



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

9/17/2021

Agenda item:

Landscape Considerations for Solar Siting

Presenter(s):

Michael Garrity, Energy, Water & Major Projects Division Manager; Michael Ritter, Statewide Technical Lead on Solar and Wind Energy Projects

Background summary:

A presentation and discussion on the implications of rapid development of industrial-scale solar energy projects across Washington, with a focus on impacts on shrubsteppe habitat east of the Cascades. The presentation will cover the principles with which WDFW staff is approaching the issue, the scale and impact of solar development, how WDFW seeks to influence siting and configuration of solar projects, policy goals, and policy forums/opportunities.

Staff recommendation:

This presentation is informational and may help inform how the Commission may choose to weigh in on industrial solar siting issues.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Discussion on how to best avoid, minimize, and mitigate for the impacts of industrial-scale solar projects and next steps with solar proponents and policy makers.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

WDFW is already engaged in these issues and is seeking additional capacity (2 FTE) through the supplemental budget to support this work

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

WDFW staff has regular discussions with solar developers and stakeholders

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Informational with discussion on potential next steps

Draft motion language:

N/A

Post decision communications plan:

N/A
