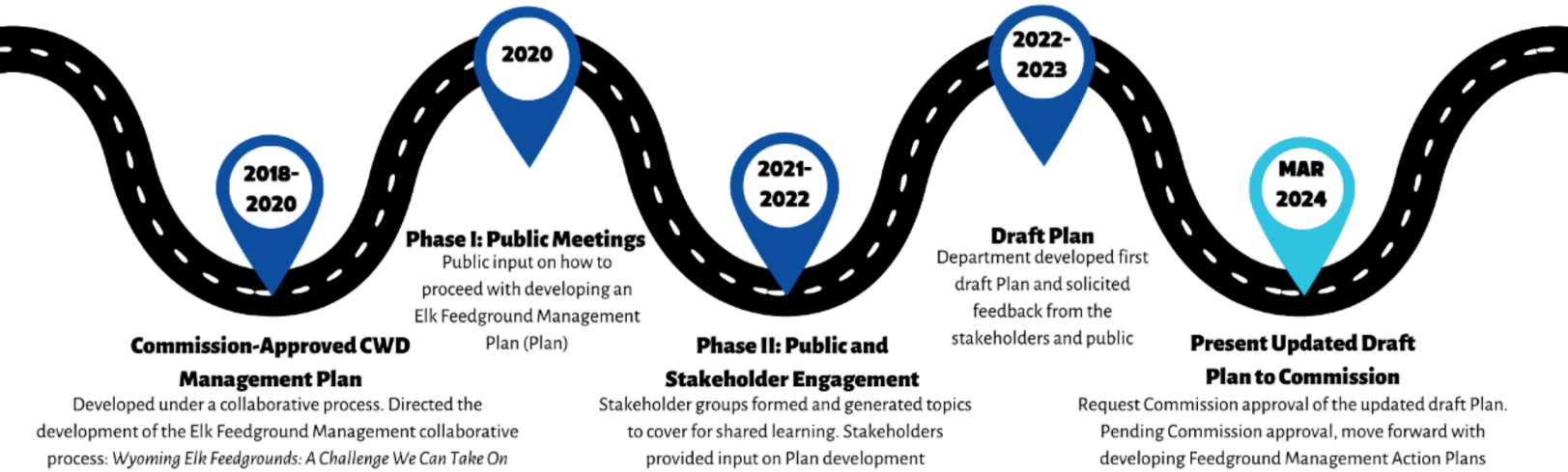




Wyoming Elk Feedgrounds Draft Management Plan

Elk Feedgrounds: A Challenge We Can Take On

FEBRUARY 2024: UPDATED DRAFT PLAN



Public and Stakeholder Feedback

The Department addressed major concerns and clarified language. As a result, the plan underwent significant revisions. Major changes included formatting, updating the language of the Sideboards to maintain the intent and reduce ambiguity, updating the CWD and brucellosis management sections, and providing more clarity to the cattle production values, FMAPs, and public process.



Management Direction

Feedgrounds maximize hunting opportunity while limiting winter mortality, elk damage, disease risk to cattle, and competition with other wintering wildlife. However, feedgrounds present significant concerns for disease transmission, habitat management, and the long-term health of these elk populations. Given the Department's responsibility to manage for healthy and sustainable elk, deer, and moose populations over the long-term, CWD cannot be disregarded. No Strategies can be implemented to accomplish the Goals without adhering to the Sideboards.



Scan this QR code for more information and a copy of the full plan or access the "Get Involved" page at wgfd.wyo.gov and select "Public Working Groups".



Final Draft Plan

Elk Feedgrounds: A Challenge We Can Take On



Goals and Sideboards

Goals:

- 1) Promote elk health by limiting disease transmission while providing supplemental feed.
- 2) Reduce reliance of elk on supplemental feed while adhering to the Sideboards.

Sideboards:

- 1) Adhere to standard Department process for elk herd unit population objective review with public process and Wyoming Game and Fish Commission approval for any proposed changes.
- 2) Prioritize hunting opportunities as the primary tool to manage elk populations toward the Commission-approved herd unit objectives.
- 3) Minimize elk damage to private property, disease transmission to livestock, and negative economic impacts to livestock producers.
- 4) Minimize competition with other wintering wildlife species.

Objectives and Strategies

The Plan's Direction provides Objectives and Strategies for each management topic identified. Pending Commission-approval of the Plan, Feedground Management Action Plans (FMAPs) will provide the mechanism to uniquely assess and implement the Strategies as appropriate for each feedground or herd unit. Given the Sideboards, not all Strategies will be applicable, appropriate, or achievable for every feedground.

Public and Stakeholder Feedback

The Plan provides overarching Direction and a suite of management options, but does not dictate management actions. Feedground Management Action Plans (FMAPs) provide the opportunity for Department managers, potentially-impacted stakeholders, and the public to sit around a table and figure out the appropriate combination of Strategies to implement at the local level. By identifying the unique obstacles to accomplishing the Goals at each feedground, effective solutions can be developed. FMAPs will be incorporated into standard Department management and reporting processes.



For more information and a copy of the full plan visit the "Get Involved" page at wgfd.wyo.gov and select "Public Working Groups".