



Draft Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area Management Plan

~~ Plan Review Guidance ~~

Public review period: Sept 9 - Oct 21, 2019

Public meeting: Oct 10

*The purpose of this document is to guide you through
the draft plan review.*



How to Comment



Thank you for your interest in the **Draft Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Areas Management Plan**. This is your opportunity to provide comments. The Public Review (State Environmental Policy Act) review period:

Sept 9 – Oct 21, 2019

How to Submit Comments:

1. Write: (through SEPA):
https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa_comment_docs.html
2. Email: sunnyside-snakeriver@dfw.wa.gov
3. Call: Pat Kaelber 509-545-2028
4. Comment at the Public Meeting, **Oct 10, 6-8 pm**,
Benton County Public Utility District, 250 N Gap Road,
Prosser

The next slides highlight the key topics of the plan. The Goals and Objectives section starts on P. 87 and outlines actions proposed over the next ten years.

Plan Process

1. Decide what the management plan will cover
2. Prepare and review the Action Items (goals)
3. **WE ARE HERE: Review Draft Plan**

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



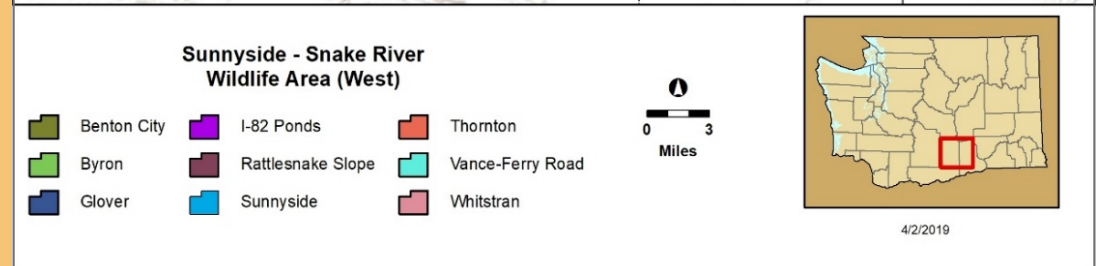
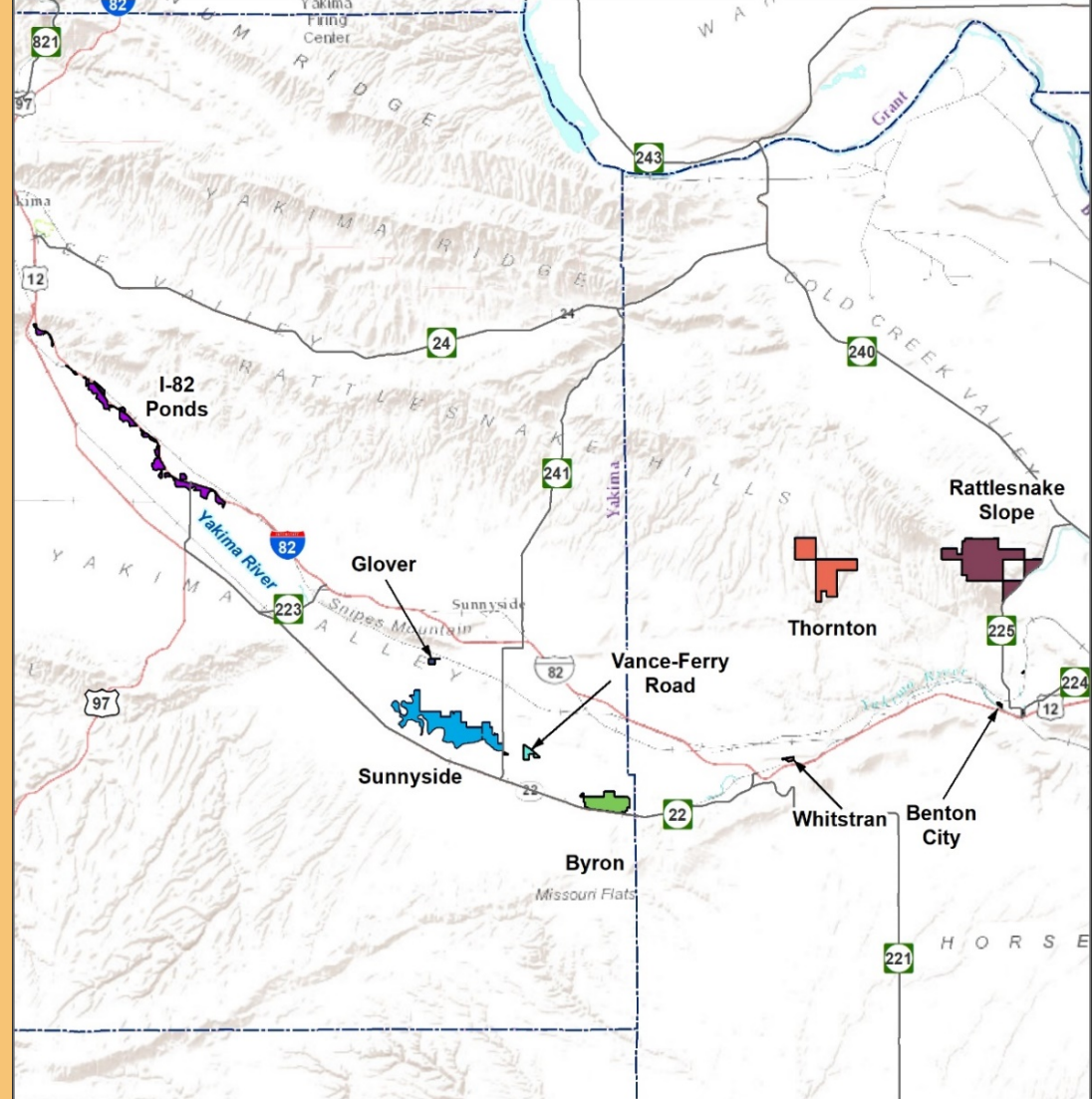
Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area - west

