



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

10/28/2022

Agenda item:

Woodland Caribou Periodic Status Review - Maintain

Presenter(s):

Taylor Cotten

Background summary:

Presenting the Periodic Status Review and status recommendation on woodland caribou.

Woodland caribou are extirpated from Washington and are unlikely to become re-established without human intervention. The South Selkirk subpopulation may have numbered in the hundred in the late 1800s but decreased to an estimated 25-100 caribou between 1925 and the mid-1980s. Numbers ranged between 33 and 51 animals from 1991 to 2009 despite being supplemented with 103 caribou during two multi-year translocation in the 1980s and 1990s. The subpopulation declined rapidly from 46 in 2009 to one animal in 2018. The last remaining South Selkirk animal was translocated to a pen located north of Revelstoke, BC and subsequently released to the North Columbia subpopulation in April 2019, marking the extirpation of caribou in the South Selkirks. It is recommended that the Woodland Caribou remain a state endangered species in Washington.

Staff recommendation:

The woodland caribou is currently an Endangered Species in WA. We are recommending the commission retain its status as an Endangered Species.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

None.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

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 coming Periodic Status Reviews and Status Reports. In accordance with WAC regulations, individuals and organizations had one year to contribute information for the reviews. Department staff included this information as applicable in the status review documents. The documents were then reviewed by Department staff and external species experts before 90-day public comment periods on the document and our

findings. There was 1 response to the 90-day public comment period on the Periodic Status Review which expressed lament over the loss of caribou in Washington.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Briefing and decision.

Draft motion language:

I move that the woodland caribou maintain its current status as an Endangered species in Washington as recommended by Department staff.

Post decision communications plan:

Since the species has already Endangered and we are recommending that it remain so, our current management of the species will not change. We will share information with the public affairs team for any necessary news release as well as update the website with the final Periodic Status Review for the species.

Form revised 1-20-21