

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area



We want your input!

Plan to attend:

WHAT: Public workshop to learn about the wildlife area planning process and share your ideas about habitat management and public use.

WHEN: 6 to 8 p.m., April 11

WHERE: WDFW Region 4 Headquarters,
16018 Mill Creek Boulevard
Mill Creek, WA 98012-1541

CONTACT: Jeanne Demorest - (509) 964-2040
or jeanne.demorest@dfw.wa.gov



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*Washington Department
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Snoqualmie Wildlife Area

Snoqualmie wildlife area management plan

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is developing a new management plan for the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area in northwestern Washington. The plan will provide management direction for nearly 2,774 acres in King and Snohomish counties.

The Snoqualmie Wildlife Area consists of six units that are situated within the Snohomish watershed, including the Skykomish and Snohomish rivers, which join to form the Snohomish River. Habitats include estuaries, various types of wetlands, forested uplands, and agricultural lands. The various units contain a wide range of wildlife including waterfowl, eagles and chinook salmon.

WDFW acquired the wildlife area properties between 1964 and 2008, using federal and state funding. The department primarily manages the wildlife area to preserve and enhance wildlife and their habitats, and to provide opportunities for hunting, and wildlife-related recreational opportunities.

The new management plan will address the status of wildlife species and their habitat, ongoing restoration efforts and public recreation opportunities at the Snoqualmie wildlife area.

Cherry Valley encompasses 386 acres of forest and grassland in the Snoqualmie River floodplain, one mile north of Duvall. This unit consists of deciduous and coniferous forests, wetlands and uplands. The unit also includes some farm fields, grass meadows, streams and hedgerows. The Cherry Valley unit is located on one of the lowest points in the Snoqualmie River valley, so flooding is common from mid-November to April. The department has implemented projects to restore salmon populations in the two creeks that flow through the unit. Recreation on this unit includes pheasant and waterfowl hunting, recreational dog training, and wildlife and bird viewing.

Corson Natural Unit includes 160 acres of river bottomland just north of Lake Stevens in a rural residential area. It was last logged and cleared in the 1950s. The previous owner donated the property to WDFW in 1976 for wildlife habitat enhancement and non-hunting public use. The unit contains several large ponds and approximately seven acres of fields that provide forage for birds and waterfowl. Corson Natural unit also contains second growth forest with deciduous and coniferous trees. Catherine Creek cuts through the northeastern corner of the unit. In the last 15 years, volunteer groups have cleared the alder trees and brush and planted about eight acres of coniferous trees.

The Crescent Lake unit totals 360 acres of forest, sloughs and farm fields, located three miles south of Monroe. The property was purchased by WDFW in 1974 for waterfowl and pheasant hunting, wildlife conservation, and wildlife-related recreation. Crescent Lake is a 10-acre oxbow lake that was once part of



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the Skykomish River. Riley Slough runs through another former river channel and enters into the Snoqualmie River near the northwest corner. The unit also contains a 25-acre marsh and about 215 acres of deciduous woodland. About 100 acres are farmed through sharecrop agreements, which provide forage and cover for wildlife and waterfowl. There is a network of trails through the forest and fields to provide areas for hiking and nature observation. A 200-foot long footbridge built across the lake in 1978 completes the loop. There is a gravel parking area with reader boards at the north and south ends of the property.

Spencer Island is located in the Snohomish River estuary just east of Everett. Through a joint acquisition and co-management agreement in 1989, WDFW owns 175 acres and Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Department owns 240 acres. The island is a flat, grassy wetland complex ringed by mixed forest that provides waterfowl and wildlife habitat. In 2004, the dike was breached on the WDFW property, on the northwest side of the island providing a tidal influence to the area. Numerous community volunteer projects have restored an elevated hiking trail that is approximately 1 mile long. This trail provides waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Various salmon recovery groups are working together to continue restoration of this estuarine system.

The Stillwater unit, which includes 456 acres, is located three miles north of the town of Carnation. It was purchased in 1970 for hunting, wildlife conservation, and wildlife-related recreation. This unit contains a mix of active farm fields,

forest habitats, wetland and stream drainages with hedgerows and fallow grassland meadows. Seasonal flooding is common and can inundate the entire unit. Stillwater has three small oxbow lakes – two that are connected to Harris Creek during high flow events and one that is a separate drainage. Harris Creek runs through the center of the property before emptying into the Snoqualmie River. This unit also has 8,500 feet of Snoqualmie River shoreline. Waterfowl and pheasant hunting are very popular activities as are wildlife viewing and hiking. King County Parks and Recreation Department owns and manages the Snoqualmie Valley Trail which skirts the unit's eastern boundary. There are two parking areas a mile apart and adjacent to Highway 203 with information boards.

Ebey Island is located south of the Highway 2 trestle between the Snohomish River and Ebey Slough. It is 1,237 acres in size and consists of forested swamp and grassland. The forested portion was logged in the 1890s and reforested naturally into one of the few remaining Sitka spruce swamps in the Snohomish River estuary. The unit contains a mix of farm fields, fallow grass lands, and Baltic rush, and is divided by the forks of Deadwater Slough, which spans the unit's length, north to south. There is also a network of ponds, drainage ditches, and sinkholes throughout the unit. Outdoor activities include pheasant and waterfowl hunting, wildlife viewing, and walking along the Ebey Slough dike road. Much of the unit is closed for waterfowl nesting and rearing habitat during the non-hunting season. Public access is very limited. There are no established walking trails or footbridges on the unit.

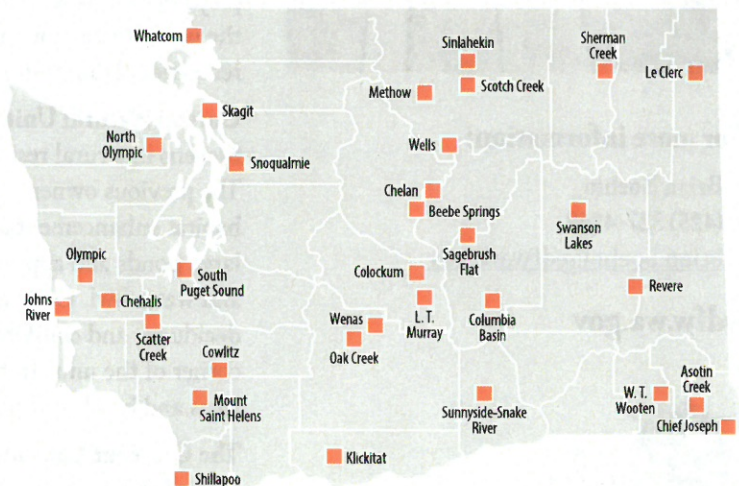
The public is invited to participate in the planning process, through public workshops, by sending comments to SnoqualmiePlanning@dfw.wa.gov and by attending Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Advisory Committee meetings.

WDFW developing new plans for 33 wildlife areas

WDFW manages nearly 1 million acres of land, divided into 33 wildlife management areas. Each year these areas attract about 4 million visitors who hunt, fish and observe wildlife in their natural environments.

Each area is guided by a management plan that addresses the status of wildlife species and habitats, public recreation, habitat restoration, operations and maintenance (such as weed management and facility improvements), and other activities to meet the department's mission of preserving, protecting and perpetuating fish, wildlife and ecosystems. Plans are revised periodically to reflect current conditions and the progress of past activities, and to identify new management priorities.

WDFW involves citizens on advisory committees that help develop each management plan and provide feedback throughout the planning process.



**Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Planning
Public Scoping Meeting
April 11, 2016
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 6:00 – 6:30 | Open House |
| 6:30 - 7:00 | WDFW Staff Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Welcome & introductions▪ Meeting format, agenda & public process▪ Planning process & timeline▪ Wildlife area highlights▪ Clarifying Q&A |
| 7:00 - 8:00 | Open House |
| 8:00 | Adjourn |

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Management Plan

Public Scoping Workshop Summary

April 11, 2016

Introduction

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) hosted a public scoping workshop on Monday, April 11, 2016, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the WDFW Region 4 headquarters in Mill Creek. The purpose of the workshop was to share information about the wildlife area (WLA) planning process and to solicit public and stakeholder input.

