

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: June 14-15, 2019

Agenda item: Grizzly Bear Periodic Status Review - Briefing, Public Hearing, and Decision.

Presenter(s): Jeff Lewis, Wildlife Biologist

Background summary:

In accordance with WAC 220-610-110, department staff members will brief the Commission on the Periodic Status Review (PSR) for the grizzly bear. This PSRs outline the current status of the specie and includes information and comments provided by peer scientists and the public. The PSRs recommend that the grizzly bear remain classified as endangered.

The grizzly bear once occupied much of the Cascade Range and eastern Washington, but was nearly eliminated in the state through human-caused mortality and loss of habitat. Grizzlies currently occupy the Selkirk Range in the northeast corner of the state, where the population is classified by the state as endangered and listed federally as threatened. Human-caused mortality, small population size, human disturbance in core grizzly habitats, and population isolation all continue to hinder grizzly bear recovery in the state. The department received 21 comments during the public review period, eight indicated support for maintaining endangered status, seven indicated opposition, and eight indicated opposition to the federal proposal to reintroduce grizzly bears to the North Cascade recovery zone.

Staff recommendation:

Maintain endangered classification for the grizzly bear.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

- Protect and conserve Washington's native wildlife
 - Continue recovery actions for these state-listed species
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Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

No fiscal impacts beyond the status quo.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

In February 2016, the agency sent out a press release and posted a request on our website to solicit information from the public to be included in the PSRs. In accordance with WAC regulations, individuals and organizations had one year to contribute information for the reviews. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff included this information as applicable in the status review documents. The documents were then reviewed by WDFW staff and external species experts before 90-day public comment periods on the document and our findings.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Request a decision on the recommended status.

Draft motion language:

Motion: I move to maintain endangered status for the grizzly bear as presented by department staff.

Is there a "second"?

If so, then motion maker discusses basis for motion; other Commissioners discuss views on motion; amendments, if any, proposed and addressed.

Post decision communications plan:

News Release
WDFW Website

Form revised 2-15-18