The wildlife area is in Yakima, Benton, and Franklin counties.

There are a couple of pages per unit, where you can find out about recreation opportunities and management actions.

The west side units are:

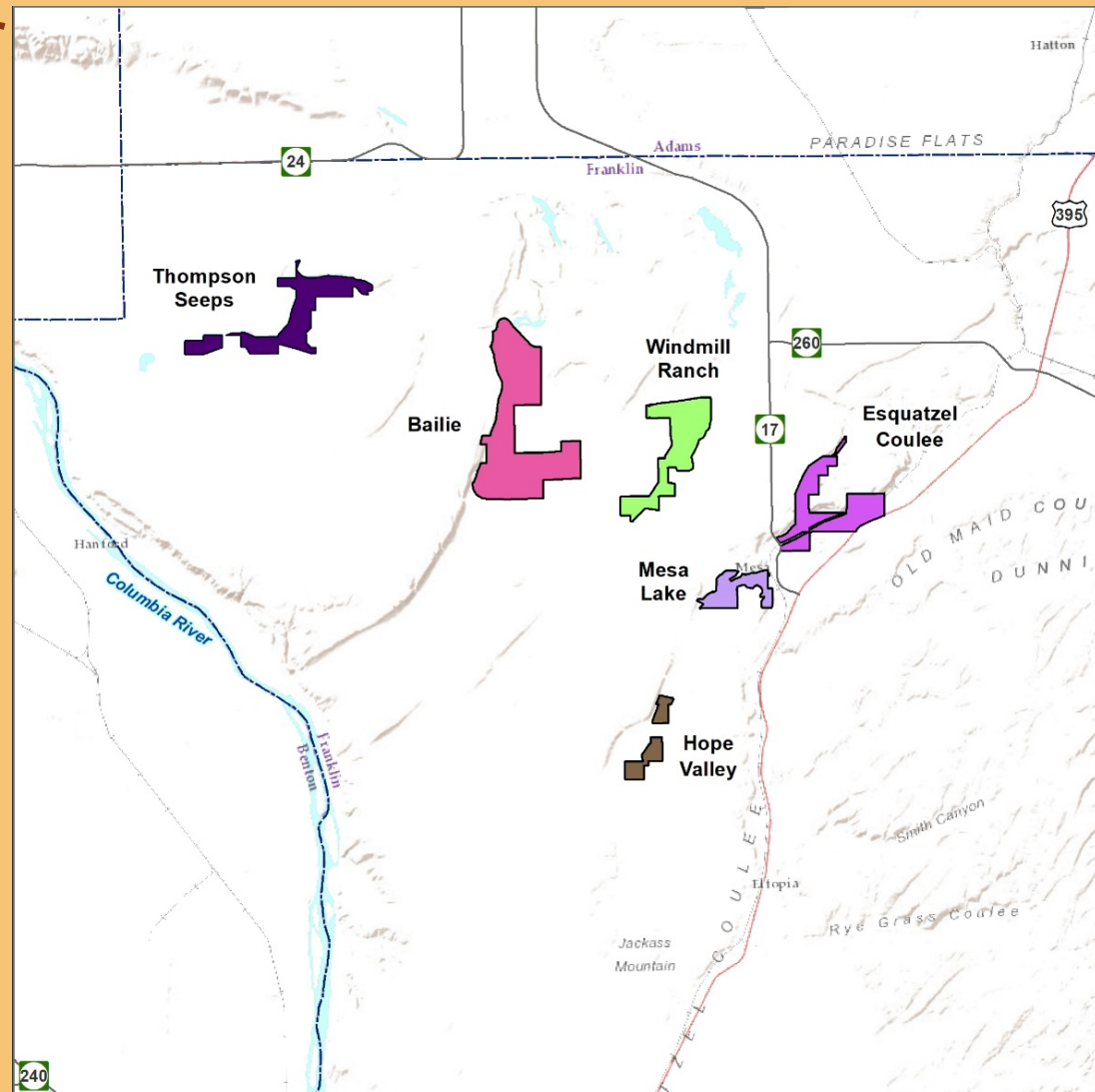
- I-82 Ponds
- Glover
- Sunnyside
- Vance-Ferry Road
- Byron
- Whitstran
- Thornton
- Rattlesnake Slope
- Benton City









Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area - east

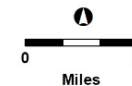
The east side units are:

- Hope Valley
- Mesa Lake
- Esquatzel Coulee
- Windmill Ranch
- Bailie
- Thompson Seeps



Sunnyside - Snake River Wildlife Area (East)

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Bailie |  Mesa Lake |
|  Esquatzel Coulee |  Thompson Seeps |
|  Hope Valley |  Windmill Ranch |



Vision

The vision for the Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area is to restore, enhance, and maintain a variety of native and managed habitats to support a diversity of wildlife, which support fishing, quality waterfowl hunting and other hunting, as well as birding, hiking, and a variety of educational and nature-based activities.

The focus for recreational and educational activities will be on those units that support high visitor use or have the potential to support more activities through partnerships. These five priority units are: **Sunnyside, Rattlesnake Slope, Mesa Lake, Windmill Ranch, and the Esquatzel Coulee.**



Are there any other units that you think WDFW should prioritize for recreation and education?

What does the plan cover?

- General wildlife area planning
- **Specific information about each unit**
- Overall land management
- **Recreation and stewardship**
- **Goals and objectives (action items)**
- Physical landscape
- Ecology
- Wildlife species
- Habitat management
- Climate change impacts

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What are your questions or concerns about any of the units?



