

**Following are two spreadsheets (one for each draft management plan) summarizing all public comments received through March 9, 2007. Each spreadsheet describes the issue or concern, the number of respondents making similar comments and the department's response.**

### Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area Management Plan Public Comments

Issue or Comment	Count	Department Response
Suggestion to add more information about non-game species at kiosk	1	The Department will follow-up on this suggestion with the Information and Education staff.
Question regarding costs of elk supplemental feed and labor	1	The wildlife area manager explained that the cost was about \$45.00/ton and labor costs were down due to volunteer use.
Question regarding Objective 2.2, controlling elk populations, trapping and relocating elk	2	The watershed district manager explained that the wildlife districts talk to each other about suitable habitat and where elk numbers are decreasing (i.e. Southwest district near Gold Beach and Rogue R.).
Question regarding the elk feeding schedule	1	The wildlife area manager explained that the feeding schedule is December, January and February from 9am-10am but it is by reservation only which can be made by calling the wildlife area headquarters.
Question regarding the Saddle Mountain hunt unit	1	The watershed district manager explained that the unit was a 50:50 mix of private and public lands and that vehicle access can be a problem and is weather-dependent.
Question regarding potential fee hunting on Weyerhaeuser lands	1	Department staff did not know about this and directed person to contact Weyerhaeuser Corporate office.
Question regarding what the Department hopes to gain by holding these public meetings		The wildlife area manager explained that the meetings provide an opportunity for the public to provide feedback on the management plans.
Question regarding any projects that the OHA Portland Chapter could help fund	1	Wildlife area manager suggested Department contacts.
Question regarding any acquisition or expansion of the area in the future	1	The wildlife area manager answered that no acquisitions or expansions were planned now but the Department would be interested if there was a willing seller, if the habitat was critical, if county and local officials were supportive and if there were available funds.

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Question whether the Cascades were open to accept transplanted elk	1	The wildlife area manager responded that the Department still has options in the Cascades but will have to be careful with adjacent landowners. Generally elk would go to public lands open to hunting.
Suggestion to open Fishhawk Tract, Beneke Tract and refuge portion of the wildlife area to public access during the summer months for fishing and hiking.	1	The Department will explore the feasibility of this suggestion. Safety issues, increased staff time and costs to support such increased use will need to be addressed.
Suggestion to establish crabapple trees and other plants to improve grouse habitat on the Fishhawk Tract, similar to the Beneke Tract.	1	Wherever possible the Department promotes the use of native vegetation to improve habitat conditions for multiple species' needs. However orchard crops, especially at historic homestead sites, have been maintained to preserve important cultural features, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office.
Questions regarding the new land agreement with the private timber co. and costs	1	The wildlife area manager explained the current land use agreement with private timber company compared to the past land lease.
Questions regarding transplanting bull and cow elk, methods,	2	The wildlife area manager and assistant manager explained elk capture and relocation project, method used on the area, and an average cost per elk from past years.
Question regarding where wildlife area funding comes from.	1	The wildlife area manager explained the current use of other funds and where they are derived from, as well as the past federal aid funding and why this program was no longer using that funding source.
Question regarding what the Department does about beaver damage	1	The wildlife area manager suggested several options for consideration on beaver damage issues.

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Question regarding how the Department protects trees in riparian improvement project.	1	The wildlife area manager explained the methods to be used for an ongoing riparian restoration project, what methods have been successful and what methods have not.
Question regarding whether elk on the north coast are true Roosevelt elk	1	North Coast district biologist discussed the history of Roosevelt elk in Clatsop County and the release of Rocky Mountain elk in the early 1900's.
Question regarding improving grouse habitat and why there weren't as many as there used to be	1	North Coast district biologist responded to fluctuations in upland game bird numbers.
Question regarding whether the Department would bring buffalo to the wildlife area	1	The wildlife area manager stated, not in any current plans.
Several questions were asked about historic elk numbers and elk mortality	1	The North Coast district biologist talked about historic elk numbers and discussed elk mortality issues surrounding the Circle Creek site, near Seaside.
Question regarding whether more turkey would be brought to the wildlife area	1	The wildlife area manager stated the Department is not currently planning on releasing any more wild turkeys on the JMWA due to poor survival and very limited reproduction from past introductions.

## Wenaha Wildlife Area Management Plan Public Comments

Issue or Comment	Count	Department Response
Suggest stopping muzzle loader club from using Mill bar cabin as shooting range for safety reasons	1	The Department will be meeting with the club and those from Troy to come to agreement over the target range.
Suggestion to resume transplanting juvenile trout into Grande Ronde River	1	This is a fish issue under the purview of the local Department fish biologist. There are also threatened and endangered fish species to consider.
Suggest opening salmon season in the Grande Ronde		This is a fish issue under the purview of the local Department fish biologist and not tied to the Wenaha Wildlife Area management.
Too many elk on private land	1	This is a wildlife issue handled by the Northeast district wildlife biologist.
Not enough elk	1	This is a wildlife issue handled by the Northeast district wildlife biologist.
Wolves seen on the wildlife area	1	Wolf sightings which are a wildlife issue should be reported to the Department's regional wolf biologist.
Comment that person wanted wolves on his property to eat elk		Department has no response.
Pleased to see an emphasis on noxious weed control	2	Department will continue to partner with the Wallowa County and Wallowa Resources to address weeds.
Support seasonal cattle grazing to improve plant vitality	2	The Department uses grazing as an accepted tool to condition forage for wildlife. The grazing allotments on the wildlife area are located up on the bench not along the river so stream damage is not an issue
Support active forest management to maintain or improve forest stand health	2	The Department manages forests on a habitat based approach to benefit wildlife as well as forest stands. The Department confers with local forestry experts to determine appropriate management activities.

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Support a collaborative approach involving Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee and Wallowa Resources to bring needed funding to facilitate forest stand treatments on the wildlife area	1	Department will continue to partner with the Wallowa County and Wallowa Resources to secure funding for habitat management activities.
Support the Department's goals, objectives and strategies to maximize benefits of the area to wildlife and people of Wallowa County	1	The Department appreciates the support.
Suggest reducing the number of predators, especially cougars, bears and gray wolves	2	The Department controls predators that are disrupting the objectives of the area, following the Department's Cougar, bear and wolf management guidelines, per Objective 2.2, Strategy 4 of the Draft plan.
Suggest tree farming the forested areas, by logging bug infested and dying trees, thinning and reseeded grass in disturbed areas to produce money for other projects	1	The Department will consult with Oregon Department of Forestry to identify appropriate forest stand management practices for the wildlife area.
Suggest farming the old fields to reduce noxious weeds, to improve grazing and/or produce hay for winter feeding	1	The Department recognizes that grazing is one of many tools for weed control and forage improvements. The Department will continue to work with Wallowa County to determine successful noxious weed control methods.
Suggest the Department quit harassing elk via helicopters, netting, darting and separating mothers and babies sometimes causing injury	1	The Department necessarily must capture animals for research, disease monitoring and sometimes transplantation to other locations. The Department's wildlife veterinarian provides guidance and training to staff to reduce stress and injury during wildlife capture projects.
Comment that current winter feeding is adequate	1	The Department will continue the current feeding protocols.
Suggest resuming the exchange of juvenile elk and deer with other areas to decrease effects of inbreeding	1	The Department communicates with private landowners and federal agencies to explore transplantation opportunities. Spreading disease, locating suitable habitat and costs are some of the factors reducing big game transplantation.

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Suggest giving more credence to those educated in wildlife management and less to politicians	1	The Department strives to use the best available peer-reviewed science to guide its management decisions.
Does not support grazing, logging, trapping and killing predators on the wildlife area	1	All of these activities are accepted habitat or wildlife management tools the Department uses to maintain or enhance habitat conditions and to control wildlife population levels based on the carrying capacity of the wildlife area.
Comment that non-consumptive users out number consumptive users 5 to 1 so long term sustainability would favor non-consumptive users.	1	Non-consumptive use does out number consumptive use but the Department manages the area for multiple recreational uses so all needs have to be considered.
Does not support supplementation of feed for elk to support an unsustainable population because of potential disease transmission and predator increases. Supplementation to keep elk off private lands seems to be a subsidy of private livestock producers at a cost to taxpayers and healthy functioning of the wildlife area.	1	One primary need for the establishment of the wildlife area was to decrease big game damage to neighboring agricultural lands while big game were wintering in the lower elevations. Supplemental feed keeps animals on the wildlife area. The wildlife area is funded with excise taxes from hunting equipment and ammunition and state hunting licenses and tags. The hunting public funds such areas to maintain habitat for big game which also benefits non-game species.
Suggests including a motorized vehicle management plan be included with the Draft plan	1	The Department, in cooperation with federal and private land managers, has developed Travel Management Areas which restrict travel access to protect big game during important life history stages. These restrictions are available in the back of the Big Game Regulations synopsis or on the Department's website.
Comment that Draft plan seems to assume that salvage logging will restore and recover forest lands burned by fire.	1	Following the passage of state legislation (House Bill 2344), the Department is required to develop plans for timber salvage to restore and recover forest lands burned by fire.
Suggests eliminating trapping from the area to protect an "optimum population of all species"	1	Department uses trapping for administrative purposes (e.g. removal of non-native nutria) but also provides permits to recreational trappers.

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Does not support killing predators, referring to Strategy 4, under Objective 2.2, since this clearly violates the mission and most Americans did not support this practice and 3/4 of the money to run this area comes from federal dollars.	1	The Department controls predators at feed sites to avoid harassment of big game and reduce movement of big game to neighboring agricultural lands. The federal dollars used to fund the area are derived specifically from taxes on hunting equipment and ammunition per the Pittman-Robertson Act, not from the general tax paying public.
Suggests having a staff person living on the wildlife area, concerned that manager lives 3 hours drive away	1	The assistant wildlife area manager does live on state property in the community of Troy.
Suggestion to run cattle in the wildlife area for a few months in the spring to reduce overgrown brush, especially next to Hayfer Ranch	1	The Department recognizes that grazing is one of many tools used for forage improvements. The Department will continue to work with grazing permittees to move cattle to appropriate grazing units as conditions dictate.
Suggest contacting Oregon Dept. of Forestry to pursue cost-share availability, to cover 75% of cost to develop a new Stewardship Plan with a private contractor or pursue other funding entities	1	The ODF Stewardship Plans apply to private timber holdings. These plans also are not detailed enough to meet federal (USFWS) environmental compliance needs.
Via stewardship contracts like USFS, remove timber to enhance and maintain improvements and use excess timber receipts for State fund	1	Recent legislation (HB 3152) requires the Department to coordinate with those state agencies with forestland oversight to develop silvicultural practices to address excess fuels and forest health. The Department works with the Department of Forestry on these issues.
Suggest relying on local knowledge and additional partners to identify and implement restoration or enhancement projects	1	The Department does rely on local expertise and partnerships wherever possible to assist in the management of the natural resources available on the wildlife area and urges community members to become involved in restoration projects.