The workshop began the planning process for developing a new management plan for the Snoqualmie WLA, one of 33 plans the department will revise over the next six to eight years. Plans are updated every two years to reflect changes in landscape and management priorities. The current plan for Snoqualmie was developed in 2006, and was updated in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2014. These plans and updates are available at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/

In this process, the plans will be expanded to include new agency initiatives, progress towards goals identified in earlier plans, and new WLA priorities. The plans will consider the interests and impacts of stakeholders and user groups; set goals for assessing and monitoring ecological integrity; outline forest management priorities; identify appropriate public use, recreation area and facility improvements; as well as weed control and other operations and maintenance activities.

Attendance

68 people attended and signed in at the workshop including interested parties from the communities of Seattle, Mill Creek, Fall City, Lynwood, Snohomish, Tacoma, Arlington, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Sultan, Stanwood, Redmond, Kirkland, Kent, North Bend, Sammamish Everett, Bothell, Carnation, Duvall, Woodinville, Bellevue, Lake Stevens, Auburn, and Shoreline. Stakeholder groups included Sound Salmon Solutions, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Water Dog University, Audubon, WRC, GRC, RHRC, GSP of Washington, American Kennel Club, MHAG, EGRC, WSOTC, NWPLC, Mountains to Sound Greenway, WWA, TRC, GSPCWA, WRTC.

Workshop Format

The workshop was designed in a combination open house/presentation format. Maps of the wildlife area were posted, and participants were encouraged to share specific and general feedback after the presentation and at breakout stations.

Staff presentation

Russ Link, Regional Wildlife Program Manager, welcomed the group and introduced member of the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee (WAAC) that were present:

- Martha Jordan, Audubon/NW Swan Conservation Organization
- Brent Hackney, Leque Island Stakeholder Group, Business Owner
- Troy Rahmig, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Each member spoke briefly about being a member of the WAAC.

Russ also introduced the following staff members:

- Russ Link, Regional Wildlife Program Manager
- Brian Boehm, Wildlife Area Manager
- Ruth Milner, Wildlife Biologist
- Jeanne Demorest, Planning Project Manager
- Melinda Posner, Planning, Recreation & Public Outreach Section Manager
- Jamie Bails, Habitat Biologist
- Loren Brokaw, Restoration Projects Coordinator
- Ericka Thomas, Customer Service Specialist
- Sergeant Kim Chandler
- Captain Alan Myers
- Sergeant Jennifer Maustad

Melinda Posner, facilitator for the meeting, emphasized the early stage in the planning process and the desire to hear from the public and stakeholders about interests, issues, and potential priorities for these WLAs areas. She noted multiple methods for providing comments including written comment sheets that can be turned in at the end of the meeting or emailed to SnoqualmiePlanning@dfw.wa.gov . Questions and comments can also be directed to:

- Jeanne Demorest: jeanne.demorest@dfw.wa.gov
- Brian Boehm: brian.boehm@dfw.wa.gov

She also noted the number of comments the agency has received regarding dog training on the wildlife area and indicated that agency staff agree that this is a topic that will require more discussion, which may include scheduling additional meetings or other outreach.

Melinda reviewed the department's overall process for updating all state wildlife area plans. She shared that the following new topics the plan will consider:

- Property history & funding obligations
- Resource management & environmental integrity
- Recreation management
- Expanded public outreach including public workshops, information materials and Wildlife Area Advisory Committee meetings

She summarized the planning process for the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area; staff expects a draft plan by the fall of 2016, and the final plan by the end of the year. Melinda introduced Brian Boehm, Wildlife Area Manager. Brian described the current activities at each of the six units that make up the wildlife area and emphasized the importance of volunteers.

Comments Recorded at the Meeting

Overall:

- Keep access open
- Collaborate with dog/hunt groups for upkeep on training areas
- What are the results of dog use study – last year and this
- How did having field trial/tests effect study
- Mowing for dog training
- What about tracking or search and rescue
- Not allow pro-trainers to use the area w/o permit or ban
- At dog meeting must have maps for people to draw where they want dog training to be at Cherry Valley and Crescent Lake
- Resolve conflict of use between retriever, field trial, upland bird trainers – they all have different needs
- Cherry Valley and Stillwater: more shallow ponds for waterfowl hunting
- Acquisition for dog training – Pepper's
- .003% of wildlife land in state to serve 38% of the population
- Put ponds in other places
- Hunting hours are not good for deer/elk hunting
- Breed pheasants with gills
- Solar powered outhouses? Not enough outhouses and not clean enough
- Brian is doing a great job
- Better signs so bikers can get to the river and enjoy more of the WLA
- Signs on parking lots that designate the N vs S parking lots – better signs in general
- More shallow ponds for bird watching
- Why are ag activities allowed during nesting season when dog running is not allowed?
- Car break-ins: need more enforcement presence – may be coordinated with the sheriff.
- DuVall High School or other schools are good sites for holding meetings.

Ebey Island:

- Improve roads for volunteer access for pheasant release and public access
- Shallow ponds and access improvements
- Develop master plan for the Island
 - Incorporate agriculture & moist soil management where practical

Stillwater:

- Eradicate Himalayan blackberry – there is a lot and it is a noxious weed

Crescent Lake:

- There is water available here for dog training
- Keep access open year around
- Clarification on Crescent Lake sign to show dog training area. Zoom out & show “you are here”
- Bring back the bridge @ Crescent from south to center area

Cherry Valley:

- After hunting season open the gates
- Maintain access for dog training

- Keep access open year around
- Open gate to pond area
- Mowing to increase human access for hiking
- Increase dog training area from 10 to 60/80 acres
- Open pond area up & control vegetation so people can use for training dogs
- Place to train dogs is critical – pond is important
- Water features for dog training
- Dog events
- Grant was for hunting and dog training
- Paid for with P/R funds
- Parking/traffic danger
- Parking & 20 acre site too far removed from each other
- Open the gates
- Use dog trainers to help with maintenance
- Need 60+ acres of land with ponds available
- More access for disability users
- Hunting above Cherry Valley wetland too deep no shallow ponds in ag plots put ponds in other places

Other input:

- ADA concerns – need to have access
- Older people can't walk long distances especially with training equipment
- Stakeholders/users are interested in working together
- Feels the manager manages for personal preference; not sure what the issues are; guesses are:
- Trash
- Fish
- Nesting birds
- Need safe access – not having to unload dogs on a busy highway; parking lot is constrained
- Maintain access
- Short memory in state; historical leaves with ongoing manager; e.g. no funds to mow but dog trainers came out to help
- For future meetings, post info on the signs at Cherry Valley parking lot
- Conflict with off-leash dog parks folks – is enforcement driving decisions?
- Concerns about what is being sprayed on crops?
- Farmer practices might not be following the rules for spraying pesticides
- Retriever training folks would like to have water access
- What triggered the closure (smaller area for dog training) decision? It's never been clear to recreation users. As a result there are many speculations – economic downturn leading to less resources for O&M; not a clear answer as to what management problem is being solved
- Other dog training needs to be addressed that are not currently being met:
- Pointers
- Field trials

- Tracking
- Consider “contract farmer” invest in habitat that supports hunting
- Contradictions about nesting birds and mowing
- Protecting high quality habitat and having enough space for dog training can all work at Cherry Valley – one example was expanding the current area bounded by Lateral A and keeping all other land in quality habitat
- Need to create designated area for those simply walking dogs on leash – there is room for them at Cherry Valley too; current practice has folks walking right through the training area
- Non-hunting dog training vs. hunting dog training: most of those doing dog training also hunt (and do the non-hunting activities during non-hunting season) but not everyone; the types of training activities include:
 - Field trials
 - Tracking
 - Hunt tests
 - Search and rescue (not related to hunting)
 - Falconry
- Interesting fact: 1948 – the very first trial event was held in WA state – and this occurred at Snoqualmie Wildlife Area –68 years of history; should be part of the area

Next steps in the planning process:

- Internal meetings to discuss public input – May 2016
- Stakeholder meeting(s) to follow-up on input from initial public scoping meeting – summer 2016. Invitations for the meeting will be sent to the mailing list.

