

“GREEN SHEET”

Meeting: June 3-4, 2011

Agenda Item 12: Predator Population Trends and Predator-Prey Management – **Briefing**

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Presented By: Nate Pamplin, Assistant Director, Wildlife Program
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Background:

Understanding predator-prey dynamics has become increasingly important for wildlife management agencies nationwide. In the last decade, an increasing number of state agencies have incorporated predator-prey management, specifically predator removal, into their management strategies. Similar issues involving species such as marine mammals, cormorants, and terns already occur in Washington State and the Department has addressed these issues on a case-by-case basis. Because predator management is complex and tends to be controversial, there is a need for a more proactive approach outlining our management principles, decision making process, scientific standards, and public involvement process.

To that end, the Wildlife Program is currently working on two documents to advance and guide our management related to predator-prey. The need for the first document is identified in the 2009-2015 Game Management Plan and is a white-paper summarizing the current state of knowledge of black bear-cougar-coyote and deer-elk dynamics as it relates to predator-prey management. The second document is a draft Wildlife Program Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that provides general guidelines on the principles that the Program would consider prior to implementing a predator management action. The Department will brief the Commission on the population status and trends for black bear, coyote, and wolf (cougar covered in separated agenda item), the draft white-paper and SOP, timeline for completion, and potential management implications.

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

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Management of large carnivore species and ungulates dynamics was discussed and incorporated into the Game Management Plan. As a part of that process, the Department is aware that the public has a strong interest in predator-prey dynamics and the potential implications to the status of prey species.

The presentation made to the Commission will be available on the WDFW website.

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

None. This is a briefing only. This is a Commission request from the August 6-7, 2010 Commission meeting. It was postponed to occur at the June 3-4, 2011 Commission meeting.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Communications plan:

News Release

WDFW Website

Other opportunities for public comment may be incorporated.
