

Washington Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

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Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: December 8-9, 2017

Agenda item: Washington Wolf Conservation and Management Plan – **Briefing**

Presenter(s): Donny Martorello, Ph.D., Wolf Policy Lead, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

The department completed the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (Wolf Plan) in 2011. The Wolf Plan includes four goals;

- Restore the wolf population in Washington to a self-sustaining size and geographic distribution that will result in wolves having a high probability of persisting in the state through the foreseeable future (>50-100 years).
- Manage wolf-livestock conflicts in a way that minimizes livestock losses, while at the same time not negatively impacting the recovery or long-term perpetuation of a sustainable wolf population.
- Maintain healthy and robust ungulate populations in the state that provide abundant prey for wolves and other predators as well as ample harvest opportunities for hunters.
- Develop public understanding of the conservation and management needs of wolves in Washington, thereby promoting the public's coexistence with the species.

The first wolf pack in Washington, in modern times, was documented in 2008. At that time, WDFW had already started the process for drafting the Wolf Plan. By 2011, when the plan was completed, the number of known wolf packs had grown to 5. Since then, the number of known packs has increased to 20. This pattern of natural re-colonization corresponds to about a 30 percent annual population increase. At that rate, Washington's wolf population may be at or near the plan's recovery objective by 2021.

Department staff will present the progress to date to the Fish and Wildlife Commission, including updates on the goals of the Wolf Plan, and discuss potential next steps in plan development as Washington's wolf population nears state recovery objectives.

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

Briefing only

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

NA

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

NA

Action requested:

NA

Draft motion language:

NA

Justification for Commission action:

NA

Post decision communications plan:

- Stakeholder engagement
- Website
- Washington State Register

Form revised 9/13/17