

SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting: March 18-19, 2016
Agenda Item: Cougar Biology Overview – **Briefing**
Prepared By: Rich Beausoleil, Bear and Cougar Specialist, Wildlife Program
Presented By: Rich Beausoleil, Bear and Cougar Specialist, Wildlife Program

Background:

Department staff will provide the Commission with an overview of cougar biology. This briefing will focus on research findings in Washington and how we use that information to manage.

Several studies spanning decades have been conducted on cougars in Washington. These studies looked at multiple factors that impact cougar population dynamics. Two pivotal pieces of information were gained from these studies, density and population growth rate. These allow us to develop hunting guidelines for cougars that maintain a stable population and preserve an older age structure on the landscape.

Policy Issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

None – briefing only.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Cougar research and management was discussed and incorporated into the Game Management Plan. As a part of that process, the Department is aware that the public has a strong interest in cougar management.

Action requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):

None – Briefing only.

Draft motion language:

None – Briefing only.

Justification for Commission action:

None – Briefing only.

Communications plan:

NA – Briefing only.