Main Recreation

p. 80

❖ Hunting

- Waterfowl, upland bird, small game, deer

❖ Fishing

❖ Nature enjoyment

- Bird watching, wildlife viewing, flowers, rivers

❖ Camping

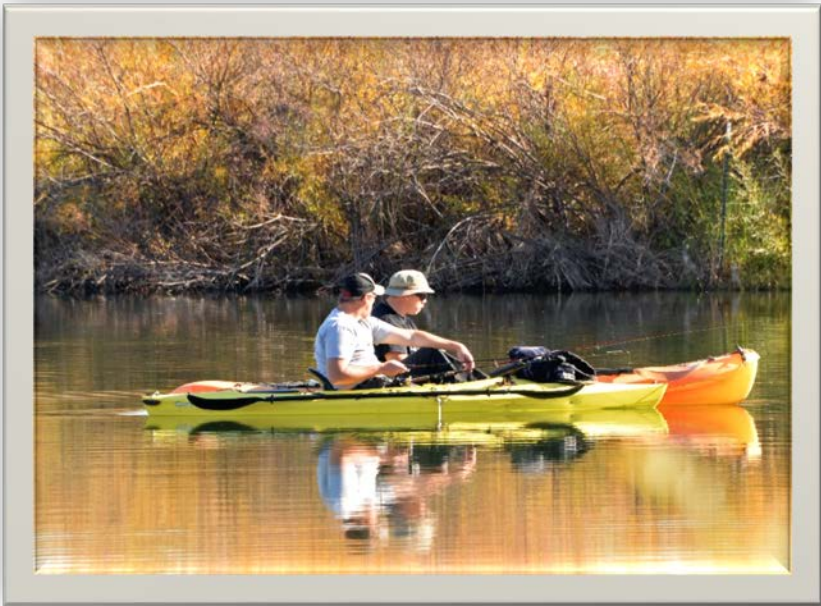
❖ Boating

❖ Walking, horseback riding

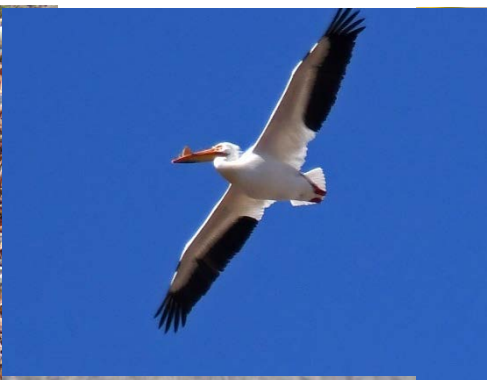
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What other recreational interests do you have?

Do you have concerns about what is planned for recreation?



Species and Habitat Management



What are your questions or comments about how WDFW plans to manage species?

(p. 112 and p. 87)



Plan Objectives

Some of the actions in the plan are listed in the next few pages by overall goal. See page 87 of the plan for the complete table of goals and objectives for the wildlife area.

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Do you have any questions or comments about any of the objectives?

Selected objectives

- 1.B** Implement the 10-year plan for wetland management.
- 1.F** Ensure consistent water supply to Byron ponds for wildlife and recreation.
- 1.G** Develop a protocol for management of nuisance beavers on the wildlife area.
- 1.K** Develop a prescribed burn plan for wetlands by 2020.
- 2.C** Identify opportunities to enhance monarch butterfly, bumble bee, and other pollinator habitat.
- 3.A** Focus recreation enhancement and management actions on five popular units to improve recreational experience.
- 3.D** Install footbridge across irrigation canal at Hope Valley Unit.

Plan Objectives... continued

- 3.E** Assess and designate non-motorized trails at Rattlesnake Slope Unit.
- 3.G** Improve waterfowl hunting by working by increasing food resources and water supply in the Johnson Wetland.
- 4.A** Assess potential to improve lakes and stock with fish (trout and/or warm water).
- 5.B** Ensure long-term legal access to WDFW lands.
- 5. C** Maintain Disabled Hunter Access Program, including the Thornton ADA Special Permit for Elk hunting.
- 6. C** Engage with local schools and offer educational or service opportunities for youth on the wildlife area.
- 7.C** As agricultural leases come up for renewal or for new ones developed, evaluate agricultural leases per agency policy for multiple benefits.

Plan Objectives... continued

8.A Identify reliable funding pool for restoration and operations and maintenance funding.

9.A Work with the Yakama treaty tribe to ensure the plan's management objectives of fish and wildlife are achieved while providing opportunities for the exercise of Treaty reserved rights.

10.C Annually inspect 20 percent of fencing and all gates; repair and replace as needed and as funding allows.

10. H Review and update information on the wildlife area web pages annually.



Do you have any questions or comments about any of the objectives?

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Thank you for your interest!

