

Summary Sheet

Meeting: September 26-27, 2014
Agenda Item: Game Management Plan – **Briefing**
Presented By: Dave Ware, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program

Background:

The 2015-21 Game Management Plan (GMP) lays out strategies designed to address the most pressing issues for management of hunted wildlife. This briefing is to bring the Commission up to date on the process used for updating the plan for 2015-2021, the timeline for completion, and the results of public and hunter opinion surveys.

Public opinion and hunter opinion surveys have been completed to further define priority issues for the 2015-2021 Game Management Plan. Major issues include: improved communication on game management; hunter access to private lands; quality hunting opportunities; hunting in urbanizing areas; balance of predator/prey management; wildlife-human conflict; cooperative management with Treaty tribes; non-toxic ammunition; and special permit application modifications. These issues will be addressed in the GMP.

Game management issues that have dominated the Department's attention and are covered in the plan include:

- Predator/Prey Management
- Elk / Hoof Disease
- Cougar Management
- Non-Toxic Ammunition
- Wildlife Conflict
- Hunter access to private lands
- Wolf management

Policy Issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

This briefing is to go over the major game management issues included in the plan, which will be addressed by the Department over the next six years.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The original Game Management Plan EIS completed in 2002 utilized an extensive public process involving thousands of comments. This document was updated for 2015-2021 through a Supplemental EIS process. The Department has worked with the Game Management Advisory Council; facilitated internal discussions between field and headquarters staff; conducted public comment processes involving several thousand comments; two opinion surveys; and taken comment on the draft SEIS. All of these ideas and comments have been considered for incorporation into the Plan. The public comment period ended in August with the Commission meeting and hearing. In all we received several thousand comments and many of the concerns are being addressed in subsequent discussions with the key stakeholders.

Action requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):

This is a briefing of the current status of the plan. We will be requesting that the Commission approve it at the December 12-13, 2014 Commission meeting.

Draft motion language:

None, briefing only.

Justification for Commission action:

The public has identified many priority issues for the Department to address over the next six years. A good understanding of those priorities is important to ensure support for future regulations and policies that come to the Commission for consideration.
