

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: February 22, 2019

Agenda item: Skagit Elk Update

Presenter(s): Amy Windrope, Region 4 Director, Mick Cope, Deputy Assistant Director for Wildlife

Background summary:

Elk in the Skagit and Acme Valleys continue to be a concern for agricultural interests. Over the last 18 months, WDFW has adapted our approach to reduce depredations but more work needs to be done. This presentation will focus on the outcomes of Representative Eslick's meeting on February 2, 2019. Representative Eslick convened stakeholders, co-managers and elected officials to help develop some shared solutions and next steps.

Staff recommendation:

Continue to work with co-managers, legislature and stakeholders on reducing elk related damage to private property.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

1. Decrease ag damage through targeted hazing and harvest
 2. Decrease ag damage through a comprehensive approach that involves strategic hazing/harvesting, travel corridors, increased forage in uplands, and immediate increase in damage response tools
 3. Decrease elk related vehicle incidents with increased engagement of DOT and the implementation of new tools along HWY 20
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Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

Increase funding may be required to implement a comprehensive approach.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Over the last 18 months WDFW has undertaken substantial public outreach and more needs to be done:

- a. Increased number and depth of conversations with co-managers
- b. Increased conversations with agricultural interests
- c. Convened several co-management meetings with ag stakeholders

We need to expand the conversation to include hunters, conservationists and the non-ag citizens of Skagit Valley.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Support for current approach and engagement as we move through legislative process.

Draft motion language:

Briefing only

Post decision communications plan:
