

Appendix E. Public Response Summary

WDFW response to public comments received during public review of the Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan draft under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) from March 30, 2018 until April 30, 2018.		
#	Comment	WDFW Response
1.	<p>I would like to bring to the attention of WDFW planning that 600 acres of Weyerhauser land is up for sale on Mud Creek Rd. both sides of the road from the private property boundaries in the valley bottom all the way up to the entrance to Bisping Canyon. This is prime mule deer winter range and would be best kept as public land. The ad and description in Redfin is as follows.</p> <p>https://www.redfin.com/WA/Entiat/10383-Mud-Creek-Rd-98822/home/145235374?utm_source=myredfin&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=recommendations_update&riftinfo=ZXY9ZW1haWwmbD0xMTkwNjcxNyZwPWxpc3RpbmdfdXBkYXRlc19yZWNVbW1lbnRhdGlvbNmdHM9MTUyMjE5MjY3Mzc1MiZhPWNSaWNRJnM9cmVjb21tZW5kYXRpb25zJnQ9YWRkcmVzcyZlbWFpbF9pZD0xMTkwNjcxN18xNTlyMTkyNjczXzYmdXBkYXRlX3R5cGU9MTQmbGlsc19zY29yZT0wLjAwOSZsaXN0aW5nX2lkPTgxMTE5NDczJnByb3BlcnR5X2lkPTE0NTIzNTM3NCZwb3NpdGlvbI9udW1iZXI9Mw==</p>	<p>WDFW has a formal annual land acquisition evaluation process called Lands 20/20. Using this process, potential acquisitions, such as this parcel, are evaluated, ranked, and are prioritized in each WDFW region. This is a competitive process and there are often only a few projects that receive project support through WDFW statewide. Priority for property acquisitions for the Chelan Wildlife Area will include inholdings and parcels adjacent to existing WDFW ownership.</p>

	<p>I hope that WDFW can collaborate with other conservation buyers like the Chelan Douglas Land Trust to purchase this 600 acres.</p> <p>Thank you. Joe Kelly</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Thank you for the several mentions in the draft report of the upcoming work with trail groups like the Lake Chelan Trails Alliance. We look forward to this process.</p> <p>Rich - the BLM recently downloaded data from their counter on Elephant's Head. It provides the first annual snapshot of user numbers going up that trail. (see attached) I'm not sure if this data would be relevant to include in an appendices of the Management Plan report, but it certainly informs the upcoming conversations about how to best achieve win-win-win with habitat and traditional / non-traditional user groups.</p> <p>Note - the counter divides total number of hits by 2 before recording this data (since it is assumed that travelers to Elephant's Head use same trail up and down). There are some users who just go one way (and so are just counted as a half-user), so if anything the data may be slightly conservative.</p> <p>Thanks again for the notice.</p>	<p>Thanks for your comment. The data gathered by BLM will be useful during the evaluation process for external recreation development proposals. WDFW recommends that sponsors of recreational development proposals coordinate through the Wildlife Area Manager, who will gather relevant information about the potential compatibility of the development proposal and recommend modifications as needed. We then suggest that the project sponsor present the development proposal to the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee (WAAC) as a first step in the public evaluation process. The next step would likely be a public meeting if the project sponsor chooses to continue. When you are ready, please work with the Wildlife Area Manager to arrange a date for a WAAC meeting to consider this proposal. These data will certainly be helpful in demonstrating the recreational value of Elephant Head at that time.</p>

	<p>Best,</p> <p>Guy Evans</p>	
3.	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to review each plan, great job of inclusion.</p> <p>I would like to add to the education portion, written information and pictures of class A and B designates and C selects weeds found or close to the wildlife boundary's plus phone numbers or smart phone App download information that could be used to report new noxious weeds to the State Noxious weed board and or the invasive species council. If pictures are taken of the plants we can identify them and take the proper action.</p> <p>You should include the aquatic noxious weeds found in the ponds at Roses Lake and the ponds at Beebe Springs. Eurasian Watermilfoil a class B designate and Curlyleaf pondweed a class C. also a message to boaters and watercraft to Clean Drain Dry a message the state has coined to encourage boater and watercraft to clean their equipment when pulling out of the water.</p> <p>To be added to the Weed Management Section:</p>	<p>A goal and objective for developing educational materials suitable for posting at kiosks with information on weed identification and ways to report weed species locations has been added to the plan.</p> <p>Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pond weed are now included in the Weed Management Section and Appendix.</p> <p>Water Access Area staff will include signage at boat launches to increase watercraft users awareness of aquatic weeds and methods to reduce their spread.</p> <p>RCW17.10.140 was added to the Weed Management section.</p>

RCW 17.10.140

Owner's duty to control spread of noxious weeds.

(1) Except as is provided under subsection (2) of this section, every owner shall perform or cause to be performed those acts as may be necessary to:

(a) Eradicate all class A noxious weeds;

(b) Control and prevent the spread of all class B noxious weeds designated for control in that region within and from the owner's property; and

(c) Control and prevent the spread of all class B and class C noxious weeds listed on the county weed list as locally mandated control priorities within and from the owner's property.

If you would like some educational materials please contact our office we have many good publications that would be helpful and easy to put on your Kiosk's and many hand out for your employees hand out give to the public.

Respectfully

	<p>Mike Mackey Chelan County Noxious Weed Manager</p>	
4.	<p>It has come to my attention that a proposal for development of a mountain biking trail within the Chelan Wildlife Area has been created. I would like to voice my concern for any further development of the area. The Chelan Butte provides critical habitat for California bighorn sheep, as well as many other wildlife species. The state is lacking in good sheep habitat, while areas for trail riding are not. There are many other areas in close proximity to the Chelan Butte that offer excellent mountain biking opportunities without conflicting with incredibly important bighorn sheep habitat. Please reject any current and future proposals for further development occurring within the Chelan Wildlife Area. The potential negative impacts of further recreation on the sheep, mule deer in their winter range, upland bird habitat and ecosystem functions are too great.</p> <p>Shane Vander Giessen</p>	<p>Thank you for expressing your concerns and support for conservation. WDFW received a proposal from a trails advocacy group in December 2016 for a trail development on Chelan Butte. Vetting of the proposal will occur during a public process involving the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and likely a Public Meeting where the project sponsor will be invited to present their proposal. Your comment and comments received during these events will be included in the evaluation process for this proposal and you will receive an invitation to these meetings which are likely to occur in Fall 2018. Balancing conservation and recreation is becoming increasingly challenging for managers. Public input is a critical driver in our decision making process and your comment is appreciated.</p>
5.	<p>The population of doves on both Chelan Butte and Swakane Canyon have drastically declined over the past few years. There needs to be an emphasis in both areas in recovering the dove population through feed plots and or other means of providing food for them during the summer months.</p> <p>Ronald Balzer</p>	<p>A major focus on the Chelan Wildlife Area is the restoration of agricultural fields to a grassland or shrubsteppe community. The decline of mourning doves is primarily a result of this ongoing restoration effort. Without grain production and associated annual weeds, dove populations will likely never be as high as in the past. On Chelan Butte, there is potential for developing small annual grain food plots to benefit</p>

		mourning dove; however, necessary funding and equipment is currently lacking.
6.	<p>There should be plans for protecting and enhancing the numerous birds of prey such as eagles, ospreys, turkey vultures, red tail hawks, and great horned owls and the song birds such as mountain blue birds, lazuli buntings, rufous towhees, flickers, and meadow larks that inhabit both Chelan Butte and Swakane Canyon.</p> <p>Ronald Balzer</p>	<p>All of the species mentioned are currently protected by State and Federal laws. Objectives in the plan speak to protection of these species. Habitat enhancement for these species is ongoing with restoration of agricultural fields to establish native grassland or shrubsteppe habitat. Ongoing and future riparian plantings, especially in Swakane Canyon, along with fence removal, will also enhance habitat for these species.</p>
7.	<p>I was told that in the 1950s and 1960s there was a large population of sage grouse on Chelan Butte. Today, there are no known sage grouse. Reintroducing them should be a priority item.</p> <p>Ronald Balzer</p>	<p>There is no doubt that a small population of sage grouse existed in the past in the area around Chelan Butte. It is also very likely that sharp-tailed grouse and dusky grouse were the most abundant grouse species in the area due to the steepness of the terrain and grass dominated plant communities. Sage grouse regularly travel across the Columbia River from Douglas County to the Colville Reservation and the vicinity of Pateros in Okanogan County. If suitable habitat exists, now or in the future, on Chelan Butte, sage grouse have demonstrated the ability to disperse to the area.</p>
8.	<p>There is no mention of the historic wooden barn on Chelan Butte that is the only complete building existing there from the early pioneers. Along with the Lucas home, it should also be listed on the National Register of Historical Places.</p> <p>Ronald Balzer</p>	<p>The plan will include a Cultural Resources Appendix at some point in the future, which will provide context and direction for preservation of historical and prehistoric resources on the Chelan Wildlife Area.</p>
9.	<p>Target shooting in Swakane Canyon should be constrained to the first canyon on the right. Random target shooting farther up</p>	<p>WDFW is currently assessing existing areas where target shooting occurs, such as the one described here. To improve safety and</p>