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Management Plan

Comment Sheets

Summary of Responses

April 25, 2016

Question 1: *What interests you about the Snoqualmie Wildlife area?*

- Hiking and Birding (6)
- Pheasant Hunting (2)
- Duck Hunting (3)
- Goose Hunting
- Bird Hunting (5)
- General Hunting (9)
- Dog Training (28)
- Dog competitions/trials (4)
- Dog exercise area (2)
- “Future Uses”
- Enjoyment of diverse ecosystem abutted to urban space (6)
- Exercising (4)
- Wildlife Observation
- Photography (2)
- Family outings (2)
- Youth Mentoring
- Habitat Enhancement (2)
- Wood Duck nesting boxes
- Duck nest tubes
- Preservation of bird area
- Opportunity to enjoy various outdoor activities
- Suggestion: “Fill in deep ponds to attract more waterfowl.

Question 2: *Please check the boxes that correspond to the areas you visit and indicate how often you visit.*

Areas Visited	# of visits per season			
	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Cherry Valley	258	266	246	150
Corson Natural Area	1	1		
Crescent Lake	64	360	103	85
Ebey Island	22	22	42	42
Spencer Island	10	10	22	12
Stillwater	199	180	230	199

Question 3: What recreation activities do you pursue at this wildlife area?

	Cherry Valley	Corson	Crescent Lake	Ebey Island	Spencer Island	Stillwater
Hunting	25		17	10	5	18
Fishing	9		1			2
Wildlife Viewing	12	2	8	5	2	8
Dog Walking	27	1	8	3	2	13
Dog Training	12	1	18	7	2	13
Exercise	4		7			7
Hiking	3	1	5	3	1	5
Photography	3	2	4	3		5

Other:

- Cherry Valley: Dog "events" - 2, Youth Mentoring - 1, Dog "tracking" - 2, Restoration Work - 1, Wildlife Survey - 1, Take new friends to show how to train dogs – 1
- Corson: None
- Crescent Lake: Wildlife Survey - 1, Trumpeter Swan Observation -1
- Ebey Island: Wildlife Survey - 1
- Spencer Island: None
- Stillwater: Restoration Work - 1, Dog "tracking" - 2, Wildlife Survey - 1

Question 4: What particular wildlife and/or fish species, and/or habitats are you interested in?

- Forest (1)
- Grassland (12)
- Wetland (16)
- Agricultural area (6)
- River/Stream (4)
- Riparian (3)
- Pheasant (8)
- Ducks (6)
- Geese (4)
- Swans (1)
- Dogs (11)
- Elk (1)
- Salmon (3)
- Other fish (1)
- Upland game (2)
- Songbirds and other species for bird watching (1)

Question 5: What changes or improvements would you like to see on the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area?

Cherry Valley:

- Re open area to dog training (12)
- Consistent mowing through spring and summer (7)
- Remove blackberries (2)
- Less corn planted (3)
- General access

- Open up 60-80 acres for grass and wetlands for dog events (no region given, but probably Cherry Valley, based on other comments given).
- Expand training areas (2)
- Limited access to back of property (2)
- Access to training ponds (3)
- Plant grass (other than canary grass)
- Open both gates from HWY 203
- Allow volunteers to maintain grounds for dog training
- Allow volunteers to mentor youth in upland hunting
- Tell Chandler and Boehm to stop harassing dog trainers
- Increase restoration of native habitats
- Increase user friendly features such as walking trails
- Fewer season restrictions
- Make signage that is easier to read (although commenter says it is better this year)
- Make a level setback
- Increase community involvement (commenter admits that this has significantly improved recently).
- Flood control for better access
- Gravel road

Stillwater and Chinook Bend

- Maintain parking lots
- Stillwater: mow out areas, remove blackberries, continue agriculture (3)
- Open area to dog training (3)
- Year-round access for dog training
- Flood control for better access
- Beaver management

Crescent Lake

- Open areas for dog training (4)
- Mowing dog areas (2)
- Year-round access for dog training.

Unknown (no units specified)

- Open dog training area (2)
- Times allocated for dog training
- Less agriculture and more open grassland (2)
- Leave as is, but better access and safety near Ro... (couldn't read the rest because cut off during copying) Road?
- Reinstate dog training area to original size so that more than one small group can be training
- Open gates so users can drive in (2)
- Would like to see more places to train bird dogs instead of having them taken away.
- Ponds are too deep to hunt waterfowl; use Ducks Unlimited to improve ponds
- Increase waterfowl Habitat
- Would like to see more cover left in open fields for wildlife

All Units

- Create shallow ponds in back areas as well as in areas that have crops planted. Observe most waterfowl in Snoqualmie Valley are on private lands with a combination of crops, grass, and shallow waters
- Consistent management practices that enhance game and wildlife species as well as providing useable space for training. Mowing, crop rotation, moderate grazing are a few of the practices which could help facilitate a balance.
- Replace bridges and access to all areas
- Several people (3) commented that they would like larger areas open for dog training to make the property more meaningful for that purpose.

Question 6: What land management activities are you most interested in/concerned about?

- Hunting (13)
- Habitat Restoration (14)
- Farming (2)
- Mixture of habitats (2)
- Dog training (23)
- Grassland (1)
- Bird nesting (4)
- Parking/access (2)
- General use (1)
- Hiking with dogs (1)
- Fishing (1)
- Pheasant release program (1)
- Use of ponds (1)

Question 7: Provide any additional feedback: Questions, suggestions or other input about the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area and/or the planning process:

- Please include dog training at all wildlife areas (6)
- It is important for us not to just preserve habitat for wild fish, but to also provide open spaces for people to hunt, train our dogs and take our kids (3)
- Keep ponds open for dog training (4)
- Keep areas open for habitat
- Important that decision makers listen and respond to the wishes of the communities who use the areas
- Restrict dog trainers to amateurs only; no commercial/professional trainers
- Ability to park near training areas in order to protect valuables and dogs
- Keep grass mowed for hunting and dog training (4)
- Unlock gates and provide access to training/hunting areas (4)
- Somehow limit non-hunting dogs from the wildlife areas; perhaps by requiring a hunting license rather than a Discover Pass.
- Approach owners of wetlands adjacent to Cherry Valley, Crescent Lake, & Stillwater about purchasing their properties
- Create additional shallow ponds to help disperse hunters
- Areas should be open to all dogs and their owners, as dog parks are less ideal.
- Have areas open during the season when birds are not nesting
- Dog training areas need to be significantly larger, and include ponds in order for them to be meaningful training grounds for hunting dogs.

- Plant communities are currently being encouraged at Cherry Valley, through management, that are more detrimental to native plant and animal survival than dog training is.
- Dog trainers police the areas by picking up trash (because it can injure dogs who ingest it). This also helps protect the wildlife from illness or injury from trash which would have otherwise been left unattended. (2)
- Hunting and licensing fees should go towards maintaining properties.
- Habitat at Cherry Valley and Stillwater are in very poor condition
- Why have Mr. Chandler and Mr. Boehm worked so hard to prevent dog trainers use at Cherry Valley?
- Dog clubs would be happy to volunteer to help maintain
- How does farming the land at Cherry Valley NOT affect the wildlife?
- Consider full dog access outside of pheasant and waterfowl seasons: this could solve dog/hunter conflicts
- Please keep community updated on improvements
- More duck hunting
- More corn planted
- More flooded property
- Control the off leash dogs and owners – better education and enforcement
- “Regarding the planning meeting – I was most interested in hearing audience interests. They were expressed within “stations”, but I thought it would be more informative to hear people’s opinions expressed in the larger group. I felt the stations were informative, but everyone in the station is “preaching to the choir.””
- Don’t let salmon mitigation block access to any of these units
- A reasonable access plan developed based on desired beneficial uses, community values and equity
- WDFW has a long history of supporting multi-use and especially dog training/trialing activities on WDFW land.
- What has changed in the Department to cause such restriction on SVWA?
- What evidence exists that dog training at any of the SVWA properties is detrimental to the long term goals of WDFW?
- Why has it been determined that dog training activity is targeted as the root of the problems that exist on the SVWA?
- I have been told by people outside WDFW who are involved in the decision making process for other WDFW lands that there is a procedural process within the department which requires the department wildlife managers to conduct three year studies on the property prior to making policy changes that directly affect the public.
- Why has the policy restricting dog training/trialing changed without more public input?
- I think it should be clear to WDFW that the access issues surrounding SVWA are very important to the unit’s primary user group and additional public forum should be available to the amateur dog training community in order to achieve a viable resolution to the current operating status.
- I would like to reiterate my interest in being involved in the advisory process.
- Thanks to all WDFW staff and personnel for attending the meeting Monday.

