Sunnyside-Snake River WLA Advisory Committee

Agenda
February 7, 2019

• Welcome & Introductions
• Advisory Committee Administration
  • Decisions for Charter
  • Review and agree
• Review Draft Wildlife Area Plan
• Other wildlife area topics
  • Rattlesnake Slope trails
  • Agricultural leases
• Discussion & Comments
• Next Meeting
Decisions for Charter

- **Alternates**
  - Agency guidance says alternate should be identified

- **Term Limits**
  - Not set by Agency – Committees decides
  - Possible options
    1. No term limits – serve as long as mutually beneficial
    2. 2 or 3 year limit – replace 1/2

- **Removal of Members**
  - Agency guidance - remove after missing two meetings without an alternate
  - Suggestion: “If you miss two meetings in a row with no alternate, talk to the wildlife area manager about your ability to continue on the committee”.

- **Other?**

- **Review Red line charter – change or agree**
Suggested Edits to Charter

Purpose
The purpose of the advisory committee is to provide input for the development of the new Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area Management Plan, which includes 15 units: Bailie, Benton City, Byron, Clark Pond, Esquatzel Coulee, Glover, HQ-Sunnyside, Hope Valley, I-82 Ponds, Mesa Lake, Nipper, Rattlesnake Slope, Thornton, Vance-Ferry Road, WB-10 Wasteway, Thompson Seeps, Whitstran, and Windmill Ranch.

Wildlife Area Advisory Committee (WAAC) Membership
WAAC members represent a range of users, tribes, and stakeholder groups who have interest in management and activities on the wildlife area. Represented groups can include sportsmen, conservation, hiking, agriculture, horseback riders, and other personal interests.

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 other stakeholders’ perspectives in WDFW wildlife area planning and management activities.
Suggested Edits to Charter - 2

Responsibilities include:

- Identify an Alternate for your seat on the WAAC
- 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 will be considered in the department’s decision-making process.
- Participate in other wildlife area planning public outreach opportunities such as public meetings.
- Register as a volunteer.

Term Limits

Removal of Members
Meeting Schedule

The WAAC is expected to meet 2-3 times during the wildlife area planning process. The meetings are typically 1) Intro and Overview (Spring 2018); Review wildlife area plan action items (Fall 2018); and review draft action items and plan (Winter 2019). After the plan, WAACs typically meet twice per year or as appropriate.
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Representing</th>
<th>Alternate</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Estes</td>
<td>Richland Rod and Gun Club</td>
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<td>Suzanne Sullivan</td>
<td>Ducks Unlimited</td>
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<td>Randy Cline</td>
<td>Pheasants Forever</td>
<td>Lower Columbia Basin Audubon / Native Plant Society</td>
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<td>Kathy Criddle</td>
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<td>Betsey Crisel</td>
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Sunnyside – Snake River Wildlife Area
Draft Management Plan

Advisory Review Timeline
Feb 1 – Feb 22, 2019
Plan Sections

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

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

Intro to the Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area
- Overview, name changes, Wildlife Area Vision
- Success Stories
- Vision

Wildlife Area Description
- Overall, by wildlife area, unit by unit (west - east)
- Snapshot – acreage, purchase info, overview of species, habitat, management, and recreation
- Primary management objectives are in Goals & Objectives table
Vision for Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area

The overall vision for the Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area is to restore, enhance, and maintain a variety of native and managed habitats to support a diversity of wildlife, which support quality waterfowl hunting, as well as birding, hiking, and a variety of educational and nature-based activities.
Success Stories

p. 15

- Wetland Enhancements
- Engaging Youth and Volunteers
- Clinics Teach Youth about Hunting
- Diversity of Hunting Opportunities
II: Land Ownership and Management

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 table, overview
- Conservation & studies
Recreation

p. 53

- Hunting
  - Primarily waterfowl and upland bird, turkey, small game, some deer and elk

- Fishing
  - Bass, perch and other warmwater

- Nature enjoyment
  - Bird watching, wildlife, flowers, river and ponds, scenery

- Walking, horseback riding
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), and fish

Habitat Management
- Forests, fire, weeds, restoration

Climate change approach
- Resource impacts, planning implications
Species and Habitat Management

- Species information starts on p.83
- Table 10 on p.84 lists the species that may be on the wildlife area that may be state or federally threatened (as well as other statuses).
- Game and non-game (diversity) species sections start on p.90
- Fish species and management starts on p.98 (Species Table 11)
- Habitat section starts on p.102
- Climate Change Approach p.105
IV: Appendices

A. Species and Habitat Information
B. Weed Management Plan
C. Fire Response Information
D. Wetlands Restoration Plan
E. Water Access Summary
F. Cultural Resources Summary
G. Public Response Summary
Goals and Objectives

Some of the actions in the plan are listed in the next few pages by overall goal. See page 60 of the plan for the complete table of goals and objectives for the wildlife area.

Ecological Integrity

- Establish ecological integrity baseline and goals to maintain and improve the ecological condition of the land
- Implement the Wetland Management Plan
- Implement Weed Management Plan
- Address habitat loss from recent fires
Sustain species through habitat and population management

- Conduct surveys for species with conservation need
- Develop regular occurring waterfowl surveys
- Enhance pollinator habitat
Enhance recreational experience through site development

- Focus enhancement and management of recreation at five priority units
- Install footbridge at Hope Valley
- Improve trails at Rattlesnake Slope

Improve fishing and hunting

- Assess the potential to improve lake fishing
- Identify opportunities to improve waterfowl hunting
Improve access and other opportunities

- Improve infrastructure at water access sites
- Maintain disabled hunter access program

Offer opportunities for engagement

- Coordinate WAAC
- Offer educational or service opportunities for youth
- Recruit new hunter and provide hunter education
Maintain relationships with community

- Assess project areas for culturally important plants
- Make boundary adjustments as necessary
- Evaluate agricultural leases

Properly equip for needs of WLA/Maintain facilities

- Identify reliable funding for maintenance and restoration
- Work with BPA on budget
- Maintain and upgrade water control structures
- Inspect fences and gages
- Clarify agreement with BOR
How to Comment

Advisory review period: Feb.1 – Feb. 22, 2019

1. Email: sunnyside-snakeriver@dfw.wa.gov
2. Call Phillip (509)545-2028
3. Call Patricia (360)902-2815

Thank you for your interest!