	<p>Swakane is extremely dangerous. People hike, horseback ride, and hunt beyond the first canyon. These activities occur in both the valley and on the hill sides. Constraining the target shooting to the first canyon should be an <u>immediate priority</u> and not something to be achieved in five years.</p> <p>Ronald Balzer</p>	<p>reduce conflicts between users, agency staff is reviewing the statewide target shooting rule and considering changes that could be implemented where both concentrated sites and dispersed shooting currently exists.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>I am whole heartedly against putting a mountain bike trail on Chelan Butte. Time to leave this spot alone.</p> <p>Keith Peter</p>	<p>Thank you for expressing your concerns and support for conservation. WDFW received a proposal from a trails advocacy group in December 2016 for a trail development on Chelan Butte. Vetting of the proposal will occur during a public process involving the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and likely a Public Meeting where the project sponsor will be invited to present their proposal. Your comment and comments received during these events will be included in the evaluation process for this proposal and you will receive an invitation to these meetings which are likely to occur in Fall 2018. Balancing conservation and recreation is becoming increasingly challenging for managers. Public input is a critical driver in our decision making process and your comment is appreciated.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>It has come to my attention that a proposal for development of a mountain biking trail within the Chelan Wildlife Area has been created. I would like to voice my concern for any further development of the area. The Chelan Butte provides critical habitat for California bighorn sheep, as well as many other wildlife species. This state is lacking in good sheep habitat, while areas for trail riding are not in low availability.</p>	<p>Thank you for expressing your concerns and support for conservation. WDFW received a proposal from a trails advocacy group in December 2016 for a trail development on Chelan Butte. Vetting of the proposal will occur during a public process involving the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and likely a Public Meeting where the project sponsor will be invited to present their proposal. Your comment and comments received during these events will be included in the evaluation process for this proposal and you will receive an invitation to these meetings</p>

	<p>There are many other areas in close proximity to the Chelan Butte that offer excellent mountain biking opportunities without conflicting with incredibly important bighorn sheep habitat. Please reject any current and future proposals for further development occurring within the Chelan Wildlife Area. The potential negative impacts of further recreation on the sheep, mule deer in their winter range, upland bird habitat and ecosystem functions are too great. The wildlife of Washington state is truly a gift and one worthy of protection. Loss of habitat will result in further damage to our dwindling populations already struggling with predation, disease, and encroachment by development in other critical areas.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Chris Martin</p>	<p>which are likely to occur in Fall 2018. Balancing conservation and recreation is becoming increasingly challenging for managers. Public input is a critical driver in our decision making process and your comment is appreciated.</p>
12.	<p>I write to you today to comment on the Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan.</p> <p>As a Sportswoman, avid outdoors-woman, and contributor to the preservation of wildlife area's in Washington, I would like to express my feelings with preserving the Chelan Wildlife Area.</p> <p>As a tax payer, and purchaser of hunting and fishing licenses (which include a Discover Pass) I strongly appose any development in the Chelan Wildlife Area. Any development such as a mountain bike trail interferes with the goals and objectives of the mission</p>	<p>Thank you for expressing your concerns and support for conservation. WDFW received a proposal from a trails advocacy group in December 2016 for a trail development on Chelan Butte. Vetting of the proposal will occur during a public process involving the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and likely a Public Meeting where the project sponsor will be invited to present their proposal. Your comment and comments received during these events will be included in the evaluation process for this proposal and you will receive an invitation to these meetings which are likely to occur in Fall 2018. Balancing conservation and recreation is becoming increasingly challenging for managers.</p>

	<p>statement of WDFW. I adamantly appose any development that infringes on the habitat of the California Bighorn Sheep which live in the Chelan Wildlife Area. The California Bighorn Sheep is a very sensitive species, and allowing any development that interferes with the propagation of this herd is doing a disservice to the species and all of the hard work to re-establish this herd.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to accept public input on this matter.</p> <p>In closing, I oppose any development such as a mountain biking trail in the Chelan Wildlife Area that has a negative impact on native plants and wildlife species such as the California Bighorn Sheep.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Washington Wild Sheep Advocate,</p> <p>Cecelia Grant</p>	<p>Public input is a critical driver in our decision making process and your comment is appreciated.</p>
13.	<p>I write to you today to comment on the Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan.</p>	<p>Thank you for expressing your concerns and support for conservation. WDFW received a proposal from a trails advocacy group in December 2016 for a trail development on Chelan Butte. Vetting of the proposal will occur during a public process involving the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and likely a Public Meeting where the project sponsor will be invited to present</p>

As a Sportswoman, avid outdoors-woman, and contributor to the preservation of wildlife area's in Washington, I would like to express my feelings with preserving the Chelan Wildlife Area.

As a tax payer, and purchaser of hunting and fishing licences (which include a Discover Pass) I strongly appose any development in the Chelan Wildlife Area. Any development such as a mountain bike trail interferes with the goals and objectives of the mission statement of WDFW. I adamantly appose any development that infringes on the habitat of the California Bighorn Sheep which live in the Chelan Wildlife Area. The California Bighorn Sheep is a very sensitive species, and allowing any development that interferes with the propagation of this herd is doing a disservice to the species and all of the hard work to re-establish this herd.

Thank you for taking the time to accept public input on this matter.

In closing, I oppose any development such as a mountain biking trail in the Chelan Wildlife Area that has a negative impact on native plants and wildlife species such as the California Bighorn Sheep.

Sincerely,

Bethany Grant

their proposal. Your comment and comments received during these events will be included in the evaluation process for this proposal and you will receive an invitation to these meetings which are likely to occur in Fall 2018. Balancing conservation and recreation is becoming increasingly challenging for managers. Public input is a critical driver in our decision making process and your comment is appreciated.

14.	<p>It has come to my attention that a proposal for development of a mountain biking trail within the Chelan Wildlife Area has been created. I would like to voice my concern for any further development of the area. The Chelan Butte provides critical habitat for California bighorn sheep, as well as many other wildlife species. This state is lacking in good sheep habitat, while areas for trail riding are not.</p> <p>There are many other areas in close proximity to the Chelan Butte that offer excellent mountain biking opportunities without conflicting with incredibly important bighorn sheep habitat. Please reject any current and future proposals for further development occurring within the Chelan Wildlife Area. The potential negative impacts of further recreation on the sheep, mule deer in their winter range, upland bird habitat and ecosystem functions are too great.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Matt Pierce</p>	<p>Thank you for expressing your concerns and support for conservation. WDFW received a proposal from a trails advocacy group in December 2016 for a trail development on Chelan Butte. Vetting of the proposal will occur during a public process involving the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and likely a Public Meeting where the project sponsor will be invited to present their proposal. Your comment and comments received during these events will be included in the evaluation process for this proposal and you will receive an invitation to these meetings which are likely to occur in Fall 2018. Balancing conservation and recreation is becoming increasingly challenging for managers. Public input is a critical driver in our decision making process and your comment is appreciated.</p>
15.	<p>I just wanted to submit a brief comment on the Chelan Wildlife Area draft plan.</p> <p>I know that the plan seems to place an emphasis on maintaining wildlife, however, I have also heard that there may be plans to try to develop a mountain biking trail in the Chelan Butte area. This area is known for its bighorn sheep population (as mentioned in the</p>	<p>Thank you for expressing your concerns and support for conservation. WDFW received a proposal from a trails advocacy group in December 2016 for a trail development on Chelan Butte. Vetting of the proposal will occur during a public process involving the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and likely a Public Meeting where the project sponsor will be invited to present</p>

	<p>Draft), and given that bighorn habitat in the state is so limited, I feel like there must be better places for mountain bike trails. The plan also mentions that old roads already provide mountain biking access in the Chelan Butte area, so it's not clear that further development of a trail is necessary. If such a trail is needed, I would strongly support placing the trail in an area that is not inhabited by bighorn sheep. The area's primary concern should be conservation of wildlife.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> <p>Allan Scruggs</p>	<p>their proposal. Your comment and comments received during these events will be included in the evaluation process for this proposal and you will receive an invitation to these meetings which are likely to occur in Fall 2018. Balancing conservation and recreation is becoming increasingly challenging for managers. Public input is a critical driver in our decision making process and your comment is appreciated.</p>
16.	<p>Comments from Department of Ecology, Gwen Clear, April 25, 2018, see attached letter.</p>	<p>Thank you for clarifying the requirement of having a water right permit for water used for dust control. Every effort will be made to adhere to Chapter 90.03 RCW Surface Water Code and Chapter 90.44 RCW Regulation of Public Ground Waters.</p>
17.	<p>I am writing to comment on the Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan.</p> <p>I would like to compliment WDFW on the WAMP process, it is much improved over the past 15-20 years.</p> <p>I have particular concerns for habitat preservation and enhancement for California bighorn sheep, <i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i>. Although classified as a big game animal, this formerly extirpated species must be managed more like a threatened or endangered</p>	<p>Thank you for expressing your concerns and support for conservation. WDFW received a proposal from a trails advocacy group in December 2016 for a trail development on Chelan Butte. Vetting of the proposal will occur during a public process involving the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and likely a Public Meeting where the project sponsor will be invited to present their proposal. Your comment and comments received during these events will be included in the evaluation process for this proposal and you will receive an invitation to these meetings which are likely to occur in Fall 2018. Balancing conservation and recreation is becoming increasingly challenging for managers.</p>

species to avoid re-extirpation. There are only a handful of mostly isolated herds that have been reintroduced in Washington, and they are still very vulnerable to a multitude of threats, some of which are unique to the species. These include:

- nonmigratory residents of low elevation foothills habitat; there is no season without potential conflicts with population viability
- vulnerability to epizootic events caused by a single individual having contact with domestic sheep and goats
- parturition dates as early as March make the species vulnerable to recruitment loss months before other ungulate species
- diurnal activity limits them compared to other ungulates in avoiding human disturbances
- environmental resistance greatly limits natural genetic flow between relatively isolated populations
- documented population level declines from human disturbance even when limited to nonmotorized recreation

Bighorns occur primarily in the Swakane and Chelan Butte units. Swakane bighorns are more secure for a variety of reasons, so I am primarily commenting on the Chelan Butte unit, however, the same concerns and considerations may apply there also. A statewide evaluation 2001-2003 identified very limited additional potential reintroduction sites, of which Chelan Butte presented the greatest opportunity to establish a new California bighorn herd. In 2004, the Butte was repopulated with transplanted bighorns from Region 3. Since then, the herd has flourished, however reintroduced bighorn herds often go through an initial pulse of productivity that is not

Public input is a critical driver in our decision making process and your comment is appreciated.

maintained long-term. The current good status of this population should not assumed to indicate they will be robust in the future.

