

Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas

Draft Management Plan

Public Review Timeline
January 30 – February 28, 2019

Public Review of Draft Management Plan

Thank you for your interest in the Draft Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas Management Plan. This is your opportunity to provide comments.

The plan covers the W.T. Wooten, Asotin Creek, and Chief Joseph wildlife areas.

The Public Review (State Environmental Policy Act) review period:

XX-XX, 2019

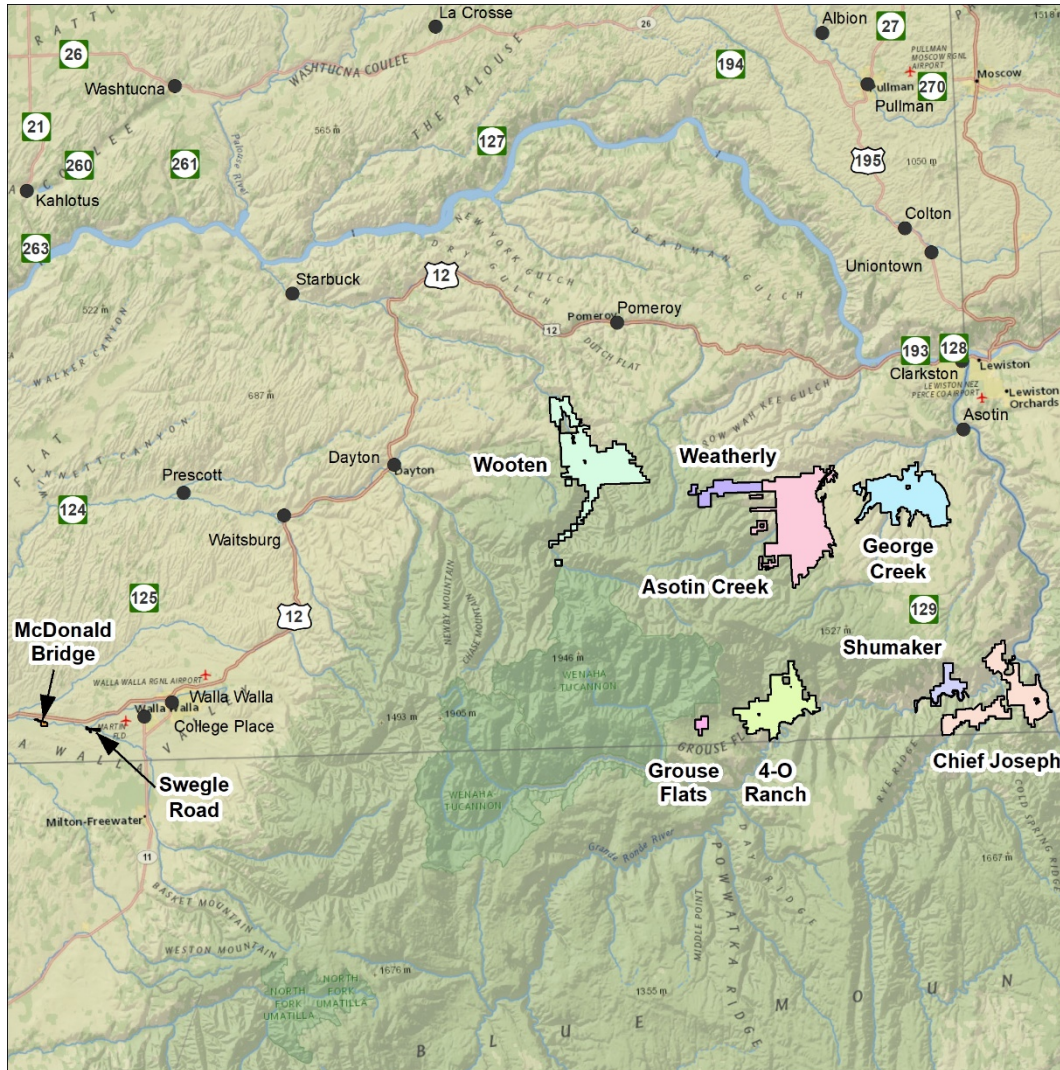
How to Submit Comments:

1. Email: BlueMntWLA@dfw.wa.gov
2. Through SEPA:
[https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa_comment_docs.htm](https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa_comment_docs.html)
[l](#)
3. Call Patricia Jatczak at **360-902-2815**











The next slides guide you through the contents of the plan. The Goals and Objectives section starts on P. 77 and outlines actions proposed over the next ten years.



Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas



Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|----------------------|
|  | 4-O Ranch Unit |  | McDonald Bridge Unit |
|  | Asotin Creek Unit |  | Shumaker Unit |
|  | Chief Joseph Unit |  | Swegle Road Unit |
|  | George Creek Unit |  | Weatherly Unit |
|  | Grouse Flats Unit |  | Wooten Unit |



Purpose and Planning Process

PURPOSE

- Sets vision for next 10 years
- Guides management activities
- Ensures lands are managed consistent with WDFW mission and funding obligations

PROCESS

1. Scope the Plan
2. Prepare and Review Goals and Objectives
3. **WE ARE HERE: Prepare and Review Draft Plan**

The process includes tribal, advisory, and public participation in all phases



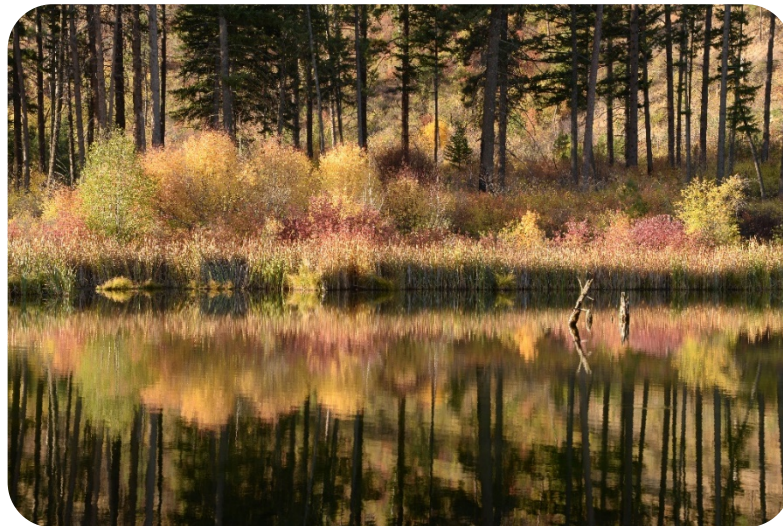
Plan Sections

Part I: Wildlife Area Planning Overview

Part II: Management and Planning

Part III: Species and Habitat Management

Part IV: Appendices



Part I: Wildlife Area Planning Overview

Page 10 of the Draft Blue Mountains Plan

❖ Planning Overview

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

❖ Intro to the Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas

- Wildlife Area Vision
- Success Stories

❖ Wildlife Area Description

- Overall, by wildlife area and unit

Success Stories

p.16

- ❖ Management Actions Improve Forest on Grouse Flats
- ❖ Tucannon Floodplain Improvements
- ❖ Controlling Noxious Weeds in the Blue Mountains
- ❖ Long-term Partnerships with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation



Vision for Each Wildlife Area

(followed by unit descriptions)

The vision for **Asotin Creek** is to protect native grasslands and riparian habitats and big game winter range, while providing recreation and economic opportunities consistent with healthy habitat management (p.24).

The vision for W.T. Wooten is to restore habitat for ESA listed fish and protect big game winter range, while offering quality outdoor education and recreation opportunities, such as fishing, camping, and hunting (p.50).

The vision for **Chief Joseph** is to protect native range and forest habitats, cultural resources, and big game winter range, while offering excellent hunting opportunities and world-class fisheries on the Snake and Grande Ronde Rivers (p.36).



II: Land Ownership and Management

p. 63

❖ Land ownership and management

- Acquisition history, purpose
- Agreements (leases, permits)

❖ Management Setting

- Administration, staffing, operating funds
- Facilities and maintenance, roads, land use, cultural resources, enforcement
- Stewardship & volunteers
- Recreation

Recreation

p. 73

❖ Hunting

- Including elk, deer, bear, cougar, pheasant, small game, turkey, upland bird

❖ Fishing

- Rainbow trout, steelhead, smallmouth bass

❖ Nature enjoyment

- Wildlife, birds, flowers, canyons, rivers, scenery

❖ Camping

❖ Hiking, walking, horseback riding

❖ Other

- Shed antler collecting, target shooting, geocaching





III: Species and Habitat Management

p. 93

❖ Physical Characteristics

- Geology, hydrology, climate

❖ Ecological Values

- Ecological integrity and habitat connectivity

❖ Species Management

- Species list
- Game, diversity (non-game), and fish

❖ Habitat Management

- Forests, fire, weeds, restoration

❖ Climate change approach

- Resource impacts, planning implications



Species and Species Management

- ❖ Starting on p.93 is information about geology, soils, hydrology, climate, ecological systems and habitat connectivity.
- ❖ Species information starts on p.104
- ❖ Table 13 on p.106 lists the species that may be on the wildlife area that may be state or federally threatened (*as well as other statuses*).
- ❖ Game and non-game (diversity) species sections start on p.112
- ❖ Fish species and management starts on p.121, followed by fish maps
- ❖ Habitat section starts on p.134

IV: Appendices

p. 151

- A. Species and Habitat Information
- B. Weed Management Plan
- C. Fire Response Information
- D. Research and Other Studies
- E. Forest Management Plan
- F. Restoration Summary/Plan
- G. Stewardship Plan (Section 6) for 4-0 Ranch Unit
- H. Water Access Summary
- I. Cultural Resources Summary
- J. Public Response Summary

Appendix E. Forest Plan

Example of some of the details in the plan

Treatment Unit	Estimated Acres*	Task
Mountain View, 4-O Ranch Wildlife Area	300 to 500	Commercial Thin
Mountain View, 4-O Ranch Wildlife Area	up to 500	Non-commercial Thin
Weatherly Wildlife Area	300	Commercial Thin
Weatherly Wildlife Area	up to 200	Non-commercial Thin
W. T. Wooten Wildlife Area	550	Reforestation
W. T. Wooten Wildlife Area	100	Non-commercial Thin
Smoothing Iron Ridge, Asotin Creek Wildlife Area	200	Commercial Thin
Smoothing Iron Ridge, Asotin Creek Wildlife Area	150	Non-commercial Thin
Sawmill, 4-O Ranch Wildlife Area	500	Commercial Thin

Goals and Objectives

Some of the actions in the plan are listed in the next few pages by overall goal. See page 78 of the plan for the complete table of goals and objectives for the wildlife area.

Ecological Integrity

- Maintain and improve the ecological condition of the land
- Assess the prairie habitat & develop protection strategy
- Develop a plan to conserve the Spalding's catchfly
- Maintain fences
- Control weeds
- Manage forests



Sustain species through habitat and population management

- Remove fish barriers
- Protect bighorn sheep from domestic diseases
- Protect wildlife by removing fencing
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Reduce threat of lead poisoning to wildlife
- Reduce and manage human/wildlife conflicts
- Improve floodplain function of the Tucannon River by implementing the Floodplain Management Plan



Protect wintering wildlife from human disturbance

- Maintain seasonal closures/implement new ones if needed
- Limit off road vehicle travel; close temporary roads

Achieve species diversity at levels consistent with healthy ecosystems

- Conduct survey for species with greatest conservation need
- Develop species-specific actions



Provide for and improve opportunities for hunting and fishing

- Increase knowledge of opportunities; promote hunting other than big game
- Review 4-O Ranch Unit special hunt status biennially
- Assess ADA hunt opportunities
- Assess opportunity to expand Green Gulch ATV access
- Continue to provide fishing opportunities on Wooten

Provide and improve other recreational opportunities

- Develop trail connection plan
- Improve and maintain trails
- Develop/improve campgrounds
- Improve conditions at shooting range
- Assess restroom needs
- Develop interpretive site or signs on 4-O Ranch
- Develop plan for non-consumptive recreation
- Develop recreation maps

Stakeholder involvement and local relationships

- Continue to meet with Wildlife Area Advisory Committees
- Expand volunteer base
- Continue to allow and look for grazing and agriculture opportunities when beneficial to wildlife and consistent with policies
- Increase patrols to reduce poaching



How to Comment

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