



PETITION FOR ADOPTION, AMENDMENT, OR REPEAL OF A STATE ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

Print Form

In accordance with RCW 34.05.330, the Office of Financial Management (OFM) created this form for individuals or groups who wish to petition a state agency or institution of higher education to adopt, amend, or repeal an administrative rule. You may use this form to submit your request. You also may contact agencies using other formats, such as a letter or email.

The agency or institution will give full consideration to your petition and will respond to you within 60 days of receiving your petition. For more information on the rule petition process, see Chapter 82-05 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=82-05>.

CONTACT INFORMATION *(please type or print)*

Petitioner's Name

Brad Thomsen

Name of Organization

Mailing Address

City

Edmonds

State

WA

Zip Code

98020

Telephone

Email

COMPLETING AND SENDING PETITION FORM

- Check all of the boxes that apply.
- Provide relevant examples.
- Include suggested language for a rule, if possible.
- Attach additional pages, if needed.
- Send your petition to the agency with authority to adopt or administer the rule. Here is a list of agencies and their rules coordinators: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/CodeReviser/Documents/RClist.htm>.

INFORMATION ON RULE PETITION

Agency responsible for adopting or administering the rule:

WDFW

☐ 1. NEW RULE - I am requesting the agency to adopt a new rule.

☒ The subject (or purpose) of this rule is:

Please See Attached

☒ The rule is needed because:

Please See Attached

☒ The new rule would affect the following people or groups:

Please See Attached

☐ **2. AMEND RULE - I am requesting the agency to change an existing rule.**

List rule number (WAC), if known: _____

☐ I am requesting the following change: _____

☐ This change is needed because: _____

☐ The effect of this rule change will be: _____

☐ The rule is not clearly or simply stated: _____

☐ **3. REPEAL RULE - I am requesting the agency to eliminate an existing rule.**

List rule number (WAC), if known: _____

(Check one or more boxes)

☐ It does not do what it was intended to do.

☐ It is no longer needed because: _____

☐ It imposes unreasonable costs: _____

☐ The agency has no authority to make this rule: _____

☐ It is applied differently to public and private parties: _____

☐ It conflicts with another federal, state, or local law or rule. List conflicting law or rule, if known: _____

☐ It duplicates another federal, state or local law or rule. List duplicate law or rule, if known: _____

☐ Other (please explain): _____

Sent via Email to:

rules.coordinator@dfw.wa.gov

commission@dfw.wa.gov

Kelly.Susewind@dfw.wa.gov

Wednesday June 18th, 2025

Rules Coordinator
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 43200
Olympia, WA 98504-3200

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501

Director Kelly Susewind
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501

Director Susewind, Commissioners, and WDFW Rules Coordinator:

In accordance with RCW 34.05.330, please accept this petition asking the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife to begin rulemaking for the RETURN of the Washington State Spring Black Bear Hunting Season;

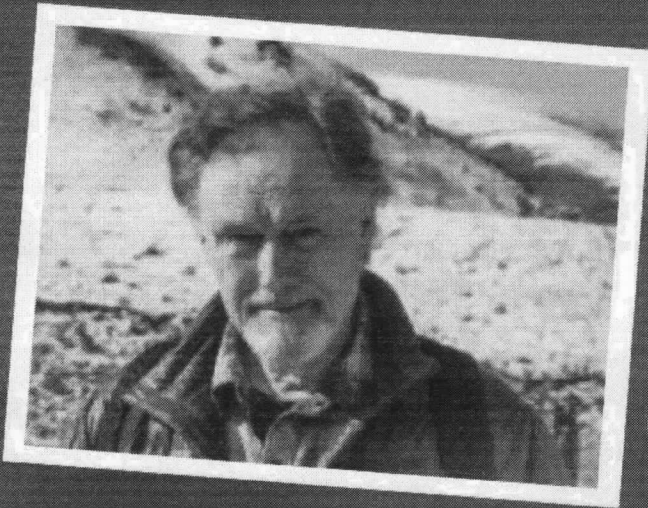
Date: June 18, 2025

“Revealing More Corruption Among Washington’s Fish and Wildlife Commission”

<https://sportsmensalliance.org/news/exposing-more-corruption-among-washingtons-fish-and-wildlife-commission/>

“The most recent evidence is explained in two short videos highlighting wrongdoing by commissioners in emails and text messages exposed by the lawsuit the Sportsmen’s Alliance Foundation was forced to file to uncover the egregious behavior of those dictating wildlife policy in the Evergreen State.”

Sportsmen's Alliance



“This is getting too complicated - mixing WW1 business with Commission business.”

– John Lehmkuhl

Revealing More Corruption Among Washington's Fish and Wildlife Commission

June 18, 2025

The Sportsmen's Alliance has released more evidence of corruption and collusion among members of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. The most recent evidence is explained in two short videos highlighting wrongdoing by commissioners in emails and text messages exposed by the lawsuit (<https://sportsmensalliance.org/news/sportsmens-alliance-sues-washington-fish-and-wildlife-for-delay-on-public-records/>) the Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation was forced to file to uncover the egregious behavior of those dictating wildlife policy in the Evergreen State.