Opportunities for genetic flow are greatly limited as the herd is largely bounded by Lake Chelan and the Columbia River; bighorns rarely disperse across large water bodies. Between Lake Chelan Dam and the Columbia River limited dispersal occurs and there is likely some interchange with the Chelan north herd, however, this linkage is jeopardized by the continued development from Chelan east to highway 97. To the west, limited dispersal opportunities exist for sheep that cross Highways 97A and 971, and there is likely very little interchange with the Swakane herd. For these reasons, it is imperative that the Chelan Butte Unit be managed to the greatest extent possible to provide all bighorn life history needs within the Chelan Butte unit.

Chelan Butte is often targeted for recreation development. Shortly after the bighorns were reintroduced, the WDFW Wenatchee District Team rejected a proposal to develop a system of mountain biking trails as an incompatible use with bighorn sheep conservation. That incompatibility remains, and for this reason any new and additional trail or other recreation development proposals on the Chelan Butte unit should be rejected. Further, bighorn sheep habitat should be the priority use of the Chelan Butte unit, given the species' extremely limited numbers and distribution in Washington, analogous to the shrubsteppe species' emphasis for which the Sagebrush Flats wildlife area units are managed. Like the

pygmy rabbit, sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, Washington ground squirrel, white-tailed jackrabbit and other shrubsteppe obligates, California bighorns are similarly limited (and realistically of similar status) by range and demographic reductions, habitat fragmentation and degradation, introduced disease, and increasing environmental resistance as real and formidable barriers to the longterm viability and persistence of the species.

If needed, I would be happy to provide numerous literature citations documenting population level impacts of recreation on bighorn herds, but I am confident your own bighorn specialists are well aware of these cases. One in the news just this week are the dual threats faced by the nonmigratory Teton bighorn herd in Wyoming, the decline of which is linked to backcountry skiing. Numerous studies document the impacts of human activity on bighorns, including chronically elevated heart rates, fecal corticoids, and reduced recruitment, and have been linked to population-level declines and in at least one case extirpation, even when motorized uses are restricted.

I implore WDFW to be eternally vigilant against the impacts of what may be perceived as benign and apparently subtle impacts of additional human uses within WDFW lands occupied by bighorn sheep; these lands are critical to the continued existence of bighorns in Washington. It would be no less incongruous a use to develop mountain bike and hiking trails on the Chelan Butte unit, as

	<p>it would be to locate those same uses on the Sagebrush Flat unit, and for the same reasons.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Beau Patterson</p>	
18.	<p>I am writing to protest any type of mountain bike trail in the chelan Butte wildlife area. This is already has plenty of trails and other available for people. This is a wild life area that supports many types of wildlife including bighorn sheep. Please keep this a limited use area and deny access for the proposed bike trail.</p> <p>Brian Flintoff</p>	<p>Thank you for expressing your concerns and support for conservation. WDFW received a proposal from a trails advocacy group in December 2016 for a trail development on Chelan Butte. Vetting of the proposal will occur during a public process involving the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and likely a Public Meeting where the project sponsor will be invited to present their proposal. Your comment and comments received during these events will be included in the evaluation process for this proposal and you will receive an invitation to these meetings which are likely to occur in Fall 2018. Balancing conservation and recreation is becoming increasingly challenging for managers. Public input is a critical driver in our decision making process and your comment is appreciated.</p>
19.	<p>There are enough areas for other recreators (bikers) throughout other areas of the state. Why must a recreation area be developed to allow for certain hobbies at the expense of our wildlife habitat? WDFW has proved time and again that managing wildlife is not a priority, instead you would rather spend time and money on</p>	<p>Thank you for expressing your concerns and support for conservation. WDFW received a proposal from a trails advocacy group in December 2016 for a trail development on Chelan Butte. Vetting of the proposal will occur during a public process involving the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and likely a Public</p>

<p>building predator populatiins and on non-sportsmen that don't even pay into the wildlife budget. I'm asking that you don't make yet another grave mistake by allowing a recreation area to be developed and precious habitat removed from the wildlife.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Clint Myers</p>	<p>Meeting where the project sponsor will be invited to present their proposal. Your comment and comments received during these events will be included in the evaluation process for this proposal and you will receive an invitation to these meetings which are likely to occur in Fall 2018. Balancing conservation and recreation is becoming increasingly challenging for managers. Public input is a critical driver in our decision making process and your comment is appreciated.</p>
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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

1250 W Alder St • Union Gap, WA 98903-0009 • (509) 575-2490

April 25, 2018

Lisa Wood
SEPA\NEPA Coordinator
WDFW Regulatory Services Section
600 Capital Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Re: 18-017

Dear Ms. Wood:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the determination of nonsignificance for the Chelan Wildlife Area management plan. We have reviewed the documents and have the following comments.

WATER RESOURCES

If you plan to use water for dust suppression at your site, be sure that you have a legal right. Temporary permits may be obtainable in a short time-period. The concern of Water Resources is for existing water rights. In some instances water may need to be obtained from a different area and hauled in or from an existing water right holder.

A water right permit is required for all surface water diversions and for any water from a well that will exceed 5,000 gallons per day. (Chapter 90.03 RCW Surface Water Code and Chapter 90.44 RCW Regulation of Public Ground Waters)

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these Water Resources comments, please contact **Jolee Ramos** at (509) 454-4173 or email at jolee.ramos@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Gwen Clear
Environmental Review Coordinator
Central Regional Office
(509) 575-2012
crosepacordinator@ecy.wa.gov

201801612



Chelan Wildlife Area Advisory Committee Meeting

Chelan County Fire District 1
Station 11
206 Easy Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801
June 27, 2017
6:00-8:30 pm

AGENDA

- 6:00pm **Welcome and Introductions** – Ron Fox & Lauri Vigue
- Purpose of the meeting
 - Roles and Expectations / Responsibilities
- 6:15pm **Chelan Wildlife Area Planning and Process** – Lauri Vigue
- 6:30pm **Overview of Chelan WLA** – Ron Fox
- 6:45pm **Preliminary Issues List** – Ron Fox
- **Break if needed – Time TBD**
- 7:15pm **Discussion and Comments** – Ron Fox
- Questions and/or concerns
 - Recreation
 - Additional public involvement opportunities
 - Wells WLA WAAC (Rich)
- 8:00pm **Wrap-up** – Lauri Vigue
- Public meeting July 13th
 - Next WAAC meeting
- 8:30pm **Adjourn**

Chelan Wildlife Area Advisory Committee Meeting

Final Meeting Notes

June 27, 2017

Chelan County Fire District 1, Station 11

6:00-8:30 pm

Attendees:

WAAC Members:

Bill Stegeman
Sam Lain
Graham Grant
Jason Lundgren
Von Pope
Eric Ellis
Paul Willard

WDFW Staff:

Ron Fox
Rich Finger
Lauri Vigue

Welcome and Introductions

Ron Fox, Chelan Wildlife Area Manager welcomed everyone. Wildlife Area Advisory Committee (WAAC) members and WDFW staff introduced themselves. This is considered a new WAAC developed for the planning process. Lauri Vigue, Planning Project Manager, explained the focus of the meeting is to provide a description of WAAC roles and expectations, overview of the wildlife area planning process, and timeline. Ron will provide a draft list of wildlife area issues developed by internal scoping and an overview of the wildlife area units.

Chelan WLA Planning and Process

The primary purpose of this meeting is to introduce the wildlife area management planning process to this committee. The goal is to develop a wildlife area management plan for the Chelan Wildlife Area. The agency mission and strategic plan were introduced. An overview of Chelan WAAC roles and expectations, contributions and responsibilities were provided; as well as the planning team responsibilities. A summary of the purpose of the plan, Framework document, forest planning, recreation strategy was introduced.

The Chelan WLA planning process begun in March 2017; an internal scoping meeting was held in April, the public meeting will be held on July 13th; and the first planning meeting will be held on August 10th.

