



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

1/26/2024

Agenda item:

Conservation Policy

Presenter(s):

Margen Carlson, Director of Conservation

Background summary:

The Commission has written a draft Conservation Policy. There was a round of public review and Comment in Spring of 2023. The Commission also invited Washington tribes to review and comment on the draft policy from November 14 – December 8, 2023. After reviewing comments and considering edits, the Commission discussed a revised draft at their December 14 – 16, 2023 meeting, and listened to additional public testimony. The Commission then asked staff to distribute the revised draft for an additional round of public comment December 18, 2023 – January 12, 2024.

For public input:

- Staff issued a news release in English and Spanish on December 18, 2023.
- The Department highlighted the public comment opportunity on social media and provided reminders throughout the comment period.
- The Department website included notification of the opportunity on the home page banner, including a link to additional information and the comment email address.
- Additionally, the Department website identified the comment opportunity as a hot topic in English and Spanish.
- As of the close of the comment period on January 12, the Department received 699 comments among the draft conservation policy email, the Commission's email, and Commission's existing online comment form.
- The public meeting on January 26 includes opportunity for verbal public comment on the draft policy.

Staff recommendation:

This presentation provides information about the public comments requested by the Commission, in support of their ongoing deliberation of this draft policy.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

The Commission has discussed the potential for a Commission conservation policy, and will deliberate on whether to adopt their current draft.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

N/A

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

See above for public involvement to date. This presentation summarizes the quantity and themes received in public comments.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

The Commission has requested to vote on the draft Conservation Policy at the January 26th meeting.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Post decision communications plan:

If the Commission acts on the draft policy, the Department will use multiple standard communications avenues to alert the public.
