

Environmental Protection District #8 – Sensitive Wildlife (Big Game)

Restrictions are already present, but not mapped. These changes will clarify, not add, rules.

The overlay zone may be getting larger, but the restrictions should be fewer. We are revising the language to:

- Offer more exemptions for different uses
- Clearly identify those uses that trigger additional review
- Remove voluntary standards that trigger a review
- Clarify uses that are exempt

The outcome of the revised language should be:

- More transparency about rules
- Maintain compliance with state resource protections
- Less development applications will have to go through additional fees/time

FAQs

Q: What are the types of uses you are considering making exempt?

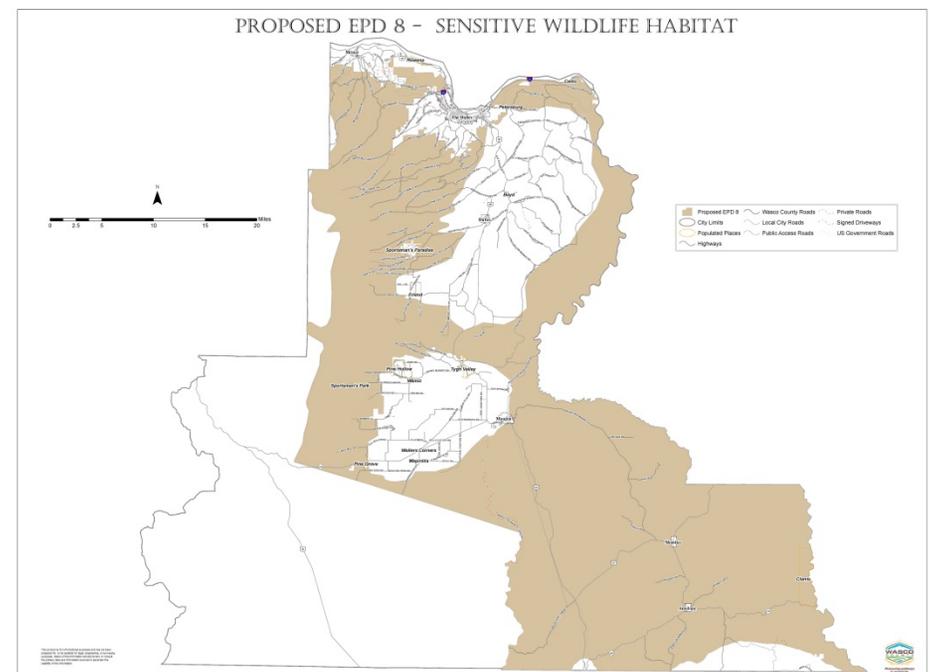
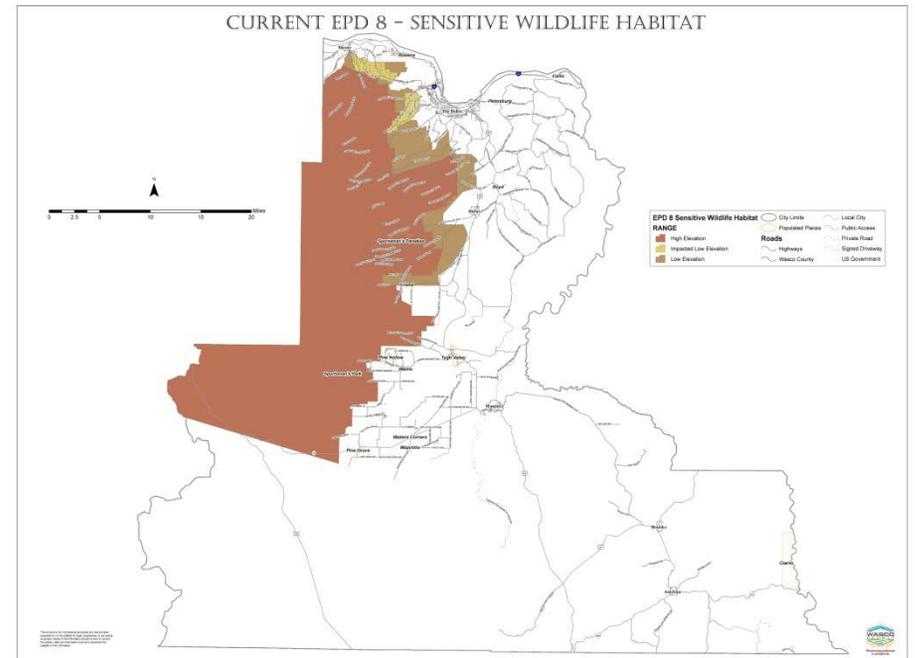
A: Farm uses, like farm equipment storage, crop production, irrigation, etc. The exemption would allow for agricultural structures to be permitted without additional review.

Q: What are the voluntary standards that currently trigger a review?

A: EPD-8 currently requires properties in certain areas to consult with ODFW to decide on voluntary location and other standards which would reduce impact to wildlife. We are proposing to remove this requirement.

Q: What about non-exempt uses?

A: Non-exempt uses will continue to have additional review criteria and standards. Most development applications and uses will require notice to ODFW. Some proposed development will require mitigation strategies, like relocating the development to a different site.



Why update now?

State law requires that when a county undertakes a Comprehensive Plan update, it needs to evaluate new data provided about resources and ensure protection. ODFW informed Wasco County during our 2017 vision phase that our sensitive wildlife maps were out of date. As a result, we included it in our proposed work plan which was approved by the Department of Land Conservation and Development in 2018.

Planning staff intends this update to add clarity and transparency to implementation of our planning program. This update also aligns our maps with those used by ODFW to make decisions and provide comment on development applications. We hope the end result will be beneficial to everyone by providing clarity and continuing to protect our valuable wildlife resources.

What does the process involve?

The process to update the inventory, or maps, of resources includes

1. Identifying conflicting uses. These are uses that may present adverse impacts to wildlife. This is one area we will be asking for public feedback about.
2. Defining the impact area. ODFW has given us this with the new maps, and we will be able to make some refinements based on our analysis.
3. Analyze the Economic, Social, Environmental and Energy consequences
4. Develop a program to achieve Goal 5, protecting the resource.

Once the analysis and program are complete and developed, staff will then present that to the Citizen Advisory Group on March 3rd for discussion and further refinement. The final draft will be recommended for consideration by the Planning Commission. That hearing will take place on April 2nd. Following approval by the Planning Commission, a recommendation will be

made to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. That final approval will be sent to the State Department of Land Conservation and Development for acknowledgment.

What can I do to help or get involved?

Staff is actively seeking public input on two critical components of the analysis and process: conflicting uses and ESEE (Economic, Social, Environmental and Energy) consequences. We will make available, at the meeting and online, opportunities to give feedback about what uses might be exempt from protections because they don't present a conflict. For instance, some forest and farm uses are, by law, exempt from the EPD 12 (Sensitive Birds) rules. The public may share information that farm uses like grazing or crop production don't prohibit big game migration and should be exempt.

The next critical area for public input is on ESEE consequences. For instance, if restrictions on farm use present a severe financial hardship, staff will be able to include that in the analysis and recommend an alternative scenario for protection or no protection.

You will be able to give this critical feedback at our public meetings in February and March or online throughout the end of February.

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