Planning Timeline (estimated)

Chelan WAAC	June - October 2017 (~2 meetings min)
1 st Public meeting	July 13, 2017
2nd Public meeting	October - November 2017
Planning meetings	August - October (~3-4 meetings)
Final Draft Plan	December 2017

Wildlife Area Overview

Operations and maintenance funding is provided by the following funding sources:

- Pittman Robertson
- Discovery Pass
- Wildlife Account

Swakane Unit: 10,939 acres; original purchase funded by Chelan PUD, Wildlife Funds; habitat includes: shrubsteppe, riparian, ponderosa pine, ag fields. Key species: mule deer, bighorn sheep, upland game birds; recreation – hunting and fishing

Entiat Unit: 7,989 acres; original purchase funded by Chelan PUD, Wildlife Funds; habitat includes: shrubsteppe, riparian, ponderosa pine. Key species: mule deer, upland game birds, riparian and forest dependent species; recreation – hunting, fishing, shed hunting

Chelan Butte: 10,116 acres; original purchase funded by Chelan PUD, Wildlife Funds; habitat includes: shrubsteppe, riparian, ponderosa pine, mixed conifer. Key species: upland game birds, mule deer, bighorn sheep, western gray squirrel (pre-fire); recreation – mt biking, hiking, hang gliding

White River: 429 acres; original purchase funded by RCO, Wildlife Funds; habitat includes: montane riparian woodland-shrubland, high elevation montane mixed conifer forest. Key species: steelhead, bull trout, Chinook; recreation - hunting

Pateros: 1,217 acres; original purchase funded by RCO, Pittman Robertson; habitat includes: shrubsteppe, riparian. Key species: mule deer winter range; recreation - hunting, fishing, bird watching

Beebe Springs: 162 acres; original purchase funded by state appropriation; habitat includes: shrubsteppe, riparian, wetlands. Key species: steelhead, Chinook, shrubsteppe, riparian and wetland dependent species; recreation – fishing, bird watching, hiking, hunting (world class birding)

Cashmere Pond: 21 acres; original purchase funded by WSDOT transfer; habitat includes: riparian and shoreline. Key species: steelhead, bull trout, Chinook; recreation - fishing. At least two salmon restoration projects are in place.

Issues List

The internal scoping process identified the following preliminary issues that will be addressed in the new plan:

- Focal species includes, mule deer, bighorn sheep, salmon, non-game (Diversity species)
- Salmon recovery
- Rare plants (e.g. globe mallow –Chelan Butte)
- Western gray squirrel
- Giant Palouse earthworm
- Shrubsteppe restoration
- Forest planning
- PUD funded restoration
- Capacity and operations and maintenance funding
- Wildlife area infrastructure and headquarters
- Off-road travel and mountain biking
- Target shooting
- Trail systems difficult to enforce

Chelan WLA WAAC Comments

Von Pope – Is shed hunting an issue? Ron described units with most activity.

Bill – Noticed digging around homestead locations (metal detectors) and mentioned that holes are not refilled.

Bill – Chelan Butte County Road, motorcycles travel at high speeds. Ron Fox described limits on the crossover road (county road). Spring mudding occurs here. Graham questioned whether county would be willing to vacate or limit it. Von mentioned that seasonal closures have worked elsewhere. Bill mentioned potential for conflicts during hunting seasons.

Paul – With regards to trails, mentioned the importance of educating folks early on with regards to hunting seasons and respecting hunters by avoiding trails during morning when hunting season ongoing. Provide information at trailhead for recreationists and hunters to minimize conflict. Graham agreed and mentioned that once a foothold is gained by recreationists they often use their commissioners to enact firearm restrictions, but overall believed there was potential to be compatible.

Graham – Is there prospecting in Oklahoma Gulch? Merle Lowden (retired dentist with a claim).

Rich proposed the possibility of increasing the WAACs scope to include Wells Wildlife Area. In general there were concerns and lack of interest. Graham mentioned different dynamic between the areas that would make for a large WAAC. Private ag interests and T&E species issues from Wells don't jive well with Chelan issues. Von felt it could be done, would take longer, so would want to do meetings separately.

Paul - Asked about how WDFW management plan works on lands other public lands not owned by WDFW, e.g. BLM and USFS. Federal agencies are invited to attend the WAAC and public meetings. WDFW staff have the option of having additional focused meetings with federal agencies. We can also build in objectives into the new plan that include building collaborative relationships with other agencies, these topics are often issue specific, for example forest planning or road management.

Erik – BLM has an MOU from 1968 for Swakane, Entiat, and Chelan Butte that identifies what WDFW basically a guidance document. Since it is not feasible to renew each MOU on all state lands (as was the case with the Klickitat WLS), ideally, we should have a state level MOU for all WDFW/BLM managed lands. Instead there is a new programmatic NEPA process developed for post fire restoration. Results in pre-approval for WDFW for the methods identified in NEPA permit. 'Determination of NEPA Adequacy' document. Coverage of this is specific to Wenatchee Field Office jurisdiction. BLM's draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) is due out this fall.

Jason - White River – Logging and grazing legacy is still impacting habitat. The forest assessment describes the current forest conditions. Culvert removal planned for this summer. There are opportunities for forest restoration but it's a low priority due to lack of available funding. Was old growth cedar that could fall and dam the river. Now dominated by fir.

Paul asked about Recreation Planning Process. It's still in early stages of development. Will be able to provide more information at next meeting. Hopefully the Chelan WLA plan will include early products from the recreation strategy process.

Jason had a comment about the Restoration Pathway process (coordinates review of aquatic restoration projects) - Need to try to continue to hone in. Painful process with many levels of review from WDFW and other regulatory authorities.

Ron Fox added issue of Cultural Resource Protection, specifically the Lucas Homestead on Chelan Butte and Depner Cabin.

Volunteer Registration: We highly encourage WAAC members to volunteer on the agency website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer>

The benefits of registering are that members are eligible for mileage reimbursement. Bill's response was that the volunteer mileage reimbursement is cumbersome and needs to be streamlined, too much paperwork. Lauri offered assistance to make it easy for the group.

The draft stakeholder database was routed for comments, missing organizations and individuals: add the following: Coastal Conservation Association; county commissioners Overbay and Goehner – "Lake Wenatchee guy"

Should we have a wildlife area tour in the fall? TBD. After the plan is drafted we may schedule to allow specific "issue" areas to be discussed, and that a site visit may be warranted. Consider inviting local elected officials.

Comment Sheet Feedback

(Comments received from Sam Lain and Jason Lundgren)

Interests

- Maintaining and restoring floodplains and fish habitat.
- Wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing and hiking.

Frequency of Use (number of visits per season)

Areas Visited	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Swakane			2	
Entiat		2	3	
Chelan Butte			20	20
White River	1	1	1	
Pateros				
Beebe Springs	2	2	3	3
Cashmere Pond				

Recreation Pursued at Oak Creek

- Hunting (Swakane, Chelan Butte, White River, Pateros)
- Wildlife viewing (Swakane, Chelan Butte, Pateros)
- Dog walking (Swakane, Chelan Butte, Pateros)
- Hiking (Swakane, Pateros)
- Other – mushrooms (Chelan Butte)

- Upland bird hunting, chucker, mule deer hunting on Chelan Butte

Wildlife, fish or habitat Interests

- River and floodplain habitat restoration along all fish bearing streams

Recommended Changes or Improvements

- Work with stakeholders and partners to leverage funding to identify and implement fish habitat restoration efforts on lands that have been degraded.

Land Management Activities

- Habitat restoration on all units, i.e., White River and Entiat
- There is a need to improve cover for deer and game birds on Chelan Butte.

Additional Feedback

- Find operations and maintenance funding to maintain WDFW lands!

Next steps:

- Public meeting July 13th
- Planning team develops goals and objectives, draft plan expected in September
- WAAC reviews draft plan September/October
- Public review draft fall 2017

Action items for the group

- Provide comments on the charter by July 14th
- Fill out comment sheet at WAAC or public meeting.
- Register as a volunteer



AGENDA

Chelan Wildlife Area Advisory Committee

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WSDOT, 2830 Euclid Ave., Wenatchee**

March 6, 2018

- 6:00 p.m. Welcome/Introductions – Rich Finger, Wildlife Area Complex Manager**
- 6:10-6:45 p.m. Purpose and Meeting Format/Wildlife Area Planning Overview – Lauri Vigue, Project Manager**
- Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan Highlights – Ron Fox, Chelan Wildlife Area Manager**
- Objective Highlights – Ron Fox**
- Recreation Outreach Process – Rich Finger/Melinda Posner**
- 6:45-7:45 p.m. WAAC Comments on Draft Plan/Goals & Objectives**
- 7:50 Next Steps**
- 8:30 p.m. Adjourn**

Chelan Wildlife Area Advisory Committee Meeting

Final Meeting Notes

March 6, 2018
WSDOT, Wenatchee
6:00-8:30 pm

Attendees:

WAAC Members:

Sam Lain
Graham Grant
Von Pope
Eric Ellis
Paul Willard

WDFW Staff:

Ron Fox
Rich Finger
Lauri Vigue
Melinda Posner

Welcome and Introductions (Rich)

Rich Finger, Lands Operations Manager welcomed everyone. Lauri Vigue, Planning Project Manager, explained the focus of the meeting is to provide the highlights of the wildlife area planning process, WAAC roles and responsibilities and timeline; and gather comments from the WAAC on the draft management plan. The plan is consistent with the WDFW mission statement.

