

## Agenda Item Summary

### BACKGROUND

The department has initiated a review and update of its twelve wildlife area long range management plans, which were originally developed in 1993. The final drafts of two wildlife area (Jewell Meadows and Wenaha) management plans have been completed. These draft plans differ from the 1993 plans by providing an expanded discussion of the biological resources unique to each wildlife area and include color geographic information system (GIS) maps depicting landscape features such as habitat types, land ownership and land uses.

The purpose of the wildlife area management plans is to offer a comprehensive vision and action plan for the next 10 years. These plans describe management issues unique to each wildlife area and the actions or strategies used to address these issues. These actions will be implemented during the life of the plan, but are subject to funding and personnel availability. Each management plan will be reviewed in 2012 to gauge implementation progress and will be revised in their entirety beginning in 2017.

Three wildlife area draft plans (Fern Ridge, Jewell Meadows and Wenaha) were presented to the Commission on January 12, 2007. Since that time, a public review process has been underway and the draft plans have been revised.

In the past several months, the department has met with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to address relicensing of the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area. The current 25 year license agreement will end on September 31, 2007. Due to the scope and complexity of issues recently discussed, the department has decided to delay potential adoption of the Fern Ridge plan until the October 2007 Commission meeting, after the relicensing process has concluded.

The Jewell Meadows and Wenaha Final Draft Plans will stay on schedule. Revisions to these two draft plans include:

- Housekeeping and error corrections
- Addressing Commission and public comments specific to each draft plan

A summary of the key draft plan revisions is attached (Attachment 4).

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

During January and February 2007, staff at each of the three wildlife areas held several public review meetings, at local venues, in order to solicit comments on the draft management plans. In addition, hard copies of the draft plans were made available at local ODFW offices and at local meetings of potential interest groups such as Oregon Hunter Association chapters, watershed councils, Farm Bureau and others. The draft plans were also hand delivered to neighboring landowners, legislators and local interest groups and posted on the department website.

A summary of verbal and written comments received during the public review process, through March 9, 2007, is attached (Attachment 6). Copies

of all written public correspondence received to this date are also attached (Attachment 7).

The Final Draft plans (Attachment 8) incorporate or address the public comments received by March 9, 2007. Comments received after this date will be presented to the Commission, as final draft amendments, during the April 13, 2007 hearing. An opportunity for public testimony will also be provided at this hearing.

**ISSUE**

Adopt the Goals and Objectives of the 2007 Jewell Meadows and Wenaha Wildlife Area Management Plans. The staff proposal would replace the existing 1993 long range management plans.

**ANALYSIS**

Staff proposes that the Commission adopt the Goals and Objectives as described in the April 2007 Final Draft Jewell Meadows and Wenaha Wildlife Area Management Plans. The remainder of these management plans contains historical and biological informational material.

**OPTIONS**

1. Approve staff recommendation.
2. Modify staff recommendation.

**STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1.

**DRAFT MOTION**

I move to adopt the Goals and Objectives of the 2007 Jewell Meadows and Wenaha Wildlife Area Management Plans and amend OAR Chapter 635, Division 008, as proposed by staff.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Upon Filing