Agenda Item 7

Wolf Update



Donny Martorello, Wolf Policy Lead

Overview

- Current activities and updates
- Planning process for considering wolf translocation
- Roles and responsibilities among WDFW, the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the Wolf Advisory Group on the process and development of a post-delisting Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
- Science Presentation

July 10-11 WAG Meeting

Draft path for development of post-delisting wolf conservation and management plan



SEPA Processes



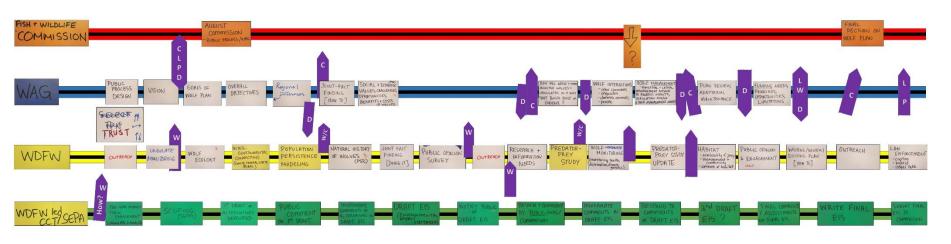
July 10-11 WAG Meeting

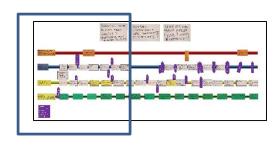
Draft path for development of post-delisting wolf conservation and management plan

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WAG/CCT TO
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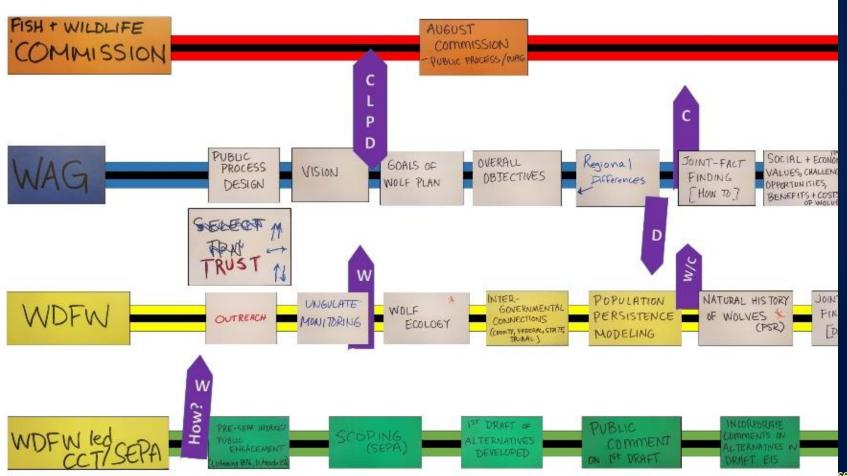
HOW DOES
COMMISSION +
WAG COMMUNICATE
(so no toe stepping)?

WHAT ARE WAG+ WDFW'S INTERIM & FINAL PRODUCTS TO COMMISSION?





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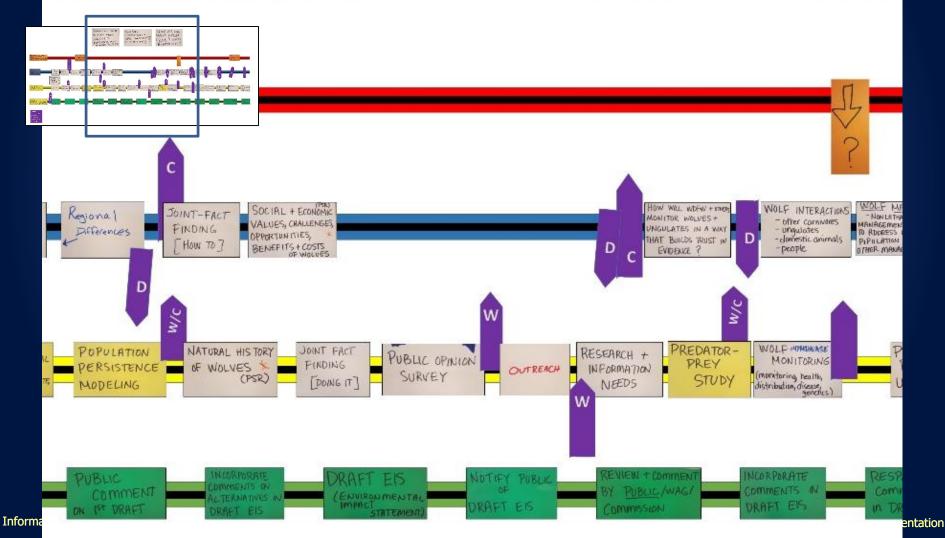
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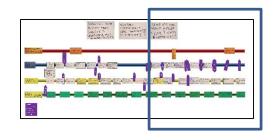
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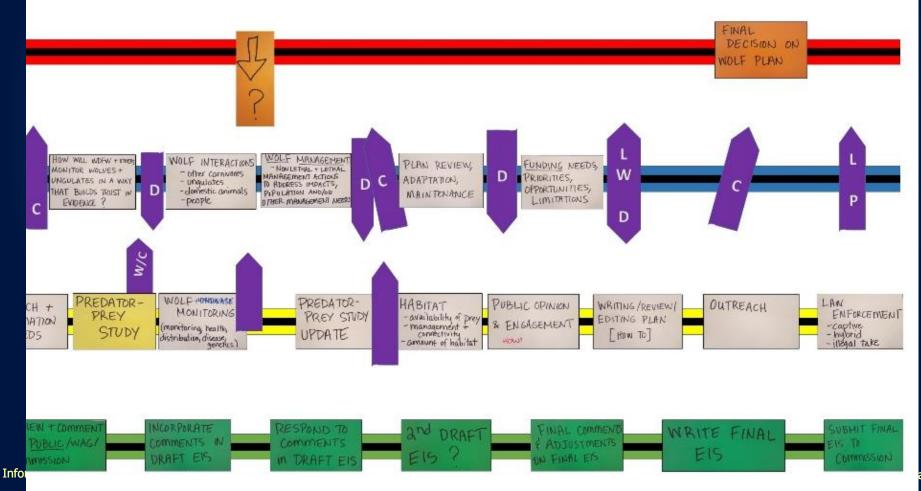
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March 2018 Wolf Advisory Group Literature Review



