

Game Management Plan

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Purpose of Game Management Plans

- Guide the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's management of hunted wildlife.
- 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.
- 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.
- Provide direction on sustainable hunting management recommendations.

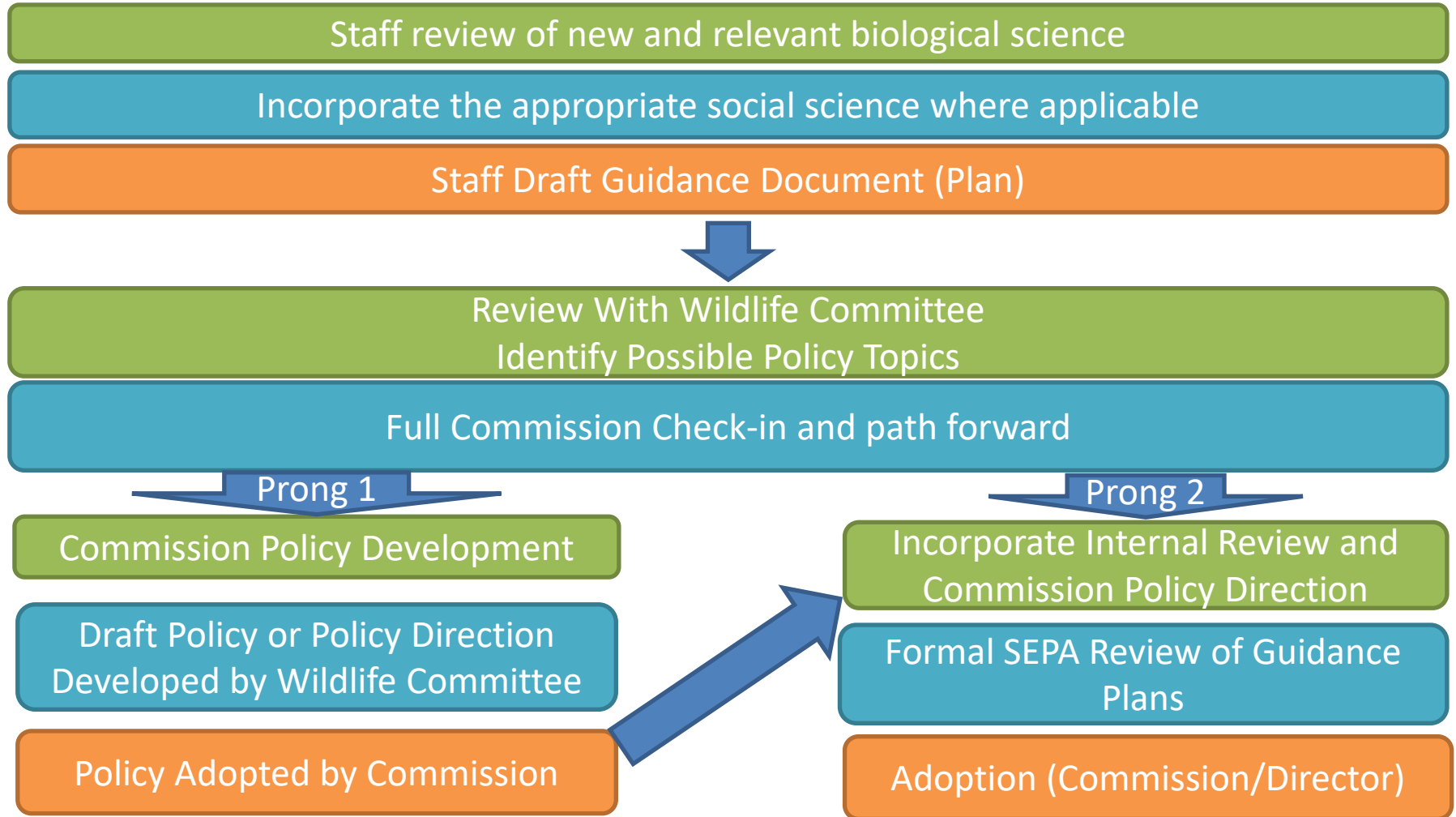


GMP Current Path Forward

- Commission will contemplate policy considerations that may inform or supersede individual plans – Prong 1
- Overarching plan and individual species and guild plans that will be produced to guide WDFW – Prong 2
- All plans will go through SEPA using a phased review approach
- Wildlife Committee/Commission will provide case appropriate review during the internal review process prior to public SEPA review
- Plans are not actions – hunts go thru Commission Rulemaking process, other content may inform resource allocations



