

**2018 Farm Bill Reauthorization**

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## Summary Sheet

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**Meeting dates:** March 16-17, 2018

**Agenda item:** 2018 Farm Bill Reauthorization - **Briefing**

**Presenter(s):** Mike Kuttel Jr., Farm Bill Coordinator, Diversity Division, Wildlife Program

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**Background summary:**

The Farm Bill provides the majority of funding for private lands conservation – nearly \$28 billion in the 2014 Farm Bill. Farm Bill funding is often an integral part of partnerships that bring together producers, non-governmental organizations, local, state, and federal agencies, tribes, and others. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) works with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and many other partners on conservation and recreational access projects funded by the Farm Bill. The current Farm Bill expires September 30, 2018. As Congress works on the next Farm Bill, it is important to promote funding for conservation programs that benefit fish, wildlife, and public access.

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

Importance of reauthorizing the Farm Bill for conservation and recreational access on private lands.

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**Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:**

If Congress reduces Farm Bill conservation program funding, millions of dollars for private lands conservation and recreational access could be lost. The Farm Bill provides funding to producers to implement conservation and access projects and funding to WDFW to provide technical assistance. Without Farm Bill funding, producers would have less incentive to implement conservation and access projects and WDFW would have reduced technical assistance capacity.

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

N/A.

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**Action requested:**

N/A – Briefing only.

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**Draft motion language:**

N/A – Briefing only.

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**Justification for Commission action:**

N/A – Briefing only.

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**Post decision communications plan:**

Staff plan on continuing direct outreach to congressional representatives, posting outreach materials on the WDFW website and social media, and working with partners to promote fish and wildlife conservation and recreational access in the next Farm Bill.

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*Form revised 9/13/17*