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Management Plan

Comment Sheets

Summary of Responses

November - December, 2016

Question 1: *What interests you about the Snoqualmie Wildlife area?*

- Hiking and Birding (6)
- Pheasant Hunting (20)
- Duck Hunting (8)
- Goose Hunting (3)
- Bird Hunting (15)
- General Hunting (10)
- Dog Training (12)
- Dog competitions/trials
- Dog exercise area (7)
- “Future Uses”
- Enjoyment of diverse ecosystem abutted to urban space (5)
- Exercising (11)
- Wildlife Observation
- Photography (2)
- Family outings
- Youth Mentoring
- Habitat Enhancement (2)
- Wood Duck nesting boxes
- Duck nest tubes
- Preservation of bird area
- Opportunity to enjoy various outdoor activities (5)
- Suggestion: “Fill in deep ponds to attract more waterfowl.

Question 2: *Please check the boxes that correspond to the areas you visit and indicate how often you visit.*

Areas Visited	# of visits per season			
	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Cherry Valley	22	26	54	34
Corson Natural Area			1	
Crescent Lake	79	81	401	140
Ebey Island	9	39	152	25
Spencer Island			2	3
Stillwater	51	131	121	147

Question 3: What recreation activities do you pursue at this wildlife area?

	Cherry Valley	Corson	Crescent Lake	Ebey Island	Spencer Island	Stillwater
Hunting	16	1	20	17	2	16
Fishing			2	2	2	2
Wildlife Viewing	9		12	5	1	10
Dog Walking	11		9	2		11
Dog Training	14		13	8		11
Exercise	12		8	8	1	11
Hiking	4		2	1	1	4
Photography	4		6	3	3	3

Other:

- Cherry Valley:
- Corson:
- Crescent Lake:
- Ebey Island:
- Spencer Island:
- Stillwater:

Question 4: What particular wildlife and/or fish species, and/or habitats are you interested in?

- Forest (4)
- Grassland (9)
- Wetland (10)
- Agricultural area (6)
- River/Stream
- Riparian
- Pheasant (22)
- Ducks (12)
- Geese (7)
- Swans (2)
- Dogs (4)
- Elk
- Salmon (5)
- Other fish (3)
- Upland game
- Songbirds and other species for bird watching

Question 5: What changes or improvements would you like to see on the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area?

Cherry Valley:

- Flooding
- More habitat for songbirds

Stillwater and Chinook Bend

- Remove blackberries 5
- More Agricultural

- Too crowded
- Needs more of leash areas

Crescent Lake

- Mow Grass(2)
- Open year around for dogs(possibly by permit)2
- Wheat
- Corn
- Access
- Remove blackberries (6)
- Duck Hunters should go in at (8)
- More habitat for songbirds

Unknown (no units specified)

- More Food plots
- Remove corn
- More wetlands(for dogs) (2)
- Less senior only hours
- All year round unrestricted full property access
- More huntable land less trees
- More grain
- Leave in a more natural state
- Less commercial interests
- Trails need gravel
- Larger Bird release
- More wheat less corn

All Units

- Year round access for dog training(3)
- Longer pheasant season (2)
- Better supervision
- More pheasants (5)

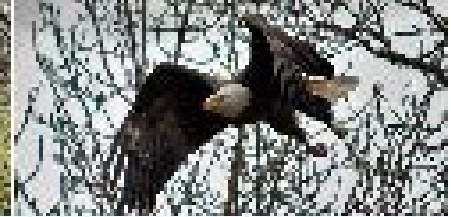
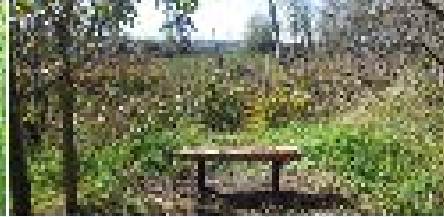
Question 6: What land management activities are you most interested in/concerned about?

- Hunting (23)
- Habitat Restoration (7)
- Farming
- Mixture of habitats (2)
- Dog training (4)
- Grassland
- Bird nesting (2)
- Parking/access
- General use
- Hiking with dogs (2)
- Fishing (2)
- Pheasant release program (3)

- Use of ponds (3)

Question 7: Provide any additional feedback: Questions, suggestions or other input about the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area and/or the planning process:

- More pheasants (4)
- Add gravel to the middle parking lot(parking lot muddy).(4)
- More Freedom for dogs
- Less freedom for dogs
- Plant more crops
- Provide good site lines after harvest for hunter safety
- A longer Pheasant season extended thru mid-December (3)
- Do not restrict access
- Spread planted birds more evenly (5)
- Less hunting
- Crowds are a concern
- Too much land used for farming
- Well done Brian (2)
- To crowded need more rule enforcement
- Great improvement over the last 5 years
- More predictable releases
- Fix bridge at Stillwater(3)
- Grade parking lot