“We now have text messages with four commissioners colluding to meet with Washington Wildlife First, an animal-rights organization dedicated to destroying hunting and fishing in the state,” said Todd Adkins, Senior Vice President at the Sportsmen's Alliance. “What's more, Commissioner John Lehmkuhl acknowledges that what they're doing mixes the activist organization's business with the commission's work, and could easily be considered collusion – but he still goes along with the plan!”

As the video shows (<https://youtu.be/BMBVnKKertw>), the original meeting was presented as a chance for Claire Davis, founder and board president of Washington Wildlife First (<https://wawildlifefirst.org/our-people/claire-davis/>), to “explain how things will be moving forward” to the commissioners. Commissioner Lorna Smith, no stranger to Sportsmen's Alliance members, also mentions that it's a “delicate” situation and that

she was also setting up a meeting with Samantha Bruegger, the former executive director of Washington Wildlife First (<https://www.opb.org/article/2022/03/21/washingtons-spring-black-bear-hunt-wont-happen-in-2022/>) who was hired away from the Pacific Northwest to accept a position with Animal Wellness Action as the Colorado State Director (<https://catsarenttrophies.org/samantha-miller-colorado-state-director/>), which saw her spearhead the initiative to ban mountain lion hunting in Colorado ([https://ballotpedia.org/Colorado_Proposition_127,_Prohibit_Hunting_of_Mountain_Lion,_Bobcat,_and_Lynx_Initiative_\(2024\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Colorado_Proposition_127,_Prohibit_Hunting_of_Mountain_Lion,_Bobcat,_and_Lynx_Initiative_(2024))) last year.

The second video showcases (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6P9-PVTfQXM>) Commission Lehmkuhl's politicking ways when it comes to the spring bear hunt and cougar season votes, while also giving former Governor Jay Inslee what he asked for (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/newsroom/news-release/washington-fish-and-wildlife-commission-issues-cougar-and-wolf-decisions>) when it came to maintaining "endangered" status for wolves.

"Commissioner Lehmkuhl is supposed to be a scientist, a wildlife biologist with a PhD, but in email after email and text message after text message we see him abandon science in pursuit of politicking and backroom dealing," said Adkins. "This is corruption, plain and simple, and needs to be immediately addressed by the governor."

The Sportsmen's Alliance has vowed to protect Washington's hunters and anglers from the onslaught of animal extremism that has overrun the state in recent years, and has petitioned Gov. Ferguson to remove commissioners (<https://sportsmensalliance.org/news/saf-petitions-washington-governor-for-removal-of-commissioners/>) Barbara Baker, Lorna Smith, Melanie Rowland and John Lehmkuhl. To inform and educate the public and media on exactly how poorly (<https://capitalpress.com/2024/12/05/report-washington-fish-and-wildlife-commission-seen-as-dysfunctional/>), and at times illegally (https://youtu.be/_KE6_Eeu8A8), the commission has operated, we have launched a webpage exposing the documents (<https://sportsmensalliance.org/evidence-against-washington-fish-and-wildlife-commission/>) that were turned over as a result of our lawsuit against the state. After uncovering so much corruption, we have submitted additional public records requests (<https://sportsmensalliance.org/news/sportsmens-alliance-submits-additional-record-requests-to-wdfw/>) specifically targeting former Gov. Jay Inslee's involvement and interference with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (<https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/gov-inslee-orders-rework-of-washingtons-wolf-killing-policies-2020-09-04/>) and management decisions.

This isn't the first time the Sportsmen's Alliance has had to fight to bring law and order to the state. Last year, the Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation won a Washington Supreme Court ruling (<https://sportsmensalliance.org/news/sportsmens-alliance-wins-case-in-washington-supreme-court/>) that Commissioner Lorna Smith, a frequent violator documented on our webpage (<https://sportsmensalliance.org/evidence-against-washington-fish-and-wildlife-commission/>), broke the law when accepting her commissioner appointment while holding another appointive office.

"The Sportsmen's Alliance isn't going anywhere and we're going to keep exposing the rampant corruption of commissioners serving on the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission," finished Adkins. "We have tens of thousands of pages still to get through. We will continue bringing forward evidence until the governor steps in and does the right thing."

The Sportsmen's Alliance guarantees hunting, fishing and trapping for the American sportsman now and forever. We're there when sportsmen need us most. We are the only organization specifically created to protect the individual hunter, angler and trapper – no matter the threat. We will never compromise when it comes to defending our way of life in the courts, in the legislatures, in the public square and at the ballot box. We make this promise to the American sportsman: we will never give up and never give in while proudly securing our future against

those seeking to destroy our values, beliefs, and traditions. Stay connected to Sportsmen's Alliance: Online (<https://sportsmensalliance.org/>), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/sportsmensalliance>), Twitter (https://x.com/i/flow/login?redirect_after_login=%2Fsportsmensall) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/sportsmensall/>).