



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

12/9/2022

Agenda item:

Blue Sheet: Beaver Management – Briefing

Presenter(s): Jeff Davis, Conservation Director, Eric Gardner, Wildlife Program Director, Margen Carlson, Habitat Program Director

Background summary: Department staff received a request from Commissioner Rowland on August 26, 2022, requesting more information on beaver (*Castor canadensis*) management. Department staff provided a written response addressing many of the questions raised in the blue sheet and will provide an overview of beaver biology and the department’s beaver management programs, including a comprehensive approach to beaver management that considers both near- and longer-term objectives.

The presentation may initiate discussion of a management framework for beavers that supports the Department in assisting landowners with nonlethal solutions to beaver problems and emphasizes the critical role of beavers in restoring wetlands and riparian and stream habitats beneficial to myriad aquatic species, including endangered salmonids, and that provides for sustainable recreational trapping. The presentation will provide:

- A holistic overview,
- Basic beaver biology information,
- An overview of trapping, conflict, and other removals,
- An overview of the pilot beaver relocation program,
- Examples of ecosystem restoration projects that include beavers
- Thoughts on the development of a comprehensive approach; and,
- Department staff will also address the questions put forth in the Blue Sheet request as needed.

Staff recommendation:

Briefing only

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Briefing only.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Briefing only.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Briefing only.

Draft motion language:

N/A.

Post decision communications plan:

N/A.
