

# WDFW BUDGET AND POLICY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING SUMMARY

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January 4, 2024

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Natural Resource Building, Olympia, WA and Virtual Teams meeting link

## ATTENDEES

### BPAG Members

Alexei Calambokidis, Trout Unlimited  
Bill Richardson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Butch Smith, Ilwaco Charter Association  
George Harris, NW Marine Trade Association  
Jessica Helsley, Wild Salmon Center  
Kathleen Callaghy, Defenders of Wildlife  
Kerston Swartz, Woodland Park Zoo  
Mark Pidgeon, Hunters Heritage Council  
Nora Nickum, Seattle Aquarium  
Tom Davis, WA Forest Protection Association  
Tom O'Keefe, American Whitewater  
Eric Johnson, WA Association of Counties  
Larry Phillips, American Sportfishing Association  
Lucas Hall, Long Live the Kings  
Mindy Roberts, WA Conservation  
Trina Bayard, Audubon WA  
Josh Wilund, BHA

### Members of the Public

Dan Wilson, Conservation NW

### WDFW

Kelly Susewind  
Nate Pamplin  
Tom McBride  
Morgan Stinson  
Kelly Cunningham  
Eric Gardner  
Mick Cope  
Steve Bear  
Chuck Stambaugh-Bowey  
Kristen Kuykendall  
Margen Carlson  
Braeden Van Deynze  
Brandon Bean  
Jon Neville  
Kristina Lombardi  
Commissioner Jim Anderson

## MEETING NOTES

Welcome, Introductions, and Agency Update with Director Susewind

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Nate Pamplin welcomed the Budget and Policy Advisory Group (BPAG) members and other guests to the meeting.

WDFW Director Kelly Susewind provided agency updates that included the upcoming legislative session and North of Falcon (NOF). The draft North of Falcon policy for the 2024-28 salmon fishery planning process is open for public feedback until Jan. 15, 2024. The public is invited to comment on the draft policy by submitting written comments via email at [northoffalconfwcpolicy2024-28@publicinput.com](mailto:northoffalconfwcpolicy2024-28@publicinput.com), or by phone (855-925-2801, press #6825). A link to the full draft policy is available on [WDFW's website](#).

Kelly also provided WDFW Fish and Wildlife Commission updates.

- During the December meeting, Commissioner Baker was re-elected as Chair and Commissioner Ragen was appointed Vice-Chair.
- The Commission opened a public comment period on its updated draft Conservation Policy. [The comment period is open through Jan. 12, 2024.](#)

## 2024 Legislative Session Preview

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WDFW Legislative Director, Tom McBride, briefed BPAG members on the timeline, WDFW budget priorities, WDFW policy support, prefiled bills of interest, and other considerations for the 2024 Legislative Session.

### WDFW Policy Support:

- 1876 - Protecting the confidentiality of other states fisheries information.
- 5922 - Allow concurrent application for habitat recovery pilot project permits and cultural resources reviews.
- 5785 - Expand land management authority to better utilize non-profits and volunteers.
- 5784 - Increase state funding of crop damage.
- 5854/5907 - Require recreational licenses for freshwater smelt, carp, and crawfish.
- 5846 - Ecosystem based beaver management plan and grants.

### Prefiled Bills of Interest:

- 2039 – Modifies appeals on environmental and land use matters.
- 2070 – Amends lead agencies requirements under SEPA.
- 2105 – Addresses protection of instream resources in connection with the issuance of water right permits in water resource inventory areas in which minimum instream flows are not being met.
- 5892 – Three-year pilot for private harvest of elk suspected of hoof rot.
- 5934 – If building permits require landscaping, 25% must be pollinator habitat.
- 5939 – Three-year pilot for first wolf to return to site of livestock depredation.

Please contact Tom McBride at [tom.mcbride@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:tom.mcbride@dfw.wa.gov) for additional information regarding WDFW legislative requests.

## 2022 NATIONAL SURVEY OF FISHING, HUNTING, & WILDLIFE-ASSOCIATED RECREATION RESULTS

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WDFW Natural Resource Economist, Braeden Van Deynze, PhD, presented the results of the [2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation](#). The objective of the survey is to measure participation and consumer expenditures in fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching. WDFW opted in to receive data for Washington state. A report of the Washington results will be available on January 17 and will include charts, tables, and discussion of agency support for each activity. Fact sheets and a landing page on the WDFW website are also being developed. In Washington in 2022, there were 1.2M anglers contributing \$2.16B in equipment and trip expenditures; there were 290K hunters contributing \$1.15B in equipment and trip expenditures; and there were 6.2M watchable wildlife participants contributing \$5.8B in equipment and trip expenditures; totaling over \$9B in economic activity in Washington state.

## Budget Overview

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WDFW Chief Financial Officer, Morgan Stinson, and Deputy Budget Officer, Brandon Bean, presented an overview and timeline for the 2025-2027 Budget Development and reviewed the background, outcomes, and their associated strategies for the 2021-2023 [Foundational Map](#). The Foundational Map is a product of the 2018 zero-based budget analysis but is retrospective and does not predict future spending.

For the 2025-27 budget development, BPAG members provided feedback and suggested funding needs including: assessing and managing recreational impacts to state lands; volunteer opportunities; aquatic invasive species; land acquisition; adjusting recreational license fees; wildlife conflict; biodiversity and land use; salmon monitoring; outreach and education; diversifying WDFW's budget portfolio in anticipation of weathering a future recession; and funding WDFW's core functions (safety and personnel costs).

The [2018 long-term funding plan](#), developed in concert with BPAG, outlined funding strategies for WDFW.

Please contact Morgan Stinson at [morgan.stinson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:morgan.stinson@dfw.wa.gov) for additional information regarding the WDFW supplemental budget or ideas/questions about 2025-27 budget development.

## Closing

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Nate ended the meeting and expressed gratitude for the support and engagement of BPAG members.

The next BPAG meeting will be in late Spring. Please email Kristina Lombardi at [Kristina.Lombardi@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Kristina.Lombardi@dfw.wa.gov) for assistance if travel or compensation support is needed.