

Western Gray Squirrel Reclassification SEPA table DNS 23-034 comment period 8/23/2023 – 10/27/2023

Date	Comment	WDFW response
Online Survey 8/24/2023 5:19 PM	"I support the uplisting the Western Gray Squirrel from threatened to endangered, to better protect them and their habitat."	Thank you for your support of the rule recommendation and found in the Periodic Status Review.
Online Survey 8/27/2023 8:59 AM	I don't know an eastern gray squirrel from a western gray squirrel but I do know my yard in Centralia is full of them as is the whole neighborhood. They are a borderline menace. Putting them on an endangered list seems absurd and a waste of time and money.	The current range of the western gray squirrel as we understand it does not include the Centralia area. These squirrels are most likely nonnative eastern gray squirrels and are not under consideration as part of this rule.
Online Survey 9/5/2023 1:28 PM	i have seen fewer of thr large busy ones, much more of smaller blk ones. mill creek area.	The current range of the western gray squirrel as we understand it does not include the Mill Creek area. These squirrels are most likely nonnative eastern gray squirrels and Douglas squirrels both of which are not under consideration as part of this rule.
Online Survey 9/6/2023 8:30 PM	I fully support putting the Western Gray Squirrel on the Endangered list to give them the fullest protections available. They are critical to the health of the coniferous forests in which they live. Thank you.	Thank you for your support of the rule recommendation and found in the Periodic Status Review.
Online Survey 9/15/2023 12:33 AM	Please , go read about the western gray squirrel. It is a native species with between 468 and 1405 species remaining in the state. It is not the eastern gray or fox squirrel you see in your yard. It is found in Chelan and Klickitat Counties. https://www.yoursourceone.com/columbia_basin/western-gray-squirrel-in-chelan-and-okanogan-counties-on-brink-of-becoming-endangered-says-state/article_e9e65820-ad97-11ed-a3e8-bbe7e737b060.html	Correct, this rule would only apply to the western gray squirrels.
Online Survey 10/9/2023 6:50 PM	I support putting the western gray squirrel on the endangered list so they can be given more protections than they are currently allotted.	Thank you for your support of the rule recommendation and found in the Periodic Status Review.

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<p>Online Survey 10/9/2023 8:12 PM</p>	<p>I support putting the Western Gray Squirrel on the endangered species list. We also need a good campaign of public information with clear photos of the difference between the Western and Eastern species.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support of the rule recommendation and found in the Periodic Status Review.</p>
<p>Online Survey 10/21/2023 1:41 PM</p>	<p>I am in support of the proposal to uplist the western gray squirrel from threatened to endangered under Washington law.</p> <p>Despite being listed as threatened 30 years ago, the Washington population of western gray squirrels continues to face rapid decline. This warrants an 'endangered' classification for the western gray squirrel, given that the Columbia Gorge is a vital portion of their species range within the state.</p> <p>Listing the squirrel as endangered will bring this species' plight into sharp focus while helping rally public support for its conservation. Without WDFW's help, the western gray squirrel could disappear from Washington's ecosystems forever. This important species deserves our support.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support of the rule recommendation and found in the Periodic Status Review.</p>
<p>Online Survey 10/23/2023 1:25 AM</p>	<p>I am in support of the proposal to uplist the western gray squirrel from threatened to endangered under Washington law.</p> <p>Despite being listed as threatened 30 years ago, the Washington population of western gray squirrels continues to face rapid decline. This warrants an 'endangered' classification for the western gray squirrel, given that the Columbia Gorge is a vital portion of their species range within the state.</p> <p>Listing the squirrel as endangered will bring this species' plight into sharp focus while helping rally public support for its conservation. Without WDFW's help, the western gray squirrel could disappear from Washington's ecosystems forever. This important species deserves our support.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support of the rule recommendation and found in the Periodic Status Review.</p>

<p>Online Survey 10/23/2023 6:23 AM</p>	<p>I support uplisting the western gray squirrel from threatened to endangered under Washington law.</p> <p>Despite being listed as threatened 30 years ago, the Columbia Gorge population of western gray squirrels continues to face rapid decline. This warrants an 'endangered' classification for the western gray squirrel, given that the Columbia Gorge is a vital portion of their species range within the state.</p> <p>Listing the squirrel as endangered will bring this species' plight into sharp focus while helping rally public support for its conservation. Without WDFW's help, the western gray squirrel could disappear from Washington's ecosystems forever. This important species deserves our support.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read my comment and for your work on this important issue.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support of the rule recommendation and found in the Periodic Status Review.</p>
<p>Online Survey 10/23/2023 10:21 AM</p>	<p>Please list the western gray squirrel as endangered under Washington law!</p>	<p>Thank you for your support of the rule recommendation and found in the Periodic Status Review.</p>
<p>Online Survey 10/23/2023 10:22 AM</p>	<p>I support uplisting the western gray squirrel from threatened to endangered under Washington law.</p> <p>Despite being listed as threatened 30 years ago, the Columbia Gorge population of western gray squirrels continues to face rapid decline. This warrants an 'endangered' classification for the western gray squirrel, given that the Columbia Gorge is a vital portion of their species range within the state.</p> <p>Listing the squirrel as endangered will bring this species' plight into sharp focus while helping rally public support for its conservation. Without WDFW's help, the western gray squirrel could disappear from Washington's ecosystems forever. This important species deserves our support.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read my comment and for your work on this important issue.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support of the rule recommendation and found in the Periodic Status Review.</p>

<p>Online Survey 10/23/2023 2:23 PM</p>	<p>We are in support of upgrading the Western Gray Squirrel to endangered status. We are landowners in Klickitat County in the White Salmon Valley; our property includes mature Oregon oak forests. This area is one of the identified places where a viable population of Western Gray Squirrels still exist. Within the White Salmon Valley, oak forests are a unique feature and are critical for the survival of the Western Gray Squirrel. Intensifying development pressure is leading to fragmentation of the WGS population and a loss of habitat to the conversion of these oak forests due to residential and commercial development. The recent approval of a large resort along the White Salmon River, operating as Under Canvas, in an identified nesting area demonstrates the need for upgrading the protection status of the WGS from threatened to endangered.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support of the rule recommendation and found in the Periodic Status Review.</p>
<p>Online Survey 10/24/2023 6:06 AM</p>	<p>I support uplisting the western gray squirrel from threatened to endangered under Washington law.</p> <p>Despite being listed as threatened 30 years ago, the Columbia Gorge population of western gray squirrels continues to face rapid decline. This warrants an 'endangered' classification for the western gray squirrel, given that the Columbia Gorge is a vital portion of their species range within the state.</p> <p>Listing the squirrel as endangered will bring this species' plight into sharp focus while helping rally public support for its conservation. Without WDFW's help, the western gray squirrel could disappear from Washington's ecosystems forever. This important species deserves our support.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read my comment and for your work on this important issue.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support of the rule recommendation and found in the Periodic Status Review.</p>
<p>Online Survey 10/27/2023 8:40 AM</p>	<p>I support up-listing the Western Gray Squirrel.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support of the rule recommendation and found in the Periodic Status Review.</p>