

Governor's Task Force on Fish and Wildlife Resources

THESE ARE WORKING SESSION SLIDES AS OF THE END OF THE TASK FORCE MEETING ON JULY 30, 2015. THESE ARE DRAFT NOTES; ITEMS CONTAINED WITHIN THESE SLIDES ARE NOT COMPLETE NOR FINALIZED.

1. Task Force Consensus

a) Engage an objective and qualified third party to conduct a program review of the WGFD with a report to the Governor before the 2016 legislative session.

1. Task Force Consensus

b) The Wyoming Game & Fish Commission should have the authority to establish fees for licenses, stamps and permits for programs directly related to game & fish species within limits established by the legislature (e.g. limits on and frequency of adjustments, and agency operating fund balance.)

General consensus, one member withheld consent

1. Task Force Consensus

c) Revenues generated from licenses, stamps and permits should be used for programs that benefit game species.

1. Task Force Consensus

d) General fund appropriations should be allocated to fully fund management of currently legislatively funded non-game species and other "legislatively mandated" programs. "Non-game species" shall include Sensitive Species, Grizzly Bears, Wolves and Sage Grouse. "Legislatively Mandated" programs shall include Aquatic Invasive Species and Veterinary Services.

1. Task Force Consensus

e) Adjust Governor's Endangered Species Act (ESA) budget to adequately address species that, if listed, may adversely affect Wyoming's economy.

1. Task Force Consensus

f) Fully fund the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust (WWNRT) at the authorized level in order to allow the Trust to achieve its purposes without future appropriations.

1. Task Force Consensus

g) Upon implementation of task force recommendations 1b, 1c, and 1d, general fund appropriations should not be allocated for the purpose of health insurance costs for employees in commission funded programs.

1.Task Force Consensus

h) WGFD should be responsible for its own deferred maintenance expenses (currently, \$1.5 million). It is appropriate for general fund to continue funding capital improvements

2. Under Consideration

a) General Fund matching appropriations combine with WGFD with intent to increase hunter and angler recruitment, retainment and reengagement and a-2) develop ideas for non-traditional(?) non-consumptive (non-hunter and non-angler) revenue sources. (TF not ready)

2. Under Consideration

New:
Engage with Wyoming congressional delegation with the goal of reforming the ESA. In the interim, secure additional federal funding for state mgt of ESA to decrease Wy. Gen fund appropriations.

3. Considered and Off the Table

a) Feed Grounds
Include ROI of feed grounds in program audit? WGFD will run current 5 yr avg 2009-2014.

3. Considered and Off the Table

b) Indexing future license fees

Third party program audit

Review of current R3 programs reflecting needs and dollars
 Does current license fee structure foster R3?
 Audit of current strategic plan, priorities against practices and outcomes
 Best practices
 Adequacy of funding and efficiencies in habitat
 Compare of Wy access programs w/ other states' access programs

Third party program audit - continued

Full review of current license fee structure, looking at revenue, price, numbers and types of licenses offered as well as management and commission authority
 Big 6: Objective assessment of : Bird farms, feed grounds, Wy. Wildlife magazine, positions, employee housing, vehicle fleet, hatcheries, access

Third party program audit - continued

Sensitive species
 Adequate personnel for habitat, external research, information technology,
 Coop unit adequacy, coop with NGOs
 ROI—value-- in special programs—
 If find items outside scope, to note for the TF

Third party program audit - continued

Non-traditional revenue information

Future needs and future

Look at future of Wyoming wildlife, not just WGFD

Big 6

Hatcheries—too many? Not enough?

Bird farms— cost per bird v. revenue adequately staffed, adequate fees? Cost-effective for staff or should it be outsourced? Public benefit and intangible value

Feed grounds—does inflow from the stamp cover cost of the feed grounds—intangibles—value and public benefit

Magazine—(WGFD has already overhauled and will provide data)

Big 6-cont

Employee housing—efficiency, cost, value, public benefit, comparison with other Wy. State agencies, best practices among neighboring states

Access—short and long-term access, adequate resources, adequate personnel.
Landowners who want to participate—link to R3

Big 6-cont

Positions and restructuring; definitive figures; compare to other states e.g. personnel as a %-age of overall budget

Vehicles—rotation, value, allocation, efficiency in replacement

Non traditional revenue sources

Forward looking component to the TF report to Governor

“User” is and “beneficiaries” is vastly broader than just hunters and anglers

Everyone in the State benefits.

Make the case that all benefit and all have a stake.

Monetize the visitors’ and residents’ value received from our fish and wildlife resources

Non traditional resources--cont

Discussion: H & a are capable of sustaining wildlife management, but the task force recognizes that all Wyoming residents benefit from the revenues that its wildlife generates and h & a should not solely bear the burden to sustain resources that all enjoy and benefit from economically