Snoqualmie Wildlife Area

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Draft Management Plan

April 24, 2018



Agenda

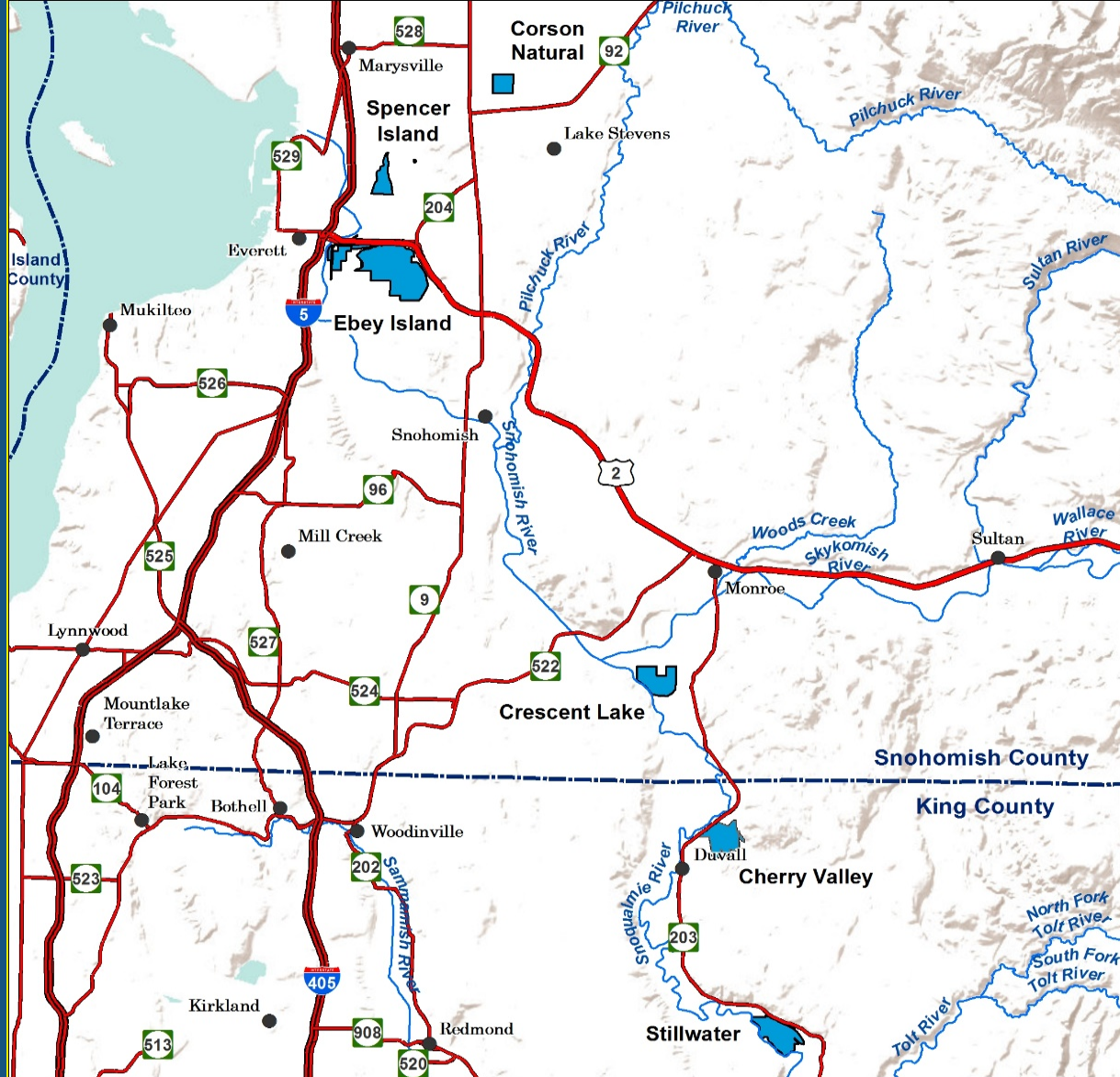
Welcome & Meeting Format

Plan Purpose & Process


Plan Highlights



Plan Comment Stations



**Snoqualmie
Wildlife Area**

 Unit Area

-  Interstate Highway
-  US Highway
-  State Route



Purpose of the Plan

- Sets vision
- Guides activities
- Includes public & stakeholder participation
- Ensures lands are managed consistent with WDFW mission and funding obligations



Planning Process

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



All phases include input by WDFW staff, the Advisory Committee, and the Public

Plan Sections

Part I: Wildlife Area Planning Overview

Part II: Management and Planning

Part III: Species and Habitat Management

Part IV: References and Appendices



Goals & Objectives

1. Ecological Integrity



2. Species Diversity



Goals & Objectives

3. Recreation



4-5. Engagement & Volunteers



Goals & Objectives

6. Maintain Relationships



7. Staff and Equip WLA



Goals & Objectives

8. Safety & Compliance



9. Safe, functional facilities



Plan Comment Stations

- 1. Ebey Island and Corson**
- 2. Spencer Island**
- 3. Crescent Lake and Cherry Valley**
- 4. Stillwater**



Next Steps

- Comment period ends **April 26**
- Edit plan if needed based on comments
- Internal final plan review and formatting - **May 14 – June 1**
- Director's review and signature – **by July**



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Too many gate closures
 Lack of communication w/ staff - returning phone calls
 Better access to lands for hunting + training
 Possibility doing a purchase of keys to lock gates
 Using hunting ID to get information to people
 getting information to people about needing volunteer
 Improve access to middle lobe of Ebeef Island

Please Provide:

Name and email address:

Candice Sobota candicesobota@comcast.net

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-> The dog trainer have suffered a significant reduction in land. This land was purchased in large part for the purpose of hunting & dog training. The State has taken an adversarial position for allowing dog training & hunting.

-> The State is not taking the opportunity to partner with hunters & dog trainers to manage this land.

-> There are states that have managed a partnership with these groups. Perhaps it's time for you to reach out & learn something.

Holly Krohn
830 14th Ave

~~over~~ over

Please Provide:

Name and email address:

Seattle, WA 98122

The Draft plan is at: https://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/snoqualmie/

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~~Handwritten scribble~~

→ Dog training Permits

→ Email list to distribute
Notes from committees

→ Quality of Land for
Dog training

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Handwritten comment on lined paper: Dog training permit to use training areas - allows WDFW staff to enforce rules of use - discourages unauthorized use of area can follow the format utilized by Or Dept f w

Please Provide:

Name and email address: Katrina Sullivan ksull@u.washington.edu

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Access to areas -
 More communication with people/clubs who would
 Locked gate - buy a key? Volunteer:
 Dog training areas Not all trainers are professional
 Disabled access
 Marty should have been present at meeting

Please Provide:

Name and email address: Leslie Douglas ledougl@ool.com

The Draft plan is at: https://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/snoqualmie/

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access to dog training pond
ONLY TRASH LEFT ON LAND WAS FROM
FARMER
IF someone wants to changed Equine
He can walk thru gate

Please Provide:

Name and email address: Jim Olson JAOCTO@Jero.com

The Draft plan is at: https://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/snoqualmie/

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COMMENTS NOT ADDRESSED SPECIFICALLY ON DOG TRAINING SAME PILOT PROGRAM FOR CHERRY VALLEY TO CONTINUE? ALREADY IT IS NOT ADDRESSED ON 10 YR PLAN. WE ARE BEING WRITTEN OUT OF THE 10 YR PLAN. A COUPLE OF OTHER THING. ALMOST EVERYONE AT THIS MEETING IS A HUNTER AND OR FISHERMAN. AND HAVE USED IT FOR TRAINING MY KIDS IN SAFE HUNT USE. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ALL UNITS OPENED UP FOR ALL RECREATIONAL USE IN CLUING DOG TRAINING.

Please Provide:

Name and email address: BOYD ULSH peprsdad@yahoo.com

The Draft plan is at: https://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/snoqualmie/

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The NAVHDA wants to help.

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① I am interested in sitting on the Advisory Committee. For Cherry Valley + Crescent Lake.

② What are the issues related to increasing land for dog training?

③ Who are the stakeholders above the dog trainers?

④ How can my club assist with the management of the units?

- ANW-NAVHDA Club
⑤ Stakeholder email list?

⑥ Why are the gates always locked?

Please Provide:

Name and email address: Carl Vinke, 206.427.2185
Carl.B.Vinke@gmail.com

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Even though I do appreciate the recent expansion of the Cherry Valley site for dog training, it is unfortunate that it is not more areas. Further, I really do believe all the sites should be fully open to dog training. I am in the field of education, I worried about our youth, childhood obesity. These sites provide individual & family access public lands to engage in activity. My hope is that you continue to increase access to people in general, not just dog training. The folks that use these sites are passionate about public use, as they should be. Again I hope you help to open more lands to access for public use.

It is difficult to understand how public lands can be open to farming that has a greater impact on wild life than public use. The negative impact from users is far less than the farming is allowed.

Please continue, not explore, to open up use to dog trainers

Please Provide:

Name and email address: Darryl Pernat dlpernat@yahoo.com

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- Consider time sharing areas for groups on weekend; Sat AM; PM & Sun AM, PM where there are several special interest groups.

- Have more designated dog training area / acreage. Consider opening west side of Ebeey unit for dog training. With the League Is + Field Is being shut down the last few years it's put more pressure on Sno/king county units.

- Utilize volunteers to maintain the land EBEY and other areas are overgrown + need maintenance.

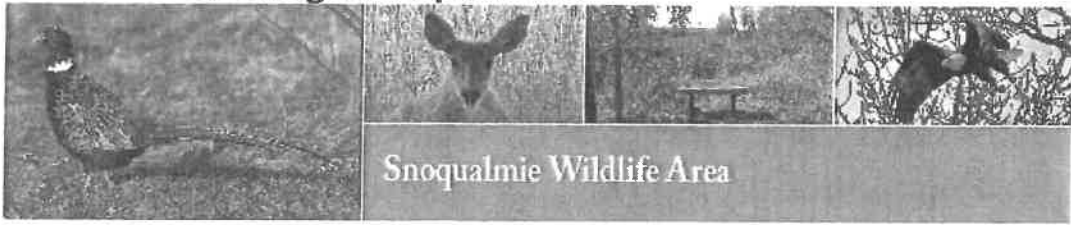
Please Provide:

Name and email address: Jack Richbourg jackrichbourg@msn.com

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Other than leaving the gates open
 I am also questioning why
 so much corn was planted.
 I shut down dog training
 such as Sorely there and other traps
 that would not conflict.
 I am also not convinced that
 drugs are as big an issue
 as was stated. I'd like the idea of keep maybe
 I had more extensive comments
 which I submitted previously
 on your request for comments
 D.
 It does seem to me that not much
 progress has been made since we started
 & several DFW states seem anti dog.

Please Provide:

Name and email address:

Nancy Light Kylahgold@aol.com

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2 ✓

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I'm a 77 1/2 y/o female & I've been training my dogs for hunting & field events for 50 yrs.

