

## Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas

### Joint Chief Joseph/Asotin Creek Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and Asotin County Lands Committee

Wednesday, October 24, 2018 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
Walla Walla CC – Clarkston Branch, 1470 Bridge Street, Room 187

#### AGENDA

---

- 6:30 pm Introductions – All
- 6:40 – 7:40 Blue Mountains Wildlife Area Plan – Presentation and Q/A
- 7:40 – 8:00 Cloverland Elk – Plans for Fall/Winter Hazing
- 8:00 – 8:10 2018 Grazing Season Review (Weatherly and 4-O)
- 8:10 – 8:20 Farming at Smoothing Iron
- 8:20 – 8:30 Forestry/Harvest Update for 4-O
- \*If time allows – brief overview of WDFW budget development/License and GF request for 2019
- 8:30 Adjourn

#### NOTES

---

##### Attendees

Joseph Ford, Megan Stewart, Bud Scott, Stan Wilson, Sam Ledgerwood  
Brian Shinn, Bruce Petty, Jay Holzmilller, Mark Green, Matt Sibley

WDFW Staff: Steve Pozzanghera, Kevin Robinette, Cynthia Wilkerson, David Woodall, Sara Ashiglar, Jeremy Trump, Paul Wik, Paul Mossman, Jeff Wade, Patricia Jatczak,

##### Wildlife Area Draft Plan Introduction

- ❖ Patricia and David provided an overview of the *Draft Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas Management Plan*. The planning process and outline of plan were briefly discussed, and most time was spent on the Goals and Objectives.
- ❖ Meetings were held at the beginning of the process with WDFW staff, the public, and the Advisory committee to scope the plan and to draft goals and objectives. The Draft Plan was produced.

NOTE: The plan is draft. After incorporating committee comments, we will prepare the Public Review Draft. After public comments, the plan will be formatted, edited, and pictures inserted.

- ❖ **Now is the window of opportunity for the committees to submit comments on the plan.**
  - You can provide general or specific comments.
  - Provide them in any written way that works for you – write/type on the document; email thoughts, etc.
  - Brian Shinn will collect comments from the Asotin County Lands Committee.

**Comments are due on November 21, 2018.**

Send comments either to Bob Dice ([bob.dice@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:bob.dice@dfw.wa.gov)) or Patricia Jatczak ([patricia.jatczak@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:patricia.jatczak@dfw.wa.gov))

### Comments on the Draft Plan

- Word usage: Be careful of how the word “restoration” is used. In the success story about forestry, it is “active management” rather than restoration.
- Seasonal closures: Posting but not actually closing roads does not achieve the objective of protecting wintering wildlife. Asotin County is willing to work with land managers on road closures.
- Recreation: Mace Road area may be a good place to consider for a campground. Currently there is no place to park or turn around except on the county road.
- Grazing: Instead of just “continue” grazing, also add in “expand” grazing and agriculture.
- Word usage: “Ecological Integrity”...what does it mean?
- Enforcement: Locals working in and around the area can provide “eyes on the ground” and help get information to WDFW on issues they see.

### Cloverland Elk – Plans for Fall/Winter Hazing

Jeff provide an update on the Cloverland Elk hazing plan. There was talk of better communication between Jeff and the landowners. There was discussion on adjusting some techniques, such as zone gun operations, etc. The seasonal hazer position is in the works. The job announcement is now posted and open for applicants.

### 2018 Grazing Season Review (Weatherly and 4-O)

David provided an update on the grazing season and farming on Smoothing Iron. WDFW upped the annual farmed acres up to 35, from the 25 acres in the past. The 3-D temporary electric fence was installed around the newly established alfalfa field. There was discussion about some possible adjustments with the current plan to include grazing period, turn out, etc. Last winters controlled burn helped to stimulate new growth and enhance native grass health.

### Forestry/Harvest Update for 4-O

Sara provided an update on the forest management activities on the 4-O Ranch. She also mentioned the small tree thinning at the Weatherly Unit.

### Budget Update

Cynthia provided an update on the status of the budget and distributed the budget handout. The projected two-year gap is about \$31 million. Unless the shortfall is address, programs and services will be reduced or eliminated.



1\_2019-21\_budget\_  
development\_single