



Minutes Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission

Conference Call
Friday, August 21, 2015
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:	Public:	Department Staff:
Brad Smith, Chair	Diane Gallegos	Jim Unsworth, Director
Larry Carpenter, Vice Chair	Linda Saunders	Joe Stohr, Deputy Director
Bob Kehoe	Chris Madsen	Nate Pamplin
Connie Mahnken	Dan Paul	Donny Martorello
Jay Kehne	Nicholas Arrivo	Scott Becker
Miranda Wecker	Anna Forstic	Craig Bartlett
Dave Graybill	Wendy Keefover	Ann Larson
Kim Thorburn	Tracy Coppola	Owen Rowe
Commission Staff	Nicole Paquette	
Tami Lininger	Andrea Santarsiere	
	Collette Adkins	

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Vice Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

A. Petition to Change Rules - Decision

The Commission formally considered a petition filed by the Humane Society of the United States, Conservation Northwest, Center for Biological Diversity, Mountain Lion Foundation, Wolf Haven International, The Cougar Fund, The Lands Council, Predator Defense, Kettle Range Conservation Group, and Gary Koehler, Ph.D. (hereafter, referred to as petitioners). The petition requested that the Commission effectively vacate its decision to increase the cougar harvest guidelines in 14 hunt areas of the State from 17-21%, and change the harvest guidelines back to the 12-16% recommended by the Department and reflected in the proposed rule. The petitioners made the following arguments in support of their petition: there is a lack of public involvement and opportunity for input on the proposed amendment; the 17-21% harvest guidelines deviates from the best available science; the proposed amendment is substantially different from the proposed rule; and increased harvest may disrupt cougar social structure which may result in increased cougar-human and cougar-livestock conflicts, and, as a result, will decrease social tolerance for cougars.

Donny Martorello, Wolf Policy Lead and Nate Pamplin, Assistant Director, Wildlife Program provided the Commission with a detailed briefing and recommendation from the Department.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion to deny the June 30, 2015 petition that the Commission initiate rulemaking to amend WAC 232-28-297 to reduce cougar harvest guidelines in 14 hunt areas of the State from 17-21% to 12-16% and further directed the Department to provide a recommendation for the 2016 and 2017 cougar hunting seasons at the March-April 2016

Commission meetings. Commissioner Wecker seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7-1.

B. 2016 Operating Budget Request - Decision

Owen Rowe, Budget Manager, requested approval of the proposed 2016 Operating Budget.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to approve the proposed 2016 Operating Budget request as proposed, All were in favor and the motion passed.

C. 2016 Legislative Proposals - Decision

Ann Larson, Legislative Liaison, requested approval of the proposed 2016 Legislative proposals.

Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to approve the proposed 2016 Legislative proposals as proposed, All were in favor and the motion passed.

D. Meeting Minute Approval – Decision

The Commission approved the meeting minutes of the August 7-8, 2015 meeting.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to approve the August 7-8, 2015 meeting minutes as presented, all were in favor and the motion passed.

E. General Discussion

- December meeting in Port Townsend
- Topics and outreach for the meeting in Spokane
- Thoughts of those who may be impacted by the wildfires
- Follow up communications with the Fish Committee

Vice Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant