

# WDFW BUDGET AND POLICY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING SUMMARY

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**July 23, 2024**

**8:30 – 10:00 AM**

**Virtual- Microsoft Teams**

## ATTENDEES

### BPAG Members

Alexei Calambokidis, Trout Unlimited  
Bill Richardson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Jessica Helsley, Wild Salmon Center  
Kathleen Callaghy, Defenders of Wildlife  
Kerston Swartz, Woodland Park Zoo  
Larry Phillips, American Sportfishing Association  
Lucas Hall, Long Live the Kings  
Marie Neumiller, Congressional Sportsman’s Foundation  
Mindy Roberts, WA Conservation Action  
Mitch Friedman, Conservation NW  
Nora Nickum, Seattle Aquarium  
Tom O’Keefe, American Whitewater

### WDFW

Kelly Susewind  
Nate Pamplin  
Tom McBride  
Morgan Stinson  
Kristen Kuykendall  
Brandon Bean  
Kristina Lombardi

### Members of the Public

Adam Maxwell, Audubon WA

## MEETING NOTES

### Welcome, Introductions, and Agency Update with Director Susewind

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

WDFW Director, Kelly Susewind, provided agency updates that included the agency’s continued efforts in prioritizing safety and WDFW’s successful hosting of the Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Summer Meeting.

Kelly also updated BPAG members on Fish and Wildlife Commission decisions from the June meeting.

- The Commission approved the new cougar hunting season rule.
- Gray wolves remain listed as endangered in Washington.

Nate provided a summary of a software coding issue that impacted the special hunt permit draw for the 2024-25 hunting season. The error caused the software to incorrectly allocate hunt choices for special permits in some instances. WDFW accomplished a major re-indexing of permits and engaged in extensive outreach to resolve the issue.

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## 2025 Legislative Proposals

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WDFW Legislative Director, Tom McBride, reviewed and facilitated discussion on WDFW's agency request proposals for the 2025 legislative session.

### Agency Request Proposals:

- Increase the renewal fee for personalized license plates to aid in nongame species preservation.
- Increase efficacy of enforcement for fish and wildlife violations.

The Commission will vote on the legislative proposals at their August 9 meeting.

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

## 2025 Budget Proposals

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WDFW Chief Financial Officer, Morgan Stinson, reviewed and facilitated discussion on WDFW's operating budget requests, process, and timeline.

The draft packages will be presented to the Commission for approval in August. The agency is pursuing second phase/installment for biodiversity and safety; seeking previous one-time appropriations to be made as ongoing; and a variety of new policy requests to fund new work including wildlife conflict, lands management, data stewardship, and more enforcement officers, among others.

Please contact Morgan Stinson at [morgan.stinson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:morgan.stinson@dfw.wa.gov) for additional information regarding the WDFW operating budget.

## Closing

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Nate reported that WDFW will also be briefing tribal partners on legislative and budget proposals this afternoon. He ended the meeting by expressed gratitude for member support and engagement.

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