



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Web Conference
Friday, October 07, 2022
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:

Barbara Baker, Chair
Molly Linville, Vice Chair
Lorna Smith
Kim Thorburn
James R. Anderson
John Lehmkuhl
Melanie Rowland
Tim Ragen
Don McIsaac

Department Staff:

Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Craig Burley
Taylor Cotton
Eric Gardner
Julia Smith
Michael Kuttel

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepfer

Vice Chair Linville called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioner Lehmkuhl shared that he saw Robin's converging while they were migrating near his home.

A. Chelan River Rulemaking - Decision

Craig Burley, Deputy Director Fish Program, asked the Commission to decide on a proposal to open a previously closed section of Chelan River by allowing only catch-and-release fishing, using only barbless hooks with no bait.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to deny the proposed fish rule for the Upper Chelan River as presented by Department staff. The majority is in favor. Commissioner Thorburn was not present for the vote. Motion passes.

B. White Pelican Periodic Status Review – Decision

Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager, asked the Commission for a decision on the amendments to WAC 220-200-100 that would reclassify the white pelican from "threatened" to "sensitive" in the state of Washington.

Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to adopt the recommended rule change as presented by Department staff. Commissioners Linville, Lehmkuhl, Anderson, McIsaac, and Baker voted in favor. While Commissioners Ragen, Rowland, and Smith voted against it. Commissioner Thorburn was not present for the vote. The majority is in favor. Motion passes.

C. Cascade Red Fox Periodic Status Review –Decision

Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager, asked the Commission for a decision on the WAC 220-200-100 amendments that would classify the Cascade red fox as "threatened" in the state of Washington.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to recommend that the Cascade Red Fox be listed as an Endangered species in Washington. Commissioners Linville, Ragen, Lehmkuhl, Rowland, Smith, Thorburn, and Baker voted in favor. While Commissioners Anderson and McIsaac voted against it. The majority is in favor. Motion passes.

D. Blue Sheet - Shared Stewardship - Briefing

Michael Kuttel, Shared Stewardship Coordinator with the Director's Office, provided a briefing on the Shared Stewardship program. This was a request from Commissioner Thorburn via the Blue Sheet process.

E. Future Meeting Planning

The Commission discussed the upcoming meeting agendas and reviewed an updated year at a glance.

Commissioner Smith presented a [Wolf Management Blue Sheet](#) for consideration. After discussion, the Commission unanimously agreed to address the item at a future Commission meeting. Commissioner Smith will work with staff on timing and details. Staff will provide a date for a briefing at the later October Commission meeting during the meeting debrief.

Commissioner Lehmkuhl requested that the staff response he received about his [Statewide Population Status, Trend, and Limiting Factors of Deer and Elk Blue Sheet](#) was informative and would like it to come to the Commission as a briefing. Staff supported a January briefing on the item. The year-at-a-glance has been updated, reflecting the briefing.

D. General Discussion

There were no general discussion items.

Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant