

Columbia Basin Wildlife Area

Wildlife Area Advisory Committee

Charter

Introduction

The Columbia Basin Wildlife Area is one of the 33 wildlife areas owned and managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Located in Grant and Adams counties, the wildlife area encompasses 192,000 acres on 13 units.

Management of wildlife areas are guided by a Wildlife Area Management Plan. Advisory Committees provide guidance to the department on management of the wildlife area and in the development of the plan.

These plans are being revised to reflect current conditions and management objectives to support the agency's mission: *To preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.*

Purpose

The advisory committee will provide guidance and advice to the department on the management of the wildlife area. A main task of the advisory committee is to advise the department on the development of the new Columbia Basin Wildlife Area Management Plan, which will guide the actions on the wildlife area for the next 10 years. The plan is developed with input from the public, tribes, and interested stakeholders, including the Wildlife Area Advisory Committees (WAACs). This charter includes the purpose and responsibilities of the Columbia Basin WAAC and agency staff.

Wildlife Area Advisory Committee (WAAC) Membership

WAAC members represent a range of stakeholder groups and governments that have interest in management and activities on the wildlife area. Representation on the committees varies by wildlife area, and typically include birders, sportsmen, fish and wildlife conservationists, recreation, farmers, other government agencies, and those with a general interest.

A roster of members and alternates is included at the end of the document.

WAAC Role & Responsibilities

The role of the advisory committee is to provide tribal, public, and stakeholders' perspectives in WDFW wildlife area planning and management activities.

Responsibilities include:

- Identify an alternate for your seat on the WAAC. Attend all WAAC meetings or send alternate.
- Review information, discuss issues with staff and other committee members, and provide input during the development of the wildlife area planning goals, the draft plan, and biannual updates.

- In addition to the plan, the WAAC can be used as a forum to discuss on-going wildlife area issues.
- Share information and collect feedback from the larger groups represented, to share with the rest of the committee.
- Communicate about agency goals and wildlife area activities outside of WAAC meetings.
- Act in an advisory capacity, providing input to staff that will be considered in the department's decision-making process.
- Participate in other wildlife area planning public outreach opportunities such as public meetings.
- Members should discuss with WDFW staff if they any concerns about their ability to participate.

Term Limits

This advisory committee does not have term limits. Members cans serve as long as it is mutually beneficial.

WDFW Wildlife Area Planning Team Roles & Responsibilities

The WDFW Wildlife Area Planning Team consists of staff from the Columbia Basin Wildlife Area, from the regional and district offices, and WDFW headquarters in Olympia.

The role of WDFW staff relative to the advisory committee is to facilitate effective WAAC input in wildlife area planning and management activities. WDFW will develop the new Columbia Basin Wildlife Area Management Plan, and will seek the committee's advice and guidance about plan objectives, proposed actions, and planned management activities.

Responsibilities include:

- Develop productive agendas that clearly outline the desired outcomes of each meeting.
- Facilitate effective meetings and dialogue with advisory committee members.
- Develop materials and work products for WAAC review.
- Develop and distribute WAAC meeting materials and summaries
- Post agendas and meeting materials on the Columbia Basin Wildlife Area Advisory Committee webpage (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/cb-waac>)
- Consider and utilize WAAC input in making sound and informed decisions.
- Engage in discussion, answer questions and be transparent about department processes, policies and decision-making.

WAAC Operating Guidelines

The following guidelines are recommended for productive discussion and forward progress. Committee members are expected to:

- Attend all WAAC meetings or have an alternate.
- In addition to local views, bring a regional perspective to the table.

- Outside of WAAC meetings, represent your personal views and/or views of your respective agency or organization, not views of entire WAAC.
- As necessary, coordinate the participation of WAAC alternate members when not able to attend meetings, briefing and prep alternates in advance.
- At WAAC meetings, discuss issues and concerns in a productive manner:
 - All members are expected and encouraged to participate
 - Everyone’s perspective is valuable
 - Refrain from side conversations
 - Stay focused on meeting purpose
 - Keep comments to the point
 - Keep an open mind

Public Comment at WAAC Meetings

The purpose of WAAC meetings is primarily for committee discussion. This can be supplemented and enhanced with input from members of the public and interested parties. WAAC meetings open to the public and an opportunity for brief public input will be provided at each meeting.

WAAC Contribution

While not a voting group, the WAAC will provide valuable input for agency consideration. Through facilitation, the planning project team will solicit and listen to input, identify and understand the root of divergent opinions, and work towards group agreement. While consensus is not required, the group will have more impact on shaping the plan if they are able to reach agreement.

Meeting Schedule

The WAAC is expected to meet 2-3 times during the wildlife area planning process, and can also meet other times needed. After the plan is completed, WAACs typically meet twice per year or as appropriate. The planning meetings are typically 1) Introduction and overview; 2) review draft action items, and 3) plan review.

Columbia Basin Wildlife Area Advisory Committee

Name	Representing	Alternate
Pascal Bolduc	Friehe Farms; falconry, hunting	
Larry Frazier	Grant County Weed Board	
Clyde Lay	US Bureau of Reclamation	Julie McPherson
Robert Kent	Former Wildlife Area Manager	
Bev McClain	Banks Lake operator	
Shel Neufeld	Mattawa goose hunting	
Tom Odell	Ducks Unlimited, waterfowl hunter	
Matt Perkins	Rock climbers	
Dick Price	WWA Ducks Unlimited; Pheasants Forever	
Robert Sloma	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Nation	
Bill Warner	Flyfisher, hunter	
Lisa Wilson	US Fish and Wildlife Service	

WDFW Staff:

Chad Eidson Columbia Basin Wildlife Area Manager
Rich Finger Lands Operations Manager
Patricia Jatzcak Wildlife Area Planner (during plan development)

Resources

Columbia Basin Wildlife Area:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/places-to-go/wildlife-areas/columbia-basin-wildlife-area>

2006 Columbian Basin Wildlife Area Plan:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/00461>

Columbia Basin Wildlife Area Advisory Committee:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/cb-waac>

WDFW Advisory Group Handbook:

https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/WDFW_advisory_group_handbook.pdf