

Deer Lake Petition - briefing and public hearing

Chris Donley
Region 1 Fish Program Manager



Presentation outline

- Review timeline and public involvement
- Location and lake description
- Review petition and justification
- Public concerns
- Review Public comment to date
- Current and proposed fishing rules
- Questions/Comments



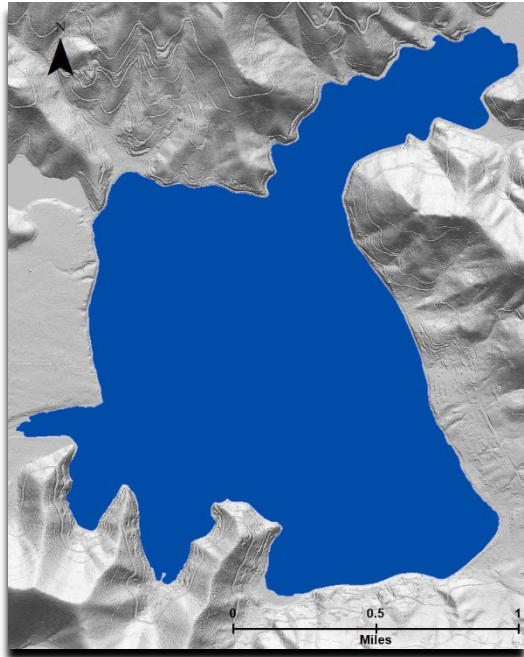
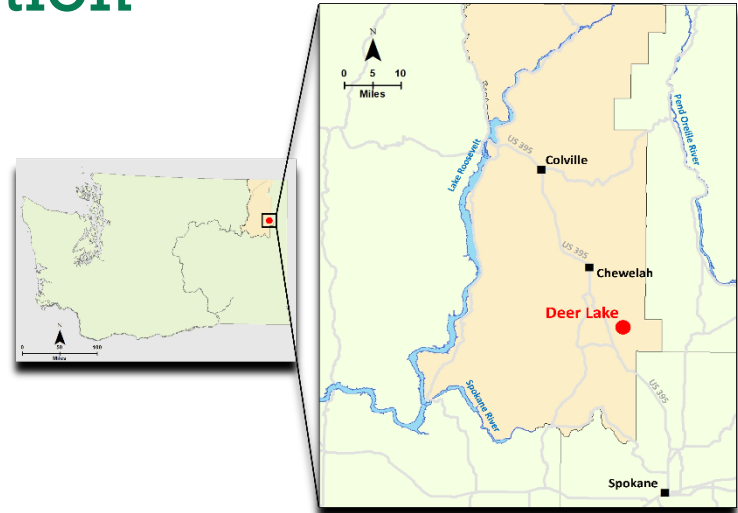
Timeline and Public involvement

Nov. 2023	Commission received petition
Dec. 15, 2023	Petition accepted by Fish and Wildlife Commission
Dec. 19, 2023	CR 102 (Proposal Rulemaking) filed
Jan. 3, 2024	Proposal posted to website for public comment
Jan. 16, 2024	Virtual public meeting
Jan. 26, 2024	Commission briefing and public hearing
Feb. 16, 2024	Commission decision



Location and Lake Description

- 1163 surface acres
- Max depth 75 feet
- Closed basin
- Fish Community
 - Lake Trout
 - Warmwater species (Smallmouth Bass, yellow perch)
 - Stocked trout (predominantly Rainbow)



Petition Review

Change fishing season open dates from **March 1-November 30** to **Year-round**

Petitioner Justification –

- Increased angling opportunity
 - Growing participation in ice fishing, including for Lake Trout
- Potential increase in revenue to local area related to angler trips (e.g., gas, lodging, tackle sales, etc.)
- Deer Lake is a productive Lake Trout fishery (high density)
- Increased harvest of Lake Trout would lead to reduced predation on stocked Rainbow and Brook Trout



Public concerns

- Overfishing of Lake Trout population
 - Negative impacts to the quality of the Lake Trout fishery (e.g., elimination of large individuals).
- In 2018, increases in vandalism and theft for lakeshore residences



Public comment

January 16 virtual meeting

– 12 attendees

- Four individuals commented.
 - All were in support of the rule change
- Two individuals were supportive but expressed concerns for overexploitation of Lake Trout and requested a conservative rule be put in place.

Written comment

Commission received two letters, 1 e-mail to staff

- DLPOA support for the rule change
- NWWG (John Magart), supportive of the rule change, need to consider conservative rule for Lake Trout harvest.
- NWWG (John Magart) recommended Lake Trout rule of 3 fish daily no more than 1 greater than 30 inches

Commenting via web portal

Four comments as of 1/19

- 2 support
 - Conservative rule for Lake Trout
- 2 opposed
 - Concerned with over exploitation of Lake trout
 - Opposed to Grizzly Bear reintroduction



Fishing rules

SEASON	SPECIES	RULES
Current:		
Mar. 1-Nov. 30	All Game Fish	Statewide min. size and daily limit. Except: Eastern brook trout count as part of trout daily limit.
Proposed:		
Year-round	All Game Fish	Statewide min. size and daily limit. Except: Eastern brook trout count as part of trout daily limit. Lake trout daily limit 5, no more than 1 over 30 inches may be retained.



Questions?

