDFW-managed Lands - Briefing

**Presenter(s):**

Cynthia Wilkerson, WP Lands Division Manager; Joel Sisolak, WP Lands Recreation and Planning Section Manager

**Background summary:**

Staff will brief the full Commission on the *10-year Recreation Strategy for WDFW-managed Lands*, which was signed by Director Susewind and adopted on July 13, 2022. A copy of the strategy can be downloaded from the WDFW website: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02293>.

WDFW provides recreation opportunities for the public in the context of our commitment to conservation of natural, cultural and tribal resources. The department is best known for and remains deeply committed to supporting hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing. We also welcome other diverse recreation including boating, hiking, mountain biking, climbing, and motorized recreation. These latter uses have dramatically increased in recent years necessitating increased intention and investment in their management to protect precious resources, continue offering quality hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities, and welcome people with diverse backgrounds and interests to enjoy the lands we manage on their behalf.

The strategy represents a culmination of research and consultation with co-managers, partner organizations and the public and provides a pathway for investing in the evolution of WDFW's outdoor recreation management. The strategy outlines near-term and longer-term actions under 6 strategy areas: 1. Recreation planning 2. Education and engagement 3. Use and impact monitoring 4. Rulemaking 5. Travel management 6. Capacity and funding for the plan's implementation.

**Staff recommendation:**

This presentation will be a briefing only, no action required.

**Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:**

The goals of the *10-year Recreation Strategy for WDFW-managed Lands* are to offer quality recreation opportunities on WDFW-managed lands, increase protections for natural, cultural, and tribal

resources, and strengthen relationships with tribal, state, federal and local governments, nonprofit and local organization partners, local communities and diverse stakeholders.

**Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:**

This 10-year strategy will require significant near- and long-term investment. The estimated non-capital cost for implementation is \$40 to \$60 million. Prioritized near-term actions include making WDFW-managed lands more welcoming, developing data and systems to support planning and management, curtailing illegal activity, piloting expanded recreation planning processes in priority areas, and ramping up department capacity for planning and managing recreation.

**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

A draft of the 10-year Recreation Strategy for WDFW-managed Lands was reviewed through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process as outlined in state law. A SEPA checklist for the draft strategy was submitted and determination of non-significance (DNS) was issued on Jan. 10, 2022. An initial 30-day comment period on the draft and DNS was extended to Feb. 28, 2022, to provide time for additional outreach and engagement effort, which included translating the draft into Spanish and soliciting public comments in both English and Spanish.

599 comments were submitted during the 49-day public comment period. Comment letters were received from the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), Lummi Natural Resources Commission, Kittitas County Commissioners, Outdoor Alliance Washington, Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Conservation Northwest, Black Hills Audubon Society, and Spokane Audubon Society.

A summary of public comments and WDFW responses is available at:

[https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/comment\\_response%20table%204\\_11\\_2022.pdf](https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/comment_response%20table%204_11_2022.pdf)

**Action requested and/or proposed next steps:**

No Commission action requested at this time.

**Draft motion language:**

N/a

**Post decision communications plan:**

N/a