

Summary

Meeting dates: March 18-19, 2016

Agenda item: Initiative I-1401 – Protection of at Risk Species of Extinction – Briefing

Presenter(s): Steve Crown, Chief and Mike Cenci, Deputy Chief, Enforcement

Background summary:

Initiative 1401 created new laws banning the trafficking or distribution of any covered animal species or product. The term “covered species” have been defined to include non-native species. Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) police officers were identified to enforce the new regulations created by the initiative due to their expertise in natural resource protection.

Currently, the WDFW Police mission is, “To protect our natural resources and the public we serve”, with statutory definitions outlining the majority of the natural resources as existing in Washington in a wild state. By expanding the WDFW Law Enforcement authority to include protection of covered species, additional analysis must be done to fully scope out the effects the initiative has for the individual officer, the agency, and the citizens of the state.

Appropriations were requested to scope the impact on existing enforcement staff , provide public education, evaluate the need for rule development, and implement an enforcement approach.

The Enforcement Program will brief the Commission on the intent of the Initiative, the effect of the initiative on our present work load, steps taken so far, and planned strategies going forward.

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

Impacts to existing responsibilities should be considered provided that adequate funding is an issue.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The Enforcement Program has been in contact with the proponents of the initiative and other interested parties in an effort to understand the goals and educate the external environment with respect to challenges we foresee in implementation.

Action requested:

Briefing only

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Communications Plan:

Enforcement Program and Public Affairs have been collaborating on development of public information related to the effect of the initiative.