We used Cherry Valley for many years for training, field trials & picnic trials. The fellow in charge worked closely with us - came out checked parking pass & stayed and chatted - I am not aware of any big conflicts

In 2013 the gates were closed - At my age it's difficult to walk great distances while hauling my equipment & keeping my dogs safe - If the gates can't be open allowing a key to registered handler would be very effective.

It seems we've attended so many of these meetings to no avail. I do resent Brian's comments to us that it's "our land & our rules" ~ He is paid with taxpayers money & if he can't deal with the public better than he does he needs to find a different job.

Please Provide:

Name and email address: Sandy Rainaldo HERRSMI@COMCAST.NET

The Draft plan is at: https://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/snoqualmie/

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① How do we find the dog training plan?

② How do we work with the dog Representative?

I have not heard of him or the plan

③ ~~go~~ go back to what the land was purchased for
the current plan has shrinking areas

a) stillwater was purchased for retrievers and
now no dog training allowed (same as Ebey Island)

b) Sherm valley is not useful due to restriction
of corn growing in the area or has just
dirt/mud where the corn used to be in the training area

4) need good field & hunt trial areas

5) let volunteers work the land - many organizations have
liability waivers

④ there used to be 2800 acres for dog training, now less than 20 if
you count the corn fields
let's move forward to address & re-establish the dog
training and trials

⑤ Willing to have dog training permit (free or nominal fee) like Oregon

Please Provide:
Name and email address: Kris Colt krisia.colt@gmail.com
425 445-9076 cell

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I would be willing to purchase a dog training permit. This would hold people accountable for their actions while using the land.

Allow people to use the land what it was intended for. Bring trials & tests back to the area. The more good people out there will help push out the drug users. They are there because no one uses the area & they can hide.

Allow people to purchase a key to gates for use.

Please find a way to get these comment cards out to hunters. Maybe email it to them.

Please Provide:

Name and email address: Barbara Rowdon barbrowdon@gmail.com

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I would like to add to the comments I have previously made on the website after hearing some discussion at this meeting.

① Having used Cherry Valley for dog training from 1994-2013 I can honestly say that I have never seen drugs paraphernalia left on the grounds where I trained - all of this while the gate was open ~~to~~ trainers. With gates closed, there is more opportunity for parking in the big lot & just walking in to do drugs when are fewer people monitoring.

② When the majority of the 65 acres is planted in corn it is not really 65 acres available for dog training. This feels like 'insight of hand' by WDFW.

③ I was part of a group of volunteers last summer that worked on the grounds - approved by the director. Now I am told I am no longer approved. Why?

④ I don't understand why dog trainers are singled out - many are hunters, hunting dogs need to be trained to conserve game - I would gladly ~~buy~~ a hunting license if needed, but I hope

Please Provide:

Name and email address:

the bird watchers, farmers & beaver trappers would also be "fined" for their use of public lands purchased through a grant for outdoor recreation.

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Terrie Sato
wsato@cablespeed.com

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I live in Gold Bar, so nothing here was relevant to my interests. Not sure why/how I was included on the email - is there possibly a way to analyze addresses for interest?

Please Provide:

Name and email address: david25@juno.com David Martin

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There are a lot of areas that have been preserved completely for bird habitat. Cherry Valley was originally given to the state for dog training.

WDFW has not given a legitimate reason for closing the gate permanently.

We volunteered to work - we worked and yet the gate is closed again.

We have been ~~to~~ trying to work with WDFW but feel our concerns have not been heard.

Dog trainers/hunters are the original wildlife conservationists (sp?)

Please Provide:

Name and email address: Fran Seagren labrds@earthlink.net

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Open access to ALL property at Stillwater & Cherry Valley not just a limited area. Dogs need 10 acres of varied terrain & water to be properly trained.

Open access to all units for dog training. Not just Cherry Valley & Stillwater

Cosson unit - WDFW website has no information on how to get there.

Please Provide:

Name and email address: Warren Bayliss wb23@frontier.com

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You can email questions or comments to: SnoqualmiePlanning@dfw.wa.gov

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area

Brian Boehm, Wildlife Area Manager

Wildlife Area Advisory Committee

DATE 02/24/16

Meeting Agenda

I. Introductions – (note taker please?) (10:00-10:20)

A. Meeting Topics

1. Introductions
2. WAAC purpose
3. Wildlife Area Management Plan update

B. Plan for the meeting –

1. DFW in a minute (Strategic Plan)
2. DFW Mission
 - a. To preserve protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities
2. WAM duties
 - a. Conserve and protect native fish and wildlife
 - b. Provide sustainable fishing, hunting and other wildlife-related recreational experiences
3. Meeting format
 - a. One person talking at a time
 - b. Keep on topic
 - c. Meeting purpose and time

II. Discussion (10:20-11:15)

A. WAAC Purpose

1. Role of WAAC members-to provide public and other stakeholders' perspectives in WDFW wildlife area planning and management activities
 - a. Provide comments during the development of wildlife area management plan updates
 - b. Communicate agency goals and wildlife area activities outside of WAAC meetings
2. Discuss WAAC document items:
 - a. Contacts page correct?
 - b. Draft Charter
 - c. Pre-meeting materials
 - d. meeting notes (public record)

B. 2014-2015 Wildlife Area Management Plan

1. Review 2014-2015 management plan
 - a. Format
 - b. What is completed
2. Discuss new 2016-2017 Management Plan
 - a. advise of new format
 - b. expect input for 2016-2017 revision
 - c. Intro from Jeanne
3. Wild Future and new Plan

C. Current issues on Wildlife Areas

1. Inform, discuss issues identified during 2014 and 2015
 - a. pheasant program and hunting
 - b. seasonal over-crowding
 - c. dogs impacting other users and wildlife

2. State perspectives

- a. response to Federal requirements
- b. Increasing ownership
- c. Public awareness and transparency

3. Areas to consider

- a. Impacts of population growth
- b. Change in hunter/fisher demographics
- c. Changing recreational opportunities

III. Wrap up and conclusion (11:15-11:30)

A. Next steps

- 1. review info from email
- 2. prep for stakeholder meeting
- 3. prep for WLA Planning process

Thank you all for attending and for your input. Feel free to contact me anytime. Brian

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting minutes for 24 Feb 2016

Location: Qualco Energy conference room, Crescent Lake Wildlife Area

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Brian Boehm, Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager who facilitated the meeting. This was the first meeting of a newly selected Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Advisory Committee (SWAAC). Attendance was taken and included: Troy Rahmig, Perry Falcone, Martha Jordan, Wayne Gullstad, Brent Hackney, Dave Steiner, David Sharp and Brian Boehm. Jeff Wolf was unable to attend and provided no alternate.

We introduced ourselves to the other Committee members to learn more about the interests and skills each person brings to the group. Brian gave a brief overview of the Snoqualmie wildlife area (WLA). It is one of 33 WDFW WLAs state wide. The Snoqualmie WLA is comprised of 6 units located in western King and Snohomish counties.

Brian followed the agenda (see document online) including an overview of the SWAAC purpose, process, and role of SWAAC members, which is to provide public and other stakeholder's perspectives in WDFW wildlife area planning and management activities. An important point was made concerning changing user demographics due to two major factors: Discover Pass implementation creating more awareness of Wildlife Areas by people who do not hunt or fish, and rapid population growth in the nearby communities and rural areas.

This was followed by Brian providing information about WDFW including WDFW's Strategic Plan, mission, wildlife area manager duties, and how the meeting format would be conducted. Committee members need to be familiar with all areas pertaining to Wildlife Area management as well as state wide WDFW initiatives, plans, and goals. His vision is to present a management plan that moves into the future and is an adaptive, guiding document.

We discussed the draft Charter for the SWAAC. A suggestion was made to define a term as serving one to three years. This would prevent a situation where a new SWAAC would start each year the management plan would be revised. A member could reapply to continue to be on the committee, as no term limit was desired. Brian also stated that all documents pertaining to SWAAC meetings will be posted to WDFW website for public viewing.

