

9. WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN – BRIEFING

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“GREEN SHEET”

Meeting: January 11-12, 2008

Agenda Item 9: Development of a Wolf Conservation & Management Plan for Washington – **Briefing**

Prepared By: Harriet Allen

Presented By: Steve Pozzanghera, Deputy Assistant Director, Wildlife Program
Rocky Beach, Diversity Division Manager, Wildlife Program
Invited guest speakers from Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Background:

The wolf is both a Federal and State listed endangered species in Washington. Currently, there are no documented wolf packs residing in the State, however sighting reports and recent photographs from remote cameras confirm that individual wolves are dispersing into Washington. Dispersing wolves from Idaho, Montana, and British Columbia are expected to establish packs in the future. In preparation for the establishment of wolf packs in Washington, the Department is developing a Wolf Conservation and Management Plan to prepare for state management, when the wolf is federally delisted. A draft state plan for public review will be completed in July 2008. This briefing will give the Commission an overview of the current status of the wolf in Washington and discuss the process, timeline, issues, and concerns related to the development of the state plan. Invited speakers from Idaho will present information on wolf management in their state.

Policy Issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

Fulfillment of the Department’s responsibility to recover and manage endangered native wildlife species in Washington through the development of a conservation and management plan.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The Department conducted public scoping in August 2007 as part of the EIS process for the wolf conservation and management plan. Public comments received at the seven public meetings are posted on the agency wolf web page. We also received over 200 written comments. Issues identified were conservation targets, wolf livestock interactions, wolf ungulate interactions, and other varied topics such as education and outreach, land management, economic impacts, and wolf-human interactions. There will be additional public involvement during a 3-month public review of the draft plan in late summer/fall 2008, including a second round of statewide public meetings.

Action requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):

None, briefing only.

Draft motion language:

Briefing only.

Justification for Commission action:

Briefing only.
