

Addressing Bear & Cougar Management Questions within a Science-Policy Framework

Team members

Rich Beausoleil

Anis Aoude

Dr. Lindsay Welfelt

Dr. Stephanie Landry

Scott Fitkin

Bryan Murphie

Stefanie Bergh

Carrie Lowe

Dr. Brian Kertson

Dr. Donny Martorello

Dr. Scott Pearson

Dr. Ilai Keren

Dr. Tim Quinn

Presented by

Dr. Brian Kertson, Senior Research Scientist

Dr. Donny Martorello, Science Division
Manager



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Premise and Assumptions

Premise - the Fish and Wildlife Commission will consider recreational hunting seasons for bear and cougar

The science review will not:

- Delve into the policy space or presumed decisions on recreational hunting seasons for bear or cougar
- Assume what the value or acceptability of bear or cougar hunting is



Questions to inform management

- What are the scientific strengths and weaknesses of hunting season frameworks for bear and cougar derived from population models?
- Which hunting season framework, or combination of those, best meets the Departments goals and objectives?
- What are the ecosystem effects of recreational hunting of bear and cougar populations with the intent of maintaining stability?
- How will the Department monitor the stated objectives and adapt our management as needed?



Questions/Requests from Commissioners?

- (An acknowledgment that bears and cougars have an important role within ecosystems)
- (Is hunting of bear and cougar having a negative impact on the ecosystem?)



Questions?