2-Pronged Approach Flow chart



Committee and Commission Roles in GMP Development

Committee

- Overall guidance for game management plans
- Review draft Issue statements
- Identify policy choices for Commission consideration
- Recommend when a topic should move to Commission policy (Prong 1)
- Develop draft policies for Commission consideration

Commission

- Receive periodic updates on progress
- Develop Commission policies originating through Committee process or other avenues
- Review and approval of final plans

Plans will include

- A brief background with updated literature review and status
- Recreational hunting opportunity
- Overarching management goals
- Issue statements and associated objectives and strategies for each issue
- Appropriate linkage to the Overarching Plan
- Will tie content to annual status and trend reports so those reports track the objectives and strategies in these plans



Plan	Phase	Planned completion	Lead Authors	Process Owner
Overarching Plan Dept. and Comm. Authority, and General Game Mgmt. Issues	1	Aug. 2023	Anis A	Anis A
Waterfowl & Migratory Game Birds Mgmt. Plan	1	Aug. 2023	Waterfowl Specialists	Kyle S
Black Bear Management Plan	2	Dec. 2023	Carnivore Specialist	Vacant
Cougar Management Plan	2	Dec. 2023	Carnivore Specialist	Vacant
Predator-Prey Management Plan	2	Dec. 2023	Anis A	Anis A
Elk Management Plan	2	Dec. 2023	Ungulate specialists	Kyle G
White-tailed Deer Management Plan	2	Dec. 2023	Ungulate specialists	Kyle G



Plan	Phase	Planned completion	Lead Authors	Process Owner
Black-tailed Deer Management Plan	3	Oct. 2024	Ungulate specialists	Kyle G
Bighorn Sheep Management Plan	3	Oct. 2024	Ungulate specialists	Kyle G
Mountain Goat Management Plan	3	Oct. 2024	Ungulate specialists	Kyle G
Moose Management Plan	3	Oct. 2024	Ungulate specialists	Kyle G
Small Game, Furbearers, and Unclassified Species Mgt. Plan	3	Oct. 2024	Furbearer specialist	Vacant
Upland Game Bird Management Plan	3	Oct. 2024	Upland game specialist	Vacant
Mule Deer Management Plan	4	Aug. 2025	Ungulate specialist	Kyle G
Pronghorn Antelope Management Plan	4	Aug. 2025	Ungulate specialist	Kyle G



Progress

- Drafted and internally vetted issue statements for all plans
- Drafted, refined, and categorized Guiding Principles (Overarching Plan)
- Reviewed alternative format and content proposals
 - Identified new Introduction content and potential additions to the Principles and the Issue statements
 - Identified 2 potential Prong 1 policy issues
- Drafted and refining Agency and Commission Authorities (Overarching plan)
- Drafted and refining Overarching Plan Issue statements
- Drafted Waterfowl and Migratory Game Bird Plan (Internal review including Wildlife Committee)
- Process for tracking progress internally and externally



Next steps

- Reaffirm the Commission's interest in identifying Policy issues to address on their timeline
- Present Issue Statement for all plans to the Wildlife Committee during the phases
- Continue working with Wildlife Committee to identify policy considerations in subsequent plans
- Draft plans following the phases and timelines
- Internal plan review including Wildlife Committee
- Comply with SEPA process
- Seek Commission approval on plans as they are completed



Newly Identified Potential Policy Topics (Prong 1)

- Maximizing Hunting Opportunity
- Classification of Wildlife



Questions?

