



Roadkill and Salvage Petition – Briefing and Decision

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Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

8/5/2022

Agenda item:

Petition to amend WAC 220-413-030 to allow the public to salvage more species of wildlife and make the rule more similar to Idaho's Roadkill Salvage rule - Briefing and Decision.

Presenter(s): Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager

Background summary:

WDFW received a petition to amend WAC 220-413-030. The petitioner would like to see the following changes:

To be more in line with the current Idaho Roadkill and Salvage rules that allows most wildlife species to be salvaged. The Idaho rule also allows the public to euthanize injured wildlife.

Staff recommendation:

The staff recommendation is to deny the petition. The main reasons for this recommendation are related to human safety. Idaho is slightly bigger than Washington in land mass and has a much smaller human population. Idaho human density is 20.2 people per square mile and Washington's is 105.2 people per square mile. Allowing everyone to pick up most species of wildlife is more likely to be a road hazard in a more populous state like Washington. The same concern holds true for discharging a firearm to euthanize wildlife near a public road or highway.

However, if the commission wanted to accept the petition and ask the agency to begin rulemaking to increase the number of species that people could salvage, WDFW would recommend modifying the petitioner's request to only include big game species and not allow the public to euthanize wildlife injured by vehicles as the Idaho rule allows. We limited our rule to deer and elk to keep it simple for the public and for enforcement. Adding species will undoubtedly add complexity. For example, if we allow salvage of once in a lifetime species, bear and cougar, we will want people salvaging the animal to bring them in for mandatory inspection to gather necessary biological information. Allowing only big game (i.e., adding bear and cougar) to be salvaged would only slightly increase the number of people stopping along the busy roads and thus could be a good compromise.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

If the petition is denied the rule will remain as is. If the commission chooses to accept the petition the Department recommends limiting it to big game and maintaining the part of the rule that makes it illegal for the public to euthanize wildlife injured by vehicles.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

A modified rule could increase agency workload which would be a fiscal impact. The exact fiscal impact is difficult to predict.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

- There was no public involvement process prior to the submission of this petition.
- A public involvement process will occur if rulemaking is initiated.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Dependent on commission decision.

Draft motion language: 3 possible motions

1. I move we deny the petition.
2. I move we accept the petition and direct the agency to begin rule making.
3. I move we accept the petition and direct the agency to begin rule making focused on WDFW's recommended modifications.

Post decision communications plan:

Communicate the outcome of the Commission's decision to the petitioner.

06/22/2022

Re: Petition for Amendment of a State Administrative Rule

I am requesting the WDFW Roadkill Salvage Permit rule be amended. The rule was implemented by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in 2016.

At the time it was implemented by the Commission, it was implemented for Deer and Elk only and members of the public are prohibited from dispatching a vehicle collision deer or elk.

My request is that Washington States Roadkill Salvage Permit be amended to be more in line with the current Idaho Roadkill and Salvage rules.

Idaho allows roadkill salvage of upland birds, upland game animals, big game, furbearers, and predators that may be lawfully hunted or trapped that have been killed by accidental vehicle-collisions.

Unprotected non-game wildlife are also legal for salvage. (you may read the entire Idaho rules on their website. I do not wish to bore you with copy/paste verbiage)

As of July 1, 2018 Idaho now allows for the dispatch of wildlife injured in a vehicle collision. (Idaho has rules regarding the details which you may read further on their website)

My request is based in the fact there are several Salvage groups for Washington State on Facebook where people have posted they are appreciative to receive the meat from vehicle collision deer and elk. This brings up the question of why Washington limits Roadkill Salvage Permits to only deer and elk.

There have been posts over the years of people stating that they called for law enforcement to come out and dispatch an animal that had been in a vehicle collision and there were no law enforcement officers available to come out to dispatch the animal in question and the animal was left to suffer.

Idaho has now 4 years of allowing the public to dispatch vehicle collision wildlife and their rules around the issue are still in place as per their website.

In summary I hope that the Commission can amend the current Roadkill Salvage Permit rules to be more in line with how Idaho is doing it.

Thank-you

Brad Thomsen

Edmonds, Washington