

Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas

Chief Joseph/Asotin Creek Wildlife Areas Advisory Committee Charter

Introduction

The Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas consists of the Chief Joseph, Asotin Creek, and WT Wooten wildlife areas. They are three of the 33 wildlife areas owned and managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Management of these areas is guided by a Wildlife Area Management 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.*

The Chief Joseph and Asotin Creek wildlife areas are located in Asotin and Garfield counties. The WT Wooten Wildlife Area is in Columbia and Garfield counties, and has an existing advisory committee, due to its geographic separation, types of uses of the wildlife areas, and management priorities. This charter is for the new Chief Joseph/Asotin Creek Wildlife Area Advisory Committee.

This advisory committee, and the WT Wooten advisory committee, will assist the department with the development of the new Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas Management Plan, which will guide the actions on the three wildlife areas for the next 10 years. The plan is developed with input from the public and interested stakeholders, including the Wildlife Area Advisory Committees (WAAC). This charter includes the purpose and responsibilities of the Chief Joseph/Asotin Creek WAAC and agency staff in the development of the Wildlife Area Management Plan.

Purpose

The purpose of the advisory committee is to provide input for the development of the new Blue Mountains Wildlife Area Management Plan that includes Chief Joseph, Asotin Creek, and WT Wooten wildlife areas.

Wildlife Area Advisory Committee (WAAC) Membership

WAAC members represent a range of user and stakeholder groups who have interest in activities on the wildlife area. Represented groups include sportsmen, conservation, hiking, cattlemen, horseback riders, and other personal interests.

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

WAAC Role & Responsibilities

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

Responsibilities include:

- 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.
- Attend all WAAC meetings or send alternate.
- Communicate about agency goals and wildlife area activities outside of WAAC meetings.
- Act in an advisory capacity, providing input to staff that to be considered in WDFW's decision-making process.
- Participate in other wildlife area planning public outreach opportunities such as public meetings.
- Register on the WDFW Volunteer website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/>.

WDFW Wildlife Area Planning Team Role & Responsibilities

The WDFW Wildlife Area Planning Team consists of staff from the Chief Joseph and Asotin Creek wildlife areas, from the regional office in Spokane, and the district office in Clarkston, 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 Blue Mountains 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 Blue Mountains Wildlife Area Advisory webpage (link) <http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/cja-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 short
- 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 other members of the public and interested parties. WAAC meetings are 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. 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 time during the wildlife area planning process. The meetings are typically 1) Intro and Overview (Aug 2017); Review wildlife area plan action items (Winter 2018), and review draft plan (Spring 2018). After the plan, WAACs typically meet twice per year or as appropriate.

Blue Mountains Wildlife Area Advisory Committee Member List August 2017

Name	Representing
Megan Stewart	Asotin County CD
Stan Wilson	Asotin County Sportsmen's Association
Danette Baker Studer	Washington Trails Association
Michael L. Calahan	Individual Interest
Glen Landrus	Wild Sheep Foundation
Joseph D. Ford	Long time WDFW Volunteer
Bud Scott	Individual interest
Jim Ross	Individual Interest
Sam Ledgerwood	Cattlemen representative

WDFW Staff:

Bob Dice	Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas Manager
Patricia Jatzak	Wildlife Area Planner