Chelan WLA Draft Management Plan (Lauri and Ron)

The draft wildlife area management plan was sent to WAAC members and the tribes on Thursday, March 1st for a two week review. Comments are due back to Lauri on March 16th.

Planning Timeline:

SEPA – 30 Day notice	Early April
Public meeting	April 12, 2018 (Chelan Fire Station)
Final Management Plan	Summer 2018

Ron presented the draft vision for the wildlife area plan:

The vision of the Chelan Wildlife Area is to maintain and enhance native habitats, to support and recover fish and wildlife species on the wildlife area now and into the future; and provide opportunities for appropriate recreational experiences.

No comments were received.

Ron provided highlights of the draft plan, including success stories and emphasized that the plan itself is built on the draft goals and objectives, and they interact nicely. The existing goals and objectives list was built on input from the WAAC and the public.

The bighorn sheep reintroduction has been successful, it was a goal for the wildlife area 20 years ago. Every unit on the wildlife area has a page on eBird except for the Entiat Unit, highlighting the success of wildlife viewing. Franks Pond juvenile fishing pond has been successful and is well used by the local community. Wenatchee Sportsman have been volunteering on the wildlife area for over 20 years. Only two reptiles have been documented on the wildlife area which heightens the need for future wildlife surveys.

There will be an appendix for shrub-steppe restoration in the final plan. An outline will be provided, for public review, until the appendix is complete. The appendix will give a history of restoration efforts on the wildlife area including lessons learned.

Recreation Outreach Process (Rich)

(See attachment)

Background: The draft Recreation Outreach Process was developed by the WDFW regional staff based on the Elephant Head trail proposal. WDFW recognizes the demand for non-traditional uses on WDFW lands, which may increase conflict with wildlife. This process will include a public review phase, the WAAC will have the opportunity to review and comment on a draft proposal before it goes public. WDFW regional management team will review and make the final decision.

Comments:

- WDFW needs to consider the multiple jurisdictions in the area for recreation planning. BLM, Chelan County, PUD and DNR also own adjacent lands on Chelan Butte. Each jurisdiction may have their own respective recreation planning processes that may conflict with our proposal. It is important to coordinate early in the process.
- Consider a multijurisdictional MOU, when this occurs.
- Need to broaden the WAAC. Include a representative from DNR and Chelan County.

- Von said the draft proposal was good.
- The Swakane Canyon Birding Trail will be a good project to start with, a field trip will be setup in May with the WAAC to discuss different uses (target shooting, birding trail and quail hunting) and develop a proposal
- Emphasize working collaboratively early in the process.

Tasks:

- Rich will send out draft recreation outreach proposal to the WAAC for additional comments
- Lauri will send out a Doodle Poll to schedule a field trip in May to the Swakane Unit.
- WAAC Members, provide comments on the draft plan by March 16th

Lands Showcase / Recreation Strategy (Melinda)

Objectives of the Lands Showcase Process:

- Increased public and political awareness of WDFW lands
- Increased visibility of lands values
- Increased support for operations and maintenance funding
- Effective technology investments and improved business processes

Components ultimately include improved visitor maps and website content. The WDFW website re-design is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The recreation strategy is an important component of this process.

WAAC Comment

- Has WDFW done an analysis of where funding comes from, to ensure lands are managed consistent with original funding source? Answer: yes, funding strings are listed in the wildlife area management plan; it is an important component of the new plan.
- It is important that WDFW realize the increase in popularity of recreation sites once they become developed, often times they can develop into a commercial venture. Which may result in exceeding capacity on WDFW lands. SEPA should help address this demand issue when developing new recreation proposals.
- Several hunting easements are located on the Entiat Unit. These need to be corrected in WDFW Landscape Information System. Chelan Butte has county road easements (undeveloped) too. Easements are a challenging issue. This is a statewide issue with the

agency. It is important to develop a process for prioritization. If the agency fails to take action, the public loses.

- Reference to PUD management plan is quite long. Needs to be resolved.
- Fix appendix reference listed on page 51 (list of rare plants).
- Add to weed table, bouncing bet, Russian olive.
- Add Ute ladies tresses to species table.

**Chelan Wildlife Area Planning
Public Scoping Meeting
Chelan County Fire District 1, Station 11
206 Easy Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801
July 13, 2017**

AGENDA

6:00 – 6:30 Open House (visit stations and share comments)

6:30 - 7:00 WDFW Staff Presentation

- Welcome/purpose & introductions of WDFW staff
- Meeting format, agenda & public process
- Planning process & timeline
- Wildlife area highlights
- Clarifying Q&A

7:00 - 8:00 Open House

8:30 Adjourn

Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan

Public Scoping Workshop Summary – Final

July 13, 2017

Introduction

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) hosted a public scoping workshop on Thursday July 13th, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Chelan County Fire District 1, Station 11, Wenatchee. The purpose of the workshop was to share information about the wildlife area planning process and to solicit public and stakeholder input.

The workshop begins the planning process for developing a new Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan, one of 33 plans the department will revise over eight years. The plans are updated every two years to reflect changes in landscape and management priorities; however, the larger plan efforts are more comprehensive and consider the status of wildlife species and their habitat, progress towards goals identified in earlier plans, and new wildlife area 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 areas and facility improvements; as well as weed control practices and other operations and maintenance practices. Chelan's current plan as developed in 2006, with subsequent updates, are available on the department website at http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/.

Twelve people attended and signed in at the workshop including interested parties from Chelan County communities of Wenatchee, Chelan, Mason and Brewster. Stakeholder groups included Audubon, Wenatchee Sportsman Association, Wild Sheep Foundation, Washington Native Plant Society, Lake Chelan Trails/Evergreen Bike Alliance. A representative from Chelan County PUD and WDFW Commissioner, David Graybill attended the meeting.

Workshop Format

The workshop was designed in a combination open house/presentation format. Individual maps of each of the seven wildlife area's units were posted, and participants were encouraged to share specific and general feedback after the presentation and at the map locations.

Staff presentation

Rich Finger, Regional Lands Operations Manager, welcomed everyone and introduced WDFW employees. Melinda Posner, Lands Division planning/public outreach lead gave an overview of the workshop format and reviewed the agenda topics. Other WDFW participants included:

- Ron Fox, Chelan Wildlife Area Manager
- Dave Volson, Wildlife District Biologist
- Travis Maitland, Fish District Biologist
- Graham Simon, Habitat Program
- Eric Oswald, Enforcement
- Eric Boyd, Enforcement
- Lauri Vigue, Project Manager

- Melinda Posner, Lands Division Planning/Public Outreach
- Rich Harris, Game Division

Meeting guidelines:

- We want to hear from everyone
- One person talks at a time
- Refrain from side conversations
- Stay focused on meeting purpose
- Keep comments short – 30 second “big ideas”
- Mute cell phones

Melinda 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 this wildlife area. Public scoping will include SEPA, shared agency priorities, collecting input and reporting in the plan. She noted multiple methods for providing comments including flip charts notes, writing on the unit maps provided, speaking with staff and sending email comments directly to chelanwla@dfw.wa.gov

Lauri Vigue, project manager, reviewed the department’s overall process for updating all state wildlife area plans. We have a new Chelan Wildlife Area Advisory Committee for this process with nine members. She noted the following new topics the plan will consider including:

- Wildlife Area Ecological Integrity Monitoring
- Forest Management
- Recreation Management
- Expanded public outreach including public workshops, information materials and Wildlife Area Advisory Committee meetings

Lauri summarized timeline for the Chelan WLA plan; staff expects a draft plan by October, 2017; and potential final plan by end of the year. Lauri introduced Ron Fox, wildlife area manager for Chelan Wildlife Area. Ron provided an overview of each of the seven units describing the current objectives, recreation and original funding source.

Swakane Unit

Overview: 10,939 acres of shrubsteppe, riparian, ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, cliffs, talus; 100 acres of abandoned agricultural fields.

Current Objectives: Maintain and restore habitat for priority wildlife species (mule deer, bighorn sheep, upland game birds), provide public hunting opportunities.

Recreation: Hunting and fishing, mt biking, bird watching, horseback riding, target shooting

Funding Source: Wildlife Funds, Chelan County Public Utility District

Entiat Unit

Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan Public Scoping Workshop Summary

July 13, 2017

Overview: 7,989 acres of shrubsteppe, riparian, ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, cliffs, talus.

Current Objectives: Maintain and restore habitat for priority wildlife species (upland game birds, mule deer). Provide public hunting and fishing opportunities.

Recreation: Hunting, fishing and shed hunting

Funding Source: Wildlife Funds, Chelan County Public Utility District

Chelan Butte Unit

Overview: 10,116 acres of shrubsteppe, riparian, cliffs, talus, ponderosa pine, mixed conifer; 1,000 acres of abandoned agricultural fields.

Current Objectives: Maintain and restore habitat for priority wildlife species (upland game birds, mule deer, bighorn sheep). Provide public hunting opportunities.

Recreation: Hunting, hang gliding, helicopter tours, mt biking

Funding Source: Wildlife Funds, Chelan County Public Utility District.