Scott McCorquodale, R3 Wildlife Program Manager Ben Maletzke, Statewide Wolf Specialist Candace Bennett, Wildlife Conflict Specialist Wildlife Program

Overview

- WAG Introduction to the Literature
 - Preparation for WAG meeting
 - WAG meeting recap
 - Introduction
- Concepts from WAG meeting
 - Carrying capacity
 - Density dependence
 - Additive versus compensatory mortality

Overview

- Materials provided
 - March 2018 WAG meeting minutes
 - Literature reviewed spreadsheet

Wolf Advisory Group Meeting Notes March 22, 2018

Hal Homes Community Center in Ellensburg

WAG Members: Paula Swedeen, Dave Duncan, Diane Gallegos, Tim Coleman, Dan Paul, Molly Linville, Tom Davis, Nick Martinez, Don Dashiell, Andy Hover, Jess Kayser, Jessica Kelly, Ralph Kratz, Samee Charriere

WDFW Staff: Donny Martorello, Candace Bennett, Joey McCanna, Steve Pozzanghera, Trent Roussin, Bruce Botka, Tara Meyer, Scott McCorquodale, Todd Jacobson, Dan Brinson, Stephanie Simek, Robert Waddell, Annemarie Prince, Ben Maletzke, Dan Christensen, Joe Bridges, Ellen Heilhecker. Steve Wetzel, Matthew Trenda

Third Party Neutral: Francine Madden

Welcome and check in

The third party neutral welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone checked in around the room. The third party neutral went over the agenda for the day.

Sharing information

A lot of overlap in information needs from the different groups from yesterday (including the public). The third party neutral went over some of the similarities from the lists created during the previous day's discussions. These themes will be fleshed out more in the future.

Eight major themes

- Process
- Plan
- Funding
- Impacts: Economic and other (plus/minus)
- Outreach
- Public Perceptions
- Science / data out there now
- Washington science

The department discussed how they implement science into decision-making. Research in general is often about exploring relationships between things. The goal is to find the cause and

Preparation for the WAG Meeting Introduction to the Literature

- Questions
 - WAG members
 - WDFW staff feedback
- Consolidated to four topics
 - Wolf population dynamics
 - Predator-prey dynamics
 - Ungulate populations
 - Conservation ConflictTransformation



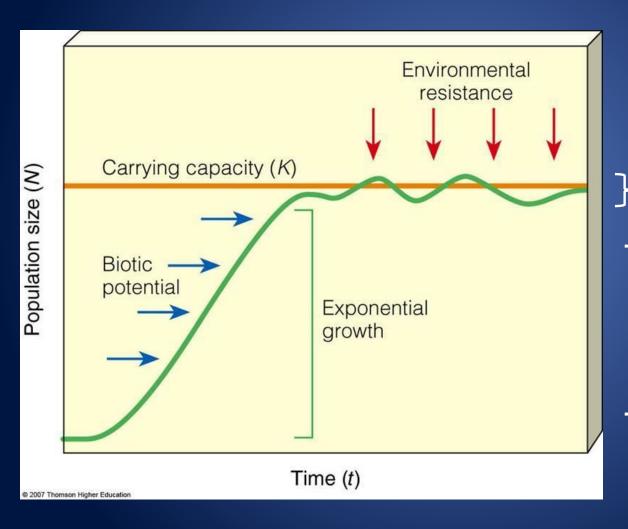
Preparation for WAG Meeting Introduction to the Literature

- Acknowledgments
 - A broad array of relevant resources available
 - First attempt to inform, not path forward
 - Science is often used selectively to support differing perspectives
 - Differences between popular articles/opinions and peerreviewed literature
 - Few studies examine management actions

WAG – Introduction to the Literature March 2018 Meeting Recap



Concepts from WAG Meeting Carrying Capacity



Factors can limit the population

Factors are influencing but not limiting population growth

Concepts from WAG Meeting Density Dependence

- A factor that acts in proportion to the density of animals.
- Density Dependence influences the population as it reaches Carrying Capacity (K).
 - Dependent factors
 - Availability of Forage, Predation, Intraspecific competition, Territoriality, Disease, Emigration
 - Independent factors
 - Severe Winter/Deep Snow/ Ice on Snow, Extended Cold, Drought, Human Impacts (-)
 - Mild Winter, Rains, Habitat Enhancements, etc. (+)



Concepts from WAG Meeting Density Dependence

- Populations below Carrying Capacity (K):
 - Individuals in good body condition
 - Environmental stresses may have less impacts

- Populations near Carrying Capacity (K):
 - Larger proportion of individuals may be in poor body condition
 - More susceptible to limiting factors

 severe winter, drought, disease,
 predation, catastrophic events, etc.

Concepts from WAG Meeting Additive vs. Compensatory Mortality

- Additive Mortality When an animal dies from cause A, had that not happened, they would very likely persisted in the population and contributed to population growth.
- Compensatory Mortality One kind of mortality largely replaces another kind of mortality.



Example: N Yellowstone Elk Numbers

Wolves Reintroduced

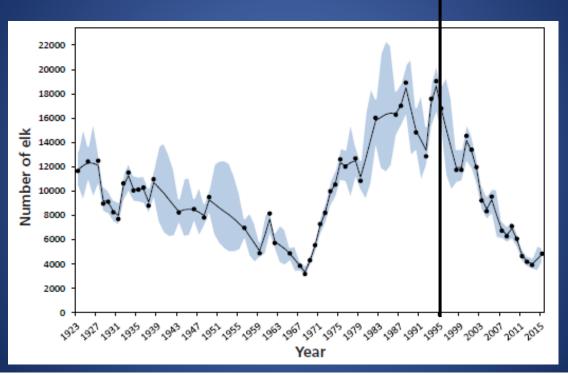


Figure 1. Counts (circles) and fitted trend line for abundance of the northern Yellowstone elk herd, 1923-2015. Shaded area indicates uncertainty about the trend. Data are from the Northern Yellowstone Cooperative Wildlife Working Group.

MacNulty et al. 2016

Example: N Yellowstone Elk Hunter Harvest

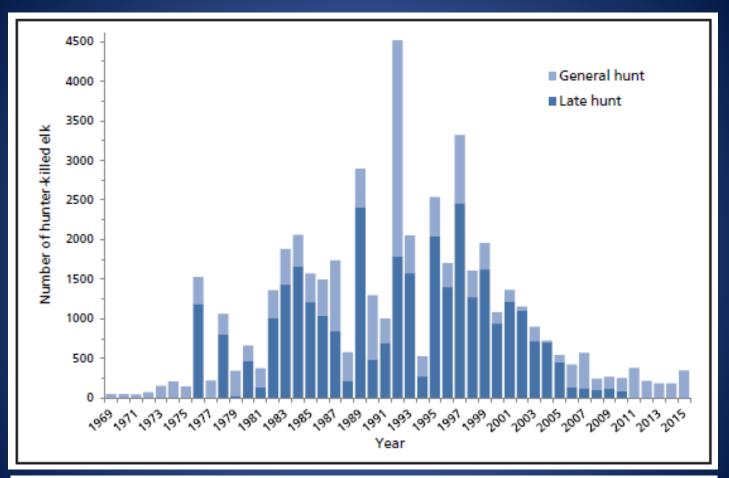


Figure 4. Annual number of northern Yellowstone male and female elk harvested by hunters in Montana Hunting District 313 (north of the park boundary) during the natural regulation era, 1969-2015. The final late season hunt occurred during the winter 2009-2010. Data are from Lemke et al. (1998), Vucetich et al. (2005), and Loveless (2015).

MacNulty et al. 2016

Summary

- The systems have varying levels of complexity
- This complexity strongly affects case study outcomes
- Science often evolves
- Wildlife management includes people and wildlife