Preparation for revision of the comprehensive 2016-2017 WLA Management Plan is currently in process. The WDFW planning team is working behind the scenes to prepare for a public stakeholder meeting set for April 11 at 6 pm at the Mill Creek Region 4 office. The planning team is also working on WDFW website updates regarding the revision of the Wildlife Area Management Plan and the new link that stores SWAAC meeting documents. All members of the SWAAC were encouraged to attend the April 11th public meeting.

Current issues were brought up including a review of the previous 2014-2015 management plan priorities including pheasant program and hunting, seasonal overcrowding, and dogs impacting other users and wildlife. A primary concern was disturbance to wildlife and hunters from people who frequent the Units for off-leash dog walking. We concluded with areas to consider including: how does population growth and the changes in hunter/fisher demographics factor into Wildlife Area Management planning; and how to message to the public about appropriate recreational use of wildlife areas.

Handouts to members: Meeting agenda, WDFW Mission, goals, and objectives, and excerpts from WDFW 2015-17 Strategic Plan Objectives and Initiatives- Goal 1 through 4. A reminder was given to review the results of the Wild Future regional public meeting that was held last year, for ideas on current user comments concerning the Wildlife Area.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Advisory Committee Meeting

December 14, 2016
10 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Qualco Energy Conference Room, Crescent Lake WLA
18117 203rd St. SE.
Monroe, WA. 98272

Brief Agenda

1. WAAC Administration (Brian)
 - a. Introduce new Committee members
 - b. Review accomplishments since August meeting
 - c. Purpose for today

2. Wildlife Area Management Plan (Patricia)
 - a. Process and expectations for this meeting
 - b. Timeline

3. Discuss Plan DRAFT Goals and Objectives Section (Patricia)
 - a. Ecological Integrity
 - b. Sustain species
 - c. Support Recreational Opportunities
 - d. Safety and compliance
 - e. Positive working relationships with stakeholders
 - f. Cost-effective operations

4. Next Steps (Patricia)

5. Closing (Brian)

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Advisory Committee Meeting #3

Meeting Notes

December 14, 2016

Qualco Energy Conference Room, Crescent Lake WLA

10:00 – 12:00

WAAC Members Attending:

Susan Burk, Marty Thenell, Brent Hackney, Dan Bartleheimer, Troy Rahmig, Bob Roush, Martha Jordan, Dave Sharp, Jeff Wolf, Wayne Gulstad

Not attending: Perry Falcone, David Steiner

WDFW Staff: Brian Boehm, Patricia Jatczak

Note taker: Martha Jordan

Welcome and Introductions

Brian Boehm, Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager, provided an introduction to the mission of WDFW and the purpose of the WDFW Wildlife Area Management Plans and the WAAC. Because the group was expanded with an additional four new members, each gave a brief introduction to the group. Welcome to: Susan Burk, Dan Bartleheimer, Bob Roush, and Martin Thenell!

WLA Management Plan Update and WAAC Participation

Patricia Jatczak presented information on the WLA planning process. WDFW would like the WAAC members to get the word out to their constituents about what was discussed at the meetings and get feedback from them. WAAC member should bring this back to the group and WDFW staff.

A suggestion was made by a WAAC member to have an online survey regarding particular topics.

Patricia discussed the WDFW WLA Planning Team and process. There is a team of about nine people working directly on the plan, and many other contributing in a wide variety of areas.

The new WLA plan builds off the 2006 version and subsequent reports, and is being updated with new information. It is the vision to carry the WLA for the next 8-10 years. The Plan and how the Snoqualmie WLA is managed must be consistent with WDFW's mission and the funding source for the units of the WLA. The four new areas to be covered in the plan include: ecological integrity, forest management (*where applicable*), recreation management, and climate change.

The Snoqualmie WLA Management Plan is currently between Phase 2 and 3 (a draft plan). Phase 2 is Goals and Objectives.

Goals and Objectives

The group reviewed the draft Goals and Objectives –action items – for the plan. WDFW asked that members take the document and then provide written comments. The document is the first draft. WAAC members will get another chance to review the action items when the draft plan is produced for review.

Several members requested a map that shows where WDFW's focus is for additional land acquisitions or expansion of the WA within the Snoqualmie Valley.

Dog Training Sub-group Update

The Dog Training subgroup met on December 12, 2016. WDFW had produced a draft plan, and the subgroup members provided responses to the plan. Marty provide the subgroup draft to the WAAC. If anyone has additional comments on the draft dog training plan, please send them to Patricia.

Other

Brian will provide updates on progress regarding the Management Plan. Currently the target date for substantial completion of this plan is April, with final formatting and approval in June.

Additional topics discussed were the diking district and the potential for how to find funding for tide gate issues and get through the permit process.

Two people from the public attended. They briefly commented on the concept that well trained hunting dogs are important, thus they need places to train their dogs.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Advisory Committee Meeting

February 28, 2018

10:00-12:00

WLA Crescent Lake Office

18117 203rd St. SE.

Monroe, WA. 98272

AGENDA

1. WAAC Administration (15 mins)
2. DFW Current Affairs (15 mins)
3. Wildlife Area Management Plan – Process, Timeline & Next Steps (60 mins)
4. Draft WLA Plan Overview (15 mins)
5. Public Comment (10 mins)

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Notes
February 28, 2018
10:00-12:00
Qualco Energy Conference Room, Crescent Lake WLA

WAAC Members Attending: Troy Rahmig, Perry Falcone, Martha Jordan, Wayne Gullstad, Jeff Wolf, David Steiner, David Sharp, Bob Roush, Dan Bartelheimer, Marty Thenell

Not Attending: Susan Burk, Brent Hackney

WDFW Staff: Fenner Yarborough, Ashley Kees, Brian Boehm, Patricia Jatczak

Note Taker: Ashley Kees

Welcome and Introductions

Brian Boehm, Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager, welcomed everyone to the meeting. All attendees then took turns making brief introductions. Brian read the WDFW mission statement and reviewed how the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee (WAAC) is working to provide planning team support to accomplish these goals.

WDFW Personnel Changes and Budget Update

Fenner Yarborough was introduced as the new Regional Wildlife Program Manager (*replacing Russell Link*). Fenner provided an update on other personnel changes in Region 4. The Regional Director, Amy Windrope, is filling the deputy director role until a new director for the department is hired. There are about 6-8 other positions that have recently been filled. All managers up the chain of command for Brian are new to their role. A WAAC member stressed the importance of institutional knowledge, which is achieved through communication between WAAC members and the department, and is of particular importance during this prolonged period of personnel change.

Brian provided a WDFW budget update to the group. Current state budget for the Department was significantly reduced and will only allow current capital improvement projects to be completed, and no new capital projects funded. The Legislature cautioned that future budget estimates for approximately the next 6 years is poor. These budget projections should be considered in future plans, but Brian noted that other funding avenues will be considered. He referenced his efforts with Ducks Unlimited to provide alternative funding for wetland improvement projects and drainage improvements at Stillwater and Cherry Valley.

WLA Updates

A review was made of a list of the 2016-2017 WLA (Wildlife Area) issues, including: budget, pheasant program, dog training, ADA access, invasive weed control, overcrowding, and hunting opportunities. Recommendations and actions are in place to explore expanded dog-training opportunities at Cherry Valley that are compatible with wildlife and other user groups. However, continued monitoring is required. Concluding comments regarding these WLA issues put emphasis on the heavy population expansion expected in the area and the impacts it will have on wildlife areas and recreational activities.

WLA Management Plan

Patricia Jatczak, Planning Project Manager, presented a PowerPoint on the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Management Plan update process. The presentation summarized the review process as well as key areas of the plan that the group should review and discuss with their constituents.

Timeline

The management plan will be open for review to the WAAC, public, and tribes. Brian will provide Patricia with contact information to the Snoqualmie, Muckleshoot, and Tulalip tribes, and others if needed. Monday, March 12 is the deadline for the WAAC to submit high-level comment of the draft. This will be followed by a 30-day public

and SEPA review. The dates are not confirmed for SEPA review, but are expected to be completed by the end of April. A suggestion was made by a WAAC member to start the public and SEPA review after April 15, as this would likely facilitate more participation from the public. There will be a final agency review before the plan goes to the director for final approval. The projected end date for the approved plan is June. Brian noted that the plan will continue to be adaptive and updated every two years.

