

Questions asked at 3-27-25 WAAC meeting:

- Where is the phosphorous in Rainbow Lake coming from? Where upstream in the Tucannon River is it coming from?
  - We do not have an answer for where the phosphorous is coming from at this time.
- Where are the closest domestic sheep or goats to the bighorn sheep currently?
  - There are a few private landowners in the Tucannon Valley that have domestic sheep or goats.
- If cow elk are living “too long” and not reproducing, do we need to harvest more cow elk?
  - It is not known for certain that the cow elk are living past their reproductive age and causing the low calf:cow ratios. More research would need to be done to determine if that is the cause, but if that were the cause then harvesting more antlerless elk could be a management strategy that would be implemented.
- What is the bull:cow ratio?
  - The current ratio is 19 bulls per 100 cows. The bull ratio is good for post-hunt, post-winter survival.
  - The current calf:cow ratio is 19.6 calves per 100 cows. The calf ratio is adequate for a stable population, but below what we would like for a population that should be growing based on history and available habitat.
  - The age distribution of bulls is more important than the bull:cow ratio to successful breeding of cows. If the composition consists of low numbers of adult bulls and high numbers of yearlings, breeding of cows can be spread across multiple estrus cycles due to poor yearling breeding success, leading to lower calf survival due to low weights going into winter.
- WDFW does not need to purchase more land. They cannot take care of what they have.
- Why does WDFW leave slash piles on the landscape to fuel wildland fires? Why can't the public take that material as firewood?
  - When WDFW does non-commercial thinning projects, the slash is piled and burned the following winter. Some slash piles do not burn on the first attempt

or do not fully burn. Slash piles can provide habitat for wildlife species so some piles may be left on the landscape.

- Firewood collection is not allowed on the WT Wooten Wildlife Area. Woodcutting is restricted to campfire use on the wildlife area only. Only downed trees can be cut. No wood can be removed within 200-feet of the Tucannon River or any perennial stream.