Okanogan Valley Wildlife Areas Planning

Okanogan Valley WAAC, February 10, 2015 Photo: Similkameen-Chopaka Wildlife Area, Northern Okanogan County

Agenda

- Background
- Process & schedule
- Public Involvement
- Timeline
- Key Issues Identification
- Next Steps



WDFW Mission

Preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.

Strategic Plan Goals

- Goal 1: Healthy Fish and Wildlife
 - Conserve and protect native fish and wildlife
- Goal 2: Sustainable Outdoor Experiences
 - Provide sustainable fishing, hunting, and other wildlife-related recreational & commercial experiences
- Goal 3: Integrate Social Values
 - Promote a healthy economy, protect community character, maintain an overall high quality of life, and deliver highquality customer service

Purpose of the Plan

- Sets vision (8-10 years)
- *Guides activities*
- Includes public & stakeholder participation
- Ensures lands are managed consistent with mission and funding obligations
- Identifies priority actions, and plans for implementation
- Provides transparency
- Integrates Agency priorities

What's new?

Integration of program prioritiesNew initiatives

- Ecological Integrity
- Forest Management
- Recreation Management
- Climate Change

Expanded stakeholder outreachPublic-friendly web format



Forest Management Strategy

- Strategy adopted in 2014
- Forests managed for ecological integrity
- Requires forest management plan for each wildlife area
 - Will provide more accurate forest information
 - Will define areas for priority projects

Recreation Management Strategy

- Provide guidance and tools to evaluate impacts of nonwildlife related recreation uses
- Develop standards for maps, signage and other public information, including disabled access
- Draft expected in 2015



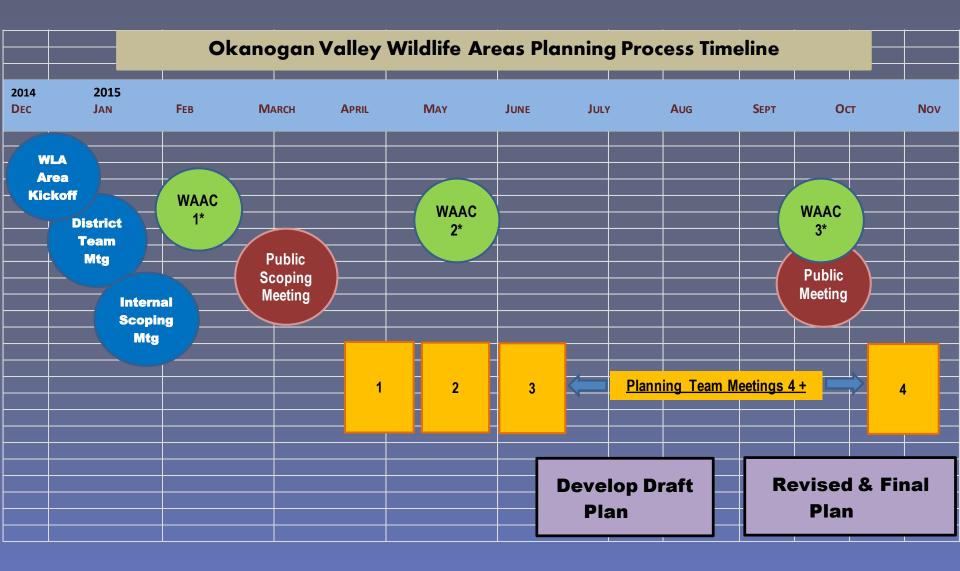
Public Involvement

- Interested parties database
 - Neighbors
 - User groups
 - Media
 - State & local governments, tribal entities
 - Elected officials
 - Other interested parties

Public Involvement

- Media Outreach
 - Fact sheet
 - News release, PSA's
 - Web site, comment tool & E-announcements
- Public meetings
- Wildlife Area Advisory Committee
- SEPA

Proposed Timeline



Key Issues Identification

Okanogan Valley Wildlife Areas Plan

<u>Scotch Creek</u> Chesaw Pogue Mountain TunkValley Similkameen-Chopaka Charles & Mary Eder Ellemeham

<u>Sinlahekin</u>

Chiliwist Driscoll-Eyhott Island McLoughlin Falls Carter Mountain Horse Spring Coulee Buzzard Lake

Next Steps

Public Scoping: (March 11, 2015)

Photos courtesy of Justin Haug