Review of Draft Plan

A handout of the draft plan's table of contents was distributed to the group. Brian explained that the highlighted areas depict which sections of the draft are of high importance to review. The remaining non-highlighted sections are the standardized components of the plan. WAAC members were asked to track any changes or comments made to the plan. Patricia introduced new components to the plan, including a section on volunteering and stewardship.

In addition to these plans, Patricia also announced that the department is working on a statewide recreation strategy. Some recreational activities aren't compatible with WLA's and this would provide standards for those areas. A website upgrade will also come out in the fall and will provide more information regarding hunting in wildlife areas.

The focus returned to the draft plan and the group discussed a section on researching ways to conduct survey for endangered species. With the budget being so tight, staff was hesitant to include this section in the plan. Brian explained that it is needed to show Legislature what has been accomplished and how it works within the strategic plan and why funding is necessary. Perry Falcone, representing the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, stated that funding is available for research through the King County Watershed source. This may be suitable for the earlier discussed Ducks Unlimited wetland/agriculture enhancement project at Stillwater and Cherry Valley if the research is heavily related to chinook. Brian will contact them in the future to discuss the funding opportunity further.

A WAAC member made a concern on the lack of public understanding in the funding process. There needs to be a better understanding on the restrictions and source of the funding which ultimately impacts the user groups in wildlife areas. Brian suggested creating a feedback loop from the results of the Restoration Pathway to the WAAC and public for input and understanding. Fenner offered to have someone come and speak to the committee about the Restoration Pathway.

Brian discussed the importance of maintaining WLA agricultural leases. Funding agreements with many WLA's are tied to agricultural and provides a solution for approximately 800 acres of invasive weed control. In addition, the agriculture land provides increased habitat for wildlife and is an economical way to maintain the land. It is important for users to understand all aspects of this partnership.

The draft review concluded with a discussion of the maintenance of safe and functional facilities. Brian reviewed the request for Cherry Valley barn, which needs a new shop for equipment storage and maintenance, for training volunteers and holding meetings, as well as a safe water supply. Brian put together a safety request and was granted a safety upgrade that addressed the basic needs to keep the building functional, but not including the above listed items. Repairs were made to the electrical circuit, securing the road system, and an OSHA loading platform. The project was funded through the state and the cost was approximately \$25,000.

Next Steps

The final page of the presentation provided the email address to send comments to. All notes will go to the planning team, but any questions can be referred to Brian. The department is counting on the committee members to inform the public about the upcoming draft plan review. Brian clarified that although we want this plan discussed amongst constituents and with the public, it should not be given to anyone else at this time.

Open Discussion

For the remainder of the meeting, the group had the opportunity to ask questions and have an open discussion on the draft plan.

There is concern that the public comments on the draft will not be an equal reflection of all user groups, but only a percentage. The planning team needs to consider seasonal use and the timing of the public and SEPA review process that might factor into one user group having a higher response than other groups. Brian commented that this does not reflect importance, merely a lack of participation. Similarly, the department needs to be proactive to ensure all organizations for the area receive advanced notice of the review. Patricia stated that they will be pre-notified.

Another member inquired about the future of the Corson Preserve. This is a nature preserve with no hunting or real public access. There needs to be a way to get limited public access to the site. There is discussion on selling the property or buying other properties to make the preserve useable. There needs to be a plan regarding the proposed parking lot and trail if access to the public is made.

A member wanted to make a note for the commissioners that we need at least 100 more enforcement officers.

Questions were raised regarding if plans are drawn up for the Cherry Valley barn improvements. Brian placed the estimated costs of remaining repairs are under \$100,000.

Patricia stated that she will send out the schedule of statewide plans in addition to this review that are currently being done to the WAAC.

The meeting concluded at 12:00pm.

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area

Draft Management Plan Public Meeting

April 24, 2018

WDFW North Puget Sound Office - 16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek.

AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome and Meeting Format
- ❖ Plan Purpose and Process
- ❖ Plan Highlights
- ❖ Plan Comment Section

The plan is available for review on WDFW's website at https://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/snoqualmie/.

The public can submit comments online through April 26 at https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa_comment_docs.html. Comments can also be submitted at the April 24 meeting.

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Management Plan

Draft Management Plan Public Meeting

April 24, 2018

WDFW North Puget Sound Office - 16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek.

Meeting Notes - Public Meeting Summary

Introduction

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) hosted a public meeting on April 24, 2018 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the WDFW North Puget Sound Office. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the draft management plan and collect public comments.

The meeting introduced the draft Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Management Plan, one of 33 plans the department is revising. This meeting was held during the 30-day SEPA comment period, scheduled to end on April 26, 2018. New management plans are written every 10 years. The plans will consider the interests and impacts of stakeholders and user groups; set goals for assessing and monitoring ecological integrity; outline forest management priorities; identify appropriate public use, recreation areas and facility improvements; as well as weed control and other operations and maintenance practices.

WDFW Staff present included:

- Cynthia Wilkerson, Lands Division Manager
- Brendan Brokes, Acting Region 4 Director
- Fenner Yarborough, Regional Wildlife Program Manager
- Brian Boehm, Wildlife Area Manager
- Patricia Jatczak, Project Manager
- Lauri Vigue, Planning Staff

Patricia resented the overview of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Management plan. The planning process involves meetings of the WDFW planning group, public scoping and draft plan meetings, and Wildlife Area Advisory Committee meetings. A couple of members of the Advisory Committee were present and introduced themselves and offered support of the draft plan and the wildlife area manager.

There are six units in the wildlife area, and there is a unit description and map for each one in the plan. Each unit description also lists the specific goals for that unit. The plan has three main sections: 1). Wildlife area planning overview; 2). Wildlife area management and planning (includes the goals and objectives); and 3). Species and habitat management.

A comment sheet was available for people to write their comments on the plan and staff was not planning on taking oral comments. The room was set up so that people could go to the units that they were interested in, and staff were at each unit with a map and other information about the unit. Some of the participants did not want to do that, but wanted to talk about bird dog training, one of the activities that occurs on the wildlife area. Staff adapted to the needs of the participants, and let them speak about dog training. A few people made comments on other areas of the plan. After comments were heard, those people remaining talked to staff either about specific wildlife area units, or more about dog training. Public comments were collected. It was suggested that WDFW extend the comment period for another 30-days. (Post meeting comment: staff did extend the comment period until May 25, 2018).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

NEWS RELEASE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
April 30, 2018
Contact: Brian Boehm, 425-327-4869

WDFW extends comment period on draft management plan for Snoqualmie Wildlife Area

OLYMPIA – State wildlife managers are extending the comment period to allow the public more time to review a draft management plan for the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area, which is located in northwest Washington.

Under the new timeline, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will accept comments submitted by 5 p.m., May 25. Comments can be submitted online at https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa_comment_docs.html.

The Snoqualmie Wildlife Area consists of six separate units that cover 2,274 acres in King and Snohomish counties. The wildlife area is located in a rural agricultural region of the Snohomish River watershed. It provides habitat for waterfowl, eagles, and chinook salmon and provides recreational opportunities, including fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing.

“We’ve had a lot of interest in this draft management plan and have extended the comment period to give the public with ample time to provide input,” said Cynthia Wilkerson, WDFW lands division manager.

The plan is available for review on WDFW's website at https://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/snoqualmie/.

Over the past year, WDFW staff has worked with a citizen advisory group to develop a draft management plan that addresses the status of wildlife species, habitat, restoration efforts and public recreation on the wildlife area.

The department is revising management plans for the state's 33 wildlife areas to reflect current conditions and identify new priorities. WDFW is currently updating plans for the Mount St. Helens Wildlife Area in southwestern Washington and for wildlife areas in the Blue Mountains region in southeast Washington. More information about those plans can be found online at https://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/.

Persons with disabilities who need to receive this information in an alternative format or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact Dolores Noyes by phone (360-902-2349), TTY (360-902-2207), or email (dolores.noyes@dfw.wa.gov). For more information, see https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/reasonable_request.html.

NOTE: The public comments and WDFW response has been compiled into a separate document. Please see the [Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Management Plan page on the WDFW website](#).