Over 200 documented bighorn sheep present; 50 homesteads previously existed, one of which is a National Historic site.

White River Unit

Overview: 429 acres west of Lake Wenatchee on the White River; habitat includes montane riparian woodland-shrubland within the floodplain and montane mixed conifer forest.

Current Objectives: Maintain and restore habitat for federally listed steelhead, bull trout and Chinook, provide public hunting opportunities.

Recreation: Hunting, kayaking and canoeing

Funding Source: Recreation Conservation Office – WWRP, Wildlife Funds

Pateros Unit

Overview: 1,217 acres of shrubsteppe, riparian draws, and rocky outcrops.

Current Objectives: Maintain habitat for priority wildlife species (mule deer winter range), provide public hunting opportunities.

Recreation: Hunting, fishing, mountain biking, bird watching and horseback riding

Funding Source: Pittman Robertson, Recreation Conservation Office (WWRP), mitigation and donation

BLM lands that we manage are included on this unit.

Beebe Springs Unit

Overview: 162 acres of shrub-steppe, riparian, cliffs, talus, wetlands.

Current Objectives: Maintain and restore habitat for priority fish (steelhead and Chinook) and wildlife species, provide ADA accessible trails, interpretive opportunities and fishing.

Recreation: Fishing, hunting, bird watching, walking

Funding Source: State appropriation

8 miles of ADA trails.

Cashmere Pond Unit

Overview: 21 acres of riparian and Wenatchee River shoreline

Current Objectives: Maintain and restore habitat for priority fish (steelhead, bull trout and Chinook) and wildlife species, provide public fishing opportunities.

Recreation: public fishing

Funding Source: Mitigation transfer (WSDOT)

Dave Volson – Wildlife Values on Chelan WLA

Mule deer and bighorn sheep (high value and high profile) high priority species.

We need dedicated resources to conduct a species inventory – passerine birds, small mammals, amphibians. Western gray squirrel no longer exist on the wildlife area (Chelan Butte Unit)

Priority Projects include weed management and salmon restoration projects.

General Comments and Questions at Stations

What should our priorities be?

Fish and Wildlife

- Fragmentation habitat: How to maintain habitat integrity to ensure habitats are connected for wildlife?
- More human/species interaction with residential development, closer to the units
- New residential developments resulting in “islands” of habitat (Chelan Butte and Pateros).
There are no travel corridors for Chelan Butte, it is an isolated island.
 - How do we protect that remaining habitat?
 - How can we play a role of controlling development?

Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan Public Scoping Workshop Summary
July 13, 2017

- What are the long-term impacts of population growth?
- More population equals more disturbance
- Some activities not compatible with fish and wildlife
- How are other public lands managed (collaborative management planning).
 - DNR – we lease to manage (Swakane, Chelan Butte units)
 - BLM – MOA outdated from the 1960s. What is the chances of a renewal?
 - Are funds available to manage leases with DNR?
- Habitat preservation, acquisition has to be a priority with recreation secondary
- More land use changes, along shorelines, more docks are being built and diminishing the riparian habitat
- Wild Sheep Foundation concerns:
 - Hunter conflict, more people hunting different species
 - Disruption of lambing areas
 - Urban interface, risk of disease transmission
- Deer hunting on Chelan Butte, what is the threshold for capacity for the herd?
- Sheep fence along HWY 97A has been successful in reducing sheep/deer kill. Addition fencing needs to be added in other places.
- Are there key species that help identify effects of climate change? Species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) vulnerability to climate change will be included in the management plan.
- For Chelan Butte, we do not know the extent of species richness (e.g. reptiles) since there is no funding for surveys. There are limited resources to inventory non-game species on the units.
- What percent of income comes from hunting?
- Is there a lot of bitterbrush on the wildlife area? Dryland alfalfa deer prefer. WDFW is seeding Chelan Butte with alfalfa and bitterbrush.
- What is the normal population of deer? Seems to be lower numbers this year. Dave V. – 26% decline due to hard winter – high amount of snow at lower elevations this year.
- It's good to consider Douglas/Chelan counties population growth – forecasts in this planning effort. The population increase will be significant. There are 1,500 homes forecast to be built near the Beebe Springs bridge alone.
- If we allow multiple uses, visitors will increase.
- We need to identify which are the best units to protect with current population projections, (e.g. Chelan Butte Unit surrounded by residential development), identify where WDFW lands are connected with other public lands. What are the best areas to protect, with the greatest long-term benefit? Swakane and Entiat units are near other public lands.
- Consider all priority species on each unit in the plan.
- Will the goals and objectives be specific to the units? Yes.
- Some areas will be more suited for certain types of recreation development.
- Can we protect corridors used by wildlife, especially in areas that are similar to Chelan Butte?
- Consider acquiring lands / exchanging lands to protect with the best ecological benefit. The state of Montana is receiving federal funds for acquisitions.
- The goal should be to restore habitats to historic levels. Goals from different groups should be included in the plans (e.g. restoring bighorn sheep historic areas).
- We need to include all wildlife corridors information in the plan. The Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group information will be incorporated into the plan.
- Pheasant release (example) on Chelan Butte and other release sites.

Are there other groups we should include on the stakeholder list?
North central Washington Mule Deer Association

Restoration Station:

- Upper Crab Creek butterfly; Wilson Creek area (Lincoln Co.,) Marsh violet, David James – can give more info.

Operations and Maintenance

- HQ location relative to employees and equipment

Recreation and Public Use

- Incorporate the program and learning from the state recreation strategy into this plan even if it's not done

Notes written on maps

White River: note center above Lake Wenatchee - Upper Basin Birders does survey of 7-10 stations monthly between Fish Lake, Lake Wenatchee, White River, Napeaqua? (protocols established by Heather Murphy).

Pateros: note on Methow River, lots of birding activity in the past from Methow mouth to 1st set of islands – lots of development/land use changes – fewer birds.

May annual breeding bird survey done in conjunction with Dana Visalli and Methow Valley Birders – bird from the Columbia to Washington Pass in one day. Start at junction of Methow/Columbia River.

Beebe Springs: parkin lot here – bird length of Beebe twice a month, 120 total species. Lead NCWAS field trips in spring.

North part of Beebe Springs: Native American cultural site. Good birds here. Fence could it be moved to allow birding access? Or keeping people out protects birds?

Changes in bird life, orchard to shrub-steppe, changes in land use.

Swakane: map has a circle along Swakane Canyon Rd “most popular target shooting”
At parking lot symbol (park for hike), have hiked with family twice. Bird each year during Wenatchee Christmas Bird Count.

Chelan Butte: Note upper right corner, increase in back-country skiers and hikers.
Downie Canyon Rd – Bird this road 3-5 times per year, especially looking for mountain and western bluebirds and raptors.

North – Chelan Butte Rd. – park where paved road becomes dirt and walk and bird two miles after, 5-8 times per year. Hummers, flycatchers, white headed woodpecker, raptors. Great variety of species due to mixed habitat.

Chelan Butte lookout – Drive/walk 3-4 times a year. Look annually for Lewis' woodpecker that nest in woods by launch for hang gliders.

Chelan PUD Reach 1 Trail (potential trail connection) (Howser Rd). NE Chelan Butte Trail and Chelan Gorge Rd. Park at foot of hill past junk yard.

Additional Comments Received

Following are areas of interest that the Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association (WSA) would like to see included in the current (2017) review and update of the Chelan Wildlife Management Plan (CWMP):

Sufficient funding for management of habitat and restoration of habitat in areas disturbed by fire and/or erosion

Enforcement funding adequacy for resource protection

Control and/or eradication of noxious weeds

Access for hunting and hiking and biking on public lands to including recreation easements across private lands where applicable

Thank you for your consideration of these topics of interest for the CWMP review/update,

Sincerely, Jerry Gutzwiler, WSA, President

Meeting Materials

The following meeting materials are attached:

- Agenda
- Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan Fact Sheet
- Workshop Postcard
- News release



September 5, 2017

Ron Fox
Manager
Chelan Wildlife Area

Dear Ron:

The Washington Wild Sheep Foundation would like to express our immediate concern and opposition of the further development of the Chelan Wildlife Area. We would like to urge the Chelan Wildlife Area Advisory Committee to consider the negative impacts of development when collaboratively creating a new management plan. The Chelan Wildlife Area was established to create an area for fish and wildlife to thrive. Further intrusion into this area is not conducive to supporting the conservation and restoration of key fish, plant species and wildlife; especially bighorn sheep.

It is imperative to move forward with absolute fidelity of the mission statement of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as ensure that sound management practices are at the forefront of the decisions made. If development is to ensue in the Chelan Wildlife Area, two major herds will indefinitely be affected. Bighorn sheep are extremely susceptible to the spread of disease. Encroachment and development of wild sheep habitat dramatically increases the chance of a disease transmission, which in turn has the potential for catastrophic outcomes.

