

OVCBCHW

Legislative Report

July 31, 2011

Dave Sunde

The report is also available from the homepage of our new website. www.ovcbchw.com

If you use the links below, your browser may ask you if you are sure the site is safe. I've done all I can to make sure that the site is virus free,

First of all there was a meeting with the BLM last week at the Agriplex in Okanogan. Trygve and I attended. The BLM is looking for input for their recreation planning for BLM lands.

The legislative session in Olympia is over as the Senate and House went home on May 26th. Gratefully, the House closed up shop and did not vote on SSB 5669, the bill that would have pushed DNR and WDFW to reduce their regional facilities (and consequently services). There is some language in the operating budget encouraging the natural resources to consolidate what services they feel they can do effectively.

The USFS is holding 2 webinars to discuss the upcoming Forest plan Revision. I plan on attending both the one for the Colville and the one for the Okanogan. I'll report after the fact. If you would like to join the webinar, here is the information you need:

The webinars offer an option for those people who may not be able to attend one of the public meetings, or are interested in engaging in additional opportunities to discuss the proposed management plans.

Please use the links below to register from your computer for either or both of these toll-free online webinars.

Register for **Tuesday, August 9, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. PDT:**

REGISTER NOW

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/424610904>

Register for **Thursday, August 18, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. PDT:**

REGISTER NOW

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/521927328>

Questions about the webinar? Please contact Debbie Kelly, Forest Plan Revision Public Affairs Lead, 509-826-3396, or at r6_ewzplanrevision@fs.fed.us.

The comment period for the Forest Plan Revision has been extended for an additional 30 days for the following email.

In response to requests, the Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests are extending the comment period for the Forest Plan Revision Proposed Action for an additional 30 days.

The original 60-day comment period was June 30 through August 29, 2011. With the extension, comments are now due no later than September 28, 2011.

For more information please contact Debbie Kelly, 509-826-3275 or check out the project website where information on the proposed action, comment process, project timeline and public meeting schedule can be found: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/okawen/plan-revision>.

Gray Wolf Update

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has prepared the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act regulation. This FEIS is being circulated for review by all agencies with jurisdiction and interested parties who commented on the Draft EIS.

Comments received on the Draft EIS can be viewed at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/gray_wolf/comments.html and the FEIS may be viewed from that link or the WDFW SEPA Web link: http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa_final_docs_2011.html

The Recommended Wolf Conservation and Management Plan will be provided to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission for consideration at their August 4, 2011 meeting in Olympia, Washington. The Agenda for that meeting is found on the following link: http://wdfw.wa.gov/commission/meetings/2011/08/agenda_aug0411.html.

The Commission has scheduled three more special meetings to discuss the recommended Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and take public comment. Those meetings are tentatively scheduled for Aug. 29 in Ellensburg, and Oct. 6 and Nov. 3 in Olympia. Final action on the plan is expected to occur at the December 2011 Commission meeting.

DNR

The latest DNR Recreation News is available here:
<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/RecreationEducation/Recreation/Pages/Home.aspx>