

Draft Operating Budget Decision Package Concepts for 2019 Legislative Session

Version: August 3, 2018

Additional Efficiency Reductions in 2017-2019

-\$2.4M

Flexible Funds

- Preliminary planning on closing the Naches fish hatcheries and shifting production to other hatcheries. Recreational fishing impacts would be addressed with shifts in production. A total of two full-time positions would be eliminated under this scenario. These actions will save approximately \$320,000. This transition would occur after spring plants in 2019.
- Reducing grant funding for volunteer cooperative projects from the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) will save \$500,000.
- Using improvements in technology to save money and eliminate the need for several positions in the Information Technology Services division. A total of five full-time staff positions will be eliminated between June and December 2018. In total, ITS reductions will save about \$800,000.
- Eliminating the purchase of triploid trout for stocking in lowland lakes will save \$300,000.
- Eliminating an environmental education position in the Lands Planning, Recreation, and Outreach section will save \$200,000.
- Reducing production of the annual fishing rules pamphlet from 500,000 to 350,000 per year and eliminating the Fish Program training fund will save \$140,000.
- Reducing prairie oak restoration actions will save \$230,000.

SFY 2019 Supplemental

\$~0.7M

GF-S

- Fire suppression

2019-21 Maintenance Level

~\$6.7M

GF-S

- Mandatory State Data-Center Move
- Maintain Technology Access
- Lease Rates
- IT ongoing costs for approved infrastructure work
- ENF Records Management System
- PILT and Lands O&M
- Fish Food

- Hatchery Utilities
- Water Quality Permits – NPDES
- Mass-marking Kelly Services
- Cost-distribution on RCO grants

2019-21 Performance Level

Maintain Wildlife Conflict

\$4.4M

GF-S

- Severe reduction in agency ability to work with producers (both crop and livestock) and the general public to avoid or minimize the impacts of negative wildlife interactions (e.g., crop damage, livestock losses, and public safety).
- Staffing impacts to HQ and Regions (reduction from 22 FTEs to 8 FTEs?); and reduce 3 officer FTEs including Karelian bear dog program.
- WL-S Component of crop payments to landowners at risk; request GF-S backfill
- Anticipated impact from federal grant (Pittman-Robertson) eligibility interpretation would severely reduce program funding.
- Anticipated decline in Pittman-Robertson funding

Maintain Public Health and Safety

\$2.5M

GF-S

- Provide funds to adequately support Enforcement patrols for Sanitary Shellfish (6 FTEs). WDFW Police officers patrol shellfish beds, inspect marketplaces and businesses, and investigate cases to protect consumers, public safety, the Washington State shellfish industry, and shellfish habitat. This maintains ~13,000 hours of patrol time each year for an industry generates \$270 million of economic activity annually and supports over 3,200 jobs.
- Enforcement headquarters position

Maintain Land Management

\$2.7M

GF-S

- Reduced ability to address invasive/noxious weeds and forest health issues
- Reduced public involvement in planning and management of our lands
- Reduced capacity to monitor and evaluate land management and land use on our wildlife areas.
- Real Estate services – Reduced permitting for public uses and reduced property management across the state.
- Approx. 6 FTEs

Maintain Fisheries and Hatchery Production

\$9.0M

~30% GF-S

- Maintain salmon and trout production
 - Maintain Whitehorse Ponds

~70% WL-S

- The state funding at this facility supports 2 FTE's
 - Production includes:
 - 200,000 steelhead
 - 48,000 catchable rainbow trout
 - Loss of this production would eliminate approximately \$1 million in economic impacts annually
- Maintain Bingham Creek Hatchery
 - The state funding at this facility supports 4 FTE's
 - Production includes:
 - 55,000 steelhead
 - 700,000 salmon
 - Loss of this production would eliminate approximately \$340,000 in economic impacts annually
- Maintain Humptulips Hatchery
 - The state funding at this facility supports 4 FTE's
 - Production includes:
 - 155,000 steelhead
 - 1,000,000 salmon
 - Loss of this production would eliminate approximately \$1.47 million in economic impacts annually
- Maintain Reiter Ponds
 - The state funding at this facility supports 4 FTE's
 - Production includes:
 - 330,000 steelhead
 - Loss of this production would eliminate approximately \$4.6 million in economic impacts annually
- Maintain Meseberg Hatchery
 - The state funding at this facility supports 4 FTE's
 - Production includes:
 - 6,000 tiger muskie
 - Economic data is not available at this time

- Maintain Chelan Hatchery
 - The state funding at this facility supports 4 FTE's
 - Production includes:
 - 160,000 steelhead eggs
 - 1,283,800 trout
 - 595,000 kokanee
 - 3,500 sturgeon
 - Loss of this production would eliminate approximately \$37.9 million in economic impacts annually

- Maintain Omak Hatchery
 - The state funding at this facility supports 2 FTE's
 - Production includes:
 - 175,000 rainbow trout
 - 300,000 kokanee
 - 2,500 Lahontan cutthroat
 - Loss of this production would eliminate approximately \$16.4 million in economic impacts annually

- Maintain hatchery maintenance

- Maintain warm-water game fish opportunities
 - Loss of this funding would impact 13 FTE's
 - Will see a decrease in the development of water access sites
 - Reduce education and outreach activities for youth events, fishing club meetings, sportsman shows, and military service members
 - Reduced quality of warmwater fishing for 30,000 anglers with an estimated economic impact of \$83.9 million annually
 - Would require legislative changes to authorize spending this money for other activities

- Maintain recreational shellfish opportunities (razor clam, crab, oysters)
 - Loss of this funding would impact 6 individuals
 - Maintain current level of lost crab pot removals otherwise derelict gear will remain in the environment impacting a variety of species
 - Stop planting clam and oyster seed at 15 popular public tidelands in Puget Sound

- Elimination of razor clam population assessments and creel census will require a more conservative management impacting \$40 million to our coastal economies
- Maintain Level Lake/Stream Rehabilitation Program
 - Maintain rotenone applications to remove undesirable fish species
 - Destination fisheries would now require planting with more costly catchable trout
- Reduce Annual Bottom Trawl Survey for Listed Rockfish Species by 50%
 - Limits our ability to observe changes in stock status in Puget Sound
 - Delaying critical management decisions
- Maintain Bingham Creek & Chehalis River Trap Operations
 - Eliminates the state's ability to provide annual estimates of wild coho impacting the Pacific Salmon Treaty obligation requirement for annual harvest management
 - Impacts WDFW's coastal river coho forecasts used in the NOF negotiations
- Maintain Early Winter Steelhead Populations for ESA Compliance
 - Eliminates the fishing opportunity for hatchery steelhead in Puget Sound

Maintain Hunting

\$3.2M

WL-S

- Game species research and data management. This will reduce scientific knowledge of game animals which may result in reduced management options and reduced recreational hunting opportunity.
- Reduced pheasant hunting opportunity
- Reduced Hunter Education opportunities and reduced agency service to existing hunters in the state.
- Approx 8 FTEs

Maintain Conservation

\$3.5M

GF-S

- Species ecology and status assessments. This will eliminate wildlife species expertise used to update PHS documents and thus will result in reduced conservation and technical assistance through local governments' regulation and voluntary landowner conservation efforts.
- Species recovery efforts. This will reduce agency efforts to study and recover endangered, threatened, or other Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN).

- Reduced engineering design and technical assistance on restoration projects. A reduction in habitat engineering will have an impact on salmon and steelhead recovery efforts by reducing the Department’s project designs on WDFW lands and consultations for restoration groups’ project. This also maintains engineering support for the HPA program permitting decisions.
- Maintain climate change capacity. This reduction will eliminate WDFW’s participation in the Climate Impacts Group and result in the loss of climate change science being designed to inform our work and support climate policy implementation.
- Maintain AIS and treatment of noxious weeds
- Maintain derelict fishing gear retrieval capacity
- Approx 6 FTEs

Permanent CRSSE	\$3.3M	CRSSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of this funding would impact 55 different individuals for a total of 9.81 FTEs in Fish Program • Impacts the \$61,500,000 annual economic benefits in the Columbia River fisheries • Maintain Columbia River fisheries enforcement (3 FTEs) • Maintain PIT tag arrays, hooking mortality studies, ESA permitting • Maintain recently expanded fisheries 		
Maintain Customer Service	\$1.9M	WL-S
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain regional and centralized customer service and after-hours call center (13 FTEs). If not funded, the Department would contract with an external call center for calls from M-F, 8-5. 		
**Indirect (embedded in costs above)	\$3.6M	45% GF-S 45% WL-S 10% CRSSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT services • HR services • Policy and Public Engagement 		
RFEG	\$0.9M	GF-S
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain support for 14 RFEGs as pass-through from WDFW 		
Enhance Conservation	\$12.9M	GF-S

- Salmon recovery. This investment will allow WDFW to help guide local salmon recovery priorities to the areas and habitats that can provide the largest biological benefit to salmon and steelhead and thus improve the likelihood of recovery while improving fisheries by reducing constraining stocks and improving hatchery production.
- Protect and restore watershed health. This investment provides WDFW with the capacity to more effectively engage with local governments in the development and implementation of their local ordinances that are designed to conserve natural resources. This work also supports landowners that have fish and wildlife questions or concerns. In addition, this capacity will improve the overall effectiveness of the HPA program by allowing more thorough project review, compliance inspections, and effectiveness monitoring that informs our adaptive management. Some of this capacity is critical for improving our service delivery and relevance in urban areas which will lead to improved overall watershed and human wellbeing, likely increase recruitment of anglers, hunters and watchable wildlife participants.
- Support private landowners and voluntary conservation. This investment is critical to working with private landowners to enhance habitat conditions and provide access for fish and wildlife-related recreation.
- Strategic landscape planning. This investment will provide necessary capacity to oversee the coordination of WDFW efforts for each large habitat type. For example, we would have a lead expert by habitat type forest, riparian, shrub-steppe, etc. that would share science, emerging issues and seek staff input and coordinate recommendations for policy or operations.
- Improve urban-wildland interface conservation
- SGCN conservation (surveys, habitat associations)
- Increased conservation enforcement. An enforcement presence offers a great educational opportunity and can vastly improve compliance with habitat requirements and species protections.
- Statewide (9 FTEs) and regional capacity (56 FTEs) for total of 63 FTEs.

Enhance Land Management

\$4.2M

GF-S

- Staffing for new wildlife areas (3 FTEs)
- Increase grazing monitoring (1 FTE)
- Increase noxious weed control
- Increase enforcement (6 FTEs)

Enhance Fishing

\$6.3M

53% GF-S
43% WL-S
4% CRSSE

- Increase hatchery production
 - Restore some of the production previously lost due to budget cuts
 - Provides additional harvest opportunities
- Mobile Application (Hunting and Fishing)

- Deliver high quality and up to date applications to the states anglers and hunters
- Enhances fishing and hunting opportunities
- Continue our efforts in the rule simplification process
- Catch and Release Fishery on Skagit
 - Provide increased opportunity for catch and release on the Skagit for steelhead; and some Enforcement compliance patrols.
 - Supports local economies during a time when little other fishing activity is available
- Monitoring and Compliance
 - Monitor Puget Sound Salmon Fisheries
 - Maximize harvest opportunities while meeting ESA permit requirements and conservation objectives
 - Mitchel Act Biological Opinion
 - Funding to initiate compliance with ESA requirements for Columbia River Fisheries
- Shellfish Disease and Outbreak
 - Needed to effectively manage the risk of shellfish disease that could negatively impact the aquaculture industry and wild stocks
- Maintain Mitchell Act Production (\$.3M CRSSE, \$.5 GFS)
 - Maintain production in the lower Columbia River at current levels and provide increased production to support reduction from the past

Enhance Hunting

\$3.9M 40% GF-S
60% WL-S

- Private lands access programs (staff and access grants)
- Increase enforcement for wildlife conflict (1 FTE)
- Increase wildlife conflict specialist capacity (4 FTEs)

**** Indirect (embedded in costs above)**

\$5.7M GF-S
WL-S

- Outreach, education, marketing, volunteer capacity
- HR staffing

- Staff training in conflict management/human dimensions
- Matrix report recommendations—Enterprise budget/contract software

SRKW Recovery

\$??

GF-S

- Hatchery Production
- Temperature Marking
- Shoreline Landowner Incentive Program
- Forage fish monitoring
- Enforcement
- Outreach and Education
- Marine mammal management

SUMMARY

For the 2019-21 operating budget, we're proposing:

- \$6.7M GF-S for Maintenance Level.
- \$30.5M in service buy-back:
 - \$15.8M GF-S;
 - \$11.4M WL-S;
 - \$3.3M CRSSE.
- \$28.2M in Enhancements:
 - \$22.9M GF-S;
 - \$5.0M WL-S;
 - \$0.3M CRSSE.

In sum, we're requesting \$45.5M in GF-S, \$16.4M in WL-S, and \$3.6M CRSSE for total request of \$65.4M.