Aligning goals and objectives from both WDFW and the Washington Wild Sheep Foundation indicate that restoration and conservation of bighorn sheep, returning them to their historic areas, and promoting hunting as a conservation tool should be an overwhelming drive in decision

making for the new plan. If the new plan failed to put fish, wildlife, and plant species at the forefront of the decision making, conflicts are sure to arise. Issues such as intrusion into lambing areas, stress on the bighorn sheep with human high traffic use, hunter/non-hunter conflict, and potential threats to the flora such as the spread of noxious weeds should all be taken into account. Additionally, best available science and numerous studies indicate that the importance of separation of domestic goats and domestic sheep with bighorn sheep. Continuing the separation of bighorn sheep with domestic sheep and domestic goats in the Chelan Wildlife Area must remain in place to prevent the spread of disease.

The members of the Washington Wild Sheep Foundation have donated thousands of dollars for the reintroduction, conservation, and preservation of the herds in the Chelan Wildlife Area. The funding donated has been instrumental in providing reintroduction of bighorn sheep, collaring for research, fencing, as well as resolution with domestic sheep issues. The support of conservation and preservation of the Chelan Wildlife Area has not wavered since the first opportunity the Washington Wild Sheep Foundation has had to provide assistance to WDFW.

In conclusion, the Washington Wild Sheep Foundation would like the Chelan Wildlife Area Advisory Committee to understand the severity of further development of the Chelan Wildlife Area. Additionally, we urge the importance to the committee to utilize a sound, science-based collaborative approach which is most beneficial for fish, wildlife and native plants.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Garrett Grant

WA WSF Secretary

September 20, 2017

Chelan Wildlife Area Advisory Committee

Committee Members:

I would like to express my immediate concern and opposition of the further development of the Chelan Wildlife Area. I would like to urge the Chelan Wildlife Area Advisory Committee to consider the negative impacts of development when collaboratively creating a new management plan. The Chelan Wildlife Area was established to create an area for fish and wildlife to thrive. Further intrusion into this area is not conducive to supporting the conservation and restoration of key fish, plant species and wildlife; especially bighorn sheep.

It is imperative to move forward with absolute fidelity of the mission statement of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as ensure that sound management practices are at the forefront of the decisions made. If development is to ensue in the Chelan Wildlife Area, two major herds will indefinitely be affected. Bighorn sheep are extremely susceptible to the spread of disease. Encroachment and development of wild sheep habitat dramatically increases the chance of a disease transmission, which in turn has the potential for catastrophic outcomes.

I am a member of the Washington Wild Sheep Foundation. Aligning goals and objectives from both WDFW and the Washington Wild Sheep Foundation indicate that restoration and conservation of bighorn sheep, returning them to their historic areas, and promoting hunting as a conservation tool should be an overwhelming drive in decision making for the new plan. If the new plan failed to put **fish, wildlife, and plant species at the forefront** of the decision making, conflicts are sure to arise. Issues such as intrusion into lambing areas, stress on the bighorn sheep with human high traffic use, hunter/non-hunter conflict, and potential threats to the flora such as the spread of noxious weeds should all be taken into account. Additionally, best available science and numerous studies indicate that the importance of separation of domestic goats and domestic sheep with bighorn sheep. Continuing the separation of bighorn sheep with domestic

sheep and domestic goats in the Chelan Wildlife Area must remain in place to prevent the spread of disease.

The members of the Washington Wild Sheep Foundation have donated thousands of dollars for the reintroduction, conservation, and preservation of the herds in the Chelan Wildlife Area. The funding donated has been instrumental in providing reintroduction of bighorn sheep, collaring for research, fencing, as well as resolution with domestic sheep issues. The support of conservation and preservation of the Chelan Wildlife Area has not wavered since the first opportunity the Washington Wild Sheep Foundation has had to provide assistance to WDFW.

In conclusion, I would like the Chelan Wildlife Area Advisory Committee to understand the severity of further development of the Chelan Wildlife Area. Additionally, I urge the importance to the committee to utilize a sound, science-based collaborative approach which is most beneficial for fish, wildlife and native plants.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Casey Hughes

Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan
Public Scoping Comments Received 2017

9/19/17

WDFW's primary responsibility should be to support wildlife & fish. Allowing humans to once again encroach in wildlife areas is unnecessary and irresponsible management of wildlife land. I know of many people who are from out of state who continually complain about WDFW's management of our wildlife and land. Unfortunately the idea of developing a mountain biking trail for humans to use, is another irresponsible decision. Humans have streets and roadways dedicated to their use. People like to be in the wilderness to see wildlife, not push the wildlife away. We need to be much softer and quieter to view wildlife. The idea of a biking trail in these areas are merely to indulge city-dwelling people for their interests in bicycling; it has nothing to do with wildlife or concerns for the wild life.

WDFW should be defending the wildlife, not appeasing bicyclist.

"NO" TO DEVELOPMENT!

Jim Campbell ~ NRA Benefactor Member

<https://www.nratv.com/>

RMEF, Pheasants Forever, Washington Wild Sheep Foundation & Trout Unlimited Life member

9/19/17

To whom it may concern,

I oppose any development of the Chelan Wildlife Management Area, particularly any mountain bike trails and mountain bike access. This area is set aside for wildlife and should remain as such.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kelso

9/20/17

To whom it may concern.

I adamantly oppose any development to the Chelan Wildlife Area, or for that matter any other wildlife area. It has come to my attention that there is a proposal by a small special interest group to build a mountain biking trail through critical habitat. Sportsmen and women pay high hunting and fishing license fees to support these places like the Chelan Wildlife Area to hunt and fish. It seems that there is a slow but steady diminishing return on the investment of those license funds. Please don't make the mistake of allowing the loud voice of a small group override what the hunters and anglers have paid for decades.

Andy Kelso

9/20/17

I feel allowing more access to Chelan Butte is misguided. It has taken years to re-establish that part of the local area. Wild Sheep need areas of no pressure to survive. If they relocate to an area with domestic Sheep and goats, due to increased pressure, it will lead to the contraction of disease.

Thank you,

Thomas Steck, Snohomish, WA

9/22/17

To the Advisory Committee:

I was surprised to learn that a group would like the Chelan Butte Wildlife area to be impacted by development of mountain bike trails. I am opposed to adding mountain bike trails to a wildlife area in which you are reestablishing a bighorn sheep herd. Increased traffic by humans or farming is happening in too many wildlife acreages as it is. I think of the sage grouse situation in the west and now the massive wildfires in Montana and elsewhere. Natural disasters are one thing, but purposefully encroaching with mechanized recreation is preventable. There are sufficient USFS roads on the Chelan Ridge and the Entiat Ridge for mountain bikers without invading the Butte. Please share with those receiving community input.

Sincerely, Christine Mallon

9/25/17

I support the letter sent by WSF concerning the Chelan Wildlife Area. Please take into consideration all the impacts now and into the future. Thank You

Jesse Sharpes

9/26/17

Dear Committee Members:

I Tom Fischer would like to express my immediate concern and opposition of the further development of the Chelan Wildlife Area. We would like to urge the Chelan Wildlife Area Advisory Committee to consider the negative impacts of development when collaboratively creating a new management plan. The Chelan Wildlife Area was established to create an area for fish and wildlife to thrive. Further intrusion into this area is not conducive to supporting the conservation and restoration of key fish, plant species and wildlife; especially bighorn sheep.

It is imperative to move forward with absolute fidelity of the mission statement of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as ensure that sound management practices are at the forefront of the decisions made. If development is to ensue in the Chelan Wildlife Area, two major herds will indefinitely be affected. Bighorn sheep are extremely susceptible to the spread of disease. Encroachment and development of wild sheep habitat dramatically increases the chance of a disease transmission, which in turn has the potential for catastrophic outcomes.

Aligning goals and objectives from both WDFW and the Washington Wild Sheep Foundation indicate that restoration and conservation of bighorn sheep, returning them to their historic areas, and promoting hunting as a conservation tool should be an overwhelming drive in decision making for the new plan. If the new plan failed to put fish, wildlife, and plant species at the forefront of the decision making, conflicts are sure to arise. Issues such as intrusion into lambing areas, stress on the bighorn sheep with human high traffic use, hunter/non-hunter conflict, and potential threats to the flora such as the spread of noxious weeds should all be taken into account. Additionally, best available science and numerous studies indicate that the importance of separation of domestic goats and domestic sheep with bighorn sheep. Continuing the separation of bighorn sheep with domestic sheep and domestic goats in the Chelan Wildlife Area must remain in place to prevent the spread of disease.

I donate money to the Washington Wild Sheep Foundation which has donated thousands of dollars for the reintroduction, conservation, and preservation of the herds in the Chelan Wildlife Area. The funding donated has been instrumental in providing reintroduction of bighorn sheep, collaring for research, fencing, as well as resolution with domestic sheep issues. The support of conservation and preservation of the Chelan Wildlife Area has not wavered since the first opportunity the Washington Wild Sheep Foundation Chapter has had to provide assistance to WDFW.

In conclusion, I would like the Chelan Wildlife Area Advisory Committee to understand the severity of further development of the Chelan Wildlife Area. Additionally, we urge the importance to the committee to utilize a sound, science-based collaborative approach which is most beneficial for fish, wildlife and native plants.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Fischer, Concerned Sportsman

9/26/17

I recently learned that a user group is wanting to develop the Chelan Butte area for a mountain bike trail. This information was posted to the Hunting-Washington website.

As a mountain biker myself I have to say this deeply concerns me. We have so many areas to ride our bikes in this state that the last thing we need to do is interrupt critical sheep habitat. Including many trails already developed near Chelan.

