

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: August 23, 2019

Agenda item: Additional 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget Requests

Presenter(s): Nate Pamplin, Director of Budget and Government Affairs

Background summary:

At the August 2, 2019 Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting, staff provided a briefing on the Department's budget outlook, including the Department's requests for maintenance and performance level funding for the 2020 supplemental operating budget. The Commission approved the 2020 supplemental operating budget requests, with allowance for minor adjustments.

Since that meeting, the Department has identified some additional budget needs and are seeking the Commission's approval to advance the requests to the Governor's Office and Office of Financial Management to be included in the Governor's Budget. The additional decision packages are as follows:

Maintenance Level:

- **DES Motor Pool, \$328K in SFY 2020 and \$328K in SFY 2021 (on-going)**
DES Motor Pool notified the Department that they are changing rates for leased vehicles. In addition to an otherwise standard rate change, DES notified the Department that they will also no longer include the first 500 miles driven on a leased vehicle as part of the base lease cost. This decision by DES will result in an increased cost to the Department of \$328K per year. The Department consulted with OFM and they indicated that this would be an appropriate maintenance level request.
- **Hatchery Utilities, \$220K in SFY 2020 and \$220K in SFY 2021 (on-going)**
WDFW requests funding to meet increased utility costs at hatchery facilities. This request supports electricity, natural gas, sewer, garbage, and heating oil costs at 80 hatchery facilities. Utility rate increases, in combination with increased hatchery production, drive these costs for the Department. Utilities are non-discretionary costs of fish production and support hatchery operations.
- **Wildfire Suppression, \$488K (one-time for SFY 2020)**
This amount reflects WDFW's share of the suppression costs for the Lower Crab Creek 243 Fire (\$840K) less the proviso amount for fiscal year 2019 (\$352K). Over 20,000 acres burned in the Lower Crab Creek 243 Fire. State Fiscal Year 2019 proviso funds were also dedicated to suppression for other fires and the Department of Natural Resources bears much of the cost for wildfire suppression. This estimate is a placeholder as the suppression costs may change based on the final billing from fire responders and there may be additional fires this summer.

These three requests would bring the total biennial Maintenance Level request to \$12.4M.

Performance Level:

- **Wildfire Recovery, \$400K (one-time for SFY2020)**
Several wildfires have impacted WDFW lands this wildfire season burning nearly 30,000 acres on six wildlife areas (see list below). In many cases, the habitat
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value is significantly diminished. Without recovery efforts including weed control and seeding, areas with native plant communities may be overrun by weeds.

2019 Wildfires through August 16

6/23	Lower Crab Creek Fire 243	20,000+ acres
7/3	Sinlahekin	281 acres
7/6	LT Murray	75 acres
7/6	Sunnyside	3 acres
7/14	Wells	15 acres
7/23	Oak Creek Left Hand Fire	3,400 acres (~2,000 on WDFW)
7/24	LT Murray Pipeline Fire	6,500 acres

This request will bring the total Performance Level request to \$6.8M (FY20-21), \$15.1M ongoing.

8/2/2019 FWC approval:

The following maintenance and performance level supplemental operating budget packages were approved by the Commission at the August 2, 2019 meeting and are provided for your reference.

Maintenance level requests include funding for employee cost of living increases that were not backed by revenue, attorney general costs, enforcement records management system, and other unavoidable cost increases. The total of maintenance level requests is \$11.4 million. This includes funding within both fiscal years of the biennium and is largely comprised of COLAs not backed by revenue.

The performance level requests will include the at-risk/buyback activities that was requested during the 2019 legislative session with a request that funding is appropriated as on-going (i.e., will fund state fiscal year 2021 and carry-forward into the 2021-23 biennium).

Those requests include:

- Maintain Conservation, \$742K
- Maintain Fishing and Hatchery Production, \$2,058K
- Maintain Hunting, \$672K
- Maintain Wildlife Conflict Response, \$956K
- Maintain Shellfish and Public Health, \$553K
- Maintain Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead activities, \$659K
- Maintain Land Management, \$578K
- Maintain Customer Service, \$410K

The legislature provided \$8.5 million in one-time state general fund for the second year of the biennium for this block of activities. That funding is used to buy a portion of these packages, resulting in a request for \$6.6 million for SFY2021 (with an on-going request for the full-amount of \$15.1M/year in outyears).

In addition, there are six performance level decision packages that address emerging needs, for a total of \$6.4M, including:

- Humpback whales/Crab fishing incidental take permit: \$172K
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- Puget Sound salmon fisheries monitoring: \$2.4M (includes North of Falcon commitments, and Skagit Catch and Release fishery).
- Fish Washington mobile app: \$311K
- Assisting property owners in protecting fish (HPA capacity): \$1.7M
- Columbia River sea lion management: \$830K
- Columbia River salmon policy commitments: \$1.0M

The Department is requesting State General Fund for both the maintenance level and performance level budget requests.

Staff recommendation: Staff are seeking approval from the Commission to advance additional decision packages to the Governor’s Office to be included in our 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget Request.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome: If the Governor and the Legislature approve this proposal, the Department will be able to fund this work ongoing.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation: N/A

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Action requested and/or proposed next steps: N/A

Draft motion language: “I move to approve the four additional supplemental operating budget requests as proposed by staff, with allowance for minor adjustments as staff prepare final documents for submittal to the Governor’s Office.”

Post decision communications plan: The Department will work with members of the Budget and Policy Advisory Group, other advisory groups, and stakeholders to secure support for this budget request. Budget fact sheets and other outreach materials will be posted to the Department’s website and provided to the Commission.