Topics

- Purpose of Plan
- Planning Process
- Plan Highlights
- Comments
Purpose of the Wildlife Area Plan

- Sets vision for next 10 years
- Guides management activities
- Ensures lands are managed consistent with WDFW mission and funding obligations
- Includes tribal, advisory, and public participation
Planning Process

1. Scope the Plan
2. Create Goals and Objectives
3. Prepare Draft Plan

Participation in all phases
Plan Sections

Part I: Wildlife Area Planning Overview
Part II: Management and Planning
Part III: Species and Habitat Management
Part IV: Appendices
I: Wildlife Area Planning Overview

- Planning Overview
  - Agency Mission, Planning Framework, Plan Purpose, Statewide & Goals, Public involvement

- Intro to the Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas
  - WLA Vision
  - Success Stories

- Wildlife Area Description
  - Overall, by wildlife area and unit
Vision for Asotin Creek.....

....is to protect native grass and riparian habitats and big game winter range, while providing recreation and economic opportunities consistent with healthy habitat management.
Vision for Chief Joseph…..

…. is to protect native range and forest habitats, cultural resources, and big game winter range, while offering excellent hunting opportunities and world-class fisheries on the Snake and Grande Ronde Rivers.
Vision for W.T. Wooten....

.....is to restore habitat for ESA listed fish and protect big game winter range, while offering quality outdoor education and recreation opportunities, such as fishing, camping, and hunting.
Success Stories

Restoring the forest in Grouse Flats
Improving the Tucannon River floodplain
Controlling noxious weeds
Partnering with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
II: Management and Planning

- Land ownership and management
  - Acquisition history, purpose
  - Agreements (leases, permits)

- Management Setting
  - Administration, staffing, operating funds
  - Facilities and maintenance, roads, land use, cultural resources, enforcement
  - Stewardship & volunteers
  - Recreation
## Stewards & Volunteers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Types of Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Twin River Backcountry Horseman</td>
<td>Horse camp – trail rides - cleanup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis &amp; Clark ATV Club</td>
<td>Trail rides – cleanup – fence &amp; water work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation</td>
<td>Habitat improvement – fence &amp; water work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Northwest Wildlife Council</td>
<td>Fence work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Rare Care</td>
<td>Native plant surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Hunter Program</td>
<td>Volunteer work for points towards their Master Hunter Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audubon's Canyon Birders</td>
<td>Bird surveys and bird watching field trips.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Work party to clean-up of the Asotin Creek target shooting area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recreation

- **Hunting**
  - Elk, deer, bear, cougar, pheasant, small game, turkey, upland bird

- **Fishing**
  - Rainbow trout, steelhead, smallmouth bass

- **Nature enjoyment**
  - Wildlife, birds, flowers, scenery

- **Camping**

- **Hiking, walking, horseback riding**

- **Other**
  - Shed antler collecting, target shooting, geocaching
III: Species and Habitat Management

- Physical Characteristics
  - Geology, hydrology, climate

- Ecological Values
  - Ecological integrity and habitat connectivity

- Species Management
  - Species list
  - Game, Diversity (non-game), Fish
III: Species and Habitat Management

- Habitat Management
  - Forests, fire, weeds, restoration

- Climate change approach
  - Resource impacts, planning implications
Target Species

Bighorn sheep
Elk
Mule deer
Bull trout
Steelhead
Chinook salmon
River lamprey

Lewis’s woodpecker
Morrison’s bumblebee
Grasshopper sparrow
Black-backed woodpecker
Golden eagle
Northern goshawk
Short-eared owl
Gray wolf
## Forest Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment Unit</th>
<th>Estimated Acres*</th>
<th>Task</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mountain View, 4-O Ranch Wildlife Area</td>
<td>300 to 500</td>
<td>Commercial Thin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountain View, 4-O Ranch Wildlife Area</td>
<td>up to 500</td>
<td>Non-commercial Thin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weatherly Wildlife Area</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>Commercial Thin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weatherly Wildlife Area</td>
<td>up to 200</td>
<td>Non-commercial Thin</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. T. Wooten Wildlife Area</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>Reforestation</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. T. Wooten Wildlife Area</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Non-commercial Thin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smoothing Iron Ridge, Asotin Creek Wildlife Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smoothing Iron Ridge, Asotin Creek Wildlife Area</td>
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<td>Non-commercial Thin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawmill, 4-O Ranch Wildlife Area</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Commercial Thin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IV: Appendices

- Species and Habitat Information
- Weed Management Plan
- Fire Response Information
- Research and Other Studies
- Forest Management Plan
- Restoration Summary/Plan
- Stewardship Plan (Section 6) for 4-0 Ranch Unit
- Water Access Summary
- Cultural Resources Summary
- Public Response Summary
Goals & Objectives
Ecological Integrity

- Establish baseline and goals
- Conduct assessment of prairie habitat & protection strategy
- Plan to conserve Spalding’s catchfly
- Repair, replace, maintain fences
- Control weeds
- Manage forest
Sustain species through habitat and population management

- Remove fish barriers
- Protect bighorn sheep from domestics
- Protect wildlife by removing fencing
- Reduce threat of lead poisoning to wildlife
- Reduce and manage human/wildlife conflicts
- Implement Wooten Floodplain Management Plan
Protect wintering wildlife from human disturbance

- Maintain seasonal closures/implement new ones
- Limit off road vehicle travel; close temporary roads
Achieve species diversity at levels consistent with healthy ecosystems

- Develop species-specific actions
- Conduct survey for species with greatest conservation need
Provide for and improve opportunities for hunting and fishing

- Increase knowledge of opportunities; promote hunting other than big game
- Review 4-0 special hunt status biennially
- Assess ADA hunt opportunities
- Assess opportunity to expand Green Gulch ATV access
- Continue to provide fishing opportunities on Wooten
Provide and improve other recreational opportunities

- Develop trail connection plan
- Improve and maintain trails
- Develop/improve campgrounds
- Improve conditions at shooting range
- Assess restroom needs
- Develop interpretive site or signs on 4-0 Ranch
- Develop plan for non-consumptive recreation
- Develop recreation maps
Stakeholder involvement and local relationships

- Continue Wildlife Area Advisory work
- Expand volunteer base
- Continue grazing and agriculture when beneficial to wildlife and consistent with policies
- Increase patrols to reduce poaching
Next Steps

- Advisory committee and tribes provide comments by Nov 21
- Staff review comments and edit plan if needed
- 30-day Public Comment period Nov 26-Dec 30
- Edit as needed; prepare comment summary
- Final plan formatted; Director’s approval
Thank You!

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