



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

8/6/2021

Agenda item:

2022 Agency Request Legislation – Decision

Presenter(s):

Tom McBride, Legislative Director

Background summary:

Legislative Policy proposals were solicited from the programs and regions; reviewed by EMT and briefed to the FWC. Draft fact sheets and draft statutory language are included within your materials. The Department is recommending that we advance four items:

The four policy proposals submitted for the 2022 Legislative Session:

1. Broadening eligibility for the ADA Advisory Committee to include caregivers, experienced in natural resource settings. It removes language that preferences certain disabilities and references all persons with disabilities.
2. Improving recruitment and retention through licensure changes, with an emphasis on youth.
 - Align the definition of youth to be those persons under 16 for both hunting and fishing
 - Adjust the residency definition of active duty members of the US military, as well as their spouses and children, so service members qualify for licenses at the resident rates
 - Exempt retired members of the US military and current or retired federal peace officers from firearm skills portions of hunter education.
 - Allow individuals to defer hunters' education for one year if they are accompanied by a licensed hunter who is over 18 years of age.
 - Provide a financial incentive to resident hunter education graduates by providing a \$20 discount on the purchase of their first hunting license.
 - Removes the restriction that prohibits temporary fishing combination licenses from being used for the popular lowland lakes fishing opener.

- Allows out-of-state, full-time, post-secondary students at an accredited institution to purchase hunting and fishing licenses at resident rates. Children and spouses of eligible students also qualify for resident rates.
 - Provide additional authority for the Department to create bundled license packages and multi-year license packages through rule; and provide the ability for the Director to offer promotional pricing.
3. Express statutory authority for electronic/cellular phone-based licensing documents and related print-from-home options. We are monitoring Oregon's electronic platform implementation and intend use their experience to improve our expanded options
 4. Expanding current state parks Discover Pass Free Days (12) to all state recreational lands; and providing a Vehicle Access Pass with a seaweed/shellfish license purchase.

Staff recommendation:

Staff are seeking approval from the Commission to advance four bills to the Governor's Office as agency request legislation.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Improved operations and policy advancement. Better customer engagement. Broader outreach to encourage Washington residents outdoors, and enhanced relevance to Washington residents by lowering barriers to accessing the outdoors.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

The recruitment and retention changes result in a \$6000 per year reduction in license revenues. This has been built into our carryforward budget plans.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Primary outreach for all four proposals was through the Budget and Policy Advisory Group.

On item 1, there was outreach to current committee members by HR.

On item 3, we are communicating with Oregon about the platform they are implementing and have taken input from a border area guide and a recreational angler about how it is working.

On item 4, we have spoken to State Parks and DNR about coordination. We are also talking internally about when heavy usage should not be encouraged with joint free parking and free fishing.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Approval of proposed agency request legislation.

Draft motion language:

“I move to approve the agency-request legislative proposals as proposed by staff.”

“I move the Commission support SHB 1508 during the 2022 legislative session.”

Post decision communications plan: The Department will continue to work with members of the Budget and Policy Advisory Group and other advisory groups and stakeholders to secure further support for the bills. Legislative fact sheets and other outreach materials will be posted to the Department’s website and provided to the Commission.
