

## Summary Sheet

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**Meeting dates:** May 10, 2019

**Agenda item:** Douglas Squirrel and Red Squirrel classification

**Presenter(s):** Taylor Cotten, Acting Diversity Division Manager

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**Background summary:**

The commission has been petitioned to amend WAC 220-200-100 to remove Douglas Squirrel and Red Squirrel from "other protected wildlife" classification.

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**Staff recommendation:**

No change

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**Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:**

None, and no change to the classification of Douglas Squirrel and Red Squirrel

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**Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:**

A change in classification may have a limited fiscal impact on the agency, depending on how the species would be classified (e.g. license sales or expenses related to development of a management plan)

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

Spoke with petitioner who was interested in finding easily accessible and small game hunting opportunities. Spoke with retired WDFW about the "other" protected list; species was not seen as a necessary game species.

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**Action requested and/or proposed next steps:**

No change to WAC 220-200-100. Work with the petitioner on other hunting opportunities already available.

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**Draft motion language:**

Motion: I move to deny the petition as presented by staff to amend WAC 220-200-100 to remove Douglas Squirrel and Red Squirrel from the Other Protected Wildlife classification.

Is there a "second"?

If so, then motion maker discusses basis for motion; other Commissioners discuss views on motion; amendments, if any, proposed and addressed

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**Post decision communications plan:**

Provide context and justification for the decision to the petitioner and identify other small game hunting opportunities that are easily accessible.





## PETITION FOR ADOPTION, AMENDMENT, OR REPEAL OF A STATE ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

In accordance with RCW 34.05.330, the Office of Financial Management (OFM) created this form for individuals or groups who wish to petition a state agency or institution of higher education to adopt, amend, or repeal an administrative rule. You may use this form to submit your request. You also may contact agencies using other formats, such as a letter or email.

The agency or institution will give full consideration to your petition and will respond to you within 60 days of receiving your petition. For more information on the rule petition process, see Chapter 82-05 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=82-05>.

### CONTACT INFORMATION *(please type or print)*

Petitioner's Name

Trevor Morris

Name of Organization

Fish and Wildlife Commission

Mailing Address: 19052 SE 269<sup>th</sup> st

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone

Email

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WILDLIFE COMMISSION

### COMPLETING AND SENDING PETITION FORM

- Check all of the boxes that apply.
- Provide relevant examples.
- Include suggested language for a rule, if possible.
- Attach additional pages, if needed.
- Send your petition to the agency with authority to adopt or administer the rule. Here is a list of agencies and their rules coordinators: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/CodeReviser/Documents/RClist.htm>.

### INFORMATION ON RULE PETITION

Agency responsible for adopting or administering the rule: \_\_\_\_\_

1. NEW RULE - I am requesting the agency to adopt a new rule.

The subject (or purpose) of this rule is:

\_\_\_\_\_

The rule is needed because:

\_\_\_\_\_

The new rule would affect the following people or groups:

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PETITION FOR ADOPTION, AMENDMENT, OR REPEAL OF A STATE ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

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**2. AMEND RULE - I am requesting the agency to change an existing rule.**

List rule number (WAC), if known: WAC 220-200-100

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I am requesting the following change:

Removal of the Douglas squirrel and Red squirrel from the list of protected species.

This change is needed because:

The Douglas squirrel is the most common species of tree squirrel found in Washington State. Along with its cousin the Red squirrel, these two species have a high population and wide distribution collectively covering the entirety of our state, as well as Oregon, Idaho, California, the southern Canadian provinces, and eastern states along the Catskill and Appalachian mountains. The two species are improperly identified as protected, which draws funds and protects competing habitat/range from other species (such as the endangered Western Grey Squirrel). They are listed by the IUCN as a "species of least concern", and should not be protected under state law.

The effect of this rule change will be:

The Douglas squirrel and Red squirrel would be removed from the list of protected species cited in WAC 220-200-100. Management of the species would be placed under the authority of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and management would be performed in a way more appropriate to a "species of least concern". Funding and resources formerly used to protect these species would be freed up to be reallocated to other species in Washington more in need.

The rule is not clearly or simply stated:

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**3. REPEAL RULE - I am requesting the agency to eliminate an existing rule.**

List rule number (WAC), if known:

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(Check one or more boxes)

- It does not do what it was intended to do.
  
- It is no longer needed because: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- It imposes unreasonable costs: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- The agency has no authority to make this rule: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- It is applied differently to public and private parties: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- It conflicts with another federal, state, or local law or rule. List conflicting law or rule, if known:  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- It duplicates another federal, state or local law or rule. List duplicate law or rule, if known:  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

