

Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area

Wildlife Area Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 7, 2019 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Notes

Attending:

ADVISORY MEMBERS: Dave Solem, Holly Kress, Betsy Crysel, Vic Reeve, Craig Adams, and Mike Estes

WDFW Staff: Ross Huffman, Phillip Buser, Pat Kaelber

Review of the Charter

- The group decided to use alternates and add their names to the charter. Mike provided an alternate that needs to be added.
- There is no need to set term limits as it is difficult enough to get participation.
- Set a dismissal procedure for member who do not participate or have an alternated attend – two missed meetings by the member or alternate.
- Correct the typos and member name spelling
- Add more detail to charter that the purpose is beyond the management plan
- Meetings should be posted on WAAC webpage
- Need to call WAAC members who have not been responsive to email

Review of the Draft WLA Management Plan

- Page 12 - west to east descriptions of units are out of order.
- Vision Statement - Only lists waterfowl hunting, should include other hunting and fishing.
- Success Stories - Richland Rod and Gun Club has hosted pheasant clinics at Esquatzel Coulee should be added to success story. Use better pictures.
- The all users must register sign is confusing - some think it only applies to hunters.
- In habitat management section, it mentions US Forest Service assisting with fires
- General concern from one WAAC member about general amount of content and usability. Felt it had too much detail and species list etc. that would not make it usable by managers.
- Hope Valley Unit - Concern expressed that footbridge would make it too easy to access portions of the unit.
- The Byron Unit Description needs to clarify the Grandview Agreement and what is / is not allowed under the agreement
- Under Goals and Objectives (2B), provide a real objective for conducting regular waterfowl counts, as well as define what regular means

- Under Goals and Objectives (7D), agriculture leases should benefit all wildlife

Other Wildlife Area Business

Agricultural Permits

- Should have better crop rotations, buckwheat
- Ask USFWS about agriculture at McNary
- Make same rules for everyone; you pay more for bad farming.

Rattlesnake Slope Trails

- General support for designating some trails. Post signs for multiple use, develop signs, maps and kiosks.

Next Steps

WDFW will make edits to the charter and roster, and post along with the notes on the WAAC webpage.

WDFW will review WAAC comments and edit the plan.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area!