I hope that the DFW takes into consideration the importance of preserving the wild sheep of our state and the habitat they call home.

Thank you,

Mark Lowe

General Manager

RAAD Industries, LLC

9/28/17

Please accept my input for NO development that would negatively affect habitat for wild sheep on the Chelan Butte- including biking/hiking trails.

Regards-

Mark lippincot

Lifetime Chelan resident and conservationist

9/29/17

Please do not let any development encroach on the valuable habit these beautiful creatures require. There are plenty of other places for development. Thank you Mike Weils

10/18/17

It has come to my attention that a proposal for development of a mountain biking trail within the Chelan Wildlife Area has been created. I would like to voice my concern for any further development of the area. The Chelan Butte provides critical habitat for California bighorn sheep, as well as many other wildlife species. This state is lacking in good sheep habitat, while areas for trail riding are not.

There are many other areas in close proximity to the Chelan Butte that offer excellent mountain biking opportunities without conflicting with incredibly important bighorn sheep habitat.

Please reject any current and future proposals for further development occurring within the Chelan Wildlife Area. The potential negative impacts of further recreation on the sheep, mule deer in their winter range, upland bird habitat and ecosystem functions are too great.

Respectfully,

Eric Koenig



Chelan Wildlife Area

**Chelan Wildlife Area Planning
Public Scoping Meeting
Chelan County Fire Department, District 7
232 E. Wapato Ave.,
Chelan, WA
April 12, 2018**

FINAL AGENDA

- 6:00 – 6:10 Welcome/Staff Introductions – Rich Finger, Lands Operation Manager**
- 6:10 - 6:45 Purpose and Meeting Format/Wildlife Area Planning Overview – Lauri Vigue, Project Manager**
- Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan Highlights – Ron Fox, Wildlife Area Manager**
- Objective Highlights – Ron Fox, Wildlife Area Manager**
- 6:45 - 8:00 Public Comments**
- 8:30 Adjourn**

Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan

Public Scoping Workshop Summary – Final

April 12, 2018

Introduction

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) hosted a public meeting on Thursday April 12th, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Chelan County Fire District 7 office, Chelan. The purpose of the workshop was to provide an overview of the draft management plan and collect public comments.

The meeting introduced the draft Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan, one of 33 plans the department is revising. The 30-day SEPA comment period began on March 30th and ends on April 30th. The plans are updated every two years to reflect changes in landscape and management priorities; however, the larger plan efforts are more comprehensive and consider the status of wildlife species and their habitat, progress towards goals identified in earlier plans, and new wildlife area 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 areas and facility improvements; as well as weed control and other operations and maintenance practices.

Eighteen individuals attended and signed in at the workshop including interested parties from Chelan County communities of Wenatchee, Chelan, and Mason. One individual was from Ferndale, WA. Stakeholder groups included Audubon, Wild Sheep Foundation, Lake Chelan Trails/Evergreen Bike Alliance, Chelan County Weed Board, Bureau of Land Management, Chelan County PUD, and Department of Natural Resources. Tim Hollingsworth, City of Chelan council member attended as well.

Staff presentation

Rich Finger, Regional Lands Operations Manager, welcomed everyone and introduced WDFW employees. Other WDFW participants included:

- Ron Fox, Chelan Wildlife Area Manager
- Devon Comstock, Wildlife Biologist
- Graham Simon, Habitat Program
- Dan Klump, Enforcement
- Lauri Vigue, Project Manager

Lauri Vigue, project manager, reviewed the agenda and the department's overall process for updating all state wildlife area plans. The plans set management activities for the next 10 years and ensures lands are managed consistent with the agency's mission and funding obligations. This plan has taken about one year to develop. Most of the previous plans have taken several years to complete, a good sign that we are becoming more efficient in our update process. Lauri also pointed out the Wildlife Area Management Planning Framework document, which is the umbrella document for all wildlife area planning, and serves as a good reference for describing agency initiatives, rules and regulations that guide wildlife area management planning. The document is located at this link:

https://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/

The final Chelan Wildlife Area Management plan should be finalized by July, 2018.

Wildlife Area Plan Highlights

Ron Fox, Chelan Wildlife Area Manager provided an overview of the draft management plan.

The new vision for the wildlife area plan:

“To maintain and enhance native habitats, to support and recover fish and wildlife species on the wildlife area now and in the future; and provide opportunities for appropriate recreational experiences”.

Success stories listed in the first section of the wildlife area plan include:

- Bighorn sheep recovery
- Wildlife viewing
- Frank’s Pond
- Swakane Canyon Restoration
- Chelan Butte Ag Field Restoration
- White River Salmon Restoration
- Wenatchee Sportsmen’s Association Volunteers

The target species:

- Rocky Mountain Mule Deer
- Bighorn Sheep
- Upland Game Birds
- Golden Eagle
- Western Gray Squirrel
- Pygmy Nuthatch
- Tiger Salamander
- Giant Palouse Earthworm
- Bull trout
- Chinook Salmon
- Steelhead

Evaluation Process for Recreation Development

Rich Finger described the draft proposal to evaluate recreation developments on the Chelan Wildlife Area. The agency determined it needs to develop a public outreach process to evaluate recreation development proposals. The guidance came to life after the Elephant Head Trail proposal was initially evaluated by WDFW region 2 office.

The draft process would involve three phases once a proposal is delivered to the agency:

Communication

- WDFW would conduct an internal assessment on proposals brought forward by the public/agencies
- WDFW makes recommendations to the project sponsor

Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan Public Scoping Workshop Summary

April 12, 2018

Public Input

- Wildlife Area Advisory Committee reviews initial proposal/ proposal revised
- Public meeting will be held to gather public input on each proposal

Internal Review

- Regional program reviews public comments
- Makes final recommendation

Examples of recreational activities that will be included in this process: trails for hiking and biking, and target shooting. Any stakeholder can bring a project forward to the regional office for review.

This process will help determine non-compatible use on WDFW lands.

Public Comments:

- It is a good idea to develop this process. The agency has limited resources, and currently there is no restrictions from proposals coming from the outside. The agency should have the authority to say recreation is “incompatible” from the beginning of a proposal.
- The USFS has the Resource Advisory Council process to determine if proposals are compatible, and makes the determination if the proposal will benefit the agency and/or public.
- If a proposal goes against agency mission or objectives, we should have the ability to say no.
- The criteria developed to evaluate recreation proposals needs to be made public.
- Would the Wildlife Commission make the ultimate decision? Answer: the regional director would make the initial decision in most cases. There are some instances where the decision could be made by the Director.

General Public Comments

- The Chelan PUD had purchased fishing easements along the Wenatchee River for public access as part of the FERC licensing agreement. Currently there is limited public access. There is pressure for increased residential housing along the river.
WDFW Response: This is a statewide issue; the Region does not have the capacity to address it adequately. Some cases would need the Attorney General’s Office involvement, since there will be lawsuits. PUD response: The PUD purchased fee title and easements for river access. There is a summary list available, sites are not specifically identified.
- The Lake Chelan area is having issues with public access sites being overtaken by neighbors, and private property rights being thought to be violated.
- WDFW should identify high value easements, add signage and make available to the public.
WDFW wants to be good neighbors to adjacent lands and must pursue the issue fairly, rather than targeting specific easements of high value.
- We need to get the public outside so they support public lands.
- Currently we cannot park along Hwy 97A to view sheep. Response: This objective is in the new management plan.
- We should all have access to easement whether it is hunting or fishing
- Beebe Springs has done very well with ADA access.
- Weed management plan, unattainable process. Partners (county weed board) are available to help assist with control efforts. Include line item budget for operations and maintenance.

Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan Public Scoping Workshop Summary

April 12, 2018

Concern from the public on the lack of full and reliable funding sources. Increase habitat management. Adapt schedule by species and early response. Use insects.

- Use the public to help control weeds, provide information at kiosks.
- The county has education materials to provide.
- Access sites most vulnerable to noxious weeds.
- Recruit retirees (develop *Friends of Chelan Wildlife Area*)
- Thank you for your transparency
- The Entiat Unit has the potential for big horn sheep in the future.
- Oppose any infringement – negative development on lands with low elevation forest fire concerns, under extreme fire conditions the wildlife area should be closed to the public, especially with climate change.
- Trail development – great fire breaks partners DNR and USFS.
- Big horn sheep were extirpated from the state due to over hunting. Concern over the loss of sheep pre-dates ESA. They are sensitive to recreation, cortisol increases as a stress response and pre-disposes them to disease. It is critical to exclude domestic sheep contact from big horns. They face connectivity challenges, Chelan Butte. Vulnerable to further decline. Big Horn Sheep Foundation has contributed \$3 million for habitat improvements for big horns.
- Concern over fire danger in early September and impacts from upland bird hunters, e.g. early archery season. Response: WDFW sees no differences in the fire season and hunters should not be banned from the wildlife area during extreme fire season. We do have rules in place during fire season. Currently no fire policy. Vehicles are the biggest concern.
- USFS patrols their roads for presence and education with the public. Cost/benefit ratio.

Meeting Materials

The following meeting materials are attached:

- Agenda
- Draft Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan
- Draft Forest Plan
- Chelan Wildlife Area Management Plan Fact Sheet