



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

9/23/2022

Agenda item:

Snowy Plover Periodic Status Review

Presenter(s):

Derek Stinson and Taylor Cotten

Background summary:

Presenting the Periodic Status Review and status recommendation on Snowy Plover.

Although the Snowy Plover population in the region appears to be increasing as a result of management actions in Washington and Oregon, the increase in Washington seems to be due largely to recruitment of birds fledged in Oregon. The number in Washington is still small, and continued intensive management of human disturbance and predators, and habitat restoration are needed. It is recommended that the Snowy Plover remain listed as an endangered species in Washington at this time.

Staff recommendation:

The Snowy Plover is currently an Endangered Species in WA. We are recommending the commission retain its status as an Endangered Species.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

None.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The agency sent out a press release and posted a request on our website to solicit information from the public to be included in the coming Periodic Status Reviews and Status Reports. In accordance with WAC regulations, individuals and organizations had one year to contribute information for the reviews. Department staff included this information as applicable in the status review documents. The documents were then reviewed by Department staff and external species experts before 90-day public comment periods on the document and our findings. There were twenty-seven responses to the 90-day public comment period on the Periodic Status Review: five clearly support our recommendation to maintain the Endangered status for Snowy Plover. Twenty-one were form letters that expressed alarm around disturbance of the birds along Long Beach. One individual

described an alarm at vehicles driving on beaches. Zero opposed the recommendation to retain the species as Endangered.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Briefing and decision? Department staff will ask for a decision on October 7, 2022, Fish and Wildlife Commission Conference Call.

Draft motion language:

I move that the Snowy Plover maintain its current status as an Endangered species in Washington as recommended by Department staff.

Post decision communications plan:

Since the species has already Endangered and we are recommending that it remain so, our current management of the species will not change. We will share information with the public affairs team for any necessary news release as well as update the website with the final Periodic Status Review for the species.

Form revised 1-20-21