



Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**

L.T. Murray Wildlife Area Advisory Committee (WAAC)

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

## Meeting Minutes

The first L.T. Murray Wildlife Area Advisory Committee Meeting was attended by 3 WDFW staff, and 19 out of the 22 members: 14 members in person, 5 members via teams, and 1 guest.

WLA Manager Hannah Bates opened the meeting with an overview of the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and where work was left off from the last committee actions. Manager Bates asked each person to introduce themselves both the in-person attendees and Teams attendees.

There was a small break between the introductions and informational PowerPoint presentations.

The L.T. Murray WAAC Charter was then reviewed by Planner Holly English and Manager Bates with the group.

Planner English discussed the purpose of a WLA plan and the WDFW role and responsibility to the WAAC, highlights include:

1. Listening and recording the WAAC member suggestions
2. Presenting WAAC guidance/ advice to the WDFW planning team
3. Recruiting WDFW subject matter experts to attend meetings to provide more information on WAAC questions as needed

Manager Bates discussed the WAAC member roles and responsibilities, highlights include:

1. To attend meetings
2. Act in advisory role
3. Be engaged and provide feedback
4. Take information from meetings back to the groups that represent your interest
5. Participate in public outreach opportunities

To volunteer at DFW, register at link provided in the WAAC charter or go to WDFW website and search for volunteer opportunities.

Member Kevin Clements asked where he could see the current WLA plan and what's been completed so far on the new WLA plan.

- ❖ Manager Bates: Easiest way is to google L.T. Murray Wildlife Area Plan or go to WDFW site and search there.
- ❖ Planner English: We have a web page dedicated to the WAAC. We will post agendas, minutes, and documents there. The WAAC will review the goals and objectives section of the new plan at the next meeting.

Manager Bates then presented a presentation on general information about the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area Complex. A version of this presentation is available on the WDFW website.

Member Bill Essman requested that a representative from Ginkgo State Parks should attend meetings or be added to the WAAC. He shared concerns regarding the Ginkgo access road currently being closed to public regarding fire danger conditions that are no longer in effect now with the high humidity and rains.

- ❖ Manager Bates: State Parks was on the list for participation, but a representative has not been available. Further communication will try to be coordinated with WA State Parks for WAAC matters.

Planner English then presented a PowerPoint on the L.T. Murray plan and planning process. A version of this presentation is also available on the WDFW website.

Planner English says the goal is to have plan done by June 2023.

- ❖ She informed the group that recreation activities are changing on the states wildlife areas and managing for all these different entities can be challenging.
- ❖ The L.T. Murray Plan is to be a living document, meant to guide staff on management activities and provide answers for the public.

Member Bridget Wood asked if the Muckleshoot tribe was invited to attend the WAAC meetings.

Planner English: She said it's my understanding they were asked but declined but I will check with Ross Huffman, the new Region 3 Wildlife Program Manager.

Planner English then presented on the WAAC meeting schedule and anticipated meeting dates for the remainder of the planning process. Also, that once the Plan is completed in 2023, the WAAC meetings would only be held bi-annually for staff to provide updates on performance measures and answer any questions members may have.

Manager Bates explained that Doodle polls are provided to members in advance to select the best available date for future meetings. The next meeting is planned for a time in the last week of November or first week in December and will be in person attendance only due to the

complicated process of reviewing the plans goals and objectives (next meeting agenda). The following meeting should take place in January some time.

Member Jennifer Wapenski asked for considerations in meeting time, location, and offered platform (in-person vs. Teams) for members that live on the west side or over an hour away and have potentially troublesome road conditions to drive through.

Manager Bates recommended WAAC members to look up the Columbia Basin WLA plan to see what the new L.T. Murray Plan will look like compared to the original 2006 version.

Planner English asked members what their past experience was with being part of previous WAAC?

- ❖ Members Marc Eylar, Bill Essman, and Kevin Clements, have each participated in other Area's WAAC meetings for over 10 years and all agreed that it felt as if WDFW had been hosting the meetings just to check a box proving that step had been completed; that they showed no real interest in the advisory committee's advice. They hope things will be different with the LTM WAAC and Kevin says it seems better already.
- ❖ Member Jennifer Galbraith asked if WDFW purchased the Campbells property near the PSE wind farm. The Campbell property has not been acquired by WDFW.

Manager Bates and Planner English asked if any member of the public wished to comment. There were no comments.

Both Manager Bates and Planner English conducted closing comments, expressing gratitude to all members in attendance and that requested information would be sent out to members in the following week, while meeting notes and the Attendance would be posted on the WDFW LTM WAAC webpage.