

Wildlife conflict management



Emergent need
\$955,000 for 19-21
biennium

At-risk services
\$4.4 million for 21-23
ongoing need



The 2019 Legislature recognized the value of WDFW's work by appropriating \$24 million towards the Department's \$30.6 million biennial deficit, which fully funds this package's wildlife conflict management and other at-risk work in FY 2020. However, it is a one-time appropriation as well as \$6.7 million short in the biennium's second year. This decision package requests the balance of FY 2021's deficit, \$955,000, and full costs of the work, \$2.2 million, per year in FY 2022 and ongoing. Activities described in this decision package are currently being performed; consequences of not funding this wildlife conflict management will be felt by the state's fish, wildlife, and people.

The Problem

Without wildlife conflict specialists, Washington's wildlife would be at risk of lethal removal because of unaddressed conflict with communities that could have been resolved with the assistance of professional staff. Some communities would no longer receive this valuable service.

The Solution

This bill would continue funding wildlife conflict specialists to use non-lethal techniques to resolve wildlife conflict. With this funding, wildlife conflict specialists could continue their work resolving property damage, assisting landowners with nuisance wildlife complaints, and responding to public safety issues involving dangerous wildlife.

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