

# 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*



*Photo by Justin Haug*

# 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 high-quality 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 priorities*
- *New initiatives*
  - *Ecological Integrity*
  - *Forest Management*
  - *Recreation Management*
  - *Climate Change*
- *Expanded stakeholder outreach*
- *Public-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 non-wildlife 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*



# Key Issues Identification

## *Okanogan Valley Wildlife Areas Plan*

### *Scotch Creek*

*Chesaw*

*Pogue Mountain*

*Tunk Valley*

*Similkameen-Chopaka*

*Charles & Mary Eder*

*Ellemeham*

### *Sinlahekin*

*Chiliwist*

*Driscoll-Eyhott Island*

*McLoughlin Falls*

*Carter Mountain*

*Horse Spring Coulee*

*Buzzard Lake*



# Next Steps

*Public Scoping